

Green Customs Initiative Partners

Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal

www.basel.int

Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (Convention on Biological Diversity)

www.cbd.int/biosafety

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)

www.cites.org

Interpol

www.interpol.int

Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

www.ozone.unep.org

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) – Chemical Weapons Convention

www.opcw.org

Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals in International Trade

www.pic.int

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

www.pops.int

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

— UNEP Division of Environmental Law and Conventions

www.unep.org/delc

— UNEP Division of Regional Coordination (DRC) and UNEP regional offices

www.unep.org/DRC

— UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE)

www.unep.fr

World Customs Organization

www.wcoomd.org

20th Anniversary Ozone Protection Award



In 2007 the Green Customs Initiative was awarded a prestigious Partners Ozone Protection Award, which recognises the critical role civil society and international organisations have played in the development and implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

For further information please contact

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Or see the Green Customs Initiative website

www.greencustoms.org



THE GREEN CUSTOMS INITIATIVE

Customs Protecting the Environment



Toxic Chemicals



Fauna and Flora



Ozone Depleting Substances



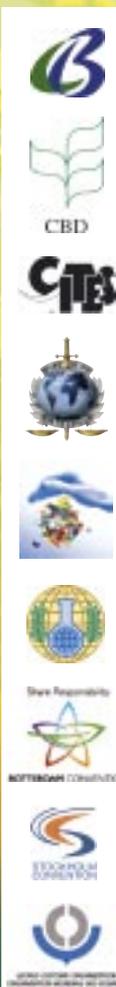
Hazardous Waste



Living Modified Organisms

GreenCustoms

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GREEN CUSTOMS THE INITIATIVE

Environmental Crime – a growing problem

Environmental crime is a significant and increasingly lucrative business. National and international crime syndicates worldwide earn an estimated US\$ 20-30 billion dollars annually from hazardous waste dumping, smuggling proscribed hazardous materials, and exploiting and trafficking protected natural resources. Illegal international trade in “environmentally-sensitive” commodities such as ozone depleting substances (ODS), toxic chemicals, hazardous wastes, endangered species and living modified organisms is an international problem with serious consequences. It directly threatens human health and the environment; contributes to species loss; results in revenue loss for governments; and undermines the success of international environmental agreements by circumventing agreed rules and procedures.

The need for action

Customs and border protection officers constitute the front line of every country's defence against trans-boundary illegal trade. They are the first link in the “compliance and enforcement chain”, and without adequate capacity to prevent or detect illegal trade, the rest of the chain will be considerably less effective. Building the capacity of these officers is therefore vital. Training is a key component of capacity building, but can be time-consuming and expensive when delivered separately for the wide range of issues customs officers must cover. An effective solution is coordinated training – and this is where Green Customs comes in...

Helping to address the problem - The Green Customs Initiative

The Green Customs Initiative is an unprecedented partnership of international organisations cooperating to prevent the illegal trade in environmentally-sensitive commodities and facilitation of the legal trade in these. Its objective is to enhance the capacity of customs and other relevant enforcement personnel to monitor and facilitate the legal trade and to detect and prevent illegal trade in environmentally-sensitive commodities covered by the relevant conventions and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). These include: ODS; toxic chemical products; hazardous wastes; fauna and flora; and living modified organisms. This is achieved through awareness-raising on all the relevant international agreements as well as provision of assistance and tools to the enforcement community. Green Customs is designed to complement and enhance existing customs training efforts under the respective agreements.



Answering the call

UNEP's Governing Council expressed concern over the increasing environmental damage caused by illegal traffic in endangered species and dangerous and harmful substances and products. It also recognised that continuous efforts must be undertaken by all countries and relevant organisations and agencies concerned with ensuring compliance and enforcement of relevant international agreements. The Green Customs Initiative is a partnership actively addressing these concerns.

Council Decision 21/27 on Compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environment agreements, February 2001

Green Customs Partners

The partners of the Green Customs Initiative comprise the secretariats of the relevant multilateral environmental agreements (Basel, Cartagena, CITES, Montreal, Rotterdam and Stockholm - see over for full descriptions), Interpol, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, UNEP and the World Customs Organization. The Green Customs Initiative also works closely with a number of other regional and international organisations.

Benefits of Green Customs

For Customs Officers

- ▶ Increased knowledge about environmental issues, particularly those related to MEAs
- ▶ Enhanced skills required to enforce national environmental commitments
- ▶ Better recognition of the role of customs officers in environmental protection

For Countries

- ▶ Increased detection of smugglers and illegally-traded commodities by national customs officers, and facilitation of legal trade
- ▶ Strengthened capacity for national compliance and enforcement of MEAs through monitoring of trade
- ▶ Increased opportunity for dialogue with regional trade partner countries on illegal trade issues
- ▶ Sustained capacity building through integration of Green Customs into national customs training curricula
- ▶ Prevention of loss of revenue from tax and duty avoidance associated with smuggling
- ▶ Increased integration of environment into the security agenda

For Partners

- ▶ Increased opportunity for synergies in implementation between MEAs
- ▶ Shared training infrastructure and experience developed by the Secretariats

For the Global Environment

- ▶ Decrease in environmental crime and other environment-related offences, control of toxic chemicals and waste, better species protection, leading to a less polluted and more sustainable environment

Green Customs Tools

Green Customs Guide

A guide for trainees and trainers to be used as a core element during the training courses and as a post-course reference document

Workshops to train customs officers

Many Green Customs training workshops have been held all around the world. These have ranged from regional workshops to sub-regional and national workshops.

Green Customs website and materials

Information and more details on the Green Customs Initiative can be found on the Green Customs website: www.greencustoms.org