

Preventing and Addressing Environmental Crime through UN Policing

- **Brief description of the project**

- Objective of the project

To enhance the United Nations Police (UNPOL) capacity to support host-State counterparts in preventing and addressing (transnational) environmental crime through guidance development, training and the attainment of required skill sets and expertise, while managing and reducing its own environmental footprint.

- Why is the project required?

As one of the fastest growing (2 to 3 times than the global economy) and most profitable forms of transnational organized crime (worth an estimated \$258 billion annually) and as the third largest crime sector globally (after drug trafficking, counterfeit crimes and human trafficking), environmental crime is a key driver to new and vector of existing conflicts, that fund activities of armed groups, reduces biodiversity, increases pollution, and affects communities' sustainable livelihoods and governments' revenue streams.¹ Systematically mandated to support wholesale reform efforts of host-State police services and other law enforcement institutions since 2003, UNPOL - with the adequate capacities and capabilities - can effectively contribute to global responses to meet systemic gaps, including the lack of data and awareness; of legislation, institutional will and governance; of capacity and specialized training in the enforcement chain; as well as of cooperation and information sharing amongst state and non-state actors.

- What is the expected impact of the project?

While comprehensive United Nations Secretariat efforts have made progress on managing and reducing missions' environmental impact in line with the DPO/DOS Environment Policy for Field Missions (2009) and the Environment Strategy (2017-2023), this proposal aims to contribute to UNPOL's lasting positive, inter-generational impact by equipping future officers with the capacities to help host-State counterparts prevent and address environmental crime, which contributes to and is exacerbated by climate change. In the spirit of Our Common Agenda and as part of the work of the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Policing, close collaboration is envisaged with several entities, including UNEP and UNODC, to facilitate sustainable and coherent UN assistance.

- **Expected outcomes, outputs and proposed activities**

| Outcomes | Outputs | Proposed Activities |
|---|---|---|
| Contribution to greater compliance with | Increased inclusion of international and national environmental norms in strategic and operational national policing plans and guidance | Attain UNPOL expertise on environmental aspects, including in the Standing Police Capacity and amongst deployed personnel, such as specialised police teams where requested |

¹ "Organized environmental crime: Why it matters for peace operations"; SIPRI Backgunder by Dr. Marina Caparini, 12 May 2022; "[INTERPOL marks a decade of tackling serious organized environmental crime](#)", 20 November 2020; "[World Atlas of Illicit Flows](#)", INTERPOL, RHIPTO Norwegian Center for Global Analysis, The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, September 2018; "Environment, Peace and Security: A Convergence of Threats", INTERPOL UNEP Strategic Report, December 2016; General Assembly resolution 71/19 on Cooperation between the United Nations and INTERPOL, November 2016.

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| international and national environmental conventions, protocols and frameworks, in line with SDG 16 | | Provide advisory services to host-state police services and other law enforcement entities on environmentally responsive policing norms |
| | Full integration of environmental considerations in the Guidance Framework for International Policing (SGF) and training curricula of the UNPOL Training Architecture Programme to support compliance with international environmental policing standards | <p>Review existing SGF guidance and further mainstream environmental aspects, where required</p> <p>Based on the 2020 baseline survey, determine guidance requirements and build on existing resources</p> <p>Engage with Member States, think tanks, academia, police and peacekeeping training institutes and other stakeholders and build partnerships in this area</p> <p>Identify, draft and publish lessons learned and good practices</p> |

- **Implementation timeline**

Although the proposed activities require UNPOL's continuous commitment to environmental mainstreaming, this proposal aims to endow the Police Division with the expertise required to sustain this work beyond the proposed one-year duration.

- **Explain how the project will further the implementation of the A4P+ priorities.**

Strengthening host-States' capacities to prevent and address environmental crime through enhanced enforcement of existing and the development of new regulations will directly contribute to the realisation of A4P+ priorities and all eight commitments areas, as well as Agenda 2030, including SDG 16, and the Secretary-General Common Agenda.

- **How have gender aspects been included in the design and implementation of the project? How does it help the Department implement its women, peace and security and gender parity commitments?**

The Police Division Gender Adviser reviews all guidance and training materials of the SGF to ensure gender considerations are reflected and support the operationalization of gender-responsive policing in line with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and successor resolutions, and the third report of the Secretary-General on United Nations Police (S/2018/1183) as part of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. Similarly, the Police Division Legal Adviser and human rights focal point review all guidance and training materials developed under the SGF to ensure they are in line with international human rights norms, the 2011 Policy on Human Rights in United Nations Peace Operations and Political Missions, the 2011 Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces, and the 2015 Human Rights Up Front Initiative.

- **Brief explanation of any risks that the implementation of the project may face and how to mitigate them.**

Retaining environmental expertise once the requested extra-budgetary funds subsidy is mitigated through the inclusion of environmental consideration in guidance and training. Emerging requirements would be addressed by building on newly established partnerships, as well as by regular reporting to Member States on the benefits of this capacity and requests, if required, for

additional regular and extra-budgetary support. Non-compliance with proposed inclusions of environmental considerations in United Nations policing would be addressed through monitoring and advocacy efforts by the Police Division leadership.

- **Proposed budget**

| Item | Brief Description | Total Amount |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Personnel | Salary for 1xP4 for one year | \$255,295 |
| Operating costs | Guidance development expenses | \$30,000 |
| Travel | Assessments, mission visits, seminars | \$50,000 |
| Training | Workshops and training support | \$50,000 |
| Programme Support Costs (13%) | | \$50,088 |
| | Total: | \$435,383 |