

Green Customs Action Plan

No	Strategic objective ¹	Area/Topic	Objective	Actions	Building Blocks	Timeframe	Priority	KPI	Body in charge	Responsible team	Progress	Completion status ²	
SP1. Develop, maintain and implement instruments													
GCA P-1	SO1	SO2	Performance measurement	To assess Customs performance in green matters	Develop Green Customs KPIs to measure the current performance and progress of the environmental footprint reduction, for inclusion in further versions of the Performance Measurement Mechanism	Being	TBD	A	Usage of this PMM KPI by Members	TBD	PMM team	KPI development will be carried out under the aegis of the Performance Measurement Mechanism Project Team (PMMPT), based on the PMM Maintenance Mechanism. The first meeting of the PMMPT is scheduled on 5 and 6 February 2024	
	SO3	SO4											
GCA P-2	SO4		Greening Customs administrations	To assess Customs performance in green matters	Develop, together with Members, understanding and guidance on performance in green matters in order to identify common parameters that could lead to the creation of a Green Customs assessment tool (similar to the GEOAT) for self-assessment (depending on available funding and resources)	Being	TBD*	TBD	Green Customs assessment tool presented at the CBD, EC and PTC	CBD EC PTC	CBD Compliance Facilitation	Not started	
GCA P-3			Greening Customs	Enhance knowledge of measures to	Carry out a stocktaking exercise: collect good practices and draft a	Being	TBD*	TBD	Catalogue of measures	CBC	CBD	Not started	

¹ SO1. Trade facilitation; SO2. Revenue collection; SO3. Protection of society; SO4. Organizational development; ORG. WCO improvement

² Green = Completed; Blue = In progress; Red = Postponed or not started

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		administrations	reduce the Customs environmental footprint	catalogue of Customs measures taken to reduce the Customs environmental footprint (depending on available funding and resources)				to green trade presented at the PTC				
GCA P-4		Greening Customs administrations	Raise awareness of staff on how everyone's contribution counts towards reducing the carbon footprint	Draft a guide on how everyone's contribution counts towards reducing the carbon footprint of the administration (depending on available funding and resources)	Being	TBD*	TBD	Guide presented at the CBD/PC	CBC	CBD	Not started	
GCA P-5	SO1	Waste	Enhance knowledge of the issues related to waste management and the potential responses to be made by Customs	Undertake Business Process Mapping of transboundary movement of waste with Members to harmonize the most relevant processes in the context of CBM and Single Window implementation	Doing	Fourth quarter of 2023 (PTC) June 2024 (Council)	A	Harmonized Business Process Mapping presented to the PTC and EC, and the updated CBM Compendium endorsed	PTC EC	Facilitation Compliance CBD	Pilot conducted through the Regional Workshop for the East African Community (EAC) on the imports/exports of waste (e-waste), organized with the support of the Sida-WCO Trade Facilitation and Customs Modernization Programme in Mombasa, Kenya, on 17-21 July 2023. The workshop proposed business processes mapping for PIC and export processing. Further	

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											developments are needed	
GCA P-6				Develop specific GNC Utility Blocks for transboundary movement of waste	Doing	December 2023	B	Presentation(s) on UBs delivered to the PTC and EC			Two UB Executive Summaries, namely for the exchange of PIC processes and of export data for Customs clearance purposes, were developed through the Mombasa workshop (ref. GCAP-5). Follow-up activities are planned to set-up a team that will continue to work on the two draft UBs	
GCA P-7	SO3			Develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) for waste consignments, including SOPs on safety, storage and handling of hazardous waste	Doing	June 2024	B	SOPs developed	EC	Compliance CBD	A Concept Note for the activity is in the early stages of development	
GCA P-8	SO1	Environmental compliance	Enhance collaboration with other regulatory agencies	Discuss potential guidelines/tools to enhance collaboration with other regulatory agencies to ensure environmental	Doing	Second quarter of 2024 (PTC)	B	Potential guidelines/tools on enhancing	SWG, PTC	Facilitation	Members' practices of collaboration with other regulatory	

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					compliance under Pillar III of the SAFE FoS		June 2024 (PC and Council)		g collaboration with other regulatory agencies to ensure environmental compliance discussed and endorsed by the PTC			agencies to ensure environmental compliance under Pillar III of the SAFE FoS have been collected and will be presented at the next SWG meeting in November 2023	
GCA P-9	SO1	SO2		Enhance knowledge on the environmentally sensitive issues	Develop and/or update SOPs on ozone depleting substances for SADC and EAC countries (Sida project)	Doing	June 2024	B	SOPs drafted	EC	CBD in coordination with Compliance	On track A Concept Note for the activity is in the early stages of development	
	SO3	SO4											
GCA P-10	SO2		Greening WCO instruments	Provide forums for discussion on potential opportunities to Green the HS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Follow on from the report to the March 2023 HSC on the outcomes and concepts raised in the Greening the HS Symposia series, further research into possible HS updates that facilitate Members implementing environmental policies - Submission of reports to the HSC, including potential areas of change for consideration 	Doing	Continuous activity	A	HS updates to facilitate implementation of environmental policies and proposals for potential areas of change for consideration	HSC	TTA	Consultations with other IGOs on-going, Document on work with the WTO and other IGOs on HS amendment options to improve the transparency of plastic flows in trade to be discussed at the HSC/72 (September 2023) and the RSC/63	

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												(November 2023).			
GCA P-11					Develop a report on the outcomes of the symposia, incorporating suggestions received during these sessions and issues (needs, problems, gaps and possibilities) identified within the symposia series, along with any discussions from the HSC that are able to be shared, and the Secretariat's observations on the symposia	Doing	May 2023	A	Publication of the report		TTA	Completed. Published on 23 May 2023			
GCA P-12					Sensitize and familiarize Customs laboratory officials with environmentally sensitive substances	Update the Customs Laboratory Guide to include the list of environmentally sensitive substances controlled under certain conventions to enable Customs laboratories to better understand and control the substances.	Doing	June 2023	A	Update the Customs Laboratory Guide	HSC SSC	TTA	Completed Appendix VIII was uploaded to the CLG on 1 June 2023		
GCA P-13					Enhance the capability to store and treat samples and residues from Customs laboratories in an environmentally safe way	Update the Customs Laboratory Guide to include guidelines on environmentally safe storage and district of samples and residues from Customs laboratories.	Being	June 2024	B	Update the Customs Laboratory Guide	HSC SSC	TTA	The proposed update is being prepared for submission to the SSC/39 (January 2024)		
GCA P-14				SO1	SO2	Incorporating greening objectives in every WCO working body via the work programmes	Incorporating Green Customs policy initiatives into Work Programmes of WCO working bodies to ensure that they are addressed in both planning and operations of the WCO	Doing	Continuous (from FY 2023-2024)	TBD	Update of work programmes	All	All	Green Customs is being included in the work programmes of WCO working bodies	
				SO3	SO4										
GCA P-15	SO3		Enhance the knowledge of the circular	Develop the Enforcement Handbook to enable Members to tackle	Doing	June 2023	B	Handbook develop	EC Council	Compliance	Developed and published on the WCO				

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				economy and identify what the role of Customs could be in this context	environment issues and contribute to the goals of the circular economy				d and presented to EC and Council			Members' website	
GCA P-16					Update the Enforcement Handbook to enable Members to tackle environment issues and contribute to the goals of the circular economy	Doing	June 2024	B	Handbook finalized and presented to EC	EC	Compliance	Not started	
GCA P-17			IPR, Health and Safety	Raise awareness and familiarize Customs officials with the principles of sound environmental management	Develop Guidelines on "Environmentally safe storage and destruction of intellectual property infringing goods"	Doing	June 2024	A	Guidelines on "Environmentally safe storage and destruction of intellectual property infringing goods" adopted and published	CAP EC	Compliance	Guidelines on "Environmentally safe storage and destruction of intellectual property infringing goods" were approved and available on the Members site as part of the Enforcement Committee Report. Funding negotiation is ongoing to improve the design of the publication	
GCA P-18	SO1	SO4										Greening trade	Enhance knowledge of measures to green trade
GCA P-19	SO1		Greening Trade	Enhance knowledge and capabilities with respect to	Develop guidelines on facilitation measures for return-refill containers and packaging (depending on	Doing	TBD*	TBD	Guidelines on facilitation measures	PTC	Facilitation	A draft outline for WCO guidelines on the Customs treatment of	

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			measures to green trade	available funding and resources)				for return-refill containers and packagings adopted			return-refill containers and packings is being presented to the PTC under Agenda item V.d	
SP2. Foster Customs cooperation												
GCA P-20	SO1 SO2 SO3	Waste	Foster regional cooperation on waste-related matters	Develop a Regional Joint Action Plan regarding border management of recyclable plastic materials and plastic waste within the framework of the Asia Pacific Plastic Waste Project	Doing	June 2023	A	Regional Joint Action Plan taken note of by EC and Regional DG Meeting AP	EC	Compliance Facilitation	The Regional Action Plan was developed and published on the WCO website	
GCA P-21				Organize a Regional Workshop on border management of recyclable plastic materials and plastic waste, within the framework of the Asia Pacific Plastic Waste Project	Doing	May 2023	B	Organization of the Workshop	EC		The APPW Project final meeting was held from 29 to 31 May 2023, in the margins of the 24 th WCO Asia/Pacific Regional Heads of Customs Administrations Conference in Perth, Australia	
GCA P-22				SO2	Origin	Enhance collaboration with other regulatory agencies	Include a specific session on origin and environmental issues in the programme of the next WCO Global Conference on Origin	Doing	November 2023	B	Specific session on the place of rules of origin in the green transition during the WCO	Policy Commission

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									Global Conference on Origin				
GCA P-23	SO3		CBM	Conduct joint operations in key areas to streamline and improve the coordination of operational activities on the global and regional levels with Customs and other law enforcement partners	Prepare and implement an operation on wildlife trafficking	Doing	June 2024 (operation dates restricted)	A	Operation and final report delivered	EC	Compliance	Ongoing On track	
GCA P-24					Prepare and implement an operation on environmentally sensitive commodities (in the same format as Operation DEMETER on waste and substances controlled under the Montreal Protocol)			A	Operation and final report delivered			Ongoing On track	
GCA P-25	SO1	SO3	Disruptive technologies	Intelligence-led enforcement cooperation	Collect experiences in implementing disruptive technology and innovative working methods to promote intelligence-led cooperation	Innovating	TBD*	B	Discussion at the WCO Technology Conference	EC, PTC	Facilitation, in coordination with Compliance RILOs	The WCO Technology Conference will be held in October 2023	
GCA P-26	SO1	SO2	International cooperation	Share best practices internationally	Contribute to collective efforts in green matters through the sharing of best practices and integrate knowledge from other leading organizations	Doing	Continuous	TBD	Consideration of green matters in agreements and MoUs with other organizations	PC	RPU, Facilitation, Compliance, CBD	Ongoing, as MOUs are revised/agreed upon	
		SO3											
SP3. Build capacity													

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GCA P-27	SO3	Waste	Raise Members' awareness and capacities	Raise awareness and enhance Member capacities in the area of waste, in particular plastic waste, in the Asia Pacific Plastic Waste Project (APPWP) beneficiary countries	Doing	June 2023	B	APPWP agreement deliverables	EC	Compliance Facilitation	The project has been completed	
GCA P-28				Train the Trainer Inter-Regional Workshop for Sida project beneficiaries on the Basel Convention and Montreal Protocol Agreements	Doing	April 2024 / October, 2024	B	Sida project agreement deliverable	CBC	CBD Compliance	Re-scheduled for the last quarter of 2024	
GCA P-29		Countering illegal wildlife trafficking and forest logging		Raise awareness and enhance Member capacities in the area of countering illegal wildlife and forest logging through the INAMA and Sida projects. The Asian, Sub-Saharan African and South American regions are targeted for project engagements	Doing	Continuous activity of the Environment Programme	B	INAMA and Sida Projects agreement deliverables	EC	Compliance	Ongoing On track	
GCA P-30				Raise awareness and enhance Member capacities in the area of countering Illicit Wildlife Trafficking through the ICCWC project with a focus on operational capacity-building, interagency cooperation and case preparation. Beneficiary countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia and South America	Doing		B	ICCWC Project agreement deliverables	EC		Ongoing On track	
GCA P-31		Hazardous substances and goods		Capacity building for EAC and SADC countries on management of regulatory inspections of hazardous substances and goods under Customs control (Sida project)	Doing	September 2023	B	Sida project agreement deliverable	CBC EC	CBD Compliance	The initial draft Concept Note and agenda for the activity are in the last stages of completion.	

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GCA P-32			Ozone depleting substances		Conduct capacity building support in prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of ozone depleting substances and/or waste trafficking	Doing	June 2024	B	Capacity building support conducted			Re-scheduled for 2024	
GCA P-33	SO3		Customs exchange of information networks		Promote the use of the WCO Customs exchange of information networks such as CENcomm and the RILOs to improve risk management for enforcing environmental legislation (depending on available funding and resources)	Doing	Continuous	B	Awareness raising and capacity building support conducted	EC	Compliance RILOs	Ongoing	
GCA P-34	SO4		Greening Customs administrations		Provide capacity building on greening the Customs administrations and trade based on the results of the Green Customs assessment tool and the PMM	Doing	TBD *	TBD	Capacity building support conducted	CBC	CBD	The first PMM assessment cycle will be launched in the third quarter of 2023	
GCA P-35	SO4	SO2	Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)		Subject to funding, conduct workshops for Customs officials on identification of substances controlled by MEAs (wastes, ozone depleting substances, hazardous chemicals, CITES, etc.)	Being	TBD*	TBD	Workshops delivered	CBC HSC	CBD TTA	Not started	
SP4. Research													
GCA P-36	ORG		Research	Conduct research on Green Customs matters	Research workshop on Customs and the environment to prepare for COP28 (subject to the recruitment of a new researcher in the Research and Policy Unit)	Innovating	December 2023	A	Organize and conduct the research workshop	Policy Commission	RPU	Organization is ongoing	
GCA P-37	SO1	SO2	Circular economy		Study on Circular Economy and the implications for Customs administrations		June 2023	A	Presentation of the study to	PTC		The Study Report was published in	

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	SO3	SO4							the April 2023 PTC and PC			June 2023 and is available on the WCO website	
GCA P-38	SO1	SO2	Research	Conduct research on Green Customs matters	According to the outcomes of the Research workshop on Customs and the environment, agree on key topics to be further explored in order to adequately prepare Customs for their role in the future, in partnership with academia	Innovating	TBD * Following the Research workshop on Customs and the environment	TBD	Research papers delivered on key topics	Policy Commission	RPU	Not started	
	SO3	SO4											
SP5. Communicate													
GCA P-39	ORG		WCO influence	Position the WCO in international discussions	Prepare a WCO position (policy note) for COP28 (subject to the recruitment of a researcher in the Research and Policy Unit)	Doing	December 2023	A	WCO Policy note for COP28	Policy Commission	RPU	Not started	
GCA P-40	SO1	SO2	Sharing experiences	Publication on Green Customs matters	Share experiences on the impact on Customs of implementing mechanisms to reduce carbon leakage and emissions from imported goods	Innovating	Upcoming WCO News Magazine publications	NA	Publication in the WCO News Magazine	None	Communications Service (for coordination, on the basis of information provided by Members)	The activity will be undertaken, on the basis of information provided by Members	
	SO3	SO4											