

The Green Customs Initiative



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Outline

- Environmental Crime
- Multilateral Environmental Agreements – the means of enforcement
- The need for action to enforce MEAs
- Green Customs Initiative:
 - Integrated capacity building
 - Tools
- Challenges Ahead



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Environmental Crime

- **Scale of Environmental Crime**
- **What is traded**
 - Toxic chemicals
 - Hazardous waste
 - Ozone depleting substances
 - Endangered species
 - Living modified organisms
- **Consequences (environment, revenue loss, undermine MEAs)**



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Environmental Crime

- **CFCs** - 20,000 tonnes per year, worth US\$ 150-300 million – equivalent to over 12% of global ODS production (1990s)
 - 10-20% of the legitimate trade in ODS. This is equivalent to 7,000 - 14,000 tonnes per year, with a value of US\$ 25-60 million (2000s) -
- **Waste**; US Government estimated that US\$ 10-12 billion was earned from the smuggling of waste
- **Wildlife** – US\$ 5-20 million per year
- **Timber** – 5-10% may be illegal



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The need for action

Customs and border protection officers:

- Front line of every country's defence against trans-boundary illegal trade
- First link in the “compliance and enforcement chain”
- Important role in facilitating *legal trade*
- So building the capacity of these officers is vital
- An effective solution is coordinated training...



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Multilateral Environmental Agreements



Basel Convention

Convention on
Biological Diversity

CITES

Montreal Protocol

Rotterdam Convention

Stockholm Convention



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Chemical Weapons



Basel Convention

Convention on
Biological Diversity

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Chemical Weapons
Convention



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International organisations



Basel Convention

Convention on
Biological Diversity

CITES

Montreal Protocol

Rotterdam Convention

Stockholm Convention

Chemical Weapons
Convention

Interpol

WCO

UNEP



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The benefits of Green Customs

- For Customs Officers
- For Countries
- For MEA Secretariats
- For the Global Environment



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Green Customs workshops

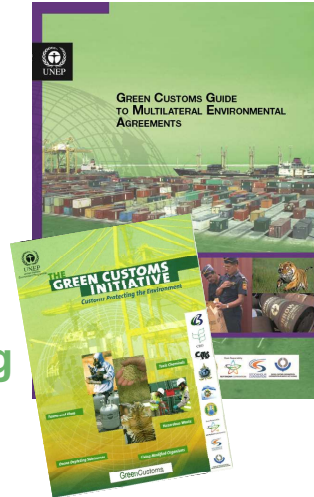
The Green Customs Initiative has held over 20 regional, sub-regional and national workshops in all parts of the world since 2004.



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Green Customs tools

- Green Customs Guide and materials
- Workshops to train customs officers
- Specialised skills training by Green Customs partners
- Green Customs website
www.greencustoms.org



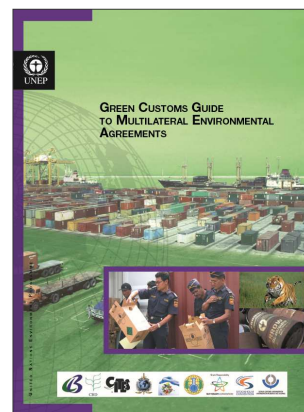
Green Customs Guide

Topics for each MEA or treaty

- Definitions
- Provisions for regulating trade
- The specific role of Customs in implementing the MEA/treaty
- Official materials to be aware of

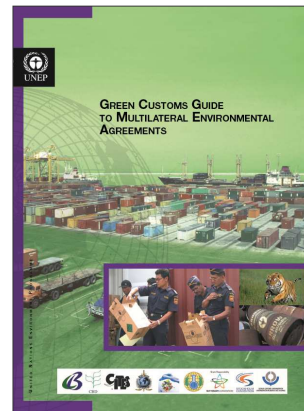
Practical considerations

- Health and safety
- Identification
- Seizures and disposal
- Derogations



Green Customs Guide

- **Chapter 1** explains MEAs and the role of Customs in their national implementation
- **Chapter 2** provides an overview of the main international trade-related MEAs and relevant treaties
- **Chapter 3** explores practical aspects of implementing controls for these agreements



Green Customs achievements

- Coordinated delivery through an umbrella partnership involving multiple organisations with diverse mandates
- Addresses the need for coordinated training
- For some of the MEAs, Green Customs is the only structured interaction with the customs community
- Train-the-trainer approach and incorporation of the Initiative in the countries' national customs training curricula

Green Customs – next steps & challenges

- What more can the Green Customs Initiative do to assist the work of customs?
- Raising awareness of Green Customs Initiative within customs community
- Resource mobilisation
- Integration of Green Customs into national training curricula



Thank you for your attention

www.greencustoms.org

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