

Asia Environmental Enforcement Recognition of Excellence 2024

Fighting Transboundary Crimes that affect the
Environment

Information Note

Deadline for nominations is 30 September 2024

Coordinated by:



In partnership with:



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About the Asia Environmental Enforcement Recognition of Excellence ¹

The Asia Environmental Enforcement Recognition of Excellence (hereafter the 'AEEE') publicly recognize and celebrate excellence in enforcement by government officials and institutions or teams combatting transboundary crimes that affect the environment. The AEEE are awarded 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 AEEE covers any transboundary crime that affects the environment, including the illegal harvest, trade and transport of endangered wildlife, timber, fish, minerals, and sand, as well as the illegal trade and disposal of waste, chemicals, pesticides, mercury and the illegal trade in ozone-depleting substances and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

This is the ninth time the AEEE will be awarded, and this year's the 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 category for Asia-Intercontinental cooperation in crimes affecting the environment, including, but not limited to, Africa-Asia cooperation in the illegal trade in wildlife.

The 2024 AEEE is the result of partnership amongst 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). In 2024, we welcome three additional partners the initiative: the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the World Bank Global Wildlife Programme, and the Ozone Secretariat for the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

2024 Asia Environmental Enforcement Recognition of Excellence 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 Asia and Africa, Europe and Latin America at significant scale. The Asia region is as well one of the main destinations for and source of 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 that are ozone depleting and potent greenhouses gases are transported to and within Asia, having disastrous effects for human health and the environment and undermine the efforts of countries to uphold their commitments under major Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

Governmental authorities working on environmental enforcement issues are on the front-line of efforts to combat transboundary environmental crime. The 2024 AEEE will recognize and celebrate their critical role in doing so.

Eligibility criteria

The main criteria for eligibility for the AEEE 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.

¹ previously known as the Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards

- Geographic scope²: 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, 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 recipients. It is not necessary to meet all criteria. Excellence and leadership in one or more criteria will be considered by the Selection Panel. The AEEE may be awarded for specific criteria categories (e.g., the award for Innovation) depending on nominations received and based on 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 result in prosecution/conviction of high-level trafficker.
3. Innovation	Law enforcement interventions that demonstrate novel 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. digital, DNA, etc.). - Seizures through effective profiling based on newly-identified 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. - A situation where public officials have resisted bribes or other corrupt attempts and investigations for bribery have been launched.

² Nominations must be from one of the countries listed. For the category of Asia-Intercontinental cooperation, at least one country must be from the countries listed and the second country from another continent.

<p>5. Gender leadership and Women's Empowerment</p>	<p>Leadership in advancing gender equality through concrete actions in combatting 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
<p>6. Asia-Intercontinental Cooperation in combatting crimes that affect the environment</p>	<p>Joint investigations and/or enforcement activities facilitated by collaborative action between counterparts from Asia and other continents resulting in successfully addressing transnational environmental crime.</p> <p>Applicants need to identify nominees in two countries at least (one in Asia and one other country in another continent)</p> <p>Africa-Asia cooperation in the fight against illegal trade in wildlife*</p>	<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 leading to the disruption of a transnational syndicate - A controlled delivery between the 2 continents - A successful exchange of evidence through mutual legal assistance

*For the sub-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 (one in both Africa and in Asia) where successful cooperation occurred. Nominations that identify a 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 July 2023 – 31 July 2024**.

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 to review against the eligibility criteria. The screened list will then be forwarded with all eligible nominations to the Selection Panel. The Selection Panel will 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 AEEE including background checks and, as necessary, consultations with 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 awarded the AEEE, 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 **30 September 2024 at midnight (Bangkok time or GMT+7)**. A copy of the questions contained in the nomination form is annexed to this Information Note.

Asia Environmental Enforcement Recognition of Excellence Ceremony

Recipients of the AEEE will be informed in December 2024. They will be invited to an awards ceremony to be held in the first quarter of 2025. The awards ceremony may be held virtually at the discretion of the partner agencies. Relevant updates regarding the **Asia Environmental Enforcement Recognition of Excellence** will be posted on UNEP's Asia and the Pacific office website: [2024 Asia Environmental Enforcement Recognition of Excellence | UNEP - UN Environment Programme](#).

Annex – Nomination Form Questions

Asia Environmental Enforcement Recognition of Excellence 2024

Fighting Transboundary Crimes that affect the Environment

Deadline for submission 30th September 2024

* Indicates required question

1. Email *

2. Is the nominee a government official or team working to combat environmental crime through their official duties and functions? *

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

3. Is the nominee based in one of the Asian countries geographically served by the UNEP's Regional Office for Asia-Pacific? Geographical coverage is indicated at <https://www.unep.org/regions/asia-and-pacific/regional-initiatives> *

*For the category of Asia-Intercontinental Cooperation in combatting crimes that affect the environment, and sub-category on Africa-Asia cooperation in the fight against illegal trade in wildlife does the nomination identify nominees from at least one country in Asia and at least one other country in another continent?

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

4. Does the submitted application showcase actions that go above and beyond regular expected achievements and duties to demonstrate excellence? *

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

5. Does the nominated activity fall within the eligibility period of 1 July 2023 – 31 July 2024? *

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

Nominee and Contact details

Enter full title of government institution or team you are nominating. If the nominee is an individual only, then enter full name of nominee. Self-nomination is possible. Please provide contact details so we can contact nominee if they are selected for an Award

6. First Name of nominee of award *

7. Last Name of nominee of award *

8. Affiliation *

9. Position *

10. Address *

11. City/Town *

12. State/Province *

13. ZIP/Postal Code *

14. Country *

15. Email Address *

16. Phone Number *

17. Reason for nomination *

Please provide a short description of why the nominee deserves an Award (Maximum of 500 words). You must submit evidence in the attachment field below.

18. Reason for nomination *

Please specify if the nominated activity contributes to the implementation of an MEA. You may select all that apply

Check all that apply.

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- Basel/Rotterdam/Stockholm Conventions
- Minamata Convention on Mercury
- Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
- Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer/ The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer
- Other: _____

19. **Reason for nomination ***

For which of the below categories is the nomination being submitted. You may select one or more of the categories.

Check all that apply.

- Collaboration
- Impact
- Innovation
- Integrity
- Gender Leadership and Women's Empowerment
- Asia-Intercontinental Cooperation in combatting crimes that affect the environment
- Africa-Asia Cooperation (Wildlife trafficking)

20. **Collaboration**

If you selected collaboration above, please summarize how investigations and/or enforcement activities have succeeded through cooperation with counterparts from other countries either in the preparation, execution or follow-up phase. You must attach evidence through the attachment field below.

21. **Impact**

If you selected impact above, please summarize how law enforcement operations have resulted in successful disruption of criminal networks beyond the mere confiscation of contraband. You must attach evidence through the attachment field below.

22. **Innovation**

If you selected innovation above, please summarize how law enforcement interventions demonstrate technological, intelligence-led, science-based approaches resulting in successful arrests, prosecutions and convictions. You must attach evidence through the attachment field below.

23. **Integrity**

If you selected integrity above, please summarize how law enforcement actions have identified and acted upon cases of collusion of public officials or that have resisted pressure from other bodies of the governments. You must attach evidence through the attachment field below.

24. **Gender leadership and Women's Empowerment**

If you selected gender leadership and women's empowerment above, please summarize the leadership in advancing gender equality through concrete actions in combating transboundary environmental crime. You must attach evidence through the attachment field below.

25. **Asia-Intercontinental Cooperation in combatting crimes that affect the environment**

If you selected Asia-Intercontinental Cooperation in combatting crimes that affect the environment above, please summarize how joint investigations and/or enforcement activities facilitated by collaborative action between counterparts from Asia and at least one other country in another continent have resulted in successfully addressing transnational wildlife crime. You must attach evidence through the attachment field below.

26. **Africa-Asia Cooperation (Wildlife trafficking)**

If you selected Africa-Asia Cooperation above, please summarize how joint investigations and/or enforcement activities facilitated by collaborative action between counterparts from Asia and Africa have resulted in successfully addressing transnational wildlife crime. You must attach evidence through the attachment field below.

27. Please attach any relevant documentation to support this nomination (e.g. media reports, photos etc.) *

Files submitted:

Please provide your name and contact details

28. **First Name ***

29. **Last Name ***

30. **Affiliation ***

31. **Position ***

32. **Address ***

33. **City/Town ***

34. **State/Province ***

35. **ZIP/Postal Code ***

36. **Country ***

37. **Email Address ***

38. **Phone Number ***

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