



## ENVIRONET

### **Real-time Global Communication Tool for Environmental Issues**

Environmental crime has been an increasing concern of the international community and governments. Customs plays a central role to control international trade in environmentally sensitive goods regulated by the multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), and eradicate their trafficking.

The WCO Recommendation on actions against environmental offences in June 2008 calls for increased efforts to cooperate and exchange information among all players responsible for implementing the MEAs.

It is believed that information sharing is essential for any successful enforcement, and can be achieved in a simple and easy way.

As tasked by the 27<sup>th</sup> Enforcement Committee in February 2008, the WCO Secretariat has developed ENVIRONET for this purpose. ENVIRONET was launched in June 2009.

### **A network of environmental enforcement**

ENVIRONET is a real-time communication tool for information exchange and cooperation in the area of environmental issues among Customs administrations, competent national agencies, international organizations and their regional networks.

As one of the CENcomm (Customs Enforcement Network Communication) applications, ENVIRONET is internet based and accessible only to the closed user group (CUG). Information transmitted via the tool is encrypted.

### **Objectives**

ENVIRONET aims to:

- share best practices;
- provide downloadable training materials, identification guides, manuals, and other background information valuable for environmental enforcement;
- exchange information on seizures, and possible on-going trafficking;
- create discussion forums on specific topics;
- facilitate assistance by experts from international organizations, competent national authorities, and experienced Customs officers;
- facilitate cooperation between Customs administrations, competent agencies and international organizations.

## Scope of information exchanged

All information which is relevant to environmental protection fall into the scope of information exchange via ENVIRONET, in particular implementation and enforcement of several trade related MEAs such as:

- Endangered species covered by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) covered by the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer
- Hazardous and other waste covered by the Basel Convention on the Control of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
- Persistent Organic Pollutants (PoPs) covered by the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
- Certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides covered by the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

In addition, information related to nuclear materials, illegal trade in timber, and illegal fishing may also be exchanged via ENVIRONET.

## Topics of discussion

All information exchanged via ENVIRONET is grouped by the topics of interest:

- A: Hazardous waste, chemicals and pesticides, Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
- B: Wildlife (Fauna & Flora)
- C: Living Modified Organisms (LMO)
- D: Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS)
- E: Illegal Logging
- F: Illegal Fishing
- G: Other / General Interest

A user will not receive any message of specific topics which have been ticked off in the Profile at the time of profile registration with ENVIRONET.

## Library

The ENVIRONET Library provides information on training materials, identification guides, alerts, and any other useful information.

## Contact information at the WCO Secretariat

For access and administrative issues:

Email: [environet@wcoomd.org](mailto:environet@wcoomd.org)

For technical issues and urgent assistance:

Email: [cis@wcoomd.org](mailto:cis@wcoomd.org)