



FOR A SAFER WORLD

POUR UN MONDE
PLUS SÛR

OUTCOME DOCUMENT

FIGHTING ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME

Our planet provides through its ecosystems sources of subsistence, development, and income. Yet, the sustainability of natural resources for our economies and our food production depends on environmental and biodiversity conservation. To this end, legal frameworks on local, national, regional and international levels, including 300 multilateral conventions and treaties, help ensure environmental conservation.

Unfortunately, our environment is directly jeopardised by activities such as: illegal logging and deforestation, illegal fishing, illegal mining and illicit mineral trade, dumping and illegal trade of waste, illegal traffic and trade in chemicals, as well as the taking, poaching and trade in endangered animals and plants. These types of activities constitute the main categories of environmental crime, except in some cases illegal fishing.

According to a 2018 joint report of Interpol and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), environmental crime is the third most lucrative criminal activity, after drug trafficking and counterfeiting. It is estimated to generate between 110 and 281 billion USD a year in revenue for criminal networks, as well as depriving the legal economy, especially in developing countries, of an estimated 11 to 28 billion USD of lost tax revenues.

Environmental crime can be transnational and as such can adversely impact source, transit, or destination countries for this transnational trafficking. In addition to the financial consequences for governments and the private sector, environmental crime also harms biodiversity and natural environments, deprives communities of important resources, undermines public health, and thus threatens international security. It can also provide funding to armed groups, or even terrorist organisations, as highlighted by the United Nations Security Council in regards to conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in Somalia. Strong linkages also exist



between environmental crimes and others, such as corruption, money laundering and obstruction of justice.

The international community remains committed against environmental crime, including through the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES), the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the G20 High Level Principles on Combatting corruption Related Illegal Trade in Wildlife and Wildlife Products, but also via entities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), the World Customs Organization (WCO) and Interpol, including through the International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime (ICWC).

However, these frameworks address specific forms of environmental crime and their implementation has been uneven.

Thus, G7 Ministers of Interior commit to implement the following:

- Strengthen and implement, where necessary, national, regional and international legal standards providing for effective, proportionate and dissuasive penalties, including when appropriate criminal penalties, for perpetrators of environmental crime, accompanied by liability of legal persons for such crimes, civil compensation and habitat restoration for environmental damages and victims;
- Strengthen and implement national laws and regulations prohibiting illegal trade of protected species, including illegal ivory trade;
- To proactively raise shared priorities on the fight against environmental crime as a whole, based on the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, at the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to be held in April 2020 in Kyoto, in order to facilitate the judicial processing of all kinds of damages to the environment;
- Enhance national law enforcement capabilities to conduct transnational investigations and operations to disrupt criminal networks dealing with environmental commodities worldwide and encourage relevant countries to share information through mechanisms such as Interpol's Illicit Markets analytical file, and make use of financial crime investigation techniques;



- Encourage, where appropriate and permitted by applicable law, the establishment of integrated national entities in charge of the fight against environmental crime, combining law enforcement agencies, customs, environmental agencies, prosecutors and NGOs, based for example on the National Environmental Security Task Force (NEST) template promoted by Interpol;
- Implement or increase national pilot projects or measures for recovery of assets of criminal proceeds, collaborating with financial intelligence units, to combat financing and money laundering related to environmental crime more efficiently;
- Create a network of competent national contact points in charge of facilitating the exchange of information and best practices regarding operational tactics in investigating and adjudicating environmental crime, in coordination with existing resources and entities;
- Strengthen regional and international cooperation, building on existing international consortia such as the International Consortium to Combat Wildlife Crime and others, to fight environmental crime, especially with source, countries of this trafficking, in order to facilitate coordinated activities, skills transfer and information sharing on favoured routes and modi operandi of the criminal networks involved in environmental crime;
- Gain insight, with the intent of developing criminal investigations, into the use of the Internet and new technologies, such as the Darknet or virtual currencies, used for trafficking related to environmental crime, particularly illegal trade of endangered animals and plants.
- Promote the training and building of national capacities, including through the use of specialized units and equipment.

G7 Ministers of the Interior call upon the Roma-Lyon Group to ensure monitoring of these commitments, especially to allow the creation of the above mentioned network of national contact points, to investigate the connections between transnational organized crime and the illegal trafficking of waste and propose solutions for law enforcement action, and to analyse the connection between environmental crime and criminal- and terrorism financing.

