

ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME COMMITTEE
7th International Conference on Environmental Crime
Lyon, 13 - 17 September 2010



INTERPOL

INTERPOL ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME PROGRAMME

-Environmental Investigation Agency -



**- GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO INTERPOL
ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME PROGRAMME-**

FOR ADOPTION

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GENERAL CONTEXT

This document describes a proposal that will be considered by the INTERPOL Environmental Crime Committee at the 7th International Conference on Environmental Crime who will in turn present its recommendations for adoption by the Environmental Crime Programme.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL

There are relatively few examples of coordinated inter-agency efforts at a national and regional level to combat organized transnational environmental crime. The EIA aims to support the conference in devising a comprehensive strategy for an international response, by proposing action for:

- Implementation of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime through deliverables and an advocacy campaign
- Improving the awareness on and use of the capacity of INTERPOL in CITES enforcement, including a NTERPOL “Tiger Desk”
- Issuing a Conference / General Assembly declaration on environmental crime to assist all parties in engaging with national governments in a similar way
- Promoting the linkage between the Environmental Crime Programme and INTERPOL’s current six priority crime areas

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The successful implementation of the proposal would result in expenditures. The Programme is entirely externally funded, and at present there is vital need of financial support in any activity.

EIA does not have financial resources at its disposal to support projects that could be implemented by INTERPOL and other inter-governmental agencies. We can however offer support through the provision of information, visual resources, advocacy and communications.

Please enter your Proposal here (1 to 2 pages):

The 7th INTERPOL Environmental Crime Conference provides an opportunity to devise a comprehensive strategy for an international response to combat transnational environmental crime, which has the added benefit of building national capacity.

Despite widespread recognition that environmental crime is a form of serious, organised transnational crime, there are relatively few examples of coordinated inter-agency efforts at a national and regional level to combat it.

This seems in part due to a lack of political will at the national level to invest resources in inter-agency cooperation and operations. Also, initial progress in nudging the issue up the political agenda in the international arena requires a more sustained approach.

EIA does not have financial resources at its disposal to support projects that could be implemented by INTERPOL and other inter-governmental agencies. We can however offer support through the provision of information, visual resources, advocacy and communications.

In that context, we take this opportunity to suggest the following general actions for consideration by INTERPOL and other participants of this meeting. A specific INTERPOL project on tigers is proposed as an Annex to this document.

General Wildlife Crime Actions

1. Implementation of ICCWC

EIA endorses the creation of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC), to deliver the following; national enforcement reviews, coordination of international interdictions, legislative assessments to make wildlife crime a priority and capacity building¹.

- INTERPOL to request partners in ICCWC to liaise over a publicly available and digestible brochure explaining ICCWC, so members, partners and stakeholders can assist in promoting the initiative to relevant decision-makers
- EIA can assist with promotion of ICCWC outputs by:
 - Advocating national “round tables” between relevant enforcement agencies to identify national priorities and projects (as per the practice in the UK regarding wildlife crime), whilst advertising the coordinating role that INTERPOL can play at an international level, as illustrated through Operations such as Infra-Red, TRAM etc
 - Liaising with INTERPOL and others to prepare outreach materials and side events for decision-makers engaged in UN crime conventions and meetings (CTOC, CAC, CCPCJ)
 - Sharing information and insights following EIA investigations regarding the changing nature and dynamics of environmental criminal activities
 - Providing visual resources to INTERPOL for free, for the purpose of outreach and training materials

2. Assisting CITES Enforcement

Based on recent engagement with CITES Parties, it is clear to EIA that some CITES Management Authorities (MA’s) are unaware of the existing MoU with INTERPOL, are not familiar with the role and capacity of INTERPOL, and civil servants not engaged in law enforcement often misinterpret the terminology used by law enforcement agencies.

- INTERPOL (ECP) and CITES (Enforcement Assistance Unit) to analyse reasons why CITES Parties do not make better use of INTERPOL, and to identify any updates or

¹ Wildlife Crime Global Support Program, prepared in draft for the Global Tiger Recovery Program, Global Tiger Initiative. Volume II at <http://www.globaltigerinitiative.org/2010/08/09/global-tiger-recovery-program-initial-draft-released-for-peer-and-public-review/> Though prepared in relation to tigers, actions listed, if implemented globally, would enhance efforts to combat all wildlife crime.

revisions to the 1998 MoU between the two agencies. Alternatively consider producing a supplementary document that clarifies the advantages of using INTERPOL.

For example, possible questions to be resolved:

- Clarification of the process of submission of information in order for it to be entered into the INTERPOL database for analysis
- Clarification of terms such as information / intelligence; its clear that some CITES MA's are unaware that nominal information on suspected criminals can also be provided in a secure manner without compromising ongoing investigations, rather, enhancing them
- INTERPOL to promote implementation of CITES Decision 15.48² and to encourage the participation of relevant national decision-makers in the proposed seminar and, advocate NCB participation at future meetings of the CITES Standing Committee and Conference of the Parties.
- INTERPOL to assess whether INTERPOL's I-24/7 system (and other databases) would be an appropriate mechanism for fulfilling CITES Decision 15.42³, and if it is technically possible, determine the cost implications.
- INTERPOL to consider adding a session to the Environmental Crime Conference to allow time for retrospective analysis of high profile ivory cases, to help identify how INTERPOL's future engagement could facilitate more effective international investigations.

Tiger Specific Actions

At the 2008 INTERPOL Environmental Crime Conference, EIA first mooted the idea of INTERPOL "Tiger Desks". We have continued to promote the idea of a dedicated network of police investigators operating through the NCB's, as a means to combat the criminal networks controlling the illegal trade in tigers and other Asian big cats. The details and rationale for such an initiative are presented as a proposal to this Conference.

General Environmental Crime Actions

1. Common Messaging

² From the 15th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES

CITES Decision 15.48 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall seek funds to convene, as soon as possible, a seminar involving senior-level Customs and police officers from tiger range States, to brief them on the threatened status of this species, particularly the impact wildlife crime has upon it. The officials shall also be briefed by the Secretariat regarding the Global Tiger Summit, planned under the Global Tiger Initiative, so that the law enforcement community throughout tiger range States is prepared to engage in efforts to safeguard this species and respond to measures adopted at the Summit. The Secretariat shall collaborate with ICPO-INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Customs Organization in preparing the seminar. The Secretariat shall report on the outcomes of the seminar at the 61st meeting of the Standing Committee.

³ From the 15th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES

CITES Decision 15.42, Gathering and analysis of data on illegal trade, Directed to the Secretariat

- a) design and implement a database to be used by the Parties and the Secretariat for the gathering and analysis of data related to illegal trade in specimens of CITES-listed species;
- b) seek external funding to enable the group to conduct its activities, assisted by a relevant consultant if appropriate; and
- c) report to the Standing Committee at its 61st and 62nd meetings on the progress of the working group

Collaboration between relevant inter-governmental bodies such as ICPO-INTERPOL, the World Customs Organisation, UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the Secretariat's of relevant multi-lateral environmental, crime and corruption Conventions, and other experts is critical in order to:

- a. Raise the profile of the urgency with which to combat environmental crime among relevant national decision-makers and budget holders responsible for law enforcement
- b. Maximise the application of existing skills, experience and intelligence networks, and minimise duplication of effort in relation to intelligence analysis, investigations, international interdictions, regional cooperation and communication
- c. Standardise enforcement gap and enforcement effort audits and analysis, in order to tailor national / regional capacity building programmes but ensure that they meet a consistent standard
- d. Maximise the role of non-governmental organisations in advocating a common strategy to decision-makers and potential donors.
 - INTERPOL, through this meeting or the forthcoming General Assembly to issue a declaration on environmental crime that participants and stakeholders can use to engage national governments; ensuring that we are all "singing from the same songsheet".

2. Internal Promotion

Promote linkages between INTERPOL's environmental crime programme and the organisation's current six priority crime areas - i.e.

- Theft of natural resources such as timber and fish often involves systematic corruption (see for example the EIA/Telapak report "Rogue Traders". Efforts should be made to ensure that natural resource crimes feature as a component of INTERPOL's priority area of Corruption (such as involving the INTERPOL Group of Experts on Corruption)
- As carbon trading grows the potential for fraud also increases. For instance INTERPOL has already warned of the risk of fraud associated with "reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation or REDD. Efforts should be made to connect potential carbon trading fraud to INTERPOL's priority area of Financial and High-tech crime.