

# Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards - 2020

Theme: Fighting Transboundary Environmental Crime

## Information Note

*Deadline for applications is 31 May 2020*



In partnership with:



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### **About the Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards**

The Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards (hereafter the 'Awards') publicly recognize and celebrate excellence in enforcement by government officials and institutions or teams combating transboundary environmental crime. The Awards are given to individuals and/or government organizations/teams that demonstrate excellence and outstanding leadership in enforcement of national laws to combat transboundary environmental crime. The thematic scope of the Awards covers any transboundary environmental crimes, such as illegal trade in wildlife, illegal trade in chemicals or waste, including plastic.

This is the fifth time the Awards will be given, and this year's Awards will be given to recipients who demonstrate excellence and leadership in one or more of the following categories: collaboration; impact; innovation; integrity; and gender leadership. There will be also a separate category for Africa-Asia cooperation in the area of illegal trade in wildlife. The 2020 Awards will be given by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the World Customs Organization (WCO).

The category for Africa-Asia cooperation in the area of illegal trade in wildlife is sponsored by UNDP and the Global Environment Facility (GEF)-financed, World Bank-led Global Wildlife Program.

### **2020 Awards theme: fighting transboundary environmental crime**

Transboundary environmental crime presents a serious threat in the region. Illegal trade in wildlife undermines conservation efforts, harms economies, devastates livelihoods, and compromises ecosystems on which humans depend. It also takes place on the routes between Africa and Asia at significant scale. The Asia region is as well one of the main destinations for illegally traded chemicals and waste. Millions of tonnes of hazardous waste and harmful chemicals are transported to and within Asia, having disastrous effects for human health and the environment. Governmental authorities working on environmental enforcement issues are on the front-line of efforts to combat transboundary environmental crime. The 2020 Awards will recognize and celebrate their critical role in doing so.

### **Eligibility for nomination**

***Are you a government official or team fighting against environmental crime? Do you work closely with government officials/teams from another country? Let us know about your work and let us learn from your success!***

Any government official and/or government institution or team working on fighting transboundary environmental crime in Asia or on fostering Africa-Asia cooperation in the area of illegal trade in wildlife for that category, is eligible to be nominated. Relevant agencies and individuals may include, for example: customs, police, wildlife and forestry authorities, environmental agencies, multi-agency taskforces, specialized agencies, judges and/or public prosecutors. Teams within government institutions (e.g. units, branches, divisions etc.) are also eligible. Recipients may be awarded in their individual capacity or as representatives of institutions/teams. Self-nomination is permitted.

Individuals or entities that are not formally affiliated with a Government institution – e.g. non-governmental organizations, volunteering associations, private sector companies, international organizations, etc. - are **NOT** eligible.

The Awards, for the categories of collaboration, impact, innovation, integrity and gender leadership, are limited to nominees from Asian countries geographically served by the UNEP Regional Office. These are: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.

For the category of Africa-Asia cooperation in the fight against illegal wildlife trade, the applicant needs to nominate an individual and/or department in each Country (both in Africa and in Asia) where successful cooperation occurred. Applications that identify nominee in one country only will not be taken into consideration.

### Criteria for selection

The criteria outlined below will be used in selecting Award recipients. It is not necessary to meet all criteria. Excellence and leadership in one or more criteria will be considered by the Selection Panel. Awards may be given for specific criteria categories (e.g. Innovation Award) depending on nominations received and, in the judgement, and decision of the Selection Panel.

Categories	Explanation	Indicative examples
<b>1. Collaboration</b>	Investigations and/or enforcement activities that have succeeded through cooperation with counterparts from other countries either in the preparation, execution or follow-up phase. Applicants need to identify nominees in two countries at least	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Handover of relevant information leading to a successful operation in another country.</li> <li>- A successful controlled delivery across countries.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Impact</b>	Law enforcement operations that have resulted in successful disruption of criminal networks beyond the mere confiscation of contraband.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arrest of high-level traffickers through financial investigations.</li> <li>- Operations that results in prosecution/conviction of high-level trafficker.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Innovation</b>	Law enforcement interventions that demonstrate technological, intelligence-led, science-based approaches resulting in successful arrests, prosecutions and convictions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identification of traffickers through forensics analysis (e.g. phones, DNA, etc.).</li> <li>- Seizures through effective profiling based on risk indicators.</li> </ul>
<b>4. Integrity</b>	Law enforcement actions that have identified and acted upon cases of collusion of public officials or that have resisted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An investigation resulting in the arrest of public officials facilitating the smuggling of contraband.</li> </ul>

	pressure from other bodies of the governments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The arrest of senior public officials or other influential figures.</li> <li>- A situation where public officials have resisted bribes or other corrupt attempts and investigations for bribery have been launched.</li> </ul>
<b>5. Gender leadership</b>	Leadership in advancing gender equality through concrete actions in combating transboundary environmental crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An enforcement agency establishes a network of female enforcement officers to advance gender equality.</li> <li>- Positive actions are taken to ensure women are promoted to leadership positions.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Africa-Asia cooperation in the fight against illegal trade in wildlife</b>	<p>Joint investigations and/or enforcement activities facilitated by collaborative action between counterparts from Asia and Africa resulting in successfully addressing transnational wildlife crime.</p> <p>Applicants need to identify nominees in two countries at least (one in Africa and one in Asia)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A successful exchange of information or intelligence that leads to the arrest of key individuals involved in a smuggling operation across continents</li> <li>- A coordinated enforcement operation in Asia and in Africa leading to the disruption of a transnational syndicate</li> <li>- A controlled delivery between the 2 continents</li> <li>- A successful exchange of evidence through mutual legal assistance</li> </ul>

### Time period for activities

The eligible period concerning activities justifying the nomination must have taken place within the period **June 2019 – May 2020**.

### Selection process

Nominations will be reviewed and recipients will be selected by a Selection Panel comprised of representatives from each of the participating organizations outlined above. A first-stage screening process will be conducted in-house by UNEP to review against eligibility criteria. UNEP will then forward all eligible nominations to the Selection Panel to review nominations and recommend the winners based on the eligibility criteria. There is no minimum or maximum number of Awards that will be given. Only worthy recipients will be given awards, as determined by the Selection Panel and based on the criteria for selection.

**Confidentiality:** The Awards are intended to highlight good practice, and showcasing winning entries requires outward-facing communication. Applicants are asked to clearly indicate if there is any sensitive or confidential information in their applications to ensure appropriate disclosure.

### How to nominate

Nominations must be made online, using the nomination form which is available at [this link](#). The deadline is on **31 May 2020 at midnight (Bangkok time or GMT+7)**.

### Award Ceremony

Recipients of the Award will be informed in July 2020. They will be invited to an award ceremony to be held in Asia in late 2020. Travel and participation costs will be covered. Relevant updates regarding the Awards will be posted on UNEP's Asia and the Pacific office website: <https://www.unenvironment.org/regions/asia-and-pacific>.

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## Sponsorship

The Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards have received sponsorship from



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