

GreenCustoms

Summary Report of the Eighth Green Customs Initiative Partners Meeting

The Hague, Netherlands
10th - 11th January 2012



BASEL CONVENTION



CBD



ROTTERDAM CONVENTION



STOCKHOLM CONVENTION



UNEP



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES DOUANES

Executive Summary

The eighth meeting of the Green Customs Initiative (GCI) Partners was held at the headquarters of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in the Hague, Netherlands on the 10th - 11th January 2012. Representatives of the Secretariat of Basel Convention (also representing the Secretariats of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions), CITES, INTERPOL, UNEP DTIE OzonAction, the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime and the World Customs Organization participated in the meeting. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) – Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety joined the discussions during the afternoon session of the 10th January via video conference.

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and a representative of the Netherlands Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment/ International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE) Seaport Environment Security participated in the first day of the meeting as observers.

The meeting was opened by Mr Mark Albon, Head, Implementation Support OPCW. Mr. Jim Curlin, Interim Head of Branch, OzonAction UNEP, made the introductory remarks (via teleconference).

The annual meeting provided an opportunity for GCI Partners and the Green Customs Secretariat to provide an update on activities from 2011 and to discuss progress and plans for the coming year.

This was a successful and positive meeting and the Partners demonstrated their continued commitment and support for the Initiative. It was recognised that resource availability was going to be a major challenge in the latter part of 2012; nevertheless an ambitious plan of activities for the coming year was proposed.

Various other relevant issues were discussed, including the pressing need for funds, both for convening workshops and to support a GCI coordinator position, potential side events and outreach opportunities, improving and updating the materials used in workshops, including an update of the Green Customs Guide to Multilateral Environmental Agreements, and identifying ways to effectively cooperate with other organisations. Participation of the observer organisations, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and a the Netherlands Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment/ International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE) Seaport Environment Security was greatly appreciated by the partners.

A number of action points and recommendations were agreed for the forthcoming year.

1. Meeting Participants

Juliette Voinov Kohler - Secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, also representing the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Pia Jonsson - Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

Emile Lindemulder - INTERPOL General Secretariat, Environmental Crime Programme

Mark Albon, Daniel Cardoso, Kenneth Penman, Martina Valdetara, - Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

Kathryn Garforth, (by video conference) - Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Ezra Clark, Jim Curlin (by video conference) *Ruperto de Jesus*, OzonAction, United Nations Environment Programme Division of Technology, Industry and Economics

Ketil Ottersen - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Daniel Moell, - World Customs Organization (WCO)

Observer Organisations:

Judith Soentgen, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Henk Reussink, The Netherlands Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment/ International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE) Seaport Environment Security Network

Apologies:

- Secretariat of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer
- UNEP Regional Office for Europe
- UNEP DELC

2. Introduction

The eighth meeting of the Green Customs Initiative (GCI) Partners was hosted by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) at their headquarters in The Hague, Netherlands on the 10th - 11th January 2012. The meeting was opened by Mr Mark Albon, Head, Implementation Support OPCW.

Mr. Jim Curlin, Interim Head of Branch, OzonAction UNEP, made the introductory remarks (via teleconference). He explained that this was something of a transition year for Green Customs with some significant changes in staff and GCI focal points, particularly since Steven Nash of the CITES Secretariat and Rajendra Shende of the OzonAction Branch of UNEP DTIE, both of whom were involved in the Initiative since its very start, have now both retired. He also mentioned that Mr Hui Fu, who was also a very active and keen supporter of the GCI, is no longer working at the WCO. He expressed our sincere gratitude and thanked them for their efforts over the years to support and develop Green Customs. Mr Curlin also explained how 2012 would also be a year of transition in terms of funding, since the funding received from the UN Development Account which has supported GCI activities for the last 18 months or so, will as of July this year come to a close, leaving the initiative in a somewhat financially unstable position. He described that the issue of environmental protection and environmental crime through customs and enforcement is receiving more attention and is slowly climbing the agenda and being recognised as more and more of a priority in countries, including in many developing countries. GCI and the partnership and cooperation associated with the initiative is well placed to be at the vanguard and providing the assistance to the enforcement community to facilitate trade and prevent illegal trade in environmentally sensitive items. He concluded by remarking that awareness of GCI itself is also growing and we should all work together to continue our good work.

Following the opening address and introductions, the expected results of the Partners' Meeting and organisation of work were described before the meeting agenda was adopted.

3. Activity report by Secretariat

A presentation was made by the GCI Secretariat reporting on activities and accomplishments since the last Partners meeting (in February 2011) relative to the 2011 workplan.

It was first reported that eight regional and national Green Customs Initiative workshops were held benefitting more than 40 countries. These workshops were:

Doha, State of Qatar, 20 – 22 February

Train-the-Trainer Green Customs sub- Regional Workshop

Participating countries: United Arab Emirates, The Kingdom of Bahrain, The Kingdom Of Saudi Arabia, The Sultanate of Oman, Qatar, Kuwait

Antigua & Barbuda, 2 – 3rd March

Workshop on the Nationalisation of the Green Customs Initiative

Participating countries: Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica

Budapest, Hungary, 29 March,

One Day GCI training in cooperation with The Southeast European Cooperation Initiative (SECI) task force meeting and professional training.

Participating countries: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey

Coral Coast, Fiji, 23 - 25 May

Pacific Islands Green Customs Workshop

Participating countries: Customs officers from 14 PICs: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu as well as environment officers and police officer from Fiji.

Dubai, UAE, 20-22 June

Green Customs National Workshop

Participating countries: UAE

Jakarta, Indonesia, 21-23 June

Indonesia National Green Customs Workshop

Participating countries: Indonesia

Ningbo City, China, 19-22 September

China Green Customs National Workshop

Participating countries: China

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1-3 October

GCI workshop

Participating countries: Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

The Secretariat then reported on some other relevant workshops participated in. These included:

‘Brainstorming’ symposium on tackling illegal trade in ozone depleting substances in developing countries for judges, prosecutors and other legal stakeholders, Paris, France, 9 -10 June 2011

Participating countries: USA, Brazil, India, France, Philippines, Zambia.

Also Participating: UNEP DTIE, UNEP DELC, International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE), INTERPOL, Basel Secretariat, Ozone Secretariat, CBD

Brasilia, Brazil - Symposium “Combating Illegal Trade in Chemicals Controlled by the Montreal Protocol and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements” Tuesday, 23-26 October 2011

Green Customs Secretariat participated by videoconference providing an introductory presentation to the Green Customs Initiative and showed the GCI video.

International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement

Ninth International Conference On Environmental Compliance And Enforcement

Enforcement Cooperation: Strengthening Environmental Governance

18 - 24 June, 2011, Whistler, British Columbia

Presentation on 23 June 2011 by video conference.

The Secretariat then reported on some other outreach activities and other meetings in 2011:

**30th Session of the WCO Enforcement Committee,
WCO Headquarters Brussels, Belgium, 22-25 March 2011**

The World Customs Organisation 30th session of the Enforcement Committee was held at the WCO HQ in Brussels, Belgium from the 21-25th March 2011. GCI Secretariat participated on the 23-24 March. The meeting included participation from Customs administrations from all WCO member countries and is the most important forum to discuss policy issues regarding Customs enforcement worldwide

We represented OzonAction/GCI to co-present with the WCO Secretariat, the customs cooperation operation on ozone depleting substances, including the ODS anti-smuggling operation (SHPII). This took place in a closed session only open to Customs administrations from all WCO member countries, International Enforcement agencies and International organisations. We also presented progress on the Green Customs Initiative– including iPIC and public-private partnership in combating illegal trade in ODS.

**Montreal Protocol MOP 23 Side Event
22nd November 2011, Bali, Indonesia**

This side event provided information and case studies of illegal HCFC trade from both the public and private sector perspective, present an assessment of the risks of smuggling under different scenarios as the HCFC phase-out progresses and consider the actions needed to combat smuggling of HCFCs. The event aimed to increase awareness of the issue of illegal trade in and help build capacity to assist developing countries to act against potential HCFC smuggling now and in the future.

4. Other updates

Outreach of GCI Guide into UN languages

A Chinese translation has been created (translated and laid out by Shanghai Customs college) Partners are requested to review, if possible.

Green Customs Introductory video

The Green Customs Introductory video is available in all UN languages on disk or in soft copy should any Partner wish to upload to their website etc

5. Activity reports by Partners

Each Partner made a brief presentation on their 2011 and planned 2012 activities related to the Green Customs Initiative including ongoing activities with customs and enforcement personnel and regional activities on enforcement.

- Basel Stockholm and Rotterdam
- CBD
- CITES
- INTERPOL
- OPCW
- UNODC
- UNEP DTIE, OzonAction
- WCO

OPCW also made an additional presentation providing the Partners and observers with an interesting overview of the history and details of chemical weapons use through the ages and a detailed explanation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and activities of the OPCW. The presentation was very well received by the meeting.

A number of action points and recommendations were agreed for the forthcoming year.

6. Next GCI Partners meeting

The Partners agreed that Europe was the favoured location for the next Partners meeting (due to cost implications - although the offer from the Ozone Secretariat to host the 9th meeting was gratefully acknowledged)

7. Acknowledgments

The Green Customs Initiative is currently supported by funding from the United Nations Development Account.

The GCI Partners are very grateful to OPCW for hosting this meeting and for providing excellent facilities and support.

We would like to thank Martina Valdetara for taking minutes of the meeting.

A special thank you to Nina for again preparing the meeting folders.

Appendix II – Agenda

Eighth Green Customs Partners' Meeting

10th - 11th January 2012

The Hague, Netherlands

GreenCustoms

Tuesday 10th January

Opening 9:30 – 10:00	<p>OPENING ADDRESS <i>Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons – (tbc)</i></p> <p>INTRODUCTION <i>Jim Curlin, OzonAction, UNEP DTIE (by teleconference)</i></p> <p>EXPECTED OUTCOME OF MEETING AND ORGANISATION OF WORK <i>GCI Secretariat</i></p>
Session 1 10:00 -10:40	<p>2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS</p> <p>a) SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES <i>GCI Secretariat</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of secretariat activities and GCI workshops in 2011 • Questions/ discussion
10:40 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
Session 1 (cont.) 11:00– 13:00	<p>b) PARTNER ACTIVITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief presentation by Partners (max 10 minutes each) on 2011 GCI-related activities (<i>Please see note (a) below for more information</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basel Stockholm - OPCW and Rotterdam - CBD (by video) - CITES -INTERPOL - UNEP DTIE (OzonAction) - UNODC - WCO

13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
Session 2 14:00– 14.30	<p>SPECIAL SESSION - Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current activities and partnerships • Vision for the future
Session 3 14.30 – 15:30	<p>OBSERVER ORGANISATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>World Intellectual Property Organization</i> • <i>The Netherlands Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment/ INECE Seaport Environmental Security Network</i> <p><i>Representatives will be requested to make a short (15-20 min) presentation which will introduce their organisation and explain their main activities with a focus on issues of common interest to the Partners to the Green Customs Initiative, for example relating to environmental crime and facilitation of legal trade in environmentally sensitive commodities.</i></p> <p>Discussion of potential cooperation with GCI</p>
Session 4 15:30 – 16:00	<p>UN DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT (UNDA) ACTIVITIES 2011 GCI Secretariat</p> <p>E-LEARNING MODULES: PROGRESS ACTIVITY PLANNING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on progress so far • Funding and timeframe • Activities and roles of the different Partners <p>SURVEY OF GCI OUTREACH AND IMPACT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TOR for survey • Identification of suitable consultant • Using survey to target future GCI activities <p>PREPARATION OF GCI CASE STUDIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Means to highlight problems and challenges encountered by customs • Suggestions of existing studies to include • Discussion of case studies to compile • Developing case studies for subsequent Green Customs training <p>WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update and workshops for 2012 <p>QUESTIONS/ DISCUSSION</p>
16:00 - 16:20	<i>Coffee break</i>
Session 5 16:20 – 17:20	<p>2012 PLANNING - open discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief update on Partners meetings and events in 2012 • Partners and Observer/Associate Organisations to provide details of events for 2012 that may be of interest/relevance for the GCI • Exploring cooperation with other organisations

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for additional days/sessions on GCI at existing events • Opportunities through OzonAction customs trainings • Better use of mutual links on GCI website with cooperating organisation • Updating the “Green Customs Guide to Environmental Agreements” • Staffing for GCI Secretariat
17:20 – 17:30	Summary and conclusions of Day 1
Wednesday 11th January	
Session 6 9:30 – 10:30	<p>RESOURCE MOBILISATION</p> <p>FUNDING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of remaining UNDA project funding • Secretariat’s resource mobilisation initiatives and progress • Partner’s resource mobilisation initiatives and progress <p><i>Partners report on consultations regarding possible direct and indirect contribution and identification of funding opportunities and estimates of contributions to GCI (staff time, materials etc).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future plans for resource mobilisation • Discussion <p>STAFFING FOR GCI SECRETARIAT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient staffing • Secretariat’s initiatives and progress • Partner’s initiatives and progress • Future plans
Session 7 10:30 – 11:15	<p>MATERIALS AND OUTREACH</p> <p>GCI TOOLS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of GCI suitcase materials • Outreaching the WCO e-learning modules • Use of GCI video • Creation of practical exercises for GCI workshops • Creation of GCI case studies • Multiple choice questions for ‘quiz’ • Developing a joint inventory of chemical names for customs officers <p>GCI OUTREACH AND SUSTAINABILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website and Partners Intranet • Increased regionalization in the delivery of GCI – potential of benefiting from

	<p>customs training under HCFC phase-out?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring integration of GCI in national training curricula • Getting countries to better use enforcement networks and information exchange platforms
11:15- 11:40	<i>Coffee break</i>
Session 8 11:40 -12:40	<p>REVISED 2012 WORKPLAN GCI Secretariat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of decisions made in previous sessions • Production of revised 2012 workplan based on the UNDA funds and revised priorities • Outreach and joint activities • Ideas on achievement Indicators for GCI • Activities ‘post UNDA funding’ • Green Customs Award/ Scheme for customs authorities to be recognised or ‘certified’ by GCI
Session 9 12:40 -13:15	<p>GENERAL DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring the most effective involvement of Partners in the initiative • The role of ‘MEA focal points’ • Ensuring updated and relevant materials • Venue for next partners meeting • Any other business
13:15-13:30	Summary and closure of the meeting

- (a) Each Partner is requested to make a 10 minute (maximum) presentation on their 2011 and planned 2012 activities related to the Green Customs Initiative including ongoing activities with customs and enforcement personnel and regional activities on enforcement. Partners are also requested to provide a brief written summary of their presentations for inclusion in the meeting report. A template is provided for guidance (document B5)

For those Partners unable to attend, the Secretariat will present any material provided on their behalf, if requested.