

Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards - 2023

**Fighting Transboundary Crimes that affect the
Environment**

Information Note

Deadline for nominations is 31 July 2023

Coordinated by:



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

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 crimes that affect the environment. 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 crime. The thematic scope of the Awards covers any transboundary crime that affect the environment, including the illegal harvest, trade and transport of endangered wildlife, timber, fish, minerals as well as the illegal trade and disposal of waste and the illegal trade in ozone-depleting substances.

This is the eighth 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 also be a separate category for Africa-Asia cooperation in the area of illegal trade in wildlife. The 2023 Award is the result of partnership among the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the Secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Basel Convention), the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the World Customs Organization (WCO).

2023 Awards theme: fighting transboundary crimes that affect the environment

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. Particularly, there are concerns over the significant increase of trade in plastic waste in recent years. Millions of tonnes of hazardous waste, plastic 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 2023 Awards will recognize and celebrate their critical role in doing so.

Eligibility criteria

The main criteria for eligibility for the awards are:

- Affiliation: Government-entity (unit, department, team, etc.) or civil servant employed by the Government (ranger, Customs officer, police investigators, etc) involved in the enforcement chain.
- Geographic scope: 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

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 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
1. Collaboration	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"> - Handover of relevant information leading to a successful operation in another country. - A successful controlled delivery across countries.
2. Impact	Law enforcement operations that have resulted in successful disruption of criminal networks beyond the mere confiscation of contraband.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arrest of high-level traffickers through financial investigations. - Operations that results in prosecution/conviction of high-level trafficker.
3. Innovation	Law enforcement interventions that demonstrate technological, intelligence-led, science-based approaches resulting in successful arrests, prosecutions and convictions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification of traffickers through forensics analysis (e.g. phones, DNA, etc.). - Seizures through effective profiling based on risk indicators.
4. Integrity	Law enforcement actions that have identified and acted upon cases of collusion of public officials or that have resisted pressure from other bodies of the public or private sector, third parties and other relevant actors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An investigation resulting in the arrest of public officials facilitating the smuggling of contraband. - The arrest of senior public officials or other influential figures. - A situation where public officials have resisted bribes or other corrupt attempts and investigations for bribery have been launched.
5. Gender leadership and Women's Empowerment	<p>Leadership in advancing gender equality through concrete actions in combating transboundary environmental crime.</p> <p>Women's leadership in directing collaborative and successful operations against transboundary environmental crime</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An enforcement agency establishes a network of female enforcement officers to advance gender equality. - Positive actions are taken to ensure women are promoted to leadership positions. - A complex operation coordinated and led by one or more women
6. Africa-Asia cooperation in the fight against illegal trade in wildlife*	Joint investigations and/or enforcement activities facilitated by collaborative action between counterparts from Asia and Africa resulting in successfully addressing transnational wildlife crime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A successful exchange of information or intelligence that leads to the arrest of key individuals involved in a smuggling operation across continents - A coordinated enforcement operation in Asia and in Africa

	Applicants need to identify nominees in two countries at least (one in Africa and one in Asia)	leading to the disruption of a transnational syndicate - A controlled delivery between the 2 continents - A successful exchange of evidence through mutual legal assistance
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*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. Nominations that identify nominee in one country only will not be taken into consideration.

Time period for activities

The eligible period concerning activities justifying the nomination must have taken place within the period **1 June 2022 – 30 June 2023**.

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 UNODC to review against eligibility criteria. UNODC will then forward all eligible nominations to the Selection Panel to review nominations and recommend the winners based on the eligibility criteria. Shortlisted nominations will be subjected to a thorough due diligence process to confirm eligibility for the award including background checks and, as necessary, consultations with their affiliated entities and other relevant agencies. The selection of nominations will take into consideration factors such as geographical distribution and diversity of participating organizations to avoid geographical or institutional imbalance and to diversify the pool of winners. 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.

How to nominate

Anyone can nominate a candidate (an individual or an entity) as long as the eligibility criteria are met by the candidate. Self-nomination is permitted.

Nominations must be made online, using the nomination form which is available at [this link](#). The deadline is on **31 July 2023 at midnight (Bangkok time or GMT+7)**.

Award Ceremony

Recipients of the Award will be informed in October 2023. They will be invited to an award ceremony to be held in late 2023. The awards ceremony may be held virtually at the discretion of the partner agencies. Relevant updates regarding the Awards will be posted on UNEP's Asia and the Pacific office website: <https://www.unep.org/regions/asia-and-pacific/2023-asia-environmental-enforcement-awards>.