

T. Building the capacity of customs officers to prevent illegal trade in environmentally sensitive commodities through the green customs initiative

UNEP (\$669,600)

Background

103. Environmental crime is a multi-billion dollar business, earning national and international crime syndicates an estimated \$22 billion to \$31 billion annually from hazardous waste dumping, smuggling proscribed hazardous materials, and exploiting and trafficking protected natural resources. Illegal trade in environmentally sensitive commodities (such as ozone-depleting substances, toxic chemical products, hazardous wastes, endangered species and living-modified organisms) undermines the effectiveness of Multilateral Environmental Agreements and can deprive a country or region of natural resources, such as protected species. Many chemical substances that are smuggled can cause damage to fauna and flora, ecosystems and to human health, especially children's and women's health in poor developing countries. Legitimate businesses are damaged by the unfair competition from illegal trade, as smuggled goods can prevent the uptake of the legal alternatives.
104. Customs and border protection officers constitute the front line of every country's defence against transboundary illegal trade. While building the capacity of these officers is vital, the wide range of issues that customs officers must cover means that relevant training can be time-consuming, inconvenient and expensive when delivered separately. The objective of this project is to work together with Multilateral Environmental Agreement secretariats and other partner organizations to provide an integrated, self-sustaining and coordinated approach to combat this environmental challenge through capacity-building of customs officers in developing countries.
105. The project builds on experience from the Green Customs Initiative, which established a partnership of six Multilateral Environmental Agreement secretariats and four international organizations cooperating since 2004 to develop training materials such as the Green Customs Guide — which brings together the relevant customs-related information on the Multilateral Environmental Agreements. A number of regional and subregional awareness-raising and training workshops have been held in developing countries, with more detailed train-the-trainer national workshops held in selected locations. The successful delivery of these workshops and development of the information materials employs the existing infrastructure and capacity of the UNEP regional offices, in addition to those of the partner organizations.
106. The project will be executed by UNEP in joint collaboration with the partners to the Green Customs Initiative: World Customs Organization, INTERPOL, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and the secretariats of relevant trade-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

<p>Objective of the Organization: To enhance the capacity of customs and border enforcement personnel to monitor and facilitate the legal trade and to prevent illegal trade in environmentally sensitive commodities.</p>	<p>Summary budget (Thousands of United States dollars)</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Consultants</td> <td>52.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Travel</td> <td>39.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Contractual services</td> <td>273.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating expenses</td> <td>5.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Workshops</td> <td><u>300.0</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>669.6</td> </tr> </table>	Consultants	52.0	Travel	39.0	Contractual services	273.6	Operating expenses	5.0	Workshops	<u>300.0</u>	Total	669.6
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<p>Relationship to the strategic framework for the period 2010-2011 and the Millennium Development Goals: UNEP subprogramme 4 (Environmental governance) and subprogramme 5 (Harmful substances and hazardous waste); Millennium Development Goals 1 and 7.</p>													

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
<p>(a) Higher awareness within national customs administrations and other enforcement agencies of the trade components of Multilateral Environmental Agreements to prevent illegal trade in environmentally sensitive commodities</p>	<p>(a) (i) Increased number of requests by countries for more detailed follow-up training and additional materials from the respective Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other partner organizations</p> <p>(ii) Increased number of customs officers successfully completing Green Customs online training modules</p>
<p>(b) Closer coordination between customs officers and environmental officers on issues of trade in environmentally sensitive items — at the global, regional and bilateral levels</p>	<p>(b) (i) Increased number of memorandums of understanding or informal agreements on customs cooperation with relevant national environmental offices and respective Multilateral Environmental Agreements focal points</p> <p>(ii) Increased agreements on customs cooperation on bilateral and regional levels on environmentally sensitive items</p> <p>(iii) Increased membership of existing enforcement networks, and increased provision to them of information on seizures and illegal trade issues (e.g., using INTERPOL Ecomessage service and World Customs Organization Customs Enforcement Network and World Customs Organization Regional Intelligence Liaison Office Network)</p>
<p>(c) Sustainability of the Green Customs Initiative within national customs administrations</p>	<p>(c) (i) Increased number of countries in which Green Customs Initiative is incorporated in national customs curricula</p> <p>(ii) Increased availability of a pool of Green Customs trainers and web-based training materials in national and regional training centres</p>

Main activities

107. The main activities of the project will include:

- (a) Developing a package of resource materials, information and training products developed to make best use of information and communication products, including video and e-learning modules (Green Customs Training Package), in coordination with the partners. These materials will provide foundation and additional materials for the workshops and reference for the expert resource persons. Materials developed by the partners for specific local issues and in local languages will be included as appropriate;
- (b) Organizing regional and national workshops in a range of developing countries following a needs assessment carried out in coordination with the national focal points of the respective Multilateral Environmental Agreements, UNEP regional offices, and the Green Customs partners with consideration of the requests from countries;
- (c) Conducting case studies providing examples of problems and challenges encountered as well as methodologies and best practices will be sought from customs administrations and other enforcement agencies in consultation with the partners. These case studies will be incorporated into Green Customs Training Packages and provided to relevant customs administrations;
- (d) Working in cooperation with customs authorities, and the World Customs Organization to have the Green Customs Initiative incorporated in the national customs training curricula of countries and promoting cooperation with existing enforcement networks.

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Implementing entities: UNEP		Duration: 2010 – 2013
Objective: To enhance the capacity of customs and border enforcement personnel to monitor and facilitate the legal trade and to prevent illegal trade in environmentally-sensitive commodities.		
Summary budget <i>thousands of US dollars</i>	Detailed budget (US dollars)	
Consultants 52.0	Consultants	
Travel 39.0	<u>International consultants</u>	
Contractual services 273.6	International consultants for the task(s) of preparing materials and holding workshops (in support of activities (a), (b), (c)) (3 x work months x \$6,000 per month) and (\$4,000 for consultant(s) travel)	22 000
Operating expenses 5.0	<u>National / Regional consultants</u>	
Workshops 300.0	National consultants for task(s) of preparing case studies (in support of activity (c)). (6 work months x \$3,000 per month)	18 000
Total 669.6	External Evaluation (approx. 2% of total budget amount for external evaluation)	12 000
	Contractual services	
	Developing, production, dissemination and maintenance costs of web-based training modules (modules for five MEAs) in UN languages (in support of activities (a) and (c)) (5 x \$50,000)	250 000
	Contractual Services in support of all activities (\$23,600)	23 600
	Travel of staff	39 000
	<u>International UN Staff</u>	
	(3 missions) by international UN staff for the purpose of organizing workshops missions to integrate project in customs (in support of activities (b) and (d)). (\$5,000 per mission x 3 missions) (\$15,000)	
	<u>Regional staff/ other UN staff</u>	
	(6 missions) by regional UN staff for the purpose of (organizing and coordinating workshops (in support of activities (b)) (\$4,000 per mission x 6 missions) (\$24,000)	
	Operating expenses	
	Communications (in support of activities (a), (b), (c) and (d)) (\$3,000)	5 000
	Supplies (in support of activities (a), (b), (c) and (d)). (\$2,000)	
	Seminars and Workshops	300 000
	(4 regional workshops in developing countries (in support of activity (b)). (\$2,500 per participant including travel, DSA and workshop-related expenditures x 30 participants x 4 workshops)	