

Study Guide

for

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Topic Area: The environment at the nexus of cooperation and security; Environmental crimes and their impact on human security

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1. Welcoming Message

Dear delegates,

Welcome to the 12th edition of RhodesMRC!

It is our utmost honor and pleasure to be serving as the Board of OSCE and we wish to make this conference an experience of a lifetime, worth storytelling to your friends and during family dinners! We are Eliza Pervanidi (22) and Zoi Triantou (21), both students in the Faculty of Law at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, with a keen interest in international affairs and especially in the fields of social, cultural, and environmental challenges.

Our common goal for this conference is for you to further discover the current situation on crucial environmental questions, while working on your research, public speaking, and leadership skills. Our committee, -as foreseen to be the best one in the conference-, will be full of surprises with Crisis scenarios taking place unexpectedly that you will be required to discuss and manage to find common ground on how you deal with the situation at hand. Don't worry about being a beginner in a Crisis committee! It is our job to be there for you, guiding and giving you directions when lost. At the end of the day, we are all here with the purpose to learn, get out of our comfort zone and watch ourselves grow through the process!

We expect from you to arrive well-prepared on your speeches and solutions, after having researched the different dimensions of the topics and by utilizing this study guide as your compass. Don't forget to bring your cutest outfits, best vibes, and biggest smiles!

Let's make RhodesMRC great again!

Best regards,

Eliza Pervanidi (Chairperson)

Zoi Triantou (Secretary General)

2. Introduction to the Committee

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) has 57 member States in North America, Europe and Asia and works for stability, peace and democracy, through political dialogue about shared values and practical work. Poland has taken over as OSCE Chair for 2022. OSCE is the world's largest regional security organization and a forum for political dialogue on a wide range of security issues and a platform for joint action to improve the lives of individuals and communities, bridge differences and build trust between states by co-operating on conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. OSCE addresses issues that have an impact on our international security, including arms control, terrorism, good governance, energy security, human trafficking, democratization, media freedom and national minorities¹. OSCE contributes in a major way in many activities. The OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) focuses on the election observation missions in participating states. The ODIHR is the leading pan-European agency for election observation. OSCE staff and external personnel monitor the election procedures, while at the same times training the already existing domestic personnel that monitors the elections conducted each time. The main objectives of this office is to strengthen democratic institutions and the rule of law, promote human rights and civil society along the way. Another remarkable initiative of OSCE is the Representative on Freedom of the Media (FOM). The Representative's responsibilities manifest themselves in three areas: first observing relevant media developments of the participating states and calls for total compliance with OSCE principles concerning freedom of the media, second conflict resolution, should there ever be an incidence of non-compliance to these principles and third collection of information and constant reviews on the progress of the participating states.

3. Introduction to the Topic

Through the stronger codification of International and European Environmental Law and the generalized awareness being raised over the last decade on the questions surrounding Environmental Crime, our topic is considered of high priority on the national and international agendas of interest. The criminal activities under discussion harm the environment by affecting the quality of air, water, and soil, threatening the survival of species, and causing uncontrollable disasters. Furthermore, they pose a threat to security and safety on a national and transnational level, with a severe negative impact on development and the rule of law. According to Interpol and the United Nations Environment

¹ "Organization For Security And Co-Operation In Europe", Osce.Org, 2022, <https://www.osce.org/>.

Programme, environmental crime is the fourth largest criminal activity in the world after drug trafficking, human trafficking, and counterfeiting². The difficulty to detect and report environmental crimes results in the failure to prompt an appropriate governmental response and impunity. The lack of law enforcement, in this case, is also enhanced by the perception that they are “victimless” and incidental crimes³.

The purpose of this study guide is to shed light on the different dimensions of illicit environmental activities, to present the current legal framework around them and to draw inspiration from previous famous cases of environmental damage and relevant counteraction operations. Attention needs to be drawn in every case to the importance of interstate collaboration, especially when the states are dealing with organized crime groups leading to transboundary harm, threatening security and stability across Europe and the world.

4. Key – Terms and Definitions

4.1. *Environmental crime*

Although there is no universally accepted definition of environmental crime, it is commonly agreed upon that environmental crimes are infringements of relevant legal obligations that can cause significant harm or risk to the environment and human health and are or can be addressed through criminal law⁴. These offences may include, but are not limited to:

- the improper collection, transportation, or disposal of waste,
- the killing, possession, or trade of wildlife species both animals and plants,
- the production, marketing, or consumption of ozone-depleting substances⁵.

The impact of environmental crime on the environment manifests itself in increasing levels of pollution, degradation of wildlife, reduction in biodiversity and the disturbance of ecological balance⁶, but it also

² "Press Corner", European Commission - European Commission, 2021, https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_6745.

³ "UNICRI :: United Nations Interregional Crime And Justice Research Institute". 2022. Unicri.It. <https://unicri.it/topics/environmental>.

⁴ "Environmental Crime - Legislation - Environment - European Commission", Ec.Europa.Eu, 2021, <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/legal/crime/index.htm>.

⁵ "Environmental Crime | Europol", Europol, 2021, <https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-statistics/crime-areas/environmental-crime>.

⁶ Ibid

presents detrimental effects on human health in the long run. Due to their peculiar features, such crimes often remain undetected and unreported, leading to impunity. People usually tend to dismiss their value as a crime, making it a much-underestimated phenomenon.

4.2. Environmental degradation: the deterioration of the environment through depletion of resources such as air, water, and soil; the destruction of ecosystems and the extinction of wildlife. It is defined as any change or disturbance to the environment perceived to be deleterious or undesirable.⁷

4.3. Environmental damage: has been defined in treaties and other international acts to include four possible elements:

- a. Fauna, flora, soil, water, and climatic factors
- b. Material assets,
- c. The landscape and environmental amenity and
- d. The interrelationship between the above factors⁸.

5. Discussion of the Topic

5.1. The Existence of Environmental Crimes

5.1.1. *International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora*

There are hundreds of thousands of known animal and plant species on Earth. These wild animals and plants form an essential part of the natural ecosystem and are essential for meeting our needs for food, clothing, medicine, recreation, and much more. Yet, through habitat destruction, excessive hunting, and illegal and unregulated international trade, we continue to endanger their survival.

⁷ "Environmental Damage | Informea". 2022. Informea.Org. <https://www.informea.org/en/terms/environmental-damage>.

⁸"The Responsibility Of States For Environmental Harm". 2022. Lawteacher.Net. <https://www.lawteacher.net/free-law-essays/international-law/the-responsibility-of-states-for-environmental-harm-international-law-essay.php>.

The international wildlife trade, both legal and illegal, has grown dramatically in recent decades as transportation becomes increasingly difficult around the world, and the undeniably high increase in human population drives up demand. The illegal wildlife trade, which involves more than 350 million wild plants and animals, is estimated to be worth billions of dollars, making it one of the most serious, if not the most serious, environmental crimes. Most of this trade exists to meet demand for exotic pets, fashion items, and ornamental plants. Furs, skins, and traditional medicines are also commercially traded in large quantities⁹.

The illegal wildlife trade can take various forms. One of the largest criminal activities of this category is no other than illegal logging¹⁰. This may involve logging of protected species or in protected areas, excessive logging, logging without permits, the use of fraudulent or illegally obtained permits, which lead to damaging forests or plant ecosystems. Illegal logging contributes to deforestation. It increases the risk of floods and landslides, as well as erosion of coastal ones, and is a major contributor to climate change. Up to one-fifth of greenhouse gas emissions stem from deforestation¹¹. Not to mention the devastating effects it can have on human health. This is evident, for instance, through the unnatural transmission of Ebola and Lyme disease.

Illegal fishing follows, which adds to the overexploitation of fish supplies, endangers marine biodiversity, and undermines food security. Illegal fishing has a significant influence on coastal communities around the world. More than 500 million people seek employment in the fishing business in developing nations. Illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing reduces fishing stocks, affecting the livelihoods of people employed in the legitimate fishing industry, who are left to deal with the repercussions.

Poaching, often known as illegal hunting, is the illegal capture and confinement of wild animals. Poaching, like logging, might entail killing or trapping a protected species, hunting in a protected region, or hunting without a hunting license. Forest defaunation is one of the negative consequences of poaching. The pattern of seed predation and dissemination changes as species populations shift. Tree species with enormous seeds gradually dominate a forest, whereas small-seeded plant species become locally extinct, and animal populations in the wild swiftly decline and some may become extinct. Uncontrolled hunting also contributes to the spread of zoonotic diseases caused by the spread

⁹ Ibid

¹⁰ The State Of Knowledge Of Crimes That Have Serious Impacts On The Environment, ebook, 2018, http://file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/mun/mrc/read/knowledge_crime_envImpacts.pdf.

¹¹¹¹ "Wildlife, Forest & Fisheries Crime Module 3 Key Issues: Criminalization Of Wildlife Trafficking", Unodc.Org, 2018, <https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/wildlife-crime/module-3/key-issues/criminalization-of-wildlife-trafficking.html>.

of extremely variable retrovirus chains. For example, outbreaks of the Ebola virus in the Congo Basin and Gabon in the 1990s were linked to ape slaughtering and meat consumption.

A recent example of such wildlife trade could be the export of Glass eels in the Netherlands. On 18 April 2018, a criminal court in Amsterdam sentenced a Chinese national in absentia to six months imprisonment for the unauthorized exporting and abuse of an endangered species, namely 72 kg of live glass eels¹².

A rather common phenomenon is criminals exploiting local communities by convincing them to illegally harvest with the promise of a small payment, which not only exposes them to risks of attacks from wild animals, but to potential arrest from the local authorities as well. The illegal wildlife trade takes sustainable development off the table for rural communities and indigenous people, who cannot manage their natural resources in a sustainable way

5.1.2. Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste

As the world population and level of living continue to rise, there has been an exponential increase in the consumption of commodities, leading in an increase in waste production¹³. Waste encompasses a broad range of abandoned materials, including domestic items, electrical and electronic equipment (e-waste), industrial and agricultural waste, including pesticides, and other industrial and agricultural byproducts. Also included are decommissioned ships, oil or liquid waste, and billions of tires of all shapes and sizes.

There are two categories in which waste is divided: **hazardous** and **non-hazardous**. **Hazardous waste** is this which poses substantial or potential threats to public health or to the environment.

Treatment and disposal costs differ from developed countries to developing ones, which raises the need for trade at an international level. The movements of waste could, also, be demand-driven.

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal is the international agreement that regulates waste trade. The distinction and definition of hazardous and non-hazardous waste derive from this Convention. However, it allows its Parties to

¹² ([Docket Number 13/994016-17](#), Verdict of 18 April 2018, Rechtbank Amsterdam)

¹³ "Illegal Waste Trafficking: More Data Is Key To Getting A Better Grip On This Trade", WCO News, 2020, <https://mag.wcoomd.org/magazine/wco-news-88/illegal-waste-trafficking-more-data-is-key-to-getting-a-better-grip-on-this-trade/>.

complete their own respective list of wastes considered hazardous under their national legislation, while recognizing the right of Parties to set their own requirements concerning transboundary movement procedures applicable to such waste (Art. 3.1). Additionally, countries are forbidden from exporting waste classified as hazardous to another country without prior consent and have the right to refuse imports of waste classified as hazardous (Art. 4.1).

Africa and the Asia/Pacific regions are favored destinations for large shipments of waste. In West Africa, recipient countries include but are not limited to Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Nigeria, whereas in Asia, it's Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, China, Hong Kong, the Philippines, and Vietnam in the Far East are on the top of the list of recipient countries¹⁴.

Illegal activities can take various forms such as transporting waste on the black market, mixing different types of waste, declaring hazardous waste as non-hazardous, or classifying waste as second-hand goods. Every time a product is classified as second-hand goods, international waste regulations no longer apply to it and therefore can be traded with developing countries. E-waste and used car parts are good examples of products that are disguised oftentimes as second-hand goods, and they end up being recycled in an irregular manner¹⁵.

Illegal waste trafficking is a lucrative business with severe implications for public health as well as the environment mostly due to the improper way in which waste is managed. A lot of knowledge can be extracted from databases using data mining techniques, supporting effective frontline enforcement at borders.

The complexity of waste-related regulations, often in combination with few resources for monitoring, inspection, and enforcement, result in low risk for criminals, in contrast to the high illicit profits. Unclear standards on contamination levels and on the definition of environmentally sound management come to add to the complexity of understanding and further applying waste regulations. It is this uncertainty, which will continue to create ample opportunities for companies, individuals and organized criminal groups to conduct illicit business, if not addressed properly.

¹⁴ Ibid

¹⁵ Ibid

5.1.3. Production and Consumption of Ozone-Depleting Substances

The Earth's atmosphere is composed of several layers¹⁶. Ozone occurs in two of these layers. The lowest one and therefore the one closest to the Earth's surface is the troposphere. There, ground-level ozone is an air pollutant that negatively affects terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems (crops and marine life) in addition to human health (skin cancer, eye cataracts and immune deficiency disorders). It is a main ingredient of urban smog. The stratosphere is the next layer in the atmosphere. There the largest quantity of atmospheric ozone is concentrated, and it is the kind of ozone, which protects life on Earth from the sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays. Man-made chemicals, the so-called ozone depleting substances (ODS) destroy the ozone existing in stratosphere. Ozone-depleting substances can be found in daily used products such as coolants, foaming agents, fire extinguishers, solvents, pesticides, and aerosol propellants to emissions from industrial facilities and electric utilities, motor vehicle exhaust and gasoline vapors. For determining which substances need stricter restrictions, the Montreal Protocol was passed¹⁷.

Due to this phase-out, people resorted to the use of other types of gases that could replace ozone-depleting substances in several applications. Fluorinated gases cause no damage to the ozone layer but have a large effect on global warming. For this reason, Parties of the Montreal Protocol had to include the most common form of these gases to the list of controlled substances¹⁸.

Through the illegal use of ozone-depleting substances we damage Earth's protection from the sun as more ultraviolet light reaches the surface of the planet, increasing the risk of skin disease and decreasing plant productivity. It leads to reduced agricultural crop and commercial forest yields, reduced growth and survivability of tree seedlings, and increased susceptibility to diseases, pests and other stresses such as harsh weather¹⁹.

¹⁶ "Basic Ozone Layer Science | US EPA", US EPA, 2021, <https://www.epa.gov/ozone-layer-protection/basic-ozone-layer-science>.

¹⁷ Ibid

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ "Ozone", Tn.Gov, 2022,

<https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/environmental/environmental-health-topics/eht/ozone.html>.

5.2. Root Causes of Environmental Crime

The causes behind environmental crime are multiple and vary greatly. That's why the measures taken to combat the illicit activities need to be well-thought and carefully carried out. Some of the primary reasons are the low risks and high profits in a permissive context, where poor governance, widespread corruption through political interference, inadequate institutional support and lack of collaboration between states are prominent. Thus, organized crime has found a safe haven to engage²⁰.

The systemic support towards the perpetration of environmental crimes deals with the following aspects²¹:

5.2.1. Poverty

It is seen as a root cause since it allows for the recruitment of criminals, smugglers, and couriers from low-income families. In rural communities where hunting is a way of life and a means of survival, organized crime groups profit from the residents' knowledge and talents. In many circumstances, people's participation in illegal activities is also a direct response to the authorities' loss of hunting rights, displacement of land in favor of protected areas, and a lack of employment and educational prospects²².

5.2.2. Demand

The demand for all these prohibited goods (timber, cheap illegal chemicals, unregistered gold, minerals etc.) is fueling the illegal trade, which is a very profitable business. Buyers are setting high prices for rare and uncommon goods, leading to huge profits²³.

²⁰ "THE RISE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME, A GROWING THREAT TO OUR FUTURE". 2022. <https://fbskopje.mk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/4.pdf>.

²¹ Programme, United. 2022. "The Rise Of Environmental Crime: A Growing Threat To Natural Resources Peace, Development And Security". [Wedocs.Unep.Org](https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/7662;jsessionid=10099B51BC19B57088078184CB812399). <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/7662;jsessionid=10099B51BC19B57088078184CB812399>.

²² Ibid

²³ Ibid

5.2.3. Organized crime-driven root causes

There are organized criminal groups that surpass national borders and spread their activities across the world by causing transboundary environmental harm. In fact, the involvement of criminal networks and organized crime groups is one of the main factors that has facilitated the considerable expansion of environmental crimes in the recent years. These groups diversify their dynamic by being engaged in other legal or illegal activities. They are usually linked with other serious offences, such as theft, fraud, corruption, drugs and human trafficking, counterfeiting, firearms smuggling, and money laundering²⁴.

5.2.4. Permissive environment

Environmental crime is considered to offer a permissive environment, where goods are easily and freely transported through bribes and false or purchased permits. It is widely known that permits are rarely controlled or verified, making illegal trade extremely easy for perpetrators. There have been several cases showing mass-scale issue of false eco-certification permits, hacking of government websites for false transport permits and falsification of customs papers and transport permits or use of false customs codes. At the same time, in many African and Asian countries, the number of police officers per capita is extremely low, while facing extreme corruption challenges. In these cases, law enforcement in combination with the existing underfunding for the prosecution of the perpetrated crimes is turning the prospects of punishment nearly impossible²⁵.

5.3. Environmental Crime as a Threat to National and International Security

5.3.1. Introduction

INTERPOL Secretary General Jürgen Stock: *"Environmental crime is transnational in scope and insidious in nature. It robs governments of much-needed revenues, people of their livelihoods, and communities of peace and security. The international community needs to support a comprehensive approach by following rhetoric with action, policy with implementation and law with enforcement."*

²⁴ Ibid

²⁵ Ibid

Environmental crime has become a major threat to global security and lucrative criminal activity, affecting the global society as a whole and all of nature. Opportunities for high profits, legal discrepancies between countries, low risk of detection and marginal penalties make environmental crime a very attractive business for criminal entrepreneurs²⁶.

Criminal activities against the environment have now taken a serious form of transnational organized crime with links to other crimes associated with high levels of violence and corruption. Driven by high financial gains and facilitated by a low risk of detection and scarce conviction rates, these criminal networks turn now more than ever towards such illicit transnational activities. This situation enhances corruption and “white collar crimes”. “White collar” environmental crimes include crimes such as corporate crimes, use of shell companies in tax havens, tax fraud, double counting, transfer mispricing, money laundering, internet crimes and hacking, phishing/identity theft, securities fraud, financial crimes, and fraudulently reclaim carbon credits, along with threat finance to terrorist and armed groups. In the case of organized environmental crime, it is also usual for traditional Mafia-style gangs to use the same *modi operandi* with their other activities²⁷.

Combatting environmental crime is not an easy task. Many developing countries are facing challenges in managing international shipments, customs, while lacking specialized enforcement agencies. On the other hand, in the developed countries, we observe a lack of interest to tackle the problem, as other crimes like human and drug trafficking are standing higher on the list of national interests. In any case, the existing corruption through the involvement of political elites is complicating how the authorities treat this kind of crime²⁸.

The direct consequences of environmental crime cross over environmental, social, economic and security impacts, affecting the resources of local communities and resulting in the theft of sovereign natural capital. The illegal trade in natural resources is depriving national economies of billions of dollars in lost revenues, while impoverishing developing countries. Sustainable development, livelihoods of millions of people, good governance and the rule of law are now being threatened, as several sums of money coming from these activities, end up financing militias and terrorist groups. The rule of law is undermined, which affects the public in two ways. First, by jeopardizing citizens’

²⁶ "Climate Security - Igarapé Institute". 2022. Instituto Igarapé. <https://igarape.org.br/en/climate-security/>.

²⁷ Programme, United. 2022. "The Rise Of Environmental Crime: A Growing Threat To Natural Resources Peace, Development And Security". [Wedocs.Unep.Org](https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/7662;jsessionid=10099B51BC19B57088078184CB812399).
<https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/7662;jsessionid=10099B51BC19B57088078184CB812399>.

²⁸ "UNICRI :: United Nations Interregional Crime And Justice Research Institute". 2022. Unicri.It.
<https://unicri.it/topics/environmental>.

health and safety and second, by diverting resources that would otherwise be allocated to services other than criminal activities²⁹.

Crime of this organized nature presents a serious challenge and demands an organized transnational enforcement response. However, enforcement efforts are downgraded by inadequate cooperation among states, but also among local authorities and compounded by a lack of human and technical resources³⁰.

5.3.2. The Three pillars of Infrastructure of the Criminal Networks³¹

- **Extensive use of document fraud**

It is usual for traffickers to transfer waste materials as well as endangered species across continents accompanied by false certificates, forged bills, fake analysis results and counterfeit authorizations, to hide the real nature of operations and get away with customs controls and ecological protocols.

- **Abuse of discrepancies in legislation**

Environmental criminals take advantage of the possible loopholes in product classification systems in various countries, the partial transposition of international protocols, the limited exchange of data among authorities, and the deficient prosecution rules across jurisdictions.

- **Corruption as key**

Environmental criminals make use of corruptive practices at different levels and on a variety of targets (local authorities, accreditation bodies and border customs officers) to assist their transnational activities. They don't hesitate to even integrate them within the criminal network.

²⁹ "Environmental Crime | Europol". 2022. Europol. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-statistics/crime-areas/environmental-crime>.

³⁰ Ibid

³¹ ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME Threat Assessment 2022 In The Age Of Climate Change. 2022. Ebook. EUROPOL. https://www.europol.europa.eu/cms/sites/default/files/documents/Environmental%20Crime%20in%20the%20Age%20of%20Climate%20Change%20-%20Public%20report_5.pdf.

5.3.3. *The people involved*³²

- **The subject-matter expert**

These are the individuals with the knowledge and expertise in the field of interest (biology, zoology, veterinary, bioengineering and chemical engineering). Financial and legal consultants are also necessary and often highly ranked, since networks usually operate through legal business structures across multiple jurisdictions.

- **The broker**

They connect criminal actors located in different countries. they identify the best deals, propose trafficking routes, officialize business agreements, obtain authorizations through bribes, and make sure that the criminal associates earn as much as possible. They can be part of multiple criminal networks simultaneously.

- **The professional money launderer**

They are the ones to conceal the illicit origin of profits. The size and sophistication of laundering techniques varies depending on the criminal activity and the amount laundered.

5.3.4. *The link between Environmental Crime and Terrorism*

Organized environmental crimes involving minerals, timber and wildlife, constitute a major source of profit that benefits armed groups and sustains armed conflict. Both non-state armed groups, terrorist groups and other networks thrive on the exploitation of natural resources that funds their activities. At least 40 % of internal conflicts in the last 60 years is linked to natural resources³³.

The United Nations Security Council has expressed concern in multiple cases for the link between the illicit exploitation and trade in natural resources and that of armed conflict and the financing of terrorist acts, and accordingly, its relevance to international peace and security. Since the 1990s, the Security Council has adopted sanctions on certain natural resource commodities linked to armed groups involved in conflict, including timber, diamonds, minerals, charcoal and oil. Moreover, it has

³² Ibid

³³ "Organized Environmental Crime: Why It Matters For Peace Operations | SIPRI". 2022. Sipri.Org. <https://www.sipri.org/commentary/topical-backgrounder/2022/organized-environmental-crime-why-it-matters-peace-operations>.

issued supporting mandates to peacekeeping missions in Cambodia, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, the DRC, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia and South Sudan³⁴.

It is absurd that one can find one terrorist group operating in East Africa that makes between US \$38 and US \$56 million per year from the illegal trade in charcoal. In total, militia and terrorist groups in and around African nations with ongoing conflicts may earn between US \$111 to US \$289 million annually from the illegal or unregulated charcoal trade³⁵.

To summarize, to combat organized environmental crime, it is crucial to acquire a more holistic and joined up understanding to break the vicious circle of illicit environmental exploitation, collective harms, violence and underdevelopment. Peace operations can also play an important role in the development of more comprehensive approaches. This will only work through the collaboration with the local communities and national authorities, to develop natural resource management and enforcement capacities, while supporting the development of legitimate livelihood opportunities³⁶.

5.3.5. Environmental crimes during conflict – the war in Ukraine

Human casualties, destruction of entire cities, the devastating financial impact armed conflicts can cause, are the first aspects that first come to mind when thinking about war. Aside from all of these though, the environment must also be considered as a consequence just as significant. The recent war in Ukraine comes to prove once again that environment is one of war's worse victims. According to estimations of the U.N. Environment Program "at least 530,000 hectares of land have been affected, damaged, or destroyed by the conflict so far". In addition to that due to the use of missiles and artillery shells toxic substances are released in the environment. Explosions release in turn chemicals in the air polluting not only the atmosphere but risking the potential cause of acid rain which will alter the acidity of the soil once it reaches the ground. Not to mention the damages to the water supply with the water pumping systems having taken several hits, polluting the drinking water.

³⁴ United Nations. 2022. "Putting A Stop To Global Environmental Crime Has Become An Imperative | United Nations". United Nations. <https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/putting-stop-global-environmental-crime-has-become-imperative>.

³⁵ "Transnational Environmental Crime - A Common Crime In Need Of Better Enforcement". 2022. https://na.unep.net/geas/getUNEPPageWithArticleIDScript.php%3Farticle_id%3D95.

³⁶ Ibid

International law regulates how armed conflicts are conducted through four Geneva Conventions and three additional protocols. But environmental crimes occurring from war are hard to prosecute. Especially for Ukraine, which was already suffering from environmental degradation, and it would be extremely difficult to distinguish damage coming from the war and the already existing one. In the 1970s the term ecocide was introduced. It was proposed to describe the mass destruction of ecosystems and it would have been included in the Rome Statute alongside the other four core international crimes. Due to legal reasons and of course the interests of various actors involved in the situation of ecocide this terminology has not yet to this day been officially used for the purpose that it was first introduced for.

5.3.6. Europol's Threat Assessment on Environmental Crime (2022)

On 27 June 2022, Europol published a new report assessing the environmental crime threats targeting the EU. In three main chapters, the report looks at the criminal networks involved in environmental crimes, the main typologies of environmental crimes investigated in the EU, and the impact of other organized crime activities on the environment. Regarding wildlife trafficking, the report points out that the EU is functioning as “a hub for global wildlife trafficking”. It also points out how the EU is the main destination for trafficked wildlife, as well as a point of origin for endemic wildlife trafficked to other continents. Finally, the report finds that EU criminal networks are increasingly targeting central and eastern Europe to traffic illicit waste produced in Western Europe³⁷.

³⁷ "Europol: Environmental Crime Threat Assessment 2022". 2022. Eucriim.Eu. <https://eucriim.eu/news/europol-environmental-crime-threat-assessment-2022/>.

6. Legal Framework

6.1. International Environmental Law

6.1.1. *Environmental principles*^{38,39}

- **The Principle of State Sovereignty over its Territory and Natural Resources** is exercised in the interest of their national development, and of the well-being of the people of the state. This is subject to a general duty not to cause environmental damage to the environment of other states, or to areas beyond a state's national jurisdiction⁴⁰.
- **The Principles of Good Neighborliness and International Cooperation**, on the one hand, places on states a responsibility not to damage the environment. This reminds us of the states' duty to cooperate in investigating, identifying, and avoiding environmental harm. On the other hand, sets an obligation for states to prohibit activities within their territory that are contrary to the rights of other states, and which could harm other states or their inhabitants⁴¹.
- **The Precautionary Principle** requires that, if there is a strong suspicion or warnings of serious irreversible environmental damage, it is preferable to control that activity now rather than to wait for incontrovertible scientific evidence⁴². Lack of scientific certainty should not be used as an excuse for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation⁴³.
- **The Principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibility** concerns the need to share in the responsibility for ecological degradation, some countries may be asked to carry a greater burden of conservation of the environment. The idea is that states should comply with international obligations for the conservation of the environment based on equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capacities⁴⁴.

³⁸ "GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW", "Max Valverde Soto, <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/51089370.pdf>

³⁹"The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer", Un.Org (1985) http://mountainlex.alpconv.org/images/documents/international/convention_ozone_layer.pdf

⁴⁰Ibid

⁴¹Ibid

⁴² "Principles of Environmental law", Federico Cheever, Celia I. Campbell-Mohn, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/environmental-law/Principles-of-environmental-law>]

⁴³ "Rio Declaration on Environment and Development", Un.Org (1992): <https://www.cbd.int/doc/ref/rio-declaration.shtml>

⁴⁴ Ibid

- **The Principle of Sustainable Development** was first established by the Brundtland Report⁴⁵ in 1987 and prompts that the primary focus of environmental protection efforts is to improve the human condition. Thus, the protection of the environment is not a goal in itself but is a necessity for ensuring a higher quality of life for humans⁴⁶.

6.1.2. *International State Responsibility and Liability in cases of Transboundary Harm*

The International Law Commission (ILC)⁴⁷⁴⁸ worked relentlessly (1974–1997) to address international liability for injurious consequences arising out of acts not prohibited by international law⁴⁹. However, the ILC admitted that its work on that topic is not the codification of customary law, but the progressive development of international law. The Commission divided the topic into two sub-topics.

A. Draft Articles on the Prevention of Transboundary Harm from Hazardous Activities 2001⁵⁰

The articles deal with the concept of prevention in the context of authorization and regulation of hazardous activities, which pose a significant risk of transboundary environmental harm. **Prevention** stands for the procedure or the duty that deals with the state prior to the situation when significant harm or damage might occur. **Harm** is defined as harm caused to a person, property, or environment. **Transboundary harm** is defined as harm caused in the territory of or in other places under the jurisdiction or control of state other than the state of origin, whether the state concerned share common border⁵¹. A characteristic example of prevention constitutes principle 3 of the Principles of conduct in the field of the environment for the guidance of States in the conservation and harmonious utilization of natural resources shared by two or more States, adopted by the Governing Council of UNEP in 1978⁵².

⁴⁵ Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future” Un.Org (1987), <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/5987our-common-future.pdf>

⁴⁶ Ibid

⁴⁷ “International Law Commission.”, Un.Org, (2016), www.legal.un.org/ilc/ .

⁴⁸ Establishment of an international Law Commission”, Un.Org (1947), [www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/174\(II\)](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/174(II)).

⁴⁹Summaries of the Work of the International Law Commission”, Un.Org (2015), <https://legal.un.org/ilc/summaries/9.shtml>

⁵⁰ “Prevention of Transboundary Harm from Hazardous Activities”, Un.Org, (2001), https://legal.un.org/docs/?path=../ilc/texts/instruments/english/draft_articles/9_7_2001.pdf&lang=EF

⁵¹Ibid

⁵²“ENVIRONMENTAL LAW GUIDELINES AND PRINCIPLES ON SHARED NATURAL RESOURCES”, p. 2, UNEP, (1978) <https://dirittointernazionaledellambiente.files.wordpress.com/2010/03/1978-unep-principles-shared-resources.pdf>

The articles generally underline the duty of taking all the appropriate measures to prevent significant harm or minimize the risk of environmental damage, while willing to cooperate with other states. They also analyze in depth the notification and information, exchange of information and consultation on preventive measures. These constitute some of the primary duties of the states in order to safeguard the protection of the environment⁵³.

The principle of prevention has a historical meaning, since it can be found in the “**Trail Smelter arbitration**” (USA v. Canada), a landmark decision over transboundary environmental degradation⁵⁴. In 1935, A Canadian-based corporation (defendant) owned a smelter plant that emitted hazardous fumes that caused damage to plant life, forest trees, soil, and crop yields across the border in the neighboring Washington State of the United States (plaintiff)⁵⁵. This was the first decision to recognize international liability for environmental damages caused to another state, even though no existing treaty created an obligation to prevent such damage.

*B. Draft Principles on the Allocation of Loss in the case of Transboundary Harm Arising out of Hazardous Activities (2006)*⁵⁶

These Draft principles present the same scope of application as the Draft Articles on the Prevention. This time the ILC tried to address the need to repair any harmful consequences arising out of certain activities, especially those which provoke certain risks. As the Draft articles on Prevention, the Draft Principles are concerned with primary rules. Therefore, noncompliance to the duty of prevention prescribed by the Draft Articles on Prevention could invoke state responsibility without necessarily meaning that the act itself is illegal, since they refer to the injurious consequences arising out of acts not prohibited by international law. Then state and civil responsibility could be invoked⁵⁷.

Prevention and Remedial Measures in the Draft Principles might include those designed for **mitigation** of harm, **restoration** of what had been harmed and **compensation** for harm caused (Article 3&4). The goal is to safeguard the right to reparation of the victim, as the operator is the one

⁵³Ibid

⁵⁴ “Trail Smelter Arbitration”, Kevin Wolf, ENCYCLOPEDIA, <https://www.encyclopedia.com/environment/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/trail-smelter-arbitration>

⁵⁵ Trail Smelter Case (United States v Canada), Court Decision, 1935 , <https://www.informea.org/en/court-decision/trail-smelter-case-united-states-v-canada>

⁵⁶ “Draft principles on the allocation of loss in the case of transboundary harm arising out of hazardous activities, with commentaries.”, Un.Org (2006), https://legal.un.org/ilc/texts/instruments/english/commentaries/9_10_2006.pdf

⁵⁷Ibid

who causes the harm, but also benefitted from the relevant harmful actions that he proceeded to please his interests⁵⁸.

The Draft Principles clearly state that the State is responsible to ensure that it takes all the appropriate measures by even proceeding to multilateral agreements and by enhancing the domestic legislation (Article7)⁵⁹.

6.1.3. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

The **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (1973)** regulates the international trade of wild animals and plants in such a way that it does not endanger their survival⁶⁰. Its Parties, meaning the States that have joined the Convention, are legally bound by CITES, which in turn indicates that it is not self-executing⁶¹. In other words, it cannot be fully implemented until specific domestic measures have been adopted for that purpose. Each Party is obliged to respect the framework that is provided and adopt its own domestic legislation to ensure that CITES is implemented at the national level. CITES protects the so-called CITES-listed species from being excessively traded and exploited illegally and unsustainably in the wild for the reason that their extinction would have irreversible ecological consequences and negative economic and social effects. The implementation of the Convention follows a set of 3 actors at the national level. The first one being, that the trade will not be harmful to the survival of that species. Second, the animal or plant to be traded was not obtained in contravention of the laws of the exporting State for the protection of fauna and flora. And lastly, for any living specimen, the transport is organized in such a manner so as to minimize the risk of injury, ensure good health conditions and prevent cruel treatment. The CITES permit system seeks to ensure that international trade in listed species is sustainable, legal and traceable. The Convention places a joint responsibility on producer and consumer Parties for managing wildlife trade sustainably and preventing illegal trade⁶².

⁵⁸Ibid

⁵⁹ "International Liability in Case of Loss from Transboundary Harm Arising out of Hazardous Activities — Summaries of the Work of the International Law Commission — International Law Commission.", Un.Org, (2016), https://legal.un.org/ilc/guide/9_10.shtml.

⁶⁰ Convention On International Trade In Endangered Species Of Wild Fauna And Flora, ebook, 1973, <http://CITES-Convention-EN.pdf>.

⁶¹ "What Is CITES? | CITES", Cites.Org, 2017, <https://cites.org/eng/disc/what.php>.

⁶² Ibid

6.1.4. Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and Their Disposal

The **Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal** is an international treaty that aims to reduce the movements of hazardous waste and prevent transfer of hazardous waste from developed to less developed countries⁶³. The movement of radioactive waste is not regulated in this Convention. The Basel Convention entered into force on 5 May 1992. Now 199 states and the SAARS are parties to the convention. The United States and Haiti have signed the convention, but they have not ratified it.

Aside from the conditions on the import and export of regulated waste, there are strict requirements for consent and tracking for the movement of waste across borders⁶⁴. It is significant to note that the convention places a general prohibition on the exportation or importation of waste between parties and non-parties. The only exception there is to this rule is when the waste is subject to a different bilateral treaty. The United States is a notable non-party to the convention and has several such agreements for allowing the shipping of hazardous waste to Basel Party countries.

In May 2019 most of the world's countries, except for the United States, agreed to amend the Basel Convention to include plastic waste as a regulated material. The world's oceans are estimated to contain 100 million tons of plastic, 90% of which originates in land-based sources⁶⁵. The United States, which produces annually approximately 40 million tons of plastic waste, which is far more than any other country in the world, opposed this amendment, but since it is not a party to the treaty it did not have an opportunity to vote on it to try to block it. The Plastic Waste Amendments are binding for 186 States.

⁶³ Basel Convention On The Control Of Transboundary Movements Of Hazardous Wastes And Their Disposal, ebook, 1992, <http://file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/mun/mrc/legal%20framework/BaselConventionText-e.pdf>.

⁶⁴ "Basel Convention On The Control Of Transboundary Movements Of Hazardous Wastes", UNEP - UN Environment Programme, 2022, <https://www.unep.org/resources/report/basel-convention-control-transboundary-movements-hazardous-wastes>.

⁶⁵ "Overview", Basel.Int, 2019, <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/Plasticwaste/Amendments/Overview/tabid/8426/Default.aspx>.

6.1.5. Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

In 1987, the **Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer** was passed⁶⁶. It is the multilateral environmental agreement that regulates the production and consumption of approximately 100 man-made chemicals called ozone-depleting substances (ODS). Developing and developed countries have equal but differentiated responsibilities given by the Protocol, but both groups of countries have binding, time-targeted and measurable commitments⁶⁷.

In 1991 the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol was established under Article 10 of the treaty⁶⁸. Its main objective is to provide financial and technical aid to developing countries, who are parties to the Montreal Protocol and whose annual per capita consumption and production of ODS fits the requirements that the Protocol set for the particular case.⁶⁹

Within the EU, the use of and trade in substances that deplete the ozone layer is regulated by Regulation (EC) No 1005/2009 (also known as the Ozone Regulation)⁷⁰ EU legislation on ozone-depleting substances is among most advanced and the most stern in the world. Not only has the EU only implemented the Montreal Protocol, but has often phased out dangerous substances faster than required, covered more substances and regulated not only substances in bulk, but those contained in products and equipment as well. In 2020, the EU continued to actively phase out ozone-depleting substances (ODS). Researches in 2020 indicate that consumption of ODS in the EU remained negative, which means that more substances were destroyed or exported than were produced or imported⁷¹.

⁶⁶ Montreal Protocol On Substances That Deplete The Ozone Layer, ebook, 1987, <http://file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/mun/mrc/legal%20framework/volume-1522-i-26369-english.pdf>.

⁶⁷ 2020, <https://www.eea.europa.eu/ims/consumption-of-ozone-depleting-substances>.

⁶⁸ Multilateralfund.Org, 2021, <http://www.multilateralfund.org/default.aspx>.

⁶⁹ Ibid

⁷⁰ "Protection Of The Ozone Layer", Climate Action, 2020, https://ec.europa.eu/clima/eu-action/protection-ozone-layer_en.

⁷¹ Ibid

6.2. European Environmental Law

6.2.1. Directive of the European Parliament and the Council on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law

Directive 2008/99 was adopted on 24 October 2008⁷². This Directive aims at supplementing the existing administrative sanction system with criminal law penalties, with the goal to strengthen compliance with environmental laws. Criminal penalties demonstrate disapproval of society that is incomparable to administrative penalties or a compensation mechanism as indicated in civil law⁷³.

It calls for EU Member States to propose effective and proportionate penalties constituting a deterrent for such offences⁷⁴. The Directive places the bare minimum standard of environmental protection through criminal law that is to be adopted by Member States. They are at liberty to maintain or introduce more severe protective measures if they see it fit⁷⁵.

In 2021 the Commission decided and adopted a revision of the Directive. There were six main areas that required addressing for the effectiveness of criminal investigations to be achieved. The first one is the clarification of the terms that are being used in the definitions of environmental crime as the existing ones leave too much room for interpretation. The second one is adding the new aspects of environmental crime that have since 2008 arisen. Next up is the definition of sanction types and levels for environmental crime, followed by the establishment of cross-border investigation and prosecution. And the last two objectives focus on the improvement first of informed decision-making on environmental crime through improved collection and dissemination of statistical data according to common standards in all Member States and second of the effectiveness of national enforcement chains. The proposal is accompanied by a Communication Council.

⁷² DIRECTIVE 2008/99/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL Of 19 November 2008 On The Protection Of The Environment Through Criminal Law, ebook, 2008, <http://file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/mun/mrc/legal%20framework/CELEX%2032008L0099%20EN%20TXT.pdf>.

⁷³ 2009, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/LSU/?uri=CELEX:32008L0099>

⁷⁴ "Environmental Crime", European Commission - European Commission, 2022, https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/criminal-justice/environmental-crime_en.

⁷⁵ Ibid

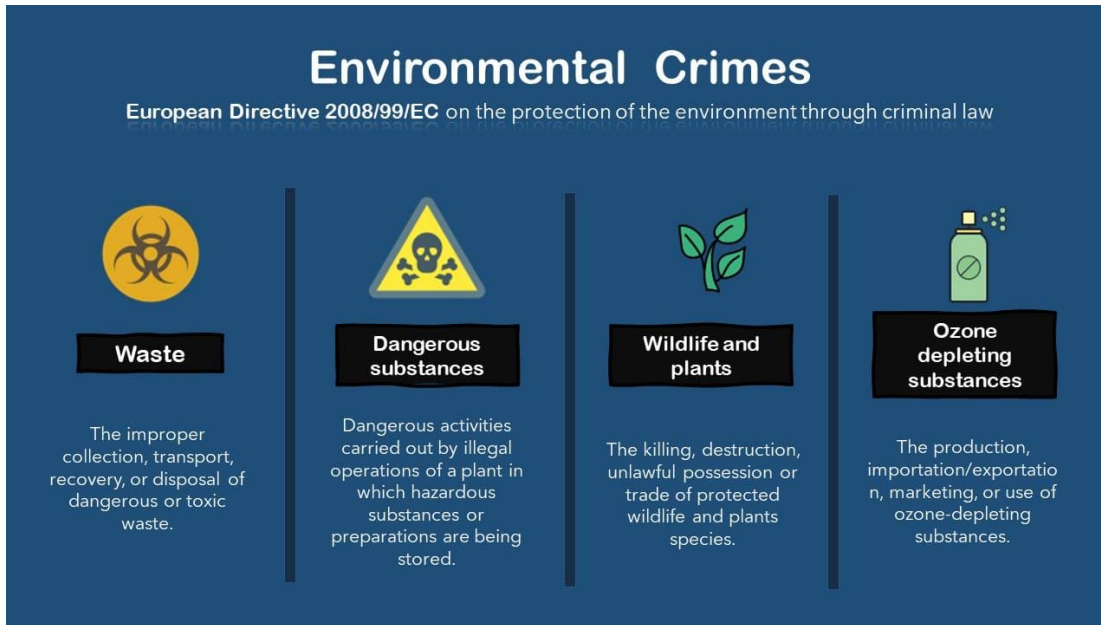


Figure 1 Stefano Siggia

7. Projects and Operations

For combating the impacts of environmental crime, several operations and projects have been carried out by various institutions and organizations.

7.1. European Union Action to Fight Environmental Crime

Starting off, in 2012 the interdisciplinary research project "European Union Action to Fight Environmental Crime" (EFFACE) entered into force and was funded under the 7th Research Framework Programme of the EU⁷⁶. EFFACE assisted in addressing existing gaps in knowledge focusing on the following elements. Firstly, a framework that would contain all the research questions and definitions required for the project as well as past research material. Secondly, an analysis of the past approaches within the EU concerning environmental crimes. Thirdly, a calculation of the costs and impacts of the different environmental crimes. Fourthly, a deep inquiry on case studies that shed

⁷⁶ "European Union Action To Fight Environmental Crime (EFFACE)", Ecologic Institute, 2016, <https://www.ecologic.eu/7646>.

light on the mechanisms with which these crimes function as well as potential countermeasures to them. And lastly an evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses associated with the efforts that EU has carried out in combating these crimes⁷⁷.

EFFACE proposed policy recommendations for the EU in the fight against environmental crimes. EFFACE initiated a dialogue with stakeholders and held a series of seminars and the publication of policy briefs. An advisory board consisting of academic experts provided input to EFFACE and made sure that its results can practically be applied and that their knowledge essentially contributed to the existing research.

7.2. Interpol

Project Wisdom. Project Wisdom aids member-states in the preservation of elephants and rhinoceros that are poached for their ivory and horn respectively and takes down the criminal networks that are hunting them⁷⁸. The result of this poaching is that two sub-species of rhinos have already been shot into extinction in recent years. All sub-operations under Project Wisdom have been crowned success with more than 1,100 arrests, the seizure of tons of raw ivory, as well as many pieces of carved ivory. For this success to continue to make an impact, improvement of the political will on this area, departmental support and trained officers are required. The Project calls upon countries to establish National Environmental Task Forces that will be connected regionally and internationally through Interpol. Cooperation seems to be the most effective solution as intelligence exchange and cross-border investigations will unlock the path to apprehension of criminals and organized groups⁷⁹.

Operation Thunder. Operation Thunder 2021 was a global joint operation of Interpol and the World Customs Organization (WCO) against wildlife and timber crime. Customs, police, financial intelligence units and wildlife and forestry enforcement agencies in 118 countries collaborated, made worldwide

⁷⁷ Ibid

⁷⁸ "INTERPOL - Project Wisdom | Initiatives | Action Guide", Actionguide.Info, accessed 19 August 2022, <https://actionguide.info/m/inits/140/>.

⁷⁹ Ibid

arrests on criminal groups that were linked to illegal trafficking or possessing CITS-listed wildlife and forestry products and seized 75,320 kg of timber, including 313 m³ of rosewood⁸⁰.

Operation 30 Days at Sea. In October 2018 law enforcement agencies in 58 countries took part in a month-long operation to combat marine pollution crime called Operation 30 Days at Sea. It targeted illegal discharges from vessels, ocean dumping, ship breaking, runoff from land and rivers, and violations of ship emissions regulations. It resulted in around 15,000 inspections, revealing a handful of marine pollution violations. Around 200 vessels and 76 companies were reported to INTERPOL and approximately 700 investigations were opened leading to fines and prosecutions⁸¹.

Due to its profound success, this operation was carried out once again under the name of Operation 30 Days at Sea 2.0 in 2020. This time it gathered more than 200 enforcement authorities worldwide for concerted action against marine pollution-related offences. Approximately 17,500 inspections were held, and many hours of surveillance were undertaken globally. These actions exposed a little over 3,500 marine pollution-related offences, resulting in the identification of individuals and companies connected to such offences and 18 arrests. The offences - such as illegal discharges at sea, in rivers, or in coastal areas - were found to have been committed primarily to save up on the cost of compliance with environmental legislation⁸².

7.3. World Customs Organization

DEMETER Operation. The World Customs Organization organized in 2009 an enforcement operation called Operation DEMETER. Customs administrations in 65 countries targeted illicit cross-border shipments of waste en route from Europe to Africa and the Asia/Pacific region in a time of seven weeks⁸³. This first operation was a success as it assisted in the collection of data and intelligence on illegal transboundary movements of waste across the globe. In 2012, 2013, and 2018,

⁸⁰ "Global Arrests And Seizures: INTERPOL-WCO Operation Strikes Wildlife And Timber Trafficking Networks", Interpol.Int, 2021, <https://www.interpol.int/News-and-Events/News/2021/Global-arrests-and-seizures-INTERPOL-WCO-operation-strikes-wildlife-and-timber-trafficking-networks>.

⁸¹ "Operation 30 Days At Sea 3.0 Reveals 1,600 Marine Pollution Offences Worldwide", Interpol.Int, 2020, <https://www.interpol.int/News-and-Events/News/2021/Operation-30-Days-at-Sea-3.0-reveals-1-600-marine-pollution-offences-worldwide>.

⁸² Ibid

⁸³ Ibid

three more of these operations were launched. DEMETER IV though was the one that saw the best results in terms of the volume of waste seized.

8. Conclusion

With the world facing unprecedented phenomena of natural disasters and environmental crime provoking a high level of concern around the globe, it stands as an imperative duty of the member-states to take immediate action towards the protection of the environment. Starting with prevention, we can save the world from experiencing horrible irreversible damage and make sure that we will bequeath this planet safe and viable to the next generations. There are numerous realistic solutions that could be applied through a system-wide strategy, including countries across the international community. This will address the wider threats of environmental crime to peace, revenues and security, while supporting the efforts made around protecting our ecosystems and their biodiversity and creating more sustainable living conditions⁸⁴. In any case, the member-states must realize that we still have time to restore the damage being made to our planet and ameliorate the conditions of living for us and the world around us.

9. Points to be addressed

1. What is or should be considered an environmental crime?
2. Who can commit an environmental offence and why?
3. What are the root causes behind environmental illicit activities and how can these be eliminated?
4. Who can be held liable for such offence?

⁸⁴ "Rate of Environmental Damage Increasing Across the Planet but There Is Still Time to Reverse Worst Impacts If Governments Act Now, UNEP Assessment Says." Valencia, Marie (2018), www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2016/05/rate-of-environmental-damage-increasing-across-planet-but-still-time-to-reverse-worst-impacts/.

5. Could/Should a state be held responsible for environmental crimes perpetrated by persons, groups of persons and private entities in cases of transboundary harm?
6. What are the threats originated from environmental crime? How can these threats be mitigated or even prevented?
7. How is safety linked to environmental crime?
8. How can the legal framework on a national/ international level be improved to better serve the protection of the environment?
9. What measures should member-states take to tackle the factors enhancing the existence of environmental crime?
10. How can states cooperate in combatting transnational organized crime?

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