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
Green Customs is designed to complement and enhance existing customs training efforts relevant international agreements as well as provision of assistance and tools to the enforcement of fauna and flora; and living modified organisms. This is achieved through awareness-raising on all the environmental agreements (MEAs). These include: ODS; toxic chemical products; hazardous wastes; in environmentally-sensitive commodities covered by the relevant conventions and multilateral environmental agreements. The Green Customs Initiative is a partnership actively addressing these concerns. 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.

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 partnering of international organizations 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 recognized that continuous efforts must be undertaken by all countries and relevant organizations 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 9/137 on Compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements, February 2001

Green Customs Partners

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Benefits of Green Customs

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
- Stabilised 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 Guide

Green Customs Training: A guide for trainers and trainers to be used as a core element during the training courses and as a post-course reference document.

Green Customs Training Workshops: Past 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