



INTERPOL



INTERPOL

Environmental Security Programme

15/11/2018

Outline

- Introduction to INTERPOL
- Environmental Security Programme
- Global Forestry Enforcement
- Operation LEAD

INTERPOL



INTERPOL has a global presence

- The General Secretariat, Complex for Innovation
Regional Offices, Liaison Offices
- NCBs in its 192 member countries through which international police cooperation is steered.



All member countries are connected through I-24/7 with INTERPOL

- Allows INTERPOL to receive Information and Intelligence
- Contribute to INTERPOL criminal databases and to collaborate on cross-border investigations and arrests



INTERPOL provides a range of expertise to its member countries



INTERPOL Databases

- INTERPOL's Criminal Information System (ICIS)
 - Nominal Database contains international alerts and requests related to international fugitives, suspected criminals,
- DNA database
 - Storage of DNA profiles obtained from samples collected from crime scenes, offenders, missing persons or unidentified bodies.
- EDISON Database
 - This database contains images, descriptions and security features of genuine travel and identity documents issued by member countries and international organizations.

INTERPOL Databases

- Fingerprints database
 - Storage of ten print and crime scene mark fingerprints of convicted nationals and non-nationals of a member country, unsolved crime scene marks, fingerprints of fugitives and missing persons.
- INTERPOL illicit Arms Records (iARMS) database
 - iARMS contains records from member countries on lost, stolen, trafficked and smuggled firearms.
- Stolen and Lost Travel Documents (SLTD) database
 - INTERPOL's Stolen and Lost Travel Documents Database records data on lost, stolen and revoked travel documents

- **INTERPOL Databases**

- Stolen Motor Vehicles (SMV) database

- INTERPOL's database for Stolen and Lost Motor vehicles records data from all types of motor vehicles (cars, trucks, trailers, heavy machinery, motorbikes) reported as stolen.

- Stolen Vessels (SVD) database

- The database serves as a centralized tool for tracing and tracking stolen vessels and / or related engines by enabling Member Countries to insert, update and query records in a global database

INTERPOL Databases



INTERPOL Notices

INTERPOL NOTICES

- RED NOTICE**
WANTED PERSONS
- GREEN NOTICE**
WARNINGS AND INTELLIGENCE
- YELLOW NOTICE**
MISSING PERSONS
- ORANGE NOTICE**
IMMINENT THREAT
- BLUE NOTICE**
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
- PURPLE NOTICE**
MODUS OPERANDI
- BLACK NOTICE**
UNIDENTIFIED BODIES
- INTERPOL-UN SECURITY COUNCIL SPECIAL NOTICE**
ENTITIES AND INDIVIDUALS SUBJECT TO UNSC SANCTIONS



INTERPOL Investigative Support

- Regional Investigative and Analytical case meetings (RIACM)
- Connections with other authorities (CITES, WCO, UNODC)
- Intelligence sharing
- Intelligence analysis
- Investigation Support Teams
- Incident Response Team



INTERPOL's support is provided to three Global Programmes

- Counter terrorism
- Cyber Crime
- Organized and Emerging Crime



Environmental Security Programme

Criminals shouldn't be allowed to steal moments like this from future generations

For more information on Project Leaf go to: www.interpol.int



- **INTERPOL defines Environmental Crime as:**

‘a collective term to describe illegal activities harming the environment and aimed at benefitting individuals or groups or companies from the exploitation of, damage to, trade or theft of natural resources and wildlife, including serious crimes and transnational organized crime’

- **Main Environmental Crime Types**
 - Illegal wildlife trade
 - Forestry crime
 - Trafficking in hazardous waste and chemicals
 - Fisheries crime
 - Illegal exploitation of gold and minerals



- **Links with other crime types**
 - Tax Fraud
 - Cybercrime
 - Corruption
 - Document Fraud
 - Drug trafficking



- **Drivers of Environmental Crime**
 - Low risk of getting caught
 - High profits
 - Lack of legislation and enforcement
 - Lack of transparency
 - Weak institutions
 - Lack of sufficient resources
 - Poverty
 - High demand

- **Environmental Crime Statistics(INTERPOL-UNEP 2016)**
 - Environmental crime is estimated to be worth 110–258 billion USD annually, a 26% increase from previous estimate in 2014;
 - Environmental crime is rising by 5-7% annually – 2–3 times the rate of the global economy;
 - Forestry crime is the most lucrative of all environmental crimes estimated at 151 billion annually.

- **Impact of Environmental Crime**

- Air pollution and water pollution cause diseases in humans and animals
- Climate change can lead to frequent occurrences and greater severity of natural disasters
- Loss of biodiversity directly affects human health and livelihoods
- In fragile states illegal trade of environmentally sensitive commodities can undermine the rule of law and can fuel armed conflict

- **In terms of financial losses:**
 - The services that ecosystems provide to us is worth USD 33 trillion per year (IUCN) any destruction of these will have to be replaced
 - Losses of government revenues through lost tax income due to criminal exploitation account for at least 9–26 billion USD annually.



• INTERPOL Global Environmental Enforcement



Global Forestry Enforcement



- **Global Forestry Enforcement**

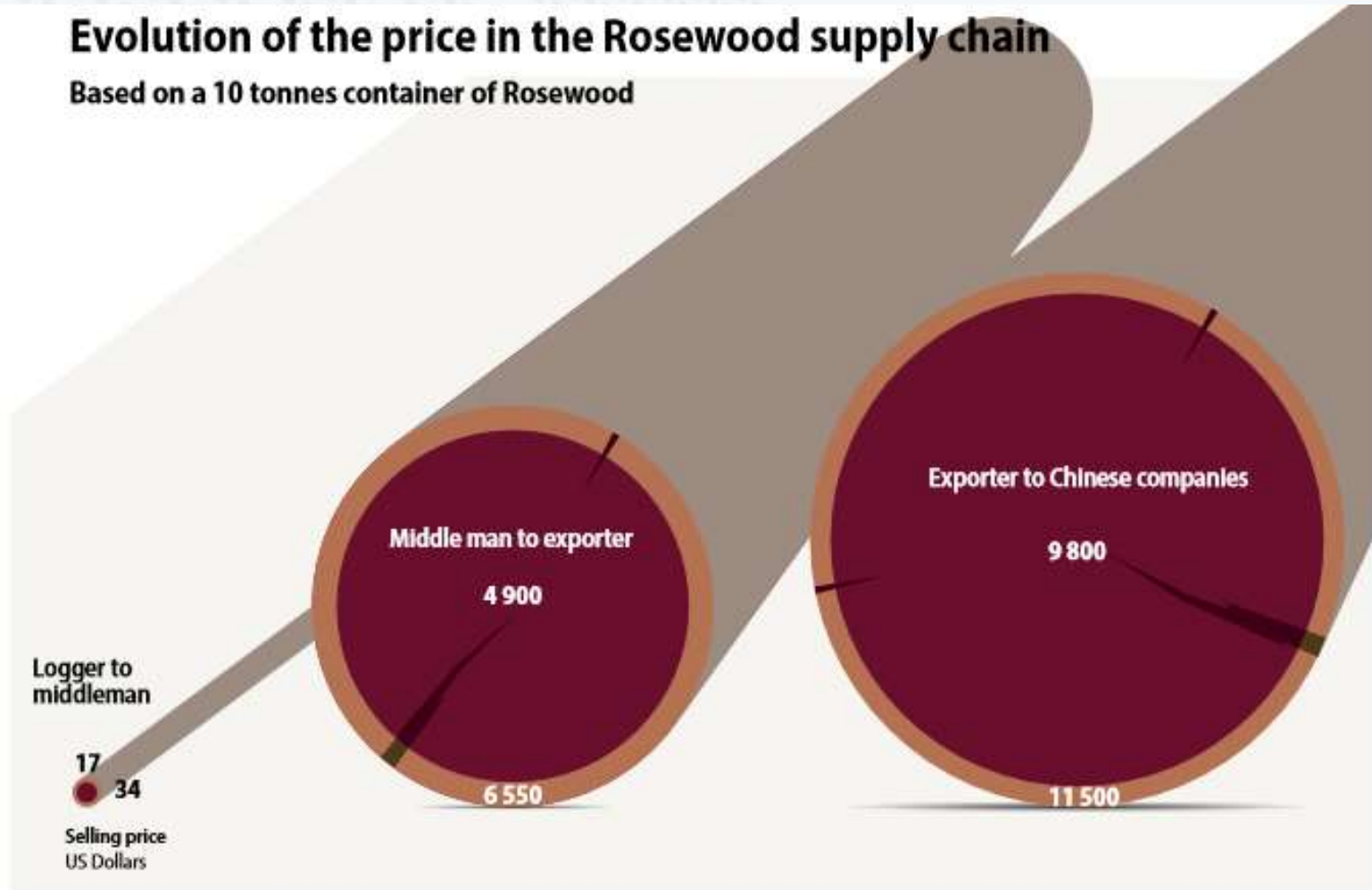
- INTERPOL launched Project LEAF (Law Enforcement Assistance for Forests) on World Environment Day 5 June 2012
- Collaboration between INTERPOL and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Main Funding stream from NORAD (Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation)

- **Forestry Crime**

“Forestry crime” is a term to describe criminal activity in the forestry sector covering the entire supply chain, from harvest and transportation to processing and selling. It also refers to those criminal offenses that facilitate such activity, including document fraud, corruption, and money laundering

- **Forestry Crime is very lucrative**

Evolution of the price in the Rosewood supply chain
Based on a 10 tonnes container of Rosewood



- **Forestry Crime Activities**

- The illegal exploitation of high-value endangered wood species, such as rosewood and mahogany (many of which are now CITES listed)
- Illegal logging in protected areas, on indigenous lands or outside concession boundaries
- Laundering of illegal timber through genuine certified supply chains
- Transportation of timber without necessary permits
- Document fraud and mis-declarations to conceal illegal activity and tax evasion

- **Modus Operandi**

- Falsification of logging permits
- Logging beyond concessions or not in compliance with concession rules
- Hacking government websites to obtain transport permits for higher volumes
- Laundering of illegal timber by establishing roads, ranches, palm oil or forest plantations
- Mixing with legal timber during transport or in mills

• Forestry Crime Offenders

- Low level criminals (eg. truck drivers, poachers)
- Facilitators (eg. Middlemen, company owners/managers)
- Heads of criminal groups

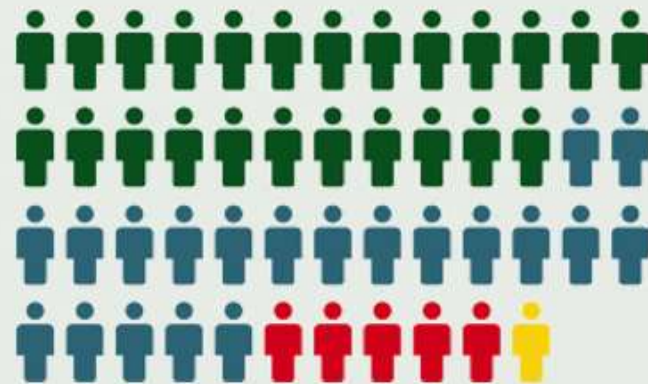
more than **547 ARRESTS**

48% loggers, truck drivers

40% middlemen

10% company owners/managers

2% heads of criminal groups



Statistics of INTERPOL 2012-2015

- **Forestry Crime Offenders:**

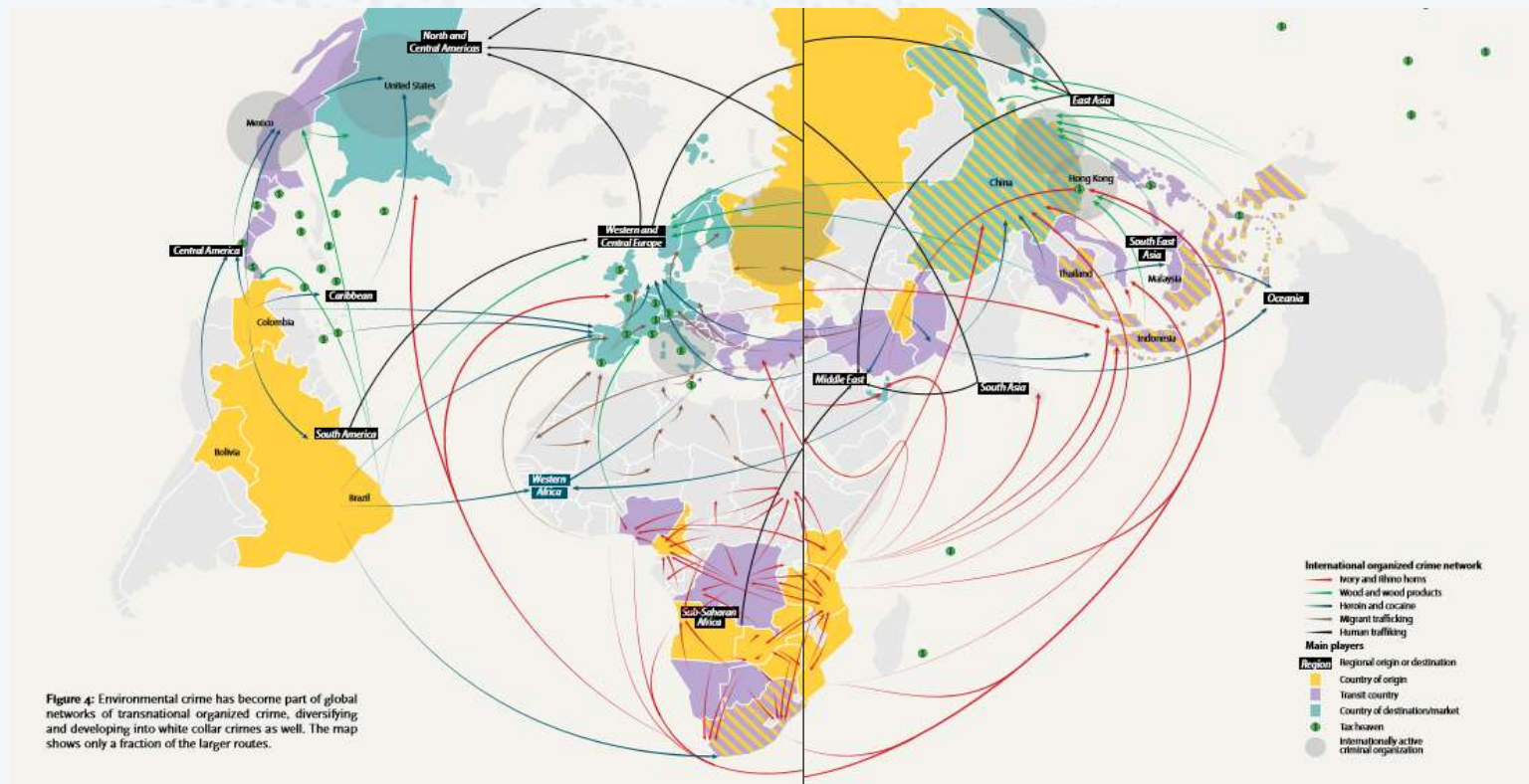
- From 2016 to 2017, 480 arrests had been recorded to INTERPOL in relation to forestry crimes
 - 37 people were middlemen
 - 24 people were company owners
 - 5 people were heads of criminal networks
- The majority of arrests in these categories were made in Latin America

- **INTERPOL's main Activities**

- supporting investigations
- prioritizing law enforcement response to forestry crime
- coordinating international networks for information sharing.
- supporting cooperation between civil society and law enforcement



• Forestry Crime need to be addressed internationally



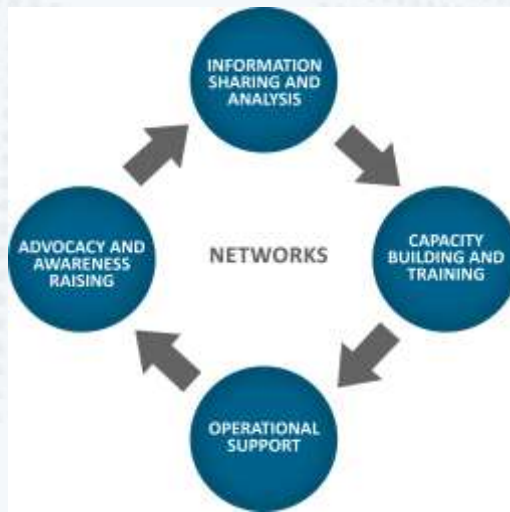
Source: The rise in environmental crimes. A UNEP-INTERPOL rapid response assessment

• INTERPOL

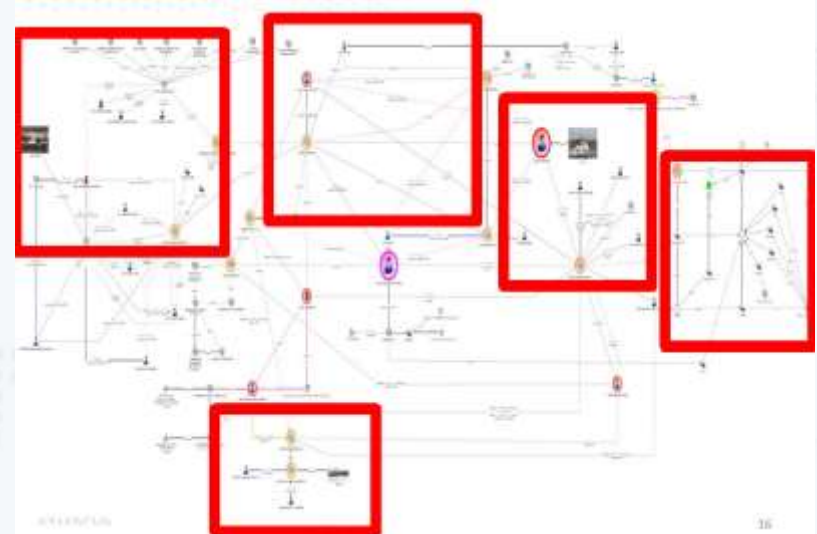
- Creates and promotes special networks
- Encourages information sharing through joint operations

6.2 Appendix 2 Example Ecomessage

ECOMESSAGE		THIS INFORMATION WILL BE RECORDED IN INTERPOL DATABASES UNLESS OTHERWISE REQUESTED	
Please attach copies of supporting paperwork and photographs.			
1. Subject		1. Subject	
1.1 Brief description of the crime.	1.1 The Forest Service of the Ministry of Agriculture conducted an inspection at a building site that serves as a center for lumbering, owned by company A. In this center, a technician discovered protected timber species in violation of Article B of the Penal Code. He informed the group of environmental crime investigators, which already had an investigation opened with the prosecutors. The timber was seized and one person arrested.	1.2 Not applicable	1.2 Not applicable
1.2 Date/operational name, reference number as generated by your authority.	1.3 Not applicable	1.3 Not applicable	1.3 Not applicable
1.3 Legal description of the crime: citation of legislation violated and legally possible penalties.	1.4 Not applicable	1.4 Not applicable	1.4 Not applicable
1.4 Law enforcement agency with primary responsibility for the case (include name, address and contact details).	2. Place and method of discovery	2. Place and method of discovery	
2. Place and method of discovery	2.1 Place where the crime was discovered. If an area or an open countryside refer distance and direction to a reference point.	2.1 Building located at 4C North Road, town of Paradise, 40 kilometers from the border with Honduras	2.1 Building located at 4C North Road, town of Paradise, 40 kilometers from the border with Honduras
2.1 Place where the crime was discovered. If an area or an open countryside refer distance and direction to a reference point.	2.2 The country, including timezone (use [LZ]) or ICAO.	2.2 Municipality of the Paradise, department of El Salvador	2.2 Municipality of the Paradise, department of El Salvador
2.2 The country, including timezone (use [LZ]) or ICAO.	2.3 Latitude and longitude.	2.3 29°16'12.94 N, 26°45'46.49 W	2.3 29°16'12.94 N, 26°45'46.49 W
2.3 Latitude and longitude.	2.4 How the crime was discovered (e.g. customs inspection, informant information, patrol etc.).	2.4 The information was collected by the Forest Service office of the Ministry of Agriculture which carried out an inspection in preceding days.	2.4 The information was collected by the Forest Service office of the Ministry of Agriculture which carried out an inspection in preceding days.
2.4 How the crime was discovered (e.g. customs inspection, informant information, patrol etc.).	3. Date and time	3. Date and time	
3. Date and time	3.1 Date and time when the crime was discovered.	3.1 24 February 2015	3.1 24 February 2015
3.1 Date and time when the crime was discovered.	3.2 Date and time when the crime was corrected (if different from 3.1).	3.2 6 February 2015	3.2 6 February 2015
3.2 Date and time when the crime was corrected (if different from 3.1).			



- **INTERPOL also**
 - Distributes analytical reports
 - Can assist in high risk vessel tracking



Operation LEAD



- **Strategic Goals**

- Fight and prevent the occurrence of forestry crime and associated crimes that threaten the social, political and economic stability of the Mekong Region.
- Collect information and provide analysis to identify targets for further investigation.



- **Strategic objectives**

- Create a network of law enforcement authorities that allows secure and resilient information exchange via INTERPOL's information sharing systems
- Ensure the reliability and quality of information and data collected
- Ensure information exchange and analysis to identify specific forestry crime cases that require transnational law enforcement operations.
- Plan and coordinate a joint transnational law enforcement operation.

- **Operational implementation**

- Across the Mekong region countries coordinated operational activities during a determined timeframe and in targeted regions, border crossings and other strategic hotspots as identified by the countries.
- The intention was that ownership of the operation would be attributed to the participating countries
- INTERPOL Project coordinated Operation LEAD between participating countries.

- **Operational results**

- Investigations into almost 700 forestry crime cases;
- Seizure of 4737m³ of illegal timber;
- Arrest of 242 offenders;
- Seizure of logging equipment, vehicles and drugs;



- **Outcome Thailand**

- 89 seizures and arrests during their 6 day operational phase.
- The total volume seized of approximately 368m³ of timber.
- Value approx. USD 850,000 based on regional black market pricing.
- Low quantity seizures included mainly high value timber such Siamese Rosewood, Teak and Rosewood
- Timber leaves the country through Laos and Cambodia

- **Outcome Myanmar**

- 363 seizures, totalling 1514m³ (1070 tonnes) of illegal timber during the two month Operation
- 350m³ (246 tonnes) of teak
- 566m³ (400 tonnes) of high value hardwood, predominately rosewood.
- Estimated value USD 2 million.
- High levels of timber seized, including Shan, Sagaing and Mandalay
- Timber is shipped to China and India.

- **Lessons learnt**

- Organize coordination meetings;
- Strengthen civils societies' involvement in the law enforcement network;
- Organize a larger variety of trainings to a broader law enforcement audience;
- Provide more support during the tactical implementation. Consider the establishment of a joint coordination and operation centre;
- Grow the regional law enforcement network

- To further strengthen INTERPOL's response it is important that countries (origin, transit and destination) exchange available information.





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Thank You for Your Attention