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INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE ORGANIZATION PARTNERSHIP (INTERPOL)

Strengthening environmental crime investigation and prosecution.

OVERVIEW

The International Criminal Police Organization Partnership (INTERPOL) with USAID helps Colombian law enforcement agencies address transnational wildlife and forestry crimes. INTERPOL helps these law enforcement agencies understand and dismantle environmental crime systems, in addition to seizing illegal wildlife and forestry goods. Preventing and prosecuting environmental crimes enhances Colombia's wildlife and forest conservation efforts. INTERPOL's Colombian work runs from April 2018- September 2020.

COMPONENTS

STRENGTHENING LOCAL CAPACITIES

INTERPOL builds Colombian environmental compliance experts, enforcement agencies and decision makers' capacities to understand and address environmental crimes. INTERPOL strengthens police, customs, financial units, transportation, judiciary and environmental agencies' understanding of environmental crimes and their roles in preventing and addressing criminal cases.

CONDUCTING CASE-SPECIFIC INVESTIGATIONS

INTERPOL provides case-specific technical and investigative support to Colombian law enforcement authorities through Investigative Support Teams (IST). Each IST is comprised of officers and analysts with specialized forensic, analytical, technical and crime area expertise. IST teams can be briefed, equipped and deployed within days and the composition of each team is tailored to crime nature, investigative needs and country requirements.

FACILITATING REGIONAL COLLABORATION

INTERPOL organizes Regional Investigative and Analytical Case Meetings (RIACMs) that allow geographically similar countries to share information and develop regional crime investigative strategies. During RIACMs, participating countries establish investigative follow-up agreements needed for administrative punishments, criminal prosecutions and financial investigations. Interpol is facilitating cooperation between Colombian, Brazilian and Peruvian authorities on cases to tackle illegal timber trafficking in the shared border between these countries.

RESULTS

- Organized a regional forestry conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina;
- Trained Colombian actors on special investigation techniques;
- Hosted a National Environmental Security Seminar in Mexico with active participation of Colombian officials;
- Invited representatives from Colombian institutions to INTERPOL's headquarters;
- Worked with Colombian officials to assess transcontinental wildlife trafficking links; and
- Connected Colombian officials with counterparts in Brazil and Peru to exchange intelligence about transnational environmental crimes.