

SUBJECT SHEET

Innovating and strengthening the fight against environmental crime

In 2018, Interpol and the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) estimated that environmental crime is valued at somewhere between USD 91 billion and USD 259 billion annually. This makes it the world's third largest crime sector after drug trafficking and smuggling.



Component:
Police cooperation



Area of intervention:
Fight against large-scale trafficking



Working line:
Fight against environmental crimes

THE JAGUAR NETWORK

The Network of police specialising in environmental crimes in Latin America and the European Union (Jaguar Network) was created in response to a request from the Amazon basin countries in 2019 with a mission to foster and strengthen South-South and Triangular cooperation, strategic information sharing, best practices and details of the modus operandi of criminal organisations, to better equip police forces to beat environmental crime.

The Network is made up of 15 institutions from twelve Latin American countries plus the European Union (Germany, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Spain, France, Italy, Mexico, Panama, Peru and Portugal), including EUROPOL. The Network also coordinates with INTERPOL's Regional Office in Buenos Aires on specific operational actions and to share operational information. There is also a commitment that new countries such as Bolivia will join the Network in the first half of 2020.



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15 INSTITUTIONS FROM **12**
 LATIN AMERICAN **COUNTRIES**
 PLUS THE EUROPEAN UNION

Up until the end of 2019, the operational nature of the Jaguar Network allowed it to give direct or indirect support and to

eleven investigations and operations between Latin American countries and the European Union.

Programme led by



Coordinating partners



PROGRAMME FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION



SUPPORT FROM EL PACcTO

The Europe Latin America Programme of Assistance against Transnational Organised Crime (EL PACcTO), has helped to strengthen international cooperation by creating the Jaguar Network in collaboration with SEPRONA in the Spanish Guardia Civil, SEPNA from the Portuguese National Republican Gendarmerie and the OCLAESP in the French National Gendarmerie.

The Network has been institutionalised through the joint development and approval of some Fundamental Operating Principles that establish its role, scope, the role of the institutions and information sharing boundaries. Technical Secretary has been

appointed to track strategic, operational, and institutional points of contact in each country.

The initiative streamlines proposals for joint work on regulatory and legislative reform, procedural reviews and the investigation and prosecution of environmental crimes in collaboration with the EL PACcTO Judicial Cooperation Component and the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutor's Offices (AIAMP) which have, so far, led to two initiatives. On the one hand, the development of a regional environmental crime investigation manual; and, on the other, the development of some minimum harmonised standards for classifying environmental crimes in Latin America.

SUCCESS STORIES

ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

EL PACcTO has been directly involved in investigation, operations and information sharing at both the South-South and Triangular levels. One example is the anti-wildlife trafficking operation launched by Costa Rica.

The Costa Rican Environmental Agrarian Prosecutor's Office and the Judicial Investigation Agency broke up an international wildlife trafficking operation to the European Union in late November 2019. Several European countries were involved in the investigation through the Jaguar Network.

The criminal group had already managed to send several shipments in groups of four to 700 species of dead butterflies, beetles, spiders and wasps, worth up to 1,000 euros each on the market. During the operation, five raids were carried out and four people were arrested. See more in:

[Operation against wildlife trafficking between Costa Rica and Europe](#)



COOPERATION WITH THE EU EnviCrime EMPACT



In 2010, the EU set up a four-year policy cycle called EMPACT, which establishes strategic, tactical and operational priorities for the fight against serious international and organised crime.

The EU is currently continuing with the 2018-2021 political cycle which has ten major priorities, one of which is environmental crime.

Since the creation of the Jaguar Network, EL PACcTO has supported the implementation of activities designed to achieve operational and strategic results in environmental crime with EUROPOL and several EU member states. The success of the Network is conditional on this operational support.

EL PACcTO on YOUTUBE



EL PACcTO boosts measures for investigating environmental and related crime