

The Green Customs Initiative



Monday, 6 December 2021

UNEP Law Division



Trade in Environmentally Sensitive Commodities



Electronic waste



Ivory



HFC refrigerants

What is the Green Customs Initiative (GCI)?

- **Partnership**
- **International entities** (MEA secretariats, UNODC, other organizations)
- **Cooperating:**
 - To prevent the **illegal trade** in environmentally-sensitive commodities and substances *and* to facilitate their legal trade
 - By targeting **customs** and other **border control officers**

GCI Partners



WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES DOUANES



Capacity building for customs & frontline officers

GCI raises awareness on practicalities of implementing MEAs e.g.:

- Identification of suspicious items
- Seizure, storage and disposal
- Health and safety
- Cooperation with other authorities
- Legal considerations
- Reporting cases of illegal traffic in environmentally sensitive items

GCI's Approach

- **Coordinated delivery through the umbrella partnership** (e.g. coordinated training)
- **Structured interaction with the customs community for MEAs** (role of the WCO)
- **Sustainability of delivery:**
 - Train-the-trainer approach
 - Incorporation of the Initiative in the countries' national customs training curricula



GCI activities

- **Capacity training workshops (over 45 workshops; 500 customs officers trained)**
- **Green customs curricula**
- **Awareness raising**
[Green Customs website](#)
- **Resources**
Green Customs Guide
E-learning modules
GCI partners' resources

1. Latin America and the Caribbean GCI Curriculum



2. Kenya green customs curriculum



**Kenya School of Revenue
Administration**

3. E-learning modules



- Hosted on WCO training platform CLiCK!
<http://clikc.wcoomd.org>

Modules:

- GCI Introduction
- Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm
- Cartagena Protocol to Convention on Biological Diversity
- Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species
- Chemical weapons Convention
- Montreal Protocol

4. GCI Guide to MEAs



Key GCI Messages

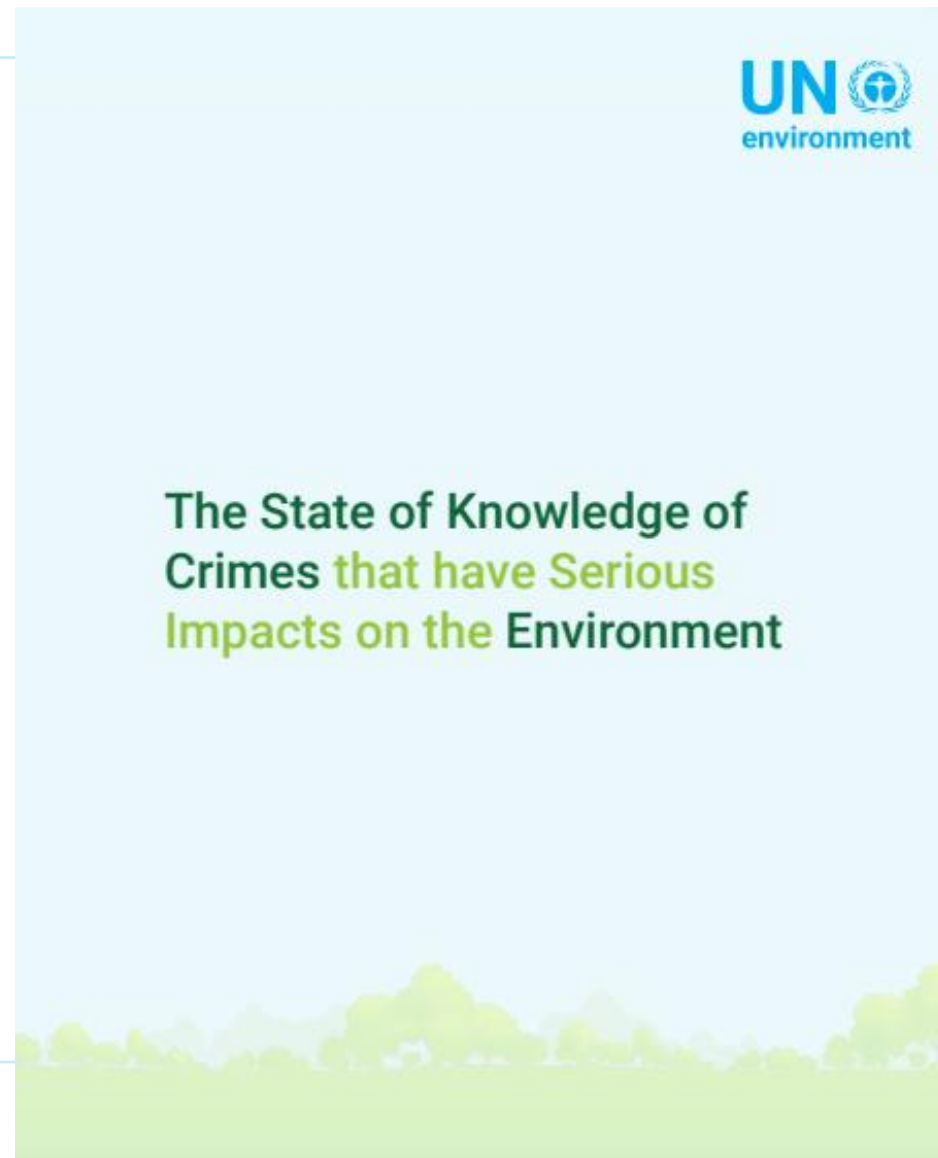
- **Customs officers - front line of every country's defence against illegal trade, and the first link in the enforcement chain**
- **Adequate capacity of customs to prevent illegal trade will facilitate effective implementation of MEAs**
- **It is important for customs authorities to work closely together with other enforcement agencies to safeguard environmental security**



Reports and publications



THE ILLEGAL TRADE IN CHEMICALS



The State of Knowledge of Crimes that have Serious Impacts on the Environment

REN Project (2011 - 2018)

The Regional Enforcement Network for Chemicals and Waste (REN) (Dec 2011 - Feb 2018)

- 25 participating countries in Asia Pacific
- Capacity building
- Chemicals and waste

IMPACT

- Educated frontline enforcement officers
- Established communication and coordination among national and regional agencies
- Reduced illegal transboundary movement of chemicals and waste (with seizures of over 865,000 tons of hazardous chemicals and harmful waste recorded during project implementation)

WasteForce Project (2018-2021)

WasteForce Project

Deterring and disrupting illegal trade and management of waste by developing Tools for Enforcement, Forensics and Capacity Building



- Project funded by the European Commission for 2 years.
- The project started in December 2018.
- 9 implementing partners:
 - United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP),
 - the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL),
 - the German Police University,
 - the Portuguese General Inspectorate for Agriculture, Sea, Environment and Spatial Planning (IGAMAOT),
 - the Netherlands Forensic Institute (NFI),
 - Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia for the environment and spatial planning (IRSOP),
 - United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR),
 - United Nations University (UNU),
 - University of Limerick.

<https://wasteforceproject.eu>



Package 4: Capacity building activities for European and Asia Pacific Authorities



- Safety across Asia For the global Environment
(**SAFE**)
 - To start an EU/UN/Asia cooperation **to contribute to the prevention of wildlife-related pandemics** by targeting risks at facilities and locations with a high risk of disease agents' transmission from wild animals to humans in four priority Asian countries
- **Unwaste**: tackling waste trafficking to support a circular economy
 - **To fight trafficking in waste** between the EU and South East Asia by promoting enhanced EU-ASEAN Member States partnerships, in support of ongoing efforts towards a circular economy transition, in line with the relevant policy frameworks in the EU and partner countries.

Thank you!

www.greencustoms.org

Aphrodite Smagadi

unep-greencustomsinitiative@un.org

GCI Secretariat

Law Division of UN Environment Programme

Nairobi, Kenya

