Regional Green Customs Workshop in West-Africa: Enhancing the Capacity of Customs Officers to Address Environmental Crime

14-16 November 2017
Accra, Ghana

REPORT

1 Background

Illegal international trade in environmentally regulated substances 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.

Most environmental problems encountered in the world today are trans-boundary in nature and have a global impact, and they can only be addressed effectively through the kind of international co-operation and shared responsibility which is made possible through MEAs, several of which regulate the cross-border movement of items, substances and products, mainly in the form of imports, exports and re-exports. This gives the frontline Customs and border protection officers responsible for controlling trade across borders a very important role in protecting the national and global environment.

Countries in the West-African region are facing the challenges posed by illegal trade in environmentally regulated substances and commodities.

To further improve the capacity of customs officers as well as enforcement officers to address these challenges, UN Environment in cooperation with the Environmental Protection Agency of the Republic of Ghana, under the Green Customs Initiative, organized a Regional Green Customs Workshop: Enhancing the Capacity of Customs Officers to Address Environmental Crime.

The Regional Meeting on Green Customs was held in the Erata Hotel in Accra, Ghana from 14 to 16 November 2017. The Environmental Protection Agency of Ghana, provided substantive and operative support to the workshop.

2 Overall objectives of the workshop

The overall objectives of the workshop were:

- To increase knowledge about environmental issues, particularly those related to trade related multilateral environmental agreements and their implementation, INTERPOL, World Customs Organization and the Chemical Weapons Convention;
To facilitate access to information on the requirements of multilateral environmental agreements regarding the transboundary movement of different environmentally regulated substances;

To enhance skills required to enforce national environmental requirements set out to meet international commitments; and

To strengthen inter-agency and cross border cooperation on combatting environmental crime.

3 Participants

As it was oriented to West-African countries, the regional workshop was attended by custom officers and enforcement officers from: The Gambia, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone and local participants from Ghana for a total of approximately 35 participants.

It also had the participation of representatives from the following partners of the GCI: INTERPOL, CITES, OPCW and the Secretariat of Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

See list of participants as Annex II

4 Topics and agenda

4.1 Opening Ceremony

Proceedings started with self-introduction of participants facilitated by Mr. Michael Onwona-Kwakye, the Assistant Project Co-ordinator of the National Ozone Unit of Ghana. Welcome remarks and an opening address were given by the Customs Division of Ghana Revenue Authority, UN Environment, GCI and the Government of Ghana representative respectively.

In his statement, Mr. Anthony A. Mensah, on behalf of the Commissioner of Ghana Customs Division, welcomed everyone to the workshop. On the part of Ghana, he disclosed that Customs is very conversant with some of these initiatives and therefore more is required of them to implement these initiatives effectively. He was hopeful that the workshop will give participants more insight into their obligations and what was expected from all as far as green customs initiative is concerned. Finally, he accepted to chair the programme.

Mr. Patrick Salifu, the UN Environment representative, expressed his pleasure and honour to be in Ghana to participate in the West African Green Customs Initiative Workshop and on behalf of the UN Environment and Green Customs Initiative welcomed all participants to the workshop. He expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the Government of Ghana for their partnership and collaboration in organising the workshop and the excellent hospitality accorded them.

He mentioned the fact that over the past few decades, many international treaties have been negotiated and ratified by governments to address various pressing environmental issues including international trade in endangered species, chemicals, ozone depleting substances, genetic modified organisms, and trans-boundary movements of hazardous wastes, among others. However, the implementation and enforcement of these multilateral agreements face major challenges. He pointed out that Customs Officers are at the front lines of every country’s efforts to combat illegal trade and they must be empowered,
equipped and trained if MEAs are to be successful because they are the cornerstone of the national compliance and enforcement for all international agreements and the front line in any controls of trans-boundary movements of controlled items.

He said the Green Customs Initiative has been applauded by countries around the world since its inception and wished that through the Initiative and related training, synergies can be built for enforcement of relevant multilateral environmental agreements. He noted that the success of most international environmental agreements will depend on continued support of the WCO and national customs authorities around the world and other key stakeholders.

The next person to present her welcome address was Dr. Wanhua Yang, GCI Co-ordinator and Legal Officer, UN Environment. She expressed her great pleasure and honour to address participants at this important workshop on behalf of Green Customs Initiative.

Mr. Ebenezer Appah-Sampong, Deputy Executive Director at the Environmental Protection Agency who represented the Executive Director of the Agency concluded the series of remarks with his opening address. It was his pleasure to convey greetings to participants on behalf of the Agency at the opening ceremony of the Green Customs Initiative and Ozone Officers meeting for West African Anglophone countries comprising Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Liberia, Nigeria and Ghana.

He provided a few highlights of the initiatives that Ghana, as a nation, has taken to assist in tackling some of the global and national environmental problems. Ghana is pursuing the implementation of the Basel Convention on the Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their disposal under the Hazardous and Electronic Waste Control Management Act, 2016 Act 917 and the Hazardous, Electronic and other Wastes (Classification), Control and Management Regulation 2016 (LI 2250).

With respect to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, he mentioned that all twelve (12) chemicals “the dirty dozen” addressed under the convention have been banned and included in the country’s Import Negative List.

At the national level, he stressed the need for co-ordination and communication among all agencies involved in compliance and enforcement; alongside with capacity building, institutional strengthening and information sharing, collaboration with Customs. This holistic and multidisciplinary approach is also needed at the regional and international levels. For this reason, he found it encouraging the presence of a variety of local, regional and international agencies.

He thanked UN Environment, GCI, other developing countries and the staff of EPA for their efforts in the organisation of the workshop. He then officially declared the workshop open.

4.2 Expectations of Participants

Participants indicated the following, among others, as their expectation for the workshop:

a. To be conversant and understand the provisions of different MEAs in relation to their role as Customs Officers
b. To know if what has been learnt in past interactions with customs officers over the years are included in the training materials

c. To learn about INTERPOL and how it can assist in their work

d. To know more about the numerous rules and regulations with regards to hazardous waste

e. To be more effective in their role as controlling officers to enable curb the importation of illegal commodities

f. To know more about the various smuggling methods

g. To gain more insight into all environmental crimes and thus be able to identify the real crimes

h. To get more knowledge in GCI and chemical regulations so as to ensure that only genuine chemicals are imported

i. Hope that there would be an effective network amongst the Custom officers across the coast of Africa so as to actually monitor the movement of ODSs

j. To understand the provisions of the MEAs and also know the means by which the various provisions in the MEAs are to be enforced

k. To know the best techniques to be used in inspection methods that can lead to catching smugglers

l. To better understand the role of the various customs officers

m. To get an update on the trends in illegal international trade in environmentally regulated substances;

n. To discuss the challenges for combating environmental crime in West-Africa;

o. To facilitate information and experience sharing on addressing illegal trade;

p. To promote inter-agency and cross border cooperation

4.3 Environmental Crime and Green Customs Initiative

This topic was presented by Dr. Wanhua Yang, GCI Co-ordinator and Legal Adviser, UN Environment.

She stated that even though there is no universally accepted definition of environmental crime, the 2016 UNEP-INTERPOL report on “The Rise of Environmental Crime”, describes environmental crime as “… illegal activities aimed at benefitting individuals or groups or companies from the exploitation of, damage to, trade or theft of natural resources, including, but not limited to serious crimes and transnational organized crime”.

The outline of the presentation covered the following:

- Environmental Crime and Multilateral Environment Agreements; (scale, consequences)
- What Green Customs Initiative (GCI) is
- Why GCI and the benefits of GCI
- What GCI does and its achievements

During the discussions that ensued, participants realised that environmental crime has risen and is still rising. It was also observed that free zone and transitional shipment is a challenge for many countries. The GCI proposed that countries should study the issues, analyse and make recommendations to address them. On the question of how the figure for illegal trade was arrived at, it was revealed that they were had through the report Ozone and Customs Officers submit to UN Environment. Participants were therefore urged to report on all seizures in order to have a correct figure. (Presentation attached)
4.4 **Trends in Illegal Trade in Environmentally Regulated Substances in Africa**

This presentation was delivered by Mr. Yannis Derbali of the GCI/UN Environment. He talked about the need for action to be taken by Customs Officers as they are the front line of every country’s defence against trans-boundary illegal trade and first link in the compliance and enforcement chain. He also emphasised the important role customs officers play in facilitating legal trade. He mentioned the need for countries to implement the MEAs and to link Environmental Inspectors with customs and border control systems. Therefore building the capacity of these officers is vital.

He talked about Africa’s natural capital worth, illegal wildlife trade, illegal waste traffic

At the end of the presentation, the participants observed, among others, that:
- There was no time to waste and action needed to be taken immediately
- The need for capacity building is paramount
- Everybody should be involved in the electronic waste issue and not only policy makers
- Logging and charcoal exportation negatively affect the environment and serious action should be taken about the export of wood and charcoal
- Coordination is important and Interpol should be more involved
- Need for all countries to have the system to facilitate reporting
- Awareness creation should be intensified even to the grass roots level
- All MEAs in each country should be invited for training
- The enforcement chain should consider the NGOs
- The need for customs officers at the port to exchange intelligence with other officers in the sub-region
- Gender gap should be considered

On the point of awareness creation, participants were informed that the Montreal Protocol considers awareness creation as essential and is seriously tackling it. With regards to the MEAs, since all countries have signed the agreement the various authorities should domesticate and the Montreal Protocol is doing very well on this aspect. (Presentation attached).

4.5 **WCO Environmental Programme and Green Customs Initiative**

This presentation centred on the following –
- Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs);
- WCO Context
- WCO and the Environment
- WCO Environmental Action Plan
- Customs Benefits
- GCI Key Challenges
- What Can Be Done and Initiatives.

The environmental action plans for the WCO are to ensure that environmental issues are promoted or remain as one of the priorities of Customs. To promote and maintain environmental offences which is one of the priorities on the agenda of WCO meetings. Lastly, raise awareness of Customs officials, in particular, frontline officials.
The WCO is currently planning for its environmental programme for 2018 – 2021 and plans to balance illegal wildlife trade with Green Customs Initiatives which it recognizes as important. The focus will be three-fold

- awareness raising especially at the strategic level
- capacity building
- Enforcement operations with members.

The WCO intends to assist in enhancing institutional framework policies as it recognizes the critical role partners play in mitigating GCI crime. It will also assist in capacity building and training by increasing joint training on aspects such as product identification, risk management and intelligence, detection and investigation as well as assisting and facilitating in training with frontline officers.

Further clarifications on the work of the WCO were sought for by participants at the end of the presentation. Participants were encouraged to submit their inputs into the 2018 – 2021 plan of WCO to make it successful. Participants also learnt that the WCO is on its own and not under the UN and works highly on security, revenue and environment. Its headquarters is in Brussels, Belgium. (Presentation attached)

4.6 The Role of INTERPOL in Combating Environmental Crime

This topic was presented by Mr. Francis Aboagye Nyarko, Assistant Commissioner of Police/Director INTERPOL Accra and Naomi Abriebeh Acquah, Deputy Superintendent of Police/INTERPOL Accra on behalf of the INTERPOL General Secretariat.

The presentation touched on what environmental crime is and their types

- Interpol’s environmental crime programme
- Interpol’s response to the crimes through information sharing, projects, training/capacity building
- Collaboration building to harness resources practical examples of its operation.

Before the presentation a video on the activities of Interpol was shown.

This trade, the presenters stated, is not restricted by borders and negatively affects a nation’s economy, security and existence. It is a crime carried out by organized criminal networks.

The types of environmental crime are

- illegal trade in endangered species
- pollution of air, water and soil
- misuse of protected areas
- illegal trade in ozone depleting substances
- over exploitation of fishing grounds
- illegal logging and misuse of protected areas.

Interpol’s mission for the environmental crime programme is to assist member countries in the effective enforcement of national and international laws as well as treaties. Through this, Interpol contributes to the on-going conservation of the world’s environment, biodiversity and natural resources.

Interpol responses to environmental crimes through five identified projects:

- Project Eden which is an Interpol initiative to combat the illegal trade in waste, particularly electronic waste.
- Project LEAF (Law Enforcement Assistance for Forests) is an Interpol initiative against illegal logging and related crimes.
- Project Predator works to enhance governance and law enforcement capacity for the conservation of Asian big cats and other wildlife species.
- Project Scale is an Interpol project to support member countries in identifying, deterring and disrupting transnational fisheries crime.
- Project Wisdom that supports and enhances the governance and law enforcement capacity for the conservation of Elephants and Rhinoceros.

Interpol is also involved in training and capacity building. It has launched a first digital forensics training course for wildlife investigations. It also has an Environmental Crime E-Learning Newsletter.

During the questions and answer time, participants learnt that:

- Interpol does not deal with politics only crime
- Interpol programmes do not focus on Interpol personnel alone but involves stakeholders as well
- If a member country has no extradition treaty with a particular country the extradition process will have to be done through the diplomatic means. However if that fails, the country should use a system called Legal Mutuals. On the other hand, if the extradition system is available, then it is binding on the country to abide by it.
- In response to a question as to why electronic wastes from European countries who are members of the Interpol Treaty allow electronic wastes to be exported into Africa, participants were made to understand that domestic laws are not enforced by Interpol and that the collection of electronic waste is not an exporting crime. Europe will only give intelligence to be used by the country of destination. (Presentation attached)

4.7 **Combating Illegal Trade in Ozone Depleting Substances Practical Aspects of Controlling Illegal Trade in ODS**

Mr. Patrick Salifu, Regional Policy Environment Officer of the OzonAction Programme UN Environment introduced participants to the ozone layer and how it protects mankind from the Ultra Violet-B radiation of the Sun. The application of ODSs is numerous.

An international response to the issue of the depletion of the ozone layer culminated in a Multilateral Environment Agreements. The Vienna Convention came into being in 1985 and the Montreal Protocol in 1987. The Protocol seeks to control consumption and production of specific chemicals and a progressive reduction and phase-out according to time targets. So far there is a nearly universal ratification by 197 Parties to the Protocol. In 1991 the Multilateral Fund was established and the compliance period for developing countries was started in 1999.

He ended the presentation with a learning video on smuggling tricks. Participants gained more insight into the following:

- Technique in inspection
- Importance of cooperation and communication amongst countries
- Sharing intelligence and information among countries
- Testing of refrigerants with refrigerant analyzers/identifiers
- Checking physical information on containers
- Mislabelling of containers, cylinders and risk profiling
- Under declaration and classification
- False labelling and concealment
- Proper checking of documents
- Mode of transportation
- Publicising of confiscated items to raise awareness
- Checking labelling very well

Smuggling poster of Montreal Protocol was disseminated to participants
4.8 **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and Major Enforcement Issues**

The economic sectors of wildlife trade involve housing and furniture, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, food, leather and fashion, pets and ornaments, tourism, collections.

CITES has a record of 13 million trade transactions. The value of illegal trade in wildlife is US$5 – 20 billion a year. This illegal trade could involve specimens that cannot be commercially traded and specimens that can be lawfully traded but not in accordance with CITES. Illegal wildlife trade is highly lucrative and transnational. It involves organized criminal groups and corruption. It poses risk to the conservation of wild species and also undermines the legal wildlife trade.

Wildlife trade must be legal, sustainable and traceable. The legal and sustainable trade can be beneficial for conservation of wild species, livelihoods and economies of governments while illegal and unsustainable trade can pose a serious risk to the species, people and business.

Law enforcement authorities, especially customs are to treat wildlife trade as serious transnational organized crime in legislation and through relevant agencies. Law enforcement efforts must result in seizures, arrests, prosecutions, convictions and strong penalties. The effective enforcement of CITES requires, among others, a national control of legal international trade in CITES-listed species and national measures to stop illegal international trade in these species. It has been observed that non-compliance has serious implications for the conservation of biological diversity. Therefore highest priority in improving implementation and enforcement efforts should be given to correct issuance of permits and certificates, verification of the validity of permits and certificates presented for import and export and lastly, the inspection of consignments.

He indicated that no role is specified for Customs in the text of the Convention however, the Convention specifies that trade requires the presentation of valid permits or certificates, which usually involves Customs. In addition, permits must be endorsed by the official who inspects the shipment at the time of export or re-export, and this is usually a Customs officer. A Customs officer is usually the first and sometimes the only level of inspection of shipments of CITES specimens. This, he said, places a great burden on Customs to verify that trade is in accordance with CITES provisions, to detect fraud and illegal trade where it occurs, and inform the Management Authority.

Participants observed that awareness creation is not sufficient and urged for it to be intensified. The menace of domestic bush meat trading is a problem in Africa and wondered what could be done about it. Unfortunately, CITES only deals with international trade and so cannot do anything about it. (Presentation attached)

4.9 **Cartagena Protocol on Bio-safety to the Convention on Biological Diversity: Identification and Documentation of Shipments of Liming Modified Organisms (LMOs)**

This pre-recorded presentation was delivered by Dina Abdelhakim, Programme Assistant, Risk Management and Peter Deupmann, Legal Officer all of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The presentation sought to give insight into types of transboundary movements, protocol groups of LMOs and requirement for information. This Protocol came into force in 2003 and focuses on animals.
Since the presentation was a pre-recorded one, questions from participants were to be taken and responses submitted electronically. (Presentation attached)

4.10 Introduction to Chemical Weapons Convention

Mr. Kwamena E. Quaison, the National Focal Point for the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and Deputy Director of Environment at the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Initiative (MESTI) addressed this topic.

The presentation covered the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), it’s mission, goals, the prohibitions, transfer provisions, the different transfer schedules and ended with some statistics.

A healthy interaction ensued where a lot of clarifications were sought from the presenter on various issues concerning chemicals and chemical weapons. (Presentation attached)

4.11 Field Trip to the Port of Tema

A field trip was undertaken to Customs facilities in Ghana. Participants went to the Customs Tema Port to familiarise themselves with how work is undertaken at the port. The first point of call was at the former “Long Room” where processing of documents for clearance of goods used to be undertaken. Ghana has now gone paperless so the Long Room is now at the Customs headquarters in Accra where the process of documents are done electronically through the Customs GCNet.

The group then called on the Assistant Commissioner and Sector Commander of the whole Tema Port, Mr. Felix Mate-Kodjo. After a brief interaction with him the group proceeded to the Tema Bonded Terminal (TBT). The group was made to understand that there are many Terminals elsewhere in Ghana but that particular TBT is designated for chemicals.

The Customs Chemist Officer in charge at the place took the group to a Terminal with Sulphuric Acid which is a regulated import and currently at the outdoor for clearance. He took them through the clearance procedure. Firstly, the consignment will be physically examined then the EPA, as the regulating body for such chemicals in Ghana, is contacted to grant the Permit. Before then, the EPA would have already assessed information before the documentation is done. This procedure is done with the paperless system – The GCNet. The Customs Chemist Officer will also inspect and add value to the examination. This examination is to see whether the item imported is what has been declared. The inspection is not done only physically but samples are taken to their laboratory for identification/verification.

DAY 3 –THURSDAY, 16TH NOVEMBER 2017

4.12 Controlling the International Trade of Hazardous and Wastes Under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

The presentation was delivered by Ms Susan Wingfield of the BRS Secretariat. Presentation outline:

- Overview of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
- The import/transit/export procedures
- The enforcement of the BRS Conventions
- Tools and materials
The Basel Convention is to minimize the generation of hazardous wastes in terms of quantity and degree of hazard, control transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes (conditions and the PIC procedures), and promote the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes.

The Rotterdam Convention is to promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals in or to – protect human health and the environment from potential harm and contribute to their environmentally sound use.

The Stockholm Convention is mindful of the precautionary approach to protect human health and the environment from the harmful impacts of POPs.

The presentation covered the different control procedures for import and export under the conventions. She mentioned that tools and materials for the BRS Conventions can be found on the websites of the Conventions. Participants observed that waste management is the biggest problem in Africa and this ought to be tackled seriously. (Presentation attached)

### 4.13 Working Group Session

Participants were divided into two groups to discuss and address the following issues:

- **Issue 1** - National Customs Experiences and major obstacles to implementations and enforcing MEAs:
  - Lack of knowledge of the MEAs
  - Inadequate information sharing between customs officers and other stakeholders
  - Lack of equipment for testing and identifying gases and chemicals (Empty cylinder case from Liberia – Montreal Protocol on Ozone Depleting Substances was cited)
  - Inadequate manpower to do the checks and insufficient training
  - Differences in national laws in the sub-region
  - Political interferences in investigations and enforcement of laws (Sierra Leone experience – Rutile exploitation/mining)
  - Porous borders

- **Issue 2** – What Support and assistance is needed by customs, and where that support and assistance might come from:
  - Capacity building/training in knowledge of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs); Role of customs in transboundary trade and its application
  - Need for funds
  - Need to incorporate training in MEAs into national curricula
  - Need to harmonise laws within the sub-region
  - Experts to undertake capacity building and also do media publicity/advocacy

Potential source of support:
- International organizations (INTERPOL, WCO, UNODC, etc.)
- National
- Regional – ECOWAS
**Issue 3** – Cooperation with stakeholders in control of environmentally sensitive commodities and cooperation between countries in the region:
- Hold stakeholders workshops
- Encourage national participation in working group meetings (Pollution, wildlife, Fisheries)
- Formation of internal working groups National Environmental Security Taskforce (NEST) from INTERPOL
- Identifying and sharing the contacts of focal points
- Sub-regional workshops and meetings to build collaboration and share contacts
- Encourage information sharing – wider use of the National Customs Enforcement Network (nCEN)
- Sharing of expertise e.g. Pilot Hydrocarbon Plant in Nigeria

**Group 2:**
**Issue 1** - National Customs Experiences and major obstacles to implementations and enforcing MEAs:
- Lack of enforcement of existing legislation
- Inadequate multi-sectoral coordination and synergies amongst stakeholders
- Lack of capacity development and training
- Large and porous borders which allows for the penetration of some illegal goods
- High level of staff officials – transfer options
- Little to no knowledge on the MEAs – BRS Conventions
- Limited human personnel to work on such area i.e. laboratory experts

**Obstacles**
- Political interferences in the implementation of duties
- Weak legal systems for implementation and monitoring activities
- Inadequate awareness for the professionals and the general public on the subject area
- Inadequate availability of equipment and other logistics
- Poor institutional framework
- Poor inter-sectoral coordination with relevant regulatory bodies
- Incompetency of declarants as against creation/capacity building

**Issue 2** – What support of assistance is needed by Customs:
- Specialized training with related tools to execute duties i.e. identifiers
- Support and collaboration with relevant stakeholders
- Multi-sectoral coordination with relevant regulatory bodies
- Capacity building for all stakeholders willing to cooperate
- The drafters of the law should be well informed about the realities on the ground
- Development cooperation with other international bodies on subject area
- Awareness creation for the general public by the regulators

**Potential Source of Support**

The group identified two types of support namely, Internal and External which was further categorized under Technical and Economic.
- Internally generated funds and international support based on signatories to related MEAs i.e. UNEP, UNDP, GIZ, EU, WCO, UNDOC, etc.
- Technical- Capacity building, logistics/awards for deserving staffs, tools and equipment, etc.
- Economic – Bilateral and multilateral agreement support

**Issue 3** Cooperation with stakeholders in control of environmentally sensitive commodities and cooperation between countries in the sub Region. The breakdown is as follows:

**Cooperation with Stakeholders**
- Customs
- Interpol
- Immigration
- Environmental Protection Agency
It is mandated that all the relevant stakeholders work together to achieve national objectives on the MEAs.

**Cooperation between Countries in the Region**
- Exchange of related information
- Exchange programmes for capacity building between countries
- Regular workshops and seminars to discuss MEA related issues
- Bilateral agreements through the ECOWAS Commission
- Enforcement of MEAs at the National levels
- To put in place mechanisms to monitor each other
- To encourage people to share information within the same circles and beyond
- Collaboration/coordination is key

Participants observed that the points raised by the two groups were similar and after a few interactions the issues raised were adopted.

### 4.14 CLOSING CEREMONY

Mr. Patrick Salifu, the UN Environment representative and organizers thanked all for attending the Regional GCI Workshop. He was very impressed with the calibre of participants who attended. He hoped the knowledge gained and materials given to them would be used to train others when they returned home. This workshop, he said, was a train-the-trainers workshop and participants would be called upon in future for a feedback.

Certificates of participation were presented to all participants.

### 5 CONCLUSION

Participants thanked UN Environment for organising the workshop. They were grateful to all the resource persons for their presentations and the depth of knowledge they imparted. They indicated their readiness to disseminate the information received in their countries through similar workshops. They also expressed the satisfaction that their expectations for the workshop were realised.
# Day 1 (Tuesday 14th November 2017)

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<td>09:00 – 10:00</td>
<td><strong>Opening/Welcoming Remarks</strong></td>
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<td>- Welcome Remarks by Ghana Customs Authority</td>
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<td>- Welcome Remarks by UN Environment Representative:</td>
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<td>- Remarks by GCI Representative:</td>
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<td>- Opening by the Government of Ghana Representative:</td>
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<td><strong>Self-introduction of participants (1 min. each)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>GROUP PHOTO &amp; COFFEE BREAK</strong></td>
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<td>10:30 – 11:00</td>
<td><strong>Introduction to the GCI and its Partners</strong></td>
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<td>- Green Customs Introductory Video</td>
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<td>Trends in Illegal Trade in Environmentally Regulated Substances in Africa</td>
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<td>Combating Illegal Trade in Ozone Depleting Substances Practical Aspects of Controlling Illegal Trade in ODS</td>
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**Day 2 (Wednesday 15th November 2017)**

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<td>09:00 – 10:00</td>
<td>Convention on International Trade In Endangered Species Of Wild Fauna And Flora (CITES) and Major Enforcement Issues</td>
<td>Nana Kofi Adu Nsiah, Executive Director, Forestry Commission Wildlife Division/CITES Management Authority of Ghana:</td>
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<td>10:00 – 10:30</td>
<td>COFFEE BREAK</td>
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| 10:30 – 11:00      | Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity: Identification and Documentation of Shipments of Living Modified Organisms  
*CBD Secretariat*  
- Trans-boundary movements under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety  
- Documentation requirements  
- Identification of LMOs and Unique Identifiers  
- Biosafety Clearing House mechanism  
- Sampling and detection  
Questions and Discussion |
| 11:00 – 12:00      | Introduction to the Convention on Chemical Weapons  
*Kwamena E. Quaison, Deputy Director, Environment /Head, Oil & Gas Unit, Ghana National Coordinator for Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions*  
- Overview of Convention on Chemical Weapons  
Questions and Discussion |
| 12:00 – 13:00      | LUNCH BREAK                                                            |
| 13:00 – 17:00      | FIELD VISIT TO CUSTOMS FACILITIES  
Port of Tema, Ghana  
Questions and Discussion |
| **Day 3 (Thursday 16th November 2017)** |
| 09:00 – 10:00      | Controlling the international trade of hazardous chemicals and wastes under the Basel, Rotterdam & Stockholm Conventions:  
*Susan Wingfield, BRS Conventions Secretariat*  
- Overview of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions  
- The import/transit/export procedures |
The enforcement of the BRS Conventions
Tools and materials

Questions and Discussion

10:00 – 11:30 WORKING GROUP SESSION

Two or three groups (depending on the total # of participants) to be formed with each group being represented by 1-2 participants from each country. Each group should have a chair and a rapporteur, and select a member of the group to present the results of the discussion to the plenary after the group general discussion.

National Customs experiences and major obstacles to implementation and enforcing MEAs
What support and assistance is needed by customs, and where that support and assistance might come from
Cooperation with stakeholders in control of environmentally sensitive commodities and Cooperation between countries in the Region

11:30 – 12:00 BREAK

12:00 – 12:30 Group presentation
– The results of group discussions

12:30 – 13:00 Closing Ceremony
– Presentation of the certificate
– Workshop evaluation/survey
– Closing remarks by organizers

13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH BREAK

Annex II: Participants Lists

PARTICIPANTS LIST FOR THE GREEN CUSTOMS WORKSHOP FOR WEST AFRICAN ANGLOPHONE REGION ON 14TH NOV. 2017 AT ERATA HOTEL, ACCRA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO.</th>
<th>NAME OF PARTICIPANTS</th>
<th>ORGANISATION</th>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Abena A. Baafi</td>
<td>GIZ</td>
<td>Ghana</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Kofi Acheampong Anokye</td>
<td>EPA</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Avah Bentè Abui</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Mabel Ash-Qnaynor</td>
<td>EPA</td>
<td>Ghana</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Wanhua Yang</td>
<td>UN Environment</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Yannis Derbali</td>
<td>UN Environment</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Patrick Salifu</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Anthony A. Mensah</td>
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<td>Emmanuel Osae-Quansah</td>
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<td>J. B. Hasford</td>
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<td>Michael Onwona-Kwakye</td>
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<td>Anne Kanithi</td>
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<td>ACP. Francis Aboagye Nyarko</td>
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<td>Mohamed S. Fofana Supervisor</td>
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<td>Eze Ogechukwu F.</td>
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<td>Dr. Leonard Omokpариola</td>
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<td>39</td>
<td>Boahen Otchere Kingsley</td>
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**Annex III: Pictures**