



Environmental Security Programme

FRONTEX Online Webminar on Environmental Crime

INTERPOL's Response to Crime
Affecting the Marine Environment

1 June 2021

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 194 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

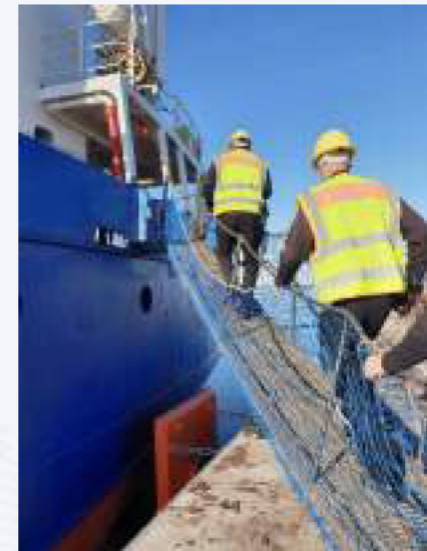
refers to various criminal activities such as waste crime, marine pollution crime, illicit trafficking in chemicals, carbon trading crime, and illegal mining

WILDLIFE CRIME

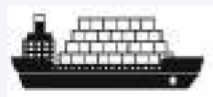
refers to criminal activities involved in exploiting wildlife across the globe, threatening protected wildlife species, affecting vulnerable communities, undermining national economies, and jeopardizing food security

MARINE POLLUTION

- Multiple impacts on the environment including water and coastal soil contamination,
- and threatening marine life with extinction, human safety, food security and economic development



Sources of marine pollution :



MARPOL violations



Oil Spills



Discharge from Offshore Installations



Ballast Water

Direct pollution into the sea (off-shore pollution) and indirect pollution from land-based, river or air pollution settling into waterways (on-shore pollution).

Illegal activities are an important contributor: to avoid the costs required to comply with environmental legislations, waste is illegally discharged or dumped at sea, or it enters the sea from illegal landfills.

Pollution offenses are committed at both domestic and transnational levels taking advantage of legislative gaps and uneven enforcement capacities among countries;

CHALLENGES TO FIGHT IUU FISHING



- Flags Of Convenience (FOC)
- Shell companies as shipowners
- Offshore based financial operations (money laundering)



- Documentation fraud
 - Vessel Register
 - Fishing License
 - Cargo Manifests



- Multi-nationality crews (poorly paid = great dependence)
- Human Trafficking / Modern Slavery factor



- Sub-Standard Port Inspection Procedures

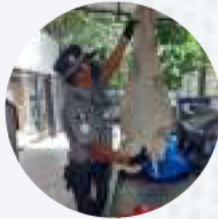


- Lack of (effective) cooperation
 - Internationally between states
 - Nationally between agencies.



- Low level on financial sanctions
- Legal loop holes (national / international)

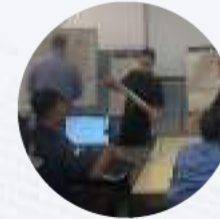
Policing Capabilities



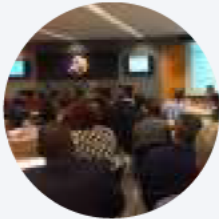
OPERATIONS



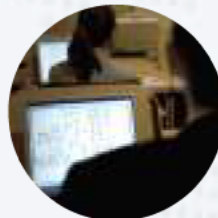
**INVESTIGATIVE
SUPPORT
TEAMS**



TRAININGS



**ENVIRONMENTAL
CRIME WORKING
GROUPS**



**STRATEGIC
ANALYSIS**



**REGIONAL
INVESTIGATIVE
CASE MEETINGS**



**MULTI-AGENCY
COLLABORATION**

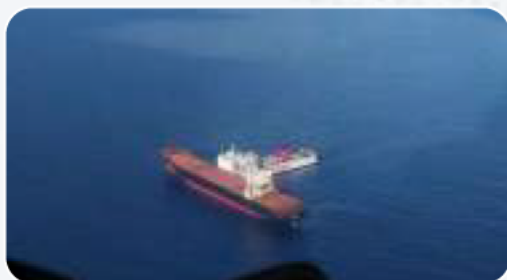


OPERATION 30 DAYS AT SEA 2020 – 2021 Summary Results

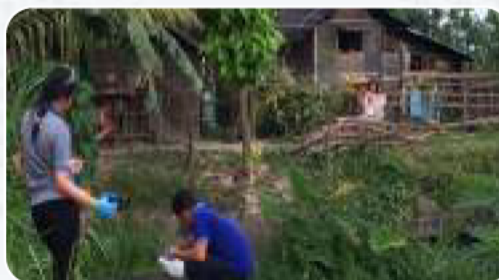


Targets of the Operation

The Operation aims to tackle pollution offences leading to marine pollution, committed on land, in in-land waters and at sea.



Target 1: Pollution from vessels and offshore installations



Target 2: Land-based and river pollution impacting the marine environment



Target 3: Waste trafficking through ports

*New for 2020/2021 – inclusion of medical waste trafficking through ports, and illegal disposal of medical waste in rivers and coastal areas

2020 Participating Countries : 67



Africa 16	Americas 11	Asia Pacific 13	Middle East 3	Europe 24
Angola	Argentina	Australia	Kuwait	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Benin	Bolivia	Bangladesh	Qatar	Bulgaria
Cameroon	Brazil	China	Saudi Arabia	Croatia
Cote d'Ivoire	Canada	Fiji		Cyprus
Dem. Rep. Congo	Chile	India		Finland
Ethiopia	Ecuador	Indonesia		France
Ghana	Guatemala	Malaysia		Georgia
Guinea Bissau	Honduras	Maldives		Germany
Kenya	Peru	Philippines		Greece
Liberia	United States	Republic of Korea		Ireland
Namibia	Uruguay	Thailand		Israel
Nigeria		Timor Leste		Italy
Senegal		Vietnam		Latvia
South Africa				Malta
Tanzania				Netherlands
Zimbabwe				Norway
				Poland
				Portugal
				Romania
				Russian Federation
				Spain
				Sweden
				Ukraine
				United Kingdom

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

FRONTEX



Overview – Operation 30 Days at Sea 3.0

Key Objective:

Enhance the global **law enforcement response to offences that lead to marine pollution**, with the ultimate objective of **enhancing sea quality** and **tackling criminal networks** evolved in the these crimes.

Operation timeline:

Intelligence phase: Oct 2020 – Feb 2021

Operational (tactical) phase: March 2021

Post-Operational Phase: April 2021 – Q3 2021



EUROPOL FRONTEX

OPERATION 30 DAYS AT SEA 3.0

THREE YEARS OF INTERNATIONAL AND INTERAGENCY COOPERATION



PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS

- **Concrete pollution incidents could be avoided** through INTERPOL's support to the investigation of several criminal cases of marine pollution
- **Pollution events could be addressed** following the collection of intelligence on offences.
- **The efficiency and capacities in addressing marine pollution crime were strengthened in number of countries**, thanks to enhanced capacities, facilitated multi-agency cooperation and enhanced investigative targeting thanks to INTERPOL analysis of criminal trends and risk indicators.
- **Awareness on marine pollution crime** was raised, among the general public as well as within the enforcement community, resulting in **increased countries engagement and increased crime deterrence**

Illustrations from the Intelligence Collection Phase of Operation 30 Days at Sea 3.0



Italian Coast Guard identified risk shipping routes, resulting in the seizure of a container of tyres and household waste equipment, illegally destined to Senegal, where it would have been illegally disposed of.



In Indonesia, the extensive planning and intelligence phase resulted in strengthened multi-agency cooperation, and joint field actions.



In Ecuador, intelligence collection allowed authorities to identify companies and sites where illegal waste management and sewage treatment was more likely, leading to the inspection of plantain cultures, and clean-up operations.



INTERPOL

OPERATION IKATERE

TACKLING ILLEGAL FISHING AND OTHER MARITIME CRIMES



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Operation IKATERE

Targets

- Illegal Fishing activities conducted in contravention of applicable laws and regulations, including those laws and agreements adopted at the regional and international level;
- Fishing activities that are not reported or misreported to relevant authorities in contravention of national laws and regulations or reporting requirements of a relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMO);
- Fishing activities occurring in an RFMO-managed area and conducted by vessels without nationality, or by those flying a flag of a State or fishing entity that is not party to the RFMO in a manner that is inconsistent with the conservation measures of that RFMO;
- Ship registry activities in furtherance of IUU fishing endeavors;
- Human trafficking and forced labor activities in furtherance of IUU fishing endeavors;
- Seafood importation activities in furtherance of IUU fishing endeavors;
- Industrial fishing vessels of any gear type and size flying the flag of third countries;
- Supporting vessels, namely bunkers and reefers in support of operations at sea;
- Marine CITES listed species.
- Individuals and/or companies currently being sought by countries to whom INTERPOL Notices were issued to.
- Specific individuals and/or companies being currently investigated by countries.

- ❑ Registration to the operation : **18 June**
- ❑ Preparatory meetings **3 June 2021 and September**
- ❑ Contact : environmentalcrime@interpol.int





Thank You

INTERPOL Environmental Security Programme

Environmentalcrime@interpol.int