

The Green Customs Initiative



Scale of Environmental Crime

Difficult to accurately assess.

Estimate - US\$ 20-30 billion dollars annually from hazardous waste dumping, smuggling proscribed hazardous materials, and exploiting and trafficking protected natural resources.



Links with organised crime

“A significant proportion of both wildlife crime and pollution crime point to the involvement of organized crime networks. ...detailed planning of operations, substantial financial support, the careful management of international shipments and massive profits”

from INTERPOL Environmental crime website



Increasing recognition of environmental crime?

- “Environmental damage caused by illegal traffic in endangered species and dangerous and harmful substances and products is growing ...continuous efforts are required by relevant agencies to address the problem.”
- “Promote cooperation between different conventions and the importance of addressing illegal trade in environmentally-sensitive commodities”

UNEP's Governing Council Decisions 21/27 and 23/9 | 2



The need for action



Customs and border protection officers:

- Front line of every country's defence against trans- boundary illegal trade
 - First link in the “compliance and enforcement chain”
 - Important role in facilitating *legal trade*
-
- **So building the capacity of these officers is vital**
 - **An effective solution is coordinated training...**



Cooperation on illegal trade



Green Customs Initiative

GreenCustoms

- An unprecedented partnership of international organisations
- Its objective is to enhance the capacity of customs officers to:
 - Detect and prevent illegal trade
 - Facilitate the legal tradein environmentally-sensitive commodities covered by the relevant conventions and **MEAs**.



Green Customs Partners



Basel Convention
Convention on Biological
Diversity

CITES



Montreal Protocol
Rotterdam Convention
Stockholm Convention



Chemical Weapons Convention

Interpol

WCO



UNEP

UN Office of Drugs and Crime



Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm in the GCI

- Developed joint training tools
- Ensure joint representation in GCI workshops
- Utilise Basel or Stockholm Convention regional centres
- Cooperating with the World Customs Organisation and DTIE to develop an integrated e-learning module for customs officers



Conclusion



Thank you for your attention

www.greencustoms.org

Green Customs Secretariat
greencustoms@unep.org

