

**Preventing and Addressing Environmental Crime,
a Key Driver of Conflict, through UN Policing**

Brief description of the project

Objective: 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 attainment of required skill sets and expertise, while managing and reducing its own environmental footprint.

Why 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 fourth largest crime sector globally (after drug trafficking, counterfeit crimes and human trafficking)¹, environmental crime is a key driver to new and vector of existing conflicts, that increasingly endangers the world’s shrinking ecosystems, communities’ sustainable livelihoods, and governments’ revenue streams. 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, knowledge 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.

Expected impact: 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.

Expected Outcomes, Outputs and Proposed Activities

Outcomes	Outputs	Proposed Activities
Contribution to greater compliance with international and national environmental conventions, protocols and frameworks, in line with SDG 16.	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. 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	Review existing SGF guidance and further mainstream environmental aspects, where required. Based on the 2020 baseline survey, determine whether there is a need for dedicated guidance (e.g. the prevention and response of environmental crime) including by building on existing resources.

¹General Assembly resolution 71/19; INTERPOL UNEP Strategic Report: Environment, Peace and Security: A Convergence of Threats, December 2016; INTERPOL marks a decade of tackling serious organized environmental crime, 20 November 2020, <https://www.interpol.int/News-and-Events/News/2020/INTERPOL-marks-a-decade-of-tackling-serious-organized-environmental-crime>

	the UNPOL Training Architecture Programme to support compliance with international environmental policing standards.	Engage with Member States, think tanks, academia, police and peacekeeping training institutes and other stakeholders and build partnerships in this area. Identify, draft and publish lessons learned and good practices.
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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 of the project.

Contribution A4P commitment and 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’s forthcoming Common Agenda.

Gender and human rights considerations: The Police Division Gender Affairs Officer reviews all guidance and training materials developed under 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.

Risks and mitigation factors:

This COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions of travel and movement, which are being mitigated through the utilisation of technological assets and services, including virtual fora.

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	\$277,404.00
Operating costs	Guidance development expenses	\$30,000.00
Travel	Assessments, mission visits, seminars	\$50,000.00
Training	Workshops and training support	\$50,000.00
Programme Support Costs (13%)		\$52,962.52
Total		\$460,366.52