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# INTERPOL's RESPONSE TO ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

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# ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY PROGRAMME

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# Transnational Environmental Crime

Estimated value of environmental crime:  
 110–281 billion USD annually (UNEP/INTERPOL, 2018)

Estimated annual value of environmental crime types:

Forestry crimes (including illegal logging)	51-152 billion USD
Illegal fisheries	11-24 billion USD
Illegal mining	12-48 billion USD
Illegal wildlife trade	7-23 billion USD
Illegal trafficking and dumping of toxic and electronic waste	10-12 billion USD
Illegal exploitation and theft of oil	additional minimum 19-23 billion USD (previously unaccounted for due to lack of information)



## ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME KEY STATISTICS

- Transnational Environmental Crimes ranked among the most damaging and economically significant crime globally
- Environmental crime now directly competes with human trafficking as the **third largest criminal sector worldwide**, moving up from the 4th largest crime after drugs (344 billion USD), counterfeit (288 billion USD) and human trafficking (157 billion USD).

# INTERPOL Environmental Security Programme (ENS)



## THE ISSUE

Environmental crime is an international security issue characterized by transnational trafficking, a criminal supply chain with links to other serious crimes. It includes crimes which facilitate or accompany environmental crimes such as fraud, human trafficking, money laundering and corruption.



## INTERPOL RESPONSE

INTERPOL ENS brings together our 195 member countries, international organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector. We help dismantle the criminal networks behind environmental crime by providing law enforcement agencies with the tools and expertise they need to protect the environment from being exploited by criminals.

INTERPOL implements law enforcement projects in  
5 main crime areas



# ENS Crime Areas

## FISHERIES CRIME

refers to crimes in the entire fisheries sector, from harvest to processing, and it includes food fraud at customer level

## FORESTRY CRIME

refers to both illegal logging and illicit timber trade, criminal activities that destroy biodiversity and threaten the livelihood of those reliant on forest resources

## ILLEGAL MINING

refers to both illegal extraction and trade of minerals, including the illegal use of toxic chemicals (such as cyanide and mercury) in mining activities

## POLLUTION CRIME

refers to various criminal activities such as waste crime, marine pollution crime, illicit trafficking in chemicals, carbon trading crime, and illegal mining

## WILDLIFE CRIME

refers to criminal activities involved in exploiting wildlife across the globe, threatening protected wildlife species, affecting vulnerable communities, undermining national economies, and jeopardizing food security



# Global Duty Stations



ENS represented in 5 duty stations

# Operating Model: Intelligence-led Policing

- Focus on outcomes as opposed to outputs;
- Building strong networks with member countries in order to gather relevant information and provide investigative and operational support;
- Mentoring on live transnational criminal cases and other capacity building activities, to coordinate a tactical response; and
- Use of the seconded police officers and other specialized resources across all environmental crime areas.



# Policing Capabilities



**OPERATIONS**



**OPERATIONAL  
SUPPORT  
TEAMS**



**TRAINING**



**ENVIRONMENTAL  
CRIME WORKING  
GROUPS**



**STRATEGIC  
ANALYSIS**



**REGIONAL  
INVESTIGATIVE  
CASE MEETINGS**



**MULTI-AGENCY  
COLLABORATION**



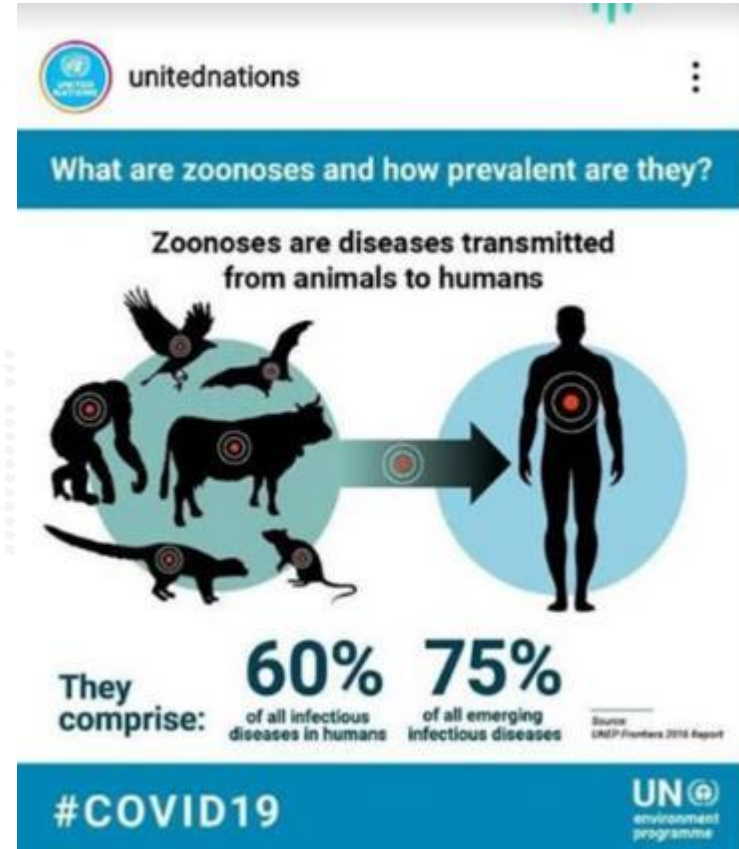
# Trends in Wildlife Trafficking

- Wildlife trafficking is increasing as pandemic restrictions are relaxed
- Increased use of online advertisements and transactions over the last two years – this is likely to continue



# Impacts of Illegal Wildlife Trade on Biodiversity and Security

- Illegal Wildlife Trade threatens biodiversity, human and animal health, safety and security and socio-economic development; and funds organized criminal groups. It can serve to worsen the effects of climate change.
- Wildlife trafficking is a key driver of wildlife population decline and local extinction
- Illegal Wildlife Trade pose a risk of pathogen spillover to humans, wildlife or other animals – with potential to cause human disease outbreaks in addition to posing threats to livestock and native wildlife population.
  - ✓ “1.7 million currently undiscovered viruses are thought to exist in mammal and avian hosts”, of which “631,000–827,000 could have the ability to infect humans”. (*Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)*)



# Convergence of Illegal Wildlife Trade and Organized Crime

- Transboundary in nature:- borders do not restrict environmental crime - ranging from wildlife trafficking and overfishing of protected species, to illegal logging and dumping of hazardous waste)
- Like other forms of illicit trade, wildlife trafficking crime undermines security across nations. Well-armed, well-equipped, and well-organized networks of poachers, criminals, and corrupt officials exploit porous borders and weak institutions to profit from trading in illegally taken wildlife.
- Trafficking of wildlife could be linked to other serious crimes and offenses such as drug trafficking, arms trafficking, human smuggling, passport fraud, money laundering and document counterfeiting.
- It is often cited as a means to finance the more violent and destructive activities of criminal and terrorist organizations because of the major financial benefits derived from relatively minimal time, investment, low risks of detection and lack of serious punishment.
- The huge profits made from illicit wildlife trade acts as an incentive to organized criminal networks.



# 'Fighting networks with Networks'

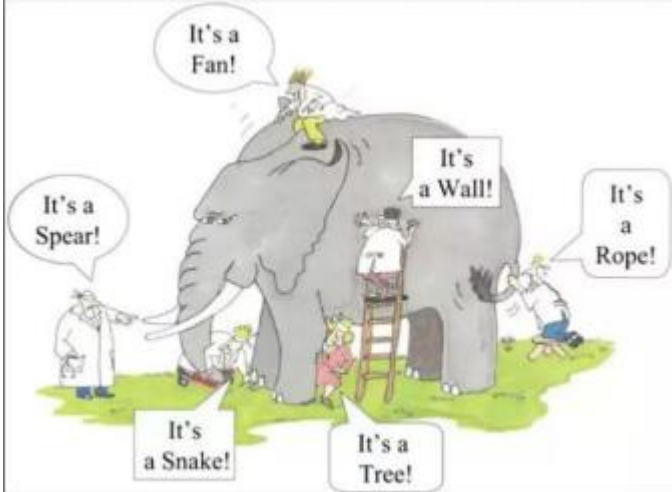


World Organisation  
for Animal Health  
Founded as OIE



World Customs Organization  
Organisation mondiale des douanes

# Building Effective Collaboration & Partnerships



Source: Quora



Imagine what we can accomplish  
when we work together  
@successpictures

@successpictures

# Conclusion

Cooperation within and between law enforcement and management agencies (State and Non-State) at National, Regional and International levels is critical in the fight against transnational illegal wildlife trade.





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**Thank You**

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