

GreenCustoms

Report of the twelfth Green Customs Initiative Partners' Meeting

*Brussels, Belgium
3- 4 October 2017*



BASEL CONVENTION



CBD



INTERPOL



OZONE SECRETARIAT



ROTTERDAM CONVENTION



OzonAction



STOCKHOLM CONVENTION



UN environment



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES DOUANES

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Executive Summary

The Twelfth Meeting of the Partners to the Green Customs Initiative (GCI) was held on 3 -4 October 2017 and hosted by the World Customs Organization in Brussels, Belgium.

The meeting was attended by the representatives of the Secretariat of Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (BRS), INTERPOL, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), UNEP's Law Division, UNEP's Economy Division, OzonAction, the World Customs Organization and the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), participated in the meeting partly through the tele-conference link.

The Green Customs Initiative secretariat and Partners gave an update of their activities in 2017 and discussed the plan for GCI for the coming year. Partners also reviewed the GCI website, discussed the updated GCI-guide, a fundraising proposal and the GCI-strategy.

The World Customs Organization, in its presentation, focused on their Environmental Programme and the trends and challenges with regard to environmental issues at WCO.

Partners agreed the set of action points as the work plan for 2018.

Action Points/Work plan for 2018

The following summarizes key outcome and recommendations/action points agreed by Partners at the 12th Green Customs Initiative Partners' (GCI) meeting:

KEY OUTCOMES:

- *The agreement on the way forward to finalize the GCI Guide;*
- *The agreement on the finalization of the new GCI website;*
- *The agreement on a way forward to the development of the fundraising proposal and efforts to resource mobilization; and*
- *The agreement on joint efforts to promote GCI and the use of its e-learning tools.*

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTION POINTS

- *GCI secretariat to work with Partners to refine the GCI website;*
- *GCI secretariat to revise the fund proposal concept, further develop a full proposal and explore funding options in cooperation with Partners;*
- *GCI secretariat and Partners to complete the updated GCI Guide;*
- *GCI secretariat to plan with Partners for side events on the GCI whenever possible, including the Shanghai event to be organized by WCO in April 2018;*
- *GCI secretariat to send new flyers to Partners for them to circulate them at their own events whenever appropriate; and*
- *GCI secretariat to work with Partners to promote GCI whenever possible;*
- *GCI secretariat to be in touch with WCO (Thibault Hermes) to get more data on the usage of GCI e-learning modules and a possible webinar in January 2018 to promote GCI e-learning modules; and*
- *GCI secretariat to prepare the organization of the next Partners' meeting schedule for October 2018 at OPCW, the Hague, Netherlands.*

(For more details of the agreed action points, please see the Annex attached)

1. Meeting Participants

BRS Secretariat:	Juliette Kohler
Interpol:	Holger Farnung
OPCW:	Pavlo Byalyk and Shimelis Biru
Ozone Secretariat	Gilber Bankobeza
UNEP OzonAction:	Ezra Clark
UNEP Law Division:	Elizabeth Mrema, Wanhua Yang & Yannis Derbali
UNODC:	Ricarda Amberg

WCO: Roux Raath, Tiffany Lormeau and Tibault Hermes

Peter Deupmann of CBD participated in the meeting partially through tele-conference.

A full participants list with contact details is attached as Appendix II.

2. Introduction

The 12th Green Customs Initiative Meeting was opened by Mrs. Elizabeth Mrema, Director of the Law Division of UN Environment Programme and chair of the meeting.

Mrs. Elizabeth Mrema welcomed GCI Partners to Brussels and to the meeting and thanked the World Customs Organization for hosting the meeting. Environmental Crime reached to an alarming stage, but was getting more attention. She referred to the joint report of UN Environment Programme and Interpol on [Environment, Peace & Security: A convergence of threats](#) and the recent resolution of the General Assembly in September 2017 on the UN on Wildlife Trafficking. For Mrs. Mrema it was also the time to assess the results of the extremely valuable partnership on Green Customs and evaluate where improvements should be made.

After Mrs. Mrema, Mr. Roux Raath, Technical Officer on Compliance of the WCO took the floor to welcome the participants at the World Customs Organization.

Following the opening, participants introduced themselves and their responsibilities. The draft agenda for the meeting was adopted.

3. Updates of the Green Customs Initiative

The GCI secretariat informed the partners of the following updates:

- GCI guide has been updated pending for final comments from the partners
- The website of the GCI with a new design has gone live but still needs some adjustments
- Side events
- A draft fundraising concept note
- GCI training workshops
 - A regional GCI workshop in Central America, May 2017, in collaboration with the Customs Training Centre of the Dominican Republic
 - A national GCI workshop focusing on wildlife and chemicals/waste, in South Korea, June 2017 in cooperation with Korea Customs Service at the training centre for Korea Customs
 - Two more regional GCI workshops to be organized in Africa in October and November of 2017
- New GCI communication material has been presented: trifold, banner, leaflets

Comments:

OPCW suggested that it would be good for Partners to send national authorities to the future workshops to introduce Partners' work and at the same time to increase ownership.

4. Partners' activities in 2017 and plans for 2018

Each Partner attending the meeting made a brief presentation on its activities in 2016-2017 and its plans for 2018, including:

- WCO
- CBD
- OPCW
- OzonAction
- Ozone Secretariat
- BRS Conventions
- INTERPOL
- UNODC
- UN Environment Programme Law Division

The presentations and a list of Partners' activities (as received) are included in Appendix x and xx.

5. Review of new GCI website and updating of GCI-guide

GCI Guide

The GCI Secretariat gave a brief overview and background of the current status of the GCI-guide. A new structure for Section 3 was adopted after the last GCI Partners' Meeting, and the partners have provided their inputs accordingly. The partners were asked to send their final comments by the 18th of October 2017. Discussion arose about the target group and the focus of the Guide. Whether it should be a practical guide geared towards customs officers or rather presenting the GCI and giving a more general overview of the different Conventions with regard to Custom issues. Yet it was agreed that the Guide's focus should be generic, give an overview of the partners and raise awareness on green customs.

Another point of discussion was whether or not the GCI should include information on the Minimata Convention in the guide. However, the Minimata Secretariat should first become a member of the GCI. It was decided that the publication of the new GCI-guide should not be delayed by the potential inclusion of the Minimata Secretariat.

GCI Website

The Secretariat presented the new website (www.greencustoms.org) and asked for feedback to the partners.

The website was well received, but some minor changes should still be made as well as the streamlining of the wording in line with the GCI-guide.

It was agreed that the partners should use the secure part (intranet) of the website to share extensive reports, presentations and other relevant working documents.

The GCI-secretariat will also use the website during the upcoming workshops and ask for feedback to the customs officers participating at the workshop.

The GCI Secretariat will adjust the website (logo, pages) and send out a word document with the text of the website contents for review and final revision by the partners.

It was also agreed that only documents (reports, publication, etc.) and information from the GCI Partners should be made available on the website.

E-learning

The use of the E-learning modules of different partners was discussed.

Partners agreed that it is potentially a very useful and cost-effective tool and that lots of efforts were made to set the courses up. The E-learning courses can play an important role for the achievement of the GCI objectives. However the partners should keep their modules updated and they should promote the e-learning modules more (e.g. with the participants of the GCI workshops). Some e-learning modules should be made compulsory prior to participation of the workshops.

Thibault Hermes, working on capacity-building at the CLiCK! Programme of WCO joined the discussion on e-learning modules. Mr. Hermes gave an overview of the existing modules. 15 000 custom officers can access the modules, and there are about 5000 active users. However WCO is not satisfied with the numbers of custom officers who actually complete the courses which is only a couple of hundreds. This is a general issue with E-learning courses and is also dependent on the administrative culture of the organizations involved. However a rise of this number occurs whenever the courses are pushed by the respective organization (e.g. OzonAction).

Mr. Hermes emphasized that there is a need to promote e-learning modules, and it is especially important to use the e-learning courses in combination with the face to face trainings. He mentioned there would be a possibility to organize a webinar early next year (2018) to promote the GCI e-learning modules, and asked if GCI partners would send their representatives to attend this potential webinar. This opportunity was welcomed by the

Partners. Answering a question from BRS, Mr. Hermes also said that the BRS e-learning module was yet to be finalized, and both BRS and WCO committed to deal with this matter.

6. Reflections on GCI's mandate, impact and future work

7. World Customs Organization Special Session Trends and Challenges

WCO presented on the Environmental Programme of the WCO linked to GCI. The biggest challenge is the lack of funding. The main focus lies on partnerships (GCI, UN Environment, ICCWC, CITES, Interpol, Lusaka Agreement Task Force), capacity-building and training and enhanced data exchanges.

One of the activities of the EP of WCO is the expansion of their expert database for which WCO also relies on the GCI-partners to refer experts to. Moreover the WCO is planning on publishing a straightforward practical manual for Customs Frontline Officers, for which WCO will work with GCI partners to avoid duplication.

8. Work plan for 2018

The following summarized the Action points agreed at the GCI Partners Meeting :

Updates on Website

- GCI-secretariat harmonizes the content of the websites and sends a word version of the content to the partners for final review
- Fine-tune logo's and names (Rotterdam Convention, OzonAction and Secretariat)
- Create pages per partner with two links: 1. General 2. Customs (publication) page
- Intranet: will be used to share reports
- Secretariat will draft short version of the report (10-12) and send it out to partners for approval

GCI-guide

- We should speed up the finalization of the guide. Partners send in comments by October 18th 2017 to GCI-Secretariat
- Secretariat sends reminder in a week
- Partners to promote GCI-guide, once it is finalized

Funding Proposal

- Secretariat reworks the funding proposals with the comments in mind (package differently, make sure there is something sellable)
- Everyone keeps gender-mainstreaming in mind (UNODC formulates)
- The secretariat will continue to explore more funding opportunities, in cooperation with partners

- We will be looking at a two to three years framework but will tailor it to the donor we are approaching
- Explore different donors (e.g. DG Taxud instead of DG Environment due to less competition)
- Consider the possibility of organizing a donor's meeting

GCI Training Workshop

- Promote the e-learning courses with the participants. Prior to the training as well as during the training
- Secretariat will be in touch with WCO (Thibault Hermes) to get more and regular information on the use of the e-learning courses
- Consider modalities towards integrating the GCI trainings, programmes & activities into the national training institutes

GCI-award

Consider establishing a GCI-award in the (near) future.

E-learning

- Partners make sure to correct and update their e-learning tools
- Partners to work with WCO to link the modules to their own websites
- Secretariat updates the general GCI-introduction module in line with the updated GCI guide
- Partners to promote the e-learning courses more
- Partners support the possible tutorial of the GCI modules of WCO
- Secretariat stays in touch with WCO (Thibault Hermes) for statistics on registration, activity and completion of the test

GCI promotion

- WCO-event in Shanghai. All partners are invited to participate at a GCI module
- UNODC considers to organize a side event at two commissions
- WCO considers involvement of GCI in WCO-Enforcement Committee
- Partners consider other possibilities for side events on the GCI

Others:

- Partners go through ICCWC-publication to review for possible use for GCI
- **Minimata Convention Secretariat** is interested to become a partner. Once it formally expresses its interest, the partners would consider the request by email exchange. Finalization of the GCI-guide would not be delayed until then.
- **Venue for next Partners' meeting:** OPCW (The Hague, Netherlands) proposed to host the next partner meeting in October 2018 at their headquarters. OPCW will confirm it later.

Appendix 1. Agenda

The Twelfth Green Customs Partners' Meeting

3 and 4 October 2017, Brussels, Belgium

Meeting Room 3.27, 3rd Floor, WCO Building

Tuesday 3 rd of October 2017	
Opening 9:30 – 9:50	<p>WELCOME</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>- by the World Customs organisation</i></p> <p>INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>- All participants</i></p> <p>ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND ORGANISATION OF MEETING</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>- UN Environment (Law Division)</i></p>
Session 1 9:50 – 10:30	<p>UPDATES OF GREEN CUSTOMS INITIATIVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCI Secretariat activities in 2016-2017 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GCI Website ○ Updating of GCI Guide ○ GCI training workshops ○ Report on the implementation of the other GCI-11 Action Points/Work plan for 2016 ○ Others (including new GCI-materials) <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>- by GCI Secretariat</i></p>
10:30 – 10:50	Coffee break and group photo
Session 2 10:50 – 12:40	<p>PARTNERS' ACTIVITIES IN 2016-2017 AND PLANS FOR 2017-2018</p> <p>Brief summary of key activities related to GCI by each Partner (max 15 minutes each)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>- by all GCI Partners</i></p>

12:40 – 14:00	Lunch break
Session 3 14:00 – 15:00	PARTNERS' ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED...) AND DISCUSSION ON POSSIBLE JOINT ACTIVITIES - <i>by all GCI Partners</i>
Session 4 15:00 – 16:00	REVIEW OF NEW GCI WEBSITE AND UPDATING GCI GUIDE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webpage structure • Webpage text • Updated GCI Guide structure • Updated texts - <i>by all GCI Partners</i>
16:00 – 16:20	Coffee break
Session 4 16:20 – 17:30	SPECIAL SESSION – TO BE LED BY WCO (<i>to be confirmed</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends and challenges faced by customs officials in combatting environmental crime - <i>by WCO and discussion with other Partners</i>
Wednesday, 4th of October 2017	
Session 5 09:00 – 10:30	REFLECTIONS ON THE MANDATE AND THE IMPACT OF GCI AND FUTURE WORK UNDER THE INITIATIVE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection on GCI mandate and the achievements/impacts so far • Discussion on future work and its strategic direction • Fund-raising - developing a funding proposal • Potential financial sources <i>by All GCI Partners</i>
10:30 – 11.00	Coffee Break

Session 6 11:00 - 12:30	DISCUSSION ON WORK PLAN FOR 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partner's collaboration on capacity building, development enforcement tools and, etc. - Possible side events/ joint meetings and other activities that GCI Partners can be involved or participate in - Work plan - Next meeting (time, venue and the host organization) <p><i>by all Partners</i></p>
12:30- 13:30	CONCLUSION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting conclusions and summary of agreed actions • Venue and date for next Partners meeting • Any other business

Appendix 2. 12th GCI Partners' Meeting – Confirmed Participants List (Partners)

Organisation	Participant	Email
Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions	Juliette Kohler	juliette.kohler@brsmeas.org
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	Peter Deupmann: Attending parts remotely	peter.deupmann@cbd.int
INTERPOL	Holger Farnung	H.FARNUNG@interpol.int
Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons	Pavlo Byalyk	Pavlo.Byalyk@opcw.org
	Shimelis Biru	shimelis.biru@opcw.org
Ozone Secretariat	Gilbert Bankobeza	Gilbert.bankobeza@unep.org
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)	Ricarda Amberg	ricarda.amberg@unodc.org
United Nations Environment Programme DTIE OzonAction	Ezra Clark	ezra.clark@unep.org
United Nations Environment Programme Law Division	Elizabeth Mrema	Elizabeth.Mrema@unep.org
	Wanhua Yang	wanhua.yang@unep.org

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