2017

INTERPOL

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Contents

Secretary General's foreword

I am pleased to introduce the Annual Report for 2017, a year in which INTERPOL renewed its commitment to providing operationally relevant support to police on the ground in member countries worldwide.

Our 86th General Assembly met in Beijing this year and approved a set of seven Global Policing Goals addressing crime-related issues tied to terrorism, border security, vulnerable communities, cyberspace, global integrity, illicit markets and environmental security.

These goals are intended to guide all stakeholders involved in global security by harmonizing activities and providing a clear-cut set of desired outcomes. We have chosen to structure this report along the line of these goals to demonstrate their value.

The Assembly also embraced a set of guidelines clarifying the necessary requirements for joining the Organization, and we welcomed two new member countries – the State of Palestine and the Solomon Islands. A new policy on processing information regarding refugees balances INTERPOL's operational support to countries with human rights concerns.

Our criminal databases, technical solutions and other policing capabilities offer real-time access to vital information leading to the identification of dangerous criminals. This year, national police queried our databases 146 times per second, resulting in a record one million 'hits' during the year, identifying suspected terrorists, drug traffickers and members of organized crime networks.

Our coordinated efforts against transnational crime successfully translated into concrete outcomes during the year. Operations against illicit firearms trafficking, wanted fugitives, drugs, human trafficking, child sexual abuse, environmental crime and cybercrime made great strides in tackling the criminal networks involved.

To enhance our operational relevance and ensure the Organization remains a valuable asset to our member countries, we are investing in our core services: our policing capabilities. These are at the heart of our mission.

We are working to provide new police capabilities, such as a new analytical platform to offer more comprehensive analytical support, ways of gathering information from the private sector and military actors, and upgrading equipment at our National Central Bureaus, starting with Africa.

To ensure that these advances benefit INTERPOL's entire membership, we are strengthening our regional delivery and presence. Our presence throughout our Regional Bureaus is increasing to provide direct support against a range of crime threats, and work is in progress to set up Regional Counter-Terrorism Nodes in key hotspots.

As INTERPOL looks to a strong future, we will build upon the progress made in 2017 as we continue to work hand-in-hand with our member countries to forge a new path for international policing through innovation, collaboration and evolution.

Jürgen Stock
Secretary General

2017 Highlights

UN Security Council

UNSC Resolution 2341 highlighting INTERPOL's role in protecting critical infrastructure

Global Coalition

Secretary General addresses Global Coalition to defeat ISIS/ Daesh

Operation Trigger

targeting firearms trafficking

Operation Lionfish

identifying drug trafficking routes and methods

10,000

victims identified in ICSE

January	February	March	April	May	June

Unity for Security

UAE supports seven INTERPOL projects

Digital Security Challenge

simulated ransomware investigation

Dialogue on Cyber and Financial Crime

streamlining the global response

General Assembly

86th INTERPOL General Assembly in Beijng, China

G7 communique

on sharing battlefield data via INTERPOL

West African Police Chiefs

Secretary General addresses West African Police Chiefs' meeting

Biometrics

1st INTERPOL Fingerprint and Face Symposium

July   August   September   October   November   December

INTERPOL World

connecting police and private industry against cybercrime

Operation Pangea

countering the spread of fake medicines

Operation Epervier

human trafficking victims rescued

Event Safety and Security

1st Major Event Safety and Security Conference

At a glance

Databases

Global performance

4.6 billion
Database searches

1 million
Database hits

146
Searches per second

Records by region:

MENA: **1%**
Americas: **24%**
Africa: **0.5%**
Asia: **9%**
Europe: **65.5%**

Searches by region:

MENA: **3%**
Americas: **27,5%**
Africa: **1%**
Asia: **13%**
Europe: **55,5%**

Hits by region:

MENA: **1%**
Americas: **18%**
Africa: **1%**
Asia: **21%**
Europe: **59%**
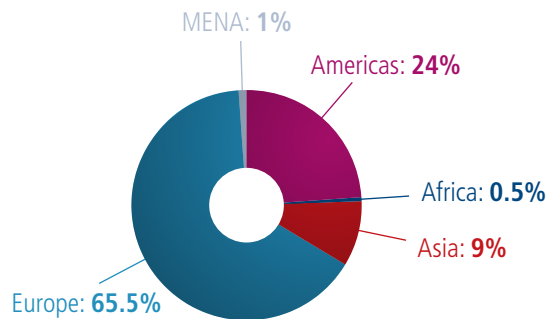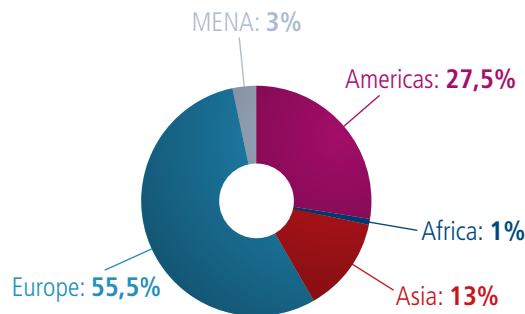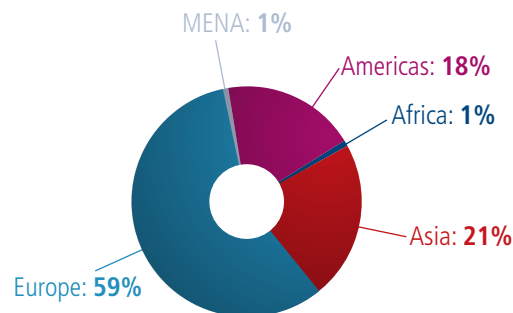
I-24/7 expansion

Many countries have expanded access of our I-24/7 secure communications network outside the National Central Bureau office, putting it directly in the hands of frontline officers to enable real-time consultation of our databases in the field.

165
Expansions of I-24/7 beyond the NCB

53
Countries using MIND (mobile) technology
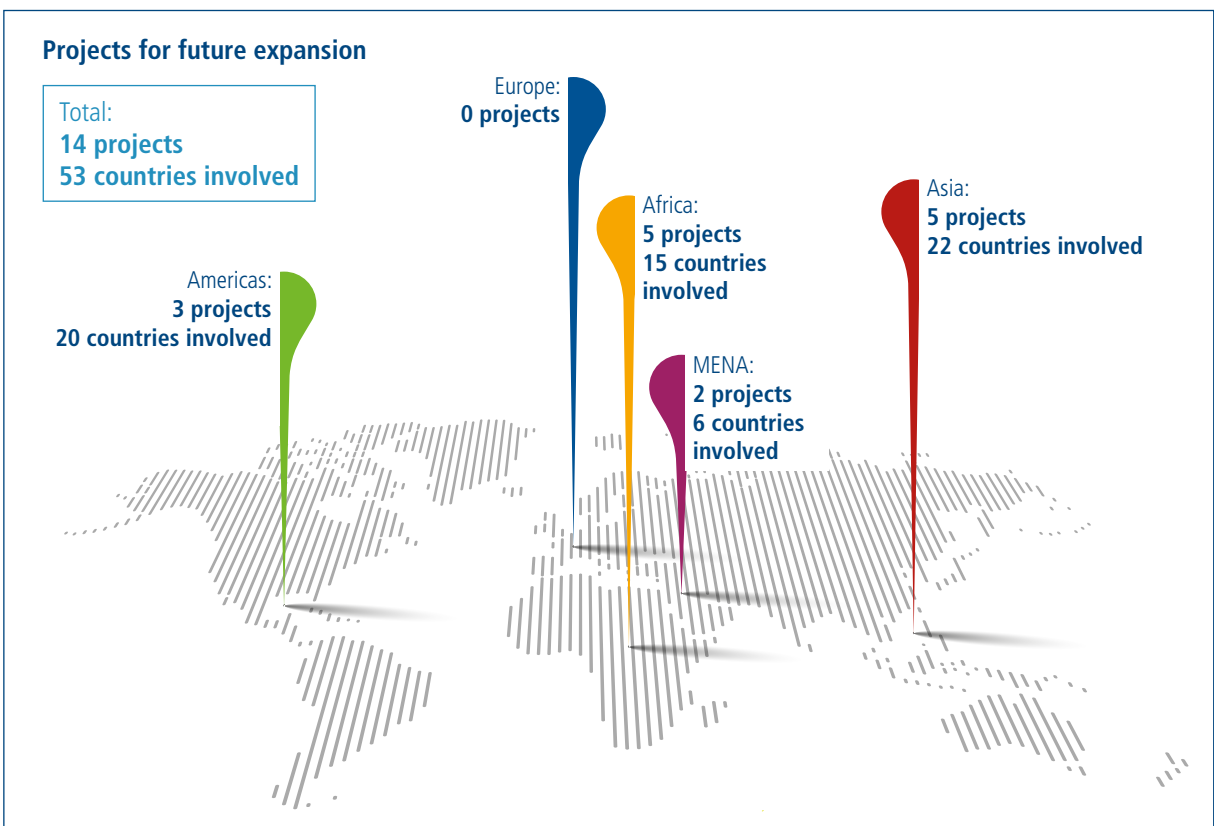
74
Countries using FIND (fixed) technology

Projects for future expansion

Total:
14 projects
53 countries involved

Europe:
0 projects

Africa:
5 projects
15 countries involved

Asia:
5 projects
22 countries involved

Americas:
3 projects
20 countries involved

MENA:
2 projects
6 countries involved

Diversity of staff

Total Staff: **890**

Civilian staff: **652**

Seconded officers: **238**

Men: **56%**

Women: **44%**

Nationalities: **113**

*All figures as of 31 December 2017

Global Policing Goals

As the only police organization that works at the global level, INTERPOL has a unique role to support international policing efforts. To do this in a consistent manner throughout the world, it is important that all actors in the global security architecture work towards the same outcomes.

To shape how the global law enforcement community works together to create a safer world, INTERPOL has developed a set of seven Global Policing Goals.

These goals address a range of crime- and security-related issues. They were designed to align with the foreign policy goals of our member countries, and deal with issues that are at the heart of governments' security concerns. They are universal, ambitious and underpinned by collective action.

The goals were approved by member countries during the 86th INTERPOL General Assembly session in Beijing, China in 2017, and are as follows:

Goal 1: Counter the threat of terrorism

- Identify and arrest terrorist suspects
- Strengthen intelligence-sharing platforms
- Disrupt terrorist movement and mobility
- Trace and disrupt financial streams and weapons sourcing

Goal 2: Promote border integrity worldwide

- Identify criminal and victim movements and travel
- Share information with and between border officials
- Contribute to the establishment of global standards for border security
- Assist member countries with maintaining the integrity of their security documents (e.g. addressing the use of counterfeit/false passports)

Goal 3: Protect vulnerable communities

- Detect crimes and criminals and identify prevention opportunities
- Protect victims of crime from exploitation and re-victimization
- Respect human rights of vulnerable communities
- Develop robust networks of experts to exchange information, best practice and operational activity
- Disrupt the profit element in the criminal business model
- Identify and disrupt the illicit financial stream and profits derived through this criminal business model

Goal 4: Secure cyberspace for people and businesses

- ➡ Establish partnerships to secure cyberspace
- ➡ Expand cybercrime investigative expertise
- ➡ Safeguard communities through standard setting, public education
- ➡ Protect critical infrastructures

Goal 5: Promote global integrity

- ➡ Promote good governance and rule of law
- ➡ Enhance corruption investigative expertise
- ➡ Promote a culture of integrity where corruption is not acceptable
- ➡ Build mechanisms to support and defend integrity and restore stolen assets

Goal 6: Curb illicit markets

- ➡ Raise awareness among the public of the risks associated with illicit goods and products
- ➡ Build mechanisms to detect emerging illicit markets
- ➡ Strengthen capacity to investigate and prevent illicit trade including its financing
- ➡ Identify and disrupt the illicit financial stream and profits derived through this type of criminal activity
- ➡ Identify and disrupt organized crime and drugs networks

Goal 7: Support environmental security and sustainability

- ➡ Strengthen capacity to investigate environmental crime
- ➡ Protect resource-dependent communities, vulnerable species and natural heritage
- ➡ Build mechanisms to protect biodiversity and natural resources
- ➡ Disrupt organized crime networks and the profit element
- ➡ Identify and disrupt the illicit financial stream and profits derived through this type of criminal activity

To highlight INTERPOL's activities in these seven areas, this Annual Report 2017 has been structured around these goals.

1

Goal

Counter the threat of terrorism

The threat of terrorism today is widespread and more complex than ever before. Multiple conflict zones around the world provide terrorist organizations with numerous fronts on which they can operate. At the same time, radicalized individuals are also striking at the heart of communities far from conflict zones, bringing a level of unpredictability to the terrorism scene.

Despite a decline in terrorist activity in some long-standing conflict zones, particularly in the Middle East, the recruitment and movement of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) continues to be a global concern. The way new recruits are targeted and radicalized has shifted, with a greater focus on social media and other digital channels.

Based on its five-year global counter-terrorism strategy, INTERPOL supports its member countries to contain and disrupt transnational terrorist activities through training, intelligence analysis, forensic support and more. Establishing the necessary infrastructure and capabilities in targeted regions is a key focus of INTERPOL's counter-terrorism activities.

Counter-terrorism strategy

Underpinning the Organization's counter-terrorism mandate, INTERPOL's global counter-terrorism strategy is based on five action streams:

Weapons and materials

Increase the identification, tracking and interception of the trafficking of weapons and materials necessary for terrorist activities.

Travel and mobility

Reduce cross-border mobility of terrorists, and interdict their facilitating networks.

5

4

3

2

1

Finances

Increase the exchange of financial-related information so as to trace and disrupt financial streams connected to terrorism funding.

Online presence

Increase the ability to exploit terrorists' digital activity to facilitate tracking and identification of their affiliates.

Identification

Increase the ability to detect and positively identify terrorists and their affiliates.

Key highlights

Regional Counter-Terrorism Nodes

To fully implement INTERPOL's counter-terrorism strategy, there is a strong need to significantly increase counter-terrorism outreach in the key regions.

In this respect, the Organization has developed a plan to create a counter-terrorism hub at the General Secretariat, along with several Regional Counter-Terrorism Nodes (RCTNs) strategically located near conflict zones or key hotspots of terrorist activity. The RCTNs will provide targeted counter-terrorism support to law enforcement in each region through information sharing and intelligence analysis; training and capacity building; and border management and operational assistance.

Police Chiefs from Central and West Africa endorsed the plan and the establishment of a RCTN in West Africa during a high-level meeting in October. The Police Chiefs also backed other security enhancing measures, including the sharing of counter-terrorism information collected from the battlefield by military forces with law enforcement and INTERPOL, and the systematic inclusion of identifying information such as biometrics.

Training activities

INTERPOL provides critical training to ensure police worldwide have the most up-to-date knowledge and skills to effectively confront the terrorist threat.

In 2017, INTERPOL launched a two-year project on countering terrorism and related transnational crimes in South and Southeast Asia. Project Scorpius addresses current and emerging terrorism-related challenges for law enforcement across the two regions by providing investigative and analytical training. Following a needs assessment in the participating countries, a training workshop in December highlighted the support INTERPOL can provide during and following a terrorist incident.

Terrorism that makes use of CBRNE materials (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives) is a danger with growing potential. An operational exercise targeting the international smuggling of chemical and explosive precursors was conducted in Thailand as part of INTERPOL's Operation Chase (Chemical Anti-Smuggling Enforcement), and a table-top exercise using scenarios addressing terrorist-related threats engaged law enforcement agencies from across Southeast Asia.

UN CTED agreement

An agreement between INTERPOL and the United Nations' Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) formalized the ongoing collaboration between the two bodies in preventing and countering terrorism. In addition to supporting the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism, especially in law enforcement cooperation and border security, the two organizations will also develop a strategic joint action plan.

Achievements

Identify and arrest terrorist suspects

With terrorist organizations increasingly using social media and other digital channels in their recruitment and propaganda efforts, training courses to counter the use of social media by terrorist groups were conducted for police in Asia, the Middle East and North Africa. Topics of discussion included identification of potential terrorist subjects based on their use of digital platforms; online intelligence gathering; and challenges related to the admissibility of digital evidence in criminal cases.

Following the terrorist attack at a concert in Manchester, UK in which 22 people lost their lives, INTERPOL assisted the UK authorities in coordinating the international law enforcement response. A crisis cell was established at its Command and Coordination Centre, which streamlined exchanges between police in the UK and other member countries.

40,000
INTERPOL holds details of more than 40,000 foreign terrorist fighters, making it the world's largest police repository of such information which could prove vital in identifying returnees.

Strengthen intelligence-sharing platforms

INTERPOL Secretary General Jürgen Stock called on the global community to ensure that critical terrorism-related intelligence reaches the hands of law enforcement, particularly information gathered by military forces on the battlefield. He highlighted the importance of military-police cooperation and the role of INTERPOL as a secure multilateral platform for such information sharing, including during an address to the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS/Daesh in March.

This sentiment was echoed by the G7 Interior Ministers, who issued a joint declaration in October calling for enhanced use of INTERPOL as a global platform for information sharing on foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs).

Looking at the threat of terrorism against critical infrastructure – both physical and virtual – the United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution underscoring INTERPOL's global role in providing capacity building and technical assistance to protect critical infrastructure from terrorists.

"Once terrorist information is shared at the global level, every traffic check, passport control or random search holds the potential for a break in a terrorism investigation or to foil an evolving plot."

Jürgen Stock,
Secretary General

Disrupt terrorist movement and mobility

As foreign fighters travel to, from and between conflict zones, often using indirect and circuitous routes, police in all parts of the world must have quick access to the information necessary to identify and interdict them when attempting to cross borders. In 2017, INTERPOL held workshops in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East to encourage a greater exchange of FTF-related information.

In November, INTERPOL assisted 19 countries in Central and South Asia in conducting almost 1 million checks of national databases of terrorist suspects and travel documents against INTERPOL's databases. This led to the arrest of two suspected FTFs in Ukraine, who were wanted by the authorities in Russia and Uzbekistan.

Trace and disrupt financial streams and weapons sourcing

A key action against illicit firearms trafficking in Europe, INTERPOL's Operation Trigger II in April involved thousands of police officers across Europe. It led to the seizure of some 320 firearms – including a rocket launcher and a machine gun – and almost 20,000 pieces of ammunition, grenades and explosives, and the arrest of 149 individuals across the 23 participating countries. Highlights included:

➡ More than 10 million checks were conducted against INTERPOL's global databases;

➡ Croatian authorities seized a firearm allegedly used in a murder;

➡ Police in Macedonia identified and arrested the subject of an INTERPOL Red Notice wanted by Turkey on drug charges;

➡ Swiss police arrested a train passenger in possession of a firearm;

➡ An individual suspected of belonging to a Eurasian organized crime group was intercepted in Ukraine.

iARMS

The INTERPOL Illicit Arms Records and tracing Management System (iARMS) is a state-of-the art tool that facilitates information exchange and investigative cooperation between law enforcement agencies in relation to the international movement of illicit firearms. Police worldwide can record firearms in the iARMS system and search seized weapons to check if they have been reported as lost, stolen, trafficked or smuggled. This can help identify potential links between crimes in different parts of the world, as well as possible firearms trafficking or smuggling routes.

849,443
Records

281,600
Queries

28,361
Trace requests submitted

5,030
Trace requests responses

IFRT

The INTERPOL Firearms Reference Table (IFRT) is an interactive online tool which allows users to automatically import the unique identifiers of a firearm to conduct a search or make a trace request. It contains:

More than
150,000
firearm references

More than
49,000
firearm images

IBIN

The INTERPOL Ballistic Information Network (IBIN) is the only large-scale international ballistic data sharing network in the world. It allows police to develop new investigative leads based on ballistic cross-comparison and to find connections between separate crime scenes from different countries that could have otherwise remained undetected.

974,281
Records

28,248
Searches

Goal

2

Promote border integrity worldwide

As the free movement of people and goods continues to grow internationally, national borders can be vulnerable points in a country's security architecture. But at the same time, borders also provide police with opportunities to identify and intercept potentially dangerous individuals and goods if they have robust border security schemes.

INTERPOL's range of policing capabilities which support member countries' border management efforts is evolving in line with technological and criminal developments. While long-standing solutions such as checking passports against the INTERPOL Stolen and Lost Travel Documents (SLTD) database remain important, the Organization is looking to the future of border security with a new focus on biometric tools including fingerprints and facial recognition.

In response to the threats posed by transnational criminals and terrorists using increasingly sophisticated means to avoid detection, INTERPOL is expanding and modernizing its biometrics capabilities to better support its member countries.

Biometrics

Fingerprints

The Organization's fingerprint database contains more than **180,000 records supporting more than 40,000 searches every year. In 2017, it led to more than 1,700 identifications worldwide.**

Underscoring the growing recognition of biometrics as a critical tool against transnational crime, the 1st INTERPOL Fingerprint and Face Symposium was held in December, bringing together some 125 experts in the fields of fingerprint examination and facial recognition from 58 countries, private sector partners and academia to review the latest biometric tools and techniques and their utility for law enforcement.

Facial recognition

INTERPOL launched its facial images database in 2016 with data provided by 136 countries. The database generated some **60 potential matches** in its first year of operation.

Achievements

In 2017, INTERPOL conducted several border security operations to assist member countries in identifying suspected criminals and terrorists.

Operation Sunbird III

The operation saw authorities in the 10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries screen passports at 35 land, air and sea border points against INTERPOL's global databases. Some eight million searches were conducted during the operation, resulting in 17 arrests and 110 'hits' on passports recorded in INTERPOL's Stolen and Lost Travel Documents (SLTD) database. Among the arrests were a suspected foreign terrorist fighter of Malaysian nationality who was deported to Kuala Lumpur from Turkey, and a Sri Lankan national intercepted by Indonesian immigration in Bali travelling on a stolen blank Italian passport registered in the SLTD database.

Operation Adwenpa III

Nearly 40 people either being smuggled or trafficked for illicit labour were identified and rescued during this INTERPOL-coordinated operation to strengthen border controls in West Africa. Many of those rescued were unidentified minors who were being taken to work in illegal gold mines in Guinea, while others were individuals who had paid smugglers to get them to Europe via Libya. Counterfeit medicines, stolen vehicles and fake identify documents were also recovered during searches at key border points in Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

An INTERPOL Major Events Support Team (IMEST) was sent to the Philippines to support the national security arrangements for the 31st ASEAN Summit by conducting some 24 million searches against the Organization's databases. This led to the arrest of a Dutch national subject to an INTERPOL Red Notice for rape charges, and an individual travelling with two stolen blank Iraqi passports recorded in the SLTD database.

Red Notices

A Red Notice is a request to locate and provisionally arrest an individual pending extradition. It is issued by INTERPOL at the request of a member country or an international tribunal based on a valid national arrest warrant.

13,048 Issued	**52,103** Valid	**6,620** Public

Share information with and between border officials

INTERPOL's EU-ASEAN Migration and Border Management Programme supports member countries in Southeast Asia with their border management through specialized training and on-the-ground assistance to address transnational crimes including human trafficking and people smuggling. In 2017, training courses were held in Indonesia, Myanmar and Singapore to demonstrate how INTERPOL's border management policing capabilities can be used to implement stronger security measures at national borders.

Establish global standards for border security

Facilitating the mobility of people across borders is complementary to a robust border security regime. In this respect, INTERPOL held a series of workshops to review the feasibility of a common visa system for countries of the ASEAN region. The workshops contributed to shaping practical recommendations on the development of an ASEAN common visa. Experts from the European Union provided information on the challenges it faced in implementing the Schengen visa system.

Assist member countries with protecting their identity documents

As criminals use increasingly sophisticated methods to alter passports and identity documents, border police and immigration officers must be well-versed in spotting fake documents among the hundreds or even thousands they see every day. A series of hands-on training courses in the Bahamas, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Thailand and Uzbekistan provided officers with the knowledge of different methods used by criminals to alter documents, and the technical skills to identify fakes. This included document printing techniques, security features, ink analysis and examination methods.

To better share information and experiences on border management practices, INTERPOL strengthened its cooperation with Frontex, the European Union's border security agency. The two organizations will expand and harmonize their respective fraudulent document identification initiatives. In 2017, INTERPOL participated in five joint operations with Frontex which resulted in more than one million searches against INTERPOL's global databases and generated 35 positive hits for fugitives, terrorists and other known criminals.

Stolen and Lost Travel Documents (SLTD) database

The SLTD database contains records on lost, stolen and revoked travel documents. Law enforcement officials at INTERPOL NCBs and other locations with access to INTERPOL's databases – such as airports and border crossings – can query the passports of individuals travelling internationally against the SLTD, and immediately determine if the document has been reported as lost or stolen.

168
participating countries

74.1 million
records

2.65 billion
searches

7.26 million
searches per day

1 to 2 seconds
to receive a response to a search

3

Goal

Protect vulnerable communities

Transnational criminal groups often seek to take advantage of the most vulnerable people in society. Human trafficking, migrant smuggling, online child exploitation – combating these crimes has become a priority for law enforcement worldwide.

INTERPOL is developing regional plans to assist its member countries in identifying and disrupting the criminal networks engaged in these crimes through capacity building, support to transnational operations and developing sustainable networks of information sharing.

ICSE database

ICSE database

The INTERPOL International Child Sexual Exploitation (ICSE) database uses sophisticated image and video comparison software to make connections between victims, abusers and places. Certified users in member countries can access the database directly and in real time, providing immediate responses to queries related to child sexual exploitation investigations.

In 2017, INTERPOL worked to develop the next major version of the ICSE database, under its I-CARE project funded by the European Commission, which was launched in mid-2018. It will allow national child sexual exploitation databases to interconnect directly to the ICSE database, and enhanced functions include a standalone tool for uploading child sexual abuse images and videos directly into the database.

ICSE database
(as of 31 December 2017)

11,988
victims identified

5
children identified
every day

5,617
offenders identified

53
countries and Europol
connected (4 added in 2017)

Key highlights

Specialist networks

Global networks of specialized experts allow INTERPOL and its member countries to share expertise on crimes affecting vulnerable communities. In 2017, these networks grew in size and scope:

➡ The INTERPOL Specialists Operational Network (ISON) on People Smuggling increased to 145 experts from 111 member countries representing Europe, North and West Africa, the Middle East, Central and Southeast Asia and the Americas;

➡ The INTERPOL Human Trafficking Expert Group incorporated experts from 62 countries, with additional nominations regularly received.

Staff deployment

As part of the Organization's efforts to provide dedicated support to member countries in combating online child sexual exploitation, expert staff were deployed to the INTERPOL offices in Asia and South America and training was provided to existing staff at the four INTERPOL Regional Bureaus in Africa to increase their knowledge on child sexual abuse issues.

Targeted training

During 2017, INTERPOL delivered training sessions in critical regions for vulnerable communities to provide local authorities with expertise and action plans to fight people smuggling and human trafficking.

➡ Specialized training on trafficking in human beings in South America;

➡ Training for law enforcement personnel on trafficking in human beings and the ISON people smuggling network in Southern Africa.

Achievements

Protect victims from exploitation and re-victimization

At the very beginning of 2017, INTERPOL reached a milestone when the 10,000th victim of child sexual abuse was identified through the ICSE database, less than seven years after it was launched.

Nearly 500 victims of human trafficking, including 236 minors, were rescued following Operation Epervier carried out in Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal. Some 40 suspected traffickers were arrested, accused of forcing victims to engage in activities ranging from begging to prostitution. In one case, a 16-year old Nigerian girl was promised work in Mali which would allow her to care for her family. She was taken on by a 'sponsor' who then forced her into prostitution to reimburse her travel costs.

International experts in human trafficking and migrant smuggling gathered at the INTERPOL Global Trafficking in Human Beings and Smuggling of Migrants Conference in Qatar in December. The more than 300 delegates explored emerging trends such as trafficking for forced criminality including drug cultivation or pickpocketing, and how the private sector is developing tools to help law enforcement disrupt trafficking and smuggling activities.

Develop expert networks to exchange information and best practices

On the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in September, INTERPOL and the Permanent Missions of Austria and Brazil to the UN co-organized a high-level meeting on combating human trafficking. The event was held on the occasion of the adoption of the Political Declaration of the Global Call for Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, which recognizes INTERPOL as an important contributor to combating this global phenomenon.

INTERPOL's Specialists Group on Crimes Against Children gathered in November to provide an overview of global efforts and technical solutions for combating online child sexual abuse, identifying victims and their attackers, and disrupting criminal networks involved in producing and circulating abuse material. More than 200 participants from some 60 countries, regional and international organizations, the private sector and academia also shared case studies of successful investigations and addressed prevention strategies, abuse material analysis and the role of the Darknet.

Detect crimes and criminals

Operation Tantalio, launched by the Spanish National Police and coordinated by INTERPOL and Europol, saw police across 15 countries in Central and South America and Europe target individuals using the messaging application WhatsApp to exchange abuse images and videos. In total, 38 people were arrested, including four who were subjects of INTERPOL Blue Notices to gather information on a person's location and activities, and hundreds of child sexual abuse images were shared via INTERPOL's ICSE database.

The ICSE database has helped numerous member countries uncover links between child sexual abuse investigations in different parts of the world, leading to victims being rescued and their abusers arrested. In Japan, the ringleader of a child sex abuse network in Kyoto identified via the ICSE database was sentenced to eight years following a global investigation which began two years earlier after abuse images were uploaded by investigators in Australia and Denmark.

Goal

Secure cyberspace for people and businesses

Cybercrime is one of the fastest growing forms of transnational crime faced by countries today. More and more criminals are exploiting the speed, convenience and anonymity of the Internet to commit a diverse range of criminal activities that, while virtual, cause very real harm to victims worldwide.

The borderless nature of cybercrime means that law enforcement agencies face challenges in responding effectively due to the limits of cross-border investigation, legal challenges and diversity in investigative capacity.

Cybercrime strategy

Under its global cybercrime strategy, INTERPOL supports police worldwide through the following actions:

Threat assessment and analysis, trend monitoring: detecting and positively identifying cybercrime, cybercriminals and related criminal networks

Access to and exploitation of raw digital data: gathering and analysing data linked to cyberattacks

E-evidence management: helping countries develop a process for managing electronic evidence for the purpose of investigations and prosecutions

Harmonization and interoperability: improving organizational interoperability, global coordination and encouraging legislative harmonization

Correlation of cyber and physical information: bridging the gap between digital traces and physical identification, to identify the location of possible perpetrators

Key highlights

INTERPOL World

Gathering the public and private sectors to exchange ideas and develop innovative solutions against emerging security threats, INTERPOL World has become a landmark event for technological and police innovation. The second INTERPOL World congress was held in Singapore in July, bringing together participants from 220 companies, 34 countries and law enforcement worldwide to tackle challenges in cybercrime, the future of policing in global cities and identity management. Private companies showcased their latest technologies which could benefit law enforcement, creating a critical relationship between police and the private sector.

Cyber surge

An operation across the ASEAN region combined the expertise of police and private sector to identify Command and Control servers spreading various types of malware, leading to the discovery of nearly 270 compromised websites, including government portals. A number of phishing website operators were also identified, including one with links to Nigeria. One criminal based in Indonesia selling phishing kits via the Darknet had posted YouTube videos showing customers how to use the illicit software. Investigators from Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam shared information on the specific cybercrime situations in each country, and experts from seven private sector companies also took part in pre-operational meetings in order to develop actionable information packages.

West African cyber economy

Combining survey results from INTERPOL member countries across the region with research findings by Trend Micro, the joint 'Cybercrime in West Africa: Poised for an Underground Market' paper shows West African cybercriminals are increasingly using social engineering tactics. The survey showed an increase of 132 per cent of reported cybercrime between 2013 and 2015, with an average of USD 2.7 million from business and USD 422,000 from individuals stolen each year. The top threats in the region were found to be 'Yahoo boys' and 'Next-Level Cybercriminals'.

➡ 'Yahoo boys' – named for their use of Yahoo apps to communicate, the Yahoo boys came to prominence in the early 2000s, focusing on less technically advanced schemes such as advanced-fee, stranded traveller and romance frauds;

➡ 'Next-Level Cybercriminals' – carry out more sophisticated attacks, such as Business Email Compromise (BEC) and tax fraud, often using keylogging software, Remote Access Trojans (RATs) and other crime-enabling software.

Achievements

Establish partnerships to secure cyberspace

Law enforcement agencies do not always have the knowledge and skills to tackle cybercrime in isolation. Partnerships with other organizations and the public, private and academic sectors formalize the sharing of resources, information and technical expertise.

Cybercrime partnerships signed in 2017

➥ Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO)

➥ Palo Alto

➥ Trend Micro (updated agreement)

➥ British Telecom

➥ Kaspersky Lab (updated agreement)

➥ Bi-ZONE

➥ Group-IB

➥ Cisco

➥ Financial Services Information Sharing and Analysis Center

➥ Scitum

➥ Banco do Brasil

More than 420 delegates from 68 countries attended the Europol-INTERPOL Cybercrime Conference in September to review current and future trends in cybercrime, such as connected devices, ransomware, the Darknet and financial aspects of cybercrime. Hosted in alternate years by Europol and INTERPOL, the annual conference underscores the importance of developing a global response encompassing all stakeholders.

INTERPOL participated in several initiatives led by other organizations and partners, including the European Union.

➥ **E-CRIME (Economic Impacts of Cybercrime):** The three-year project concluded in 2017. The project aimed to identify the spread and development of cybercrime in non-ICT sectors through its economic impact, whilst developing measures to manage and deter these crimes. INTERPOL provided a link to the international law enforcement community by advising on how police would be impacted and sharing experiences with privacy, data protection and ICT law.

- **TITANIUM (Tools for the Investigation of Transactions in Underground Markets):** As part of 15 consortium members, INTERPOL supported this project to prevent criminals from using blockchain technology to avoid detection. As the blockchain is most commonly used by virtual currencies, the project is working to develop tools to reveal common characteristics of criminal transactions, detect anomalies in their usage, and identify money-laundering techniques.

- **GLACY+ (Global action on Cybercrime extended):** This ongoing joint initiative of INTERPOL and the Council of Europe, funded by the European Union, aims to build capacity and enhance cooperation in cyber investigations worldwide. INTERPOL's role focuses on strengthening the operational skills of police agencies.

Expand cybercrime investigative expertise

A range of training courses and programmes focused on providing police in INTERPOL's member countries with the skills to conduct effective cybercrime investigations. Topics covered ranged from digital forensics and ransomware to cryptocurrencies and international cooperation.

The 2017 edition of the INTERPOL Digital Security Challenge held in Singapore had participants hunting down a suspect who had encrypted confidential medical records with ransomware, in a simulated hands-on exercise designed to gain practical experience in all aspects of a cybercrime investigation. By working their way through each step of the investigation, combined with training on using the latest tools and techniques, the participants from 20 countries learned real-world skills to assist their future police work. Another Digital Security Challenge held in Japan for investigators from Africa, the Americas and Asia saw the participants compete against each other – and the clock – to solve a complex scenario involving malware.

A series of regional training courses were held across the Americas to develop regional capacity to combat cybercrime. Held in Barbados and Panama, the training was part of INTERPOL's Cybercrime Capacity Building Project in Latin America and the Caribbean. Cybercrime investigators and digital forensics experts from across the region reviewed topics including ransomware, mobile forensics, domain investigation and disruption, ATM malware and online crimes against children.

Using a simulated Darknet marketplace, a training course in Norway helped replicate the virtual criminal underground environment to help law enforcement in Nordic countries conduct more effective investigations. The hands-on course saw the participants play roles of buyers, sellers, administrators and police, learning about the related technology and identifying potential avenues for investigation.

Safeguard communities through global standards and public awareness

With instances of ransomware attacks against businesses and individuals on the rise, INTERPOL lent its support to the No More Ransom initiative. Launched in 2016 by the Dutch National Police, Europol, Intel Security and Kaspersky Lab, No More Ransom is an online platform where the public can access decryption tools and find advice on how to protect themselves against becoming a victim. The project introduced a new level of cooperation between law enforcement and the private sector to fight ransomware.

Protect critical infrastructures

Following the WannaCry ransomware attack in May which crippled computer systems around the world, INTERPOL supported the investigation led by the UK authorities.

➡ Information provided by the UK via the NCB in Manchester outlining the key malware features and mitigating actions to be taken was circulated to all member countries via an INTERPOL Purple Notice;

➡ The UK requested INTERPOL to conduct an immediate survey of all member countries to establish the global impact of the attack;

➡ INTERPOL hosted a virtual conference with affected countries enabling specialists to exchange information and provide updates on their national investigations;

➡ A second Purple Notice issued containing additional details on the malware provided by the private sector was sent to all NCBs for dissemination to national specialized cyber units.

With the cyber environment posing security challenges for major sporting and other public events, INTERPOL's Project Stadia co-organized in Qatar the 1st Major Event Safety and Security Conference to enhance cyber and physical security at large events. Representing law enforcement, academia and the private sector, some 350 participants from more than 65 countries and international organizations gathered in November to build on a global network of sports safety and security expertise established under Project Stadia.

A high-level meeting hosted by INTERPOL brought together nearly 190 representatives from law enforcement, financial, telecommunications and Internet sectors to identify ways to more effectively combat cyber and financial crime. The event, entitled 'Countering Cyber and Financial Crime: A High-level Dialogue for a New Governance Architecture', looked at the threats posed by interconnectivity, such as high-tech scams and social engineering fraud. Participants developed recommendations aimed at streamlining the global response in the face of escalating cyber and financial crime threats.

Goal

Promote global integrity

Corruption is a universal issue which affects all regions of the world and all levels of society. The effects are far-reaching, and often the greatest in developing countries; corruption can undermine political, social and economic stability and ultimately threaten the security of a society. In addition, corruption creates opportunities for organized criminal activities, as criminals are aided in their illicit activities by the complicity of corrupt public officials.

As an enabling crime, INTERPOL's activities to help member countries fight corruption aim to understand the links with different forms of crime and to connect investigations across different crime types to disrupt the criminal networks involved.

Achievements

Promote good governance and rule of law

The 18-month INTERPOL Capacity Building Programme to Combat Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism in West Africa concluded in 2017 with a set of recommendations for future action. Drafted and adopted by some 45 high-level representatives from the 15 member states of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the recommendations for combating money laundering and terrorism financing in the region were based on four pillars:

➡ International cooperation with a focus on the West African Police Chiefs Committee (WAPCCO);

➡ Legal framework;

➡ Operational support;

➡ Capacity building and training.

Enhance corruption investigative expertise

In response to the growing threat posed by criminal use of cryptocurrencies, the first Global Programme on Money Laundering and Digital Currencies was jointly organized by INTERPOL, Europol and the Basel Institute on Governance. The meeting brought together some 400 participants from law enforcement and private industry in 60 countries to discuss the risks associated with digital currencies and how police can address them. It was the first conference organized by a Working Group on Digital Currencies established by the three organizations in September 2016.

INTERPOL and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) held a series of joint training sessions throughout the year on sports corruption, including match manipulation and illegal betting, with a focus on investigating threats to the integrity of sports. Participants came from law enforcement, sporting organizations and national Olympic Committees. Events were held in:

➡ Côte d'Ivoire

➡ Denmark

➡ Italy

The long-running INTERPOL Global Programme on Anti-Corruption, Financial Crimes and Asset Recovery held training courses during 2017 in Namibia and Bahrain. Topics of discussion included anti-money laundering tools, asset recovery techniques, evidence management, challenges in applying regional and international protocols, and INTERPOL's anti-corruption policing capabilities. Investigators, judges and prosecutors attended the two events to share experiences and best practices for investigating corruption cases and recovering stolen assets.

Promote a culture of integrity

To enhance the global fight against corruption, INTERPOL and the International Anti-Corruption Academy signed an agreement to work on joint anti-corruption projects on research, training and education, and to host joint anti-corruption events.

INTERPOL is a supporting law enforcement partner of the International Anti-Corruption Coordination Centre (IACCC), after an agreement was signed during the 2017 General Assembly. The IACCC, which was established by the UK in July 2017, assists police in cases of large-scale corruption such as bribery of public officials, embezzlement, abuse of function and laundering the proceeds of crime.

A series of joint training workshops with the IOC assisted member countries in developing cross-sector strategies to promote integrity in sports. The events brought together participants from law enforcement, national Olympic Committees, sporting federations and gambling authorities to create a national culture which encourages the prevention of threats to sporting competitions. Workshops were held in:

- ➡ Australia (in preparation for the 2018 Commonwealth Games)
- ➡ Bahamas
- ➡ Senegal
- ➡ South Korea (in preparation for the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics)
- ➡ Thailand

Build mechanisms to restore stolen assets

A key component of anti-corruption activities is the seizure of ill-gotten assets. INTERPOL held an expert workshop on cash and asset seizures for police and customs officers in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa, offering the opportunity to see first-hand the methods used at the Frankfurt international airport in Germany to detect smuggled cash and other assets.

Global cooperation between national asset recovery agencies was the focus of the 7th Annual INTERPOL-StAR Global Focal Points Conference on Asset Recovery held in Canada in June. More than 120 anti-corruption investigators and prosecutors from some 50 countries attended the meeting, organized by INTERPOL and the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative (StAR) – a partnership between the World Bank and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) – in cooperation with the US Department of State. Discussions focused on operational issues related to asset recovery, as well as on tracing stolen assets and establishing mechanisms and systems for the effective management and disposal of recovered assets.

Goal

Curb illicit markets

Organized criminal networks are becoming more and more involved in the illicit trafficking of a range of items. Illegal drugs, cultural heritage, medicines, counterfeit goods: all are traded by criminals, either as an end in themselves or to finance other types of criminal activity.

International drug trafficking undermines political, economic, and regional stability and empowers organized crime groups involved in the drug trade. During the last decade, the world has witnessed the organized looting, illicit trafficking and sale of cultural objects. Trafficking of illicit products represents a major challenge for the international law enforcement community and a huge risk to global public health.

The transnational aspect of this crime and the involvement of organized crime makes INTERPOL's role essential to fighting this phenomenon. In this respect, the Organization provides support to member countries in order to dismantle the organized crime networks behind the manufacture, distribution and sale of illegal goods.

Achievements

Raise public awareness of the risks associated with illicit goods

Potentially dangerous fake food and drink items were seized worldwide during the sixth annual Operation Opson. Authorities in the 61 countries participating in the joint INTERPOL-Europol operation confiscated nearly 26 million litres of fake alcohol and 9,800 tonnes of fake food. Examples include:

➨ **Ecuador:** authorities dismantled a network smuggling a range of illicit products, including food and medicines, into the country;

➨ **Indonesia:** a factory producing fake condiments and sauces in unsanitary conditions was identified;

➨ **Portugal:** authorities discovered a factory which had lost its license to process food, where illicit activities included repacking nearly expired goods;

➨ **Togo:** national police dismantled a criminal network behind the distribution of expired food and drink, seizing 1,000 canned drinks and 2,000 boxes of pasta.

Law enforcement, security and industry experts gathered at the 11th annual International Law Enforcement IP Crime Conference to discuss evolving crime trends in areas such as illicit trafficking on the Internet. Nearly 600 participants from more than 60 countries attended the conference, which was co-hosted by INTERPOL, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center, in partnership with Underwriters Laboratories and the International Anti-Counterfeiting Coalition.

Build mechanisms to detect emerging illicit markets

A new but increasing crime has seen underwater cultural heritage sites exposed to a range of critical challenges including plunder and illegal trade. Against this context, reviewing and shaping best practices against the pillage, commercial exploitation, illicit trafficking and unethical recovery of underwater archaeological objects was the focus of the first ever international meeting organized by INTERPOL and UNESCO dedicated solely to identifying and protecting underwater cultural heritage.

Identify and disrupt illicit financial stream and profits

In the largest action of its kind, Operation Pangea X saw some 400 arrests worldwide and the seizure of more than USD 51 million worth of potentially dangerous medicines. Involving 197 police, customs and health regulatory authorities from a record 123 countries, the action resulted in the launch of 1,058 investigations, 3,584 websites taken offline and the suspension of more than 3,000 online adverts for illicit pharmaceuticals. Among the fake and illicit medicines seized were dietary supplements, pain reduction pills, epilepsy medication, erectile dysfunction pills, anti-psychotic medication and nutritional products. In addition to medicines, Operation Pangea X also focused on the sale of illicit medical devices, such as dental devices and implants, condoms, syringes, medical testing strips and surgical equipment.

With the sale of illicit medicines a major issue across Africa, INTERPOL's Operation Heera in May and June involved police, customs and regulatory agencies in seven West African countries. Raids on markets, shops, pharmacies, warehouses, vehicles and illicit factories led to the seizure of more than 41 million pills and 13,000 cartons of illicit pharmaceutical and medical goods worth approximately USD 21.8 million. Some 150 people were either arrested or placed under investigation.

Identify and disrupt organized crime and drugs networks

Operation Lionfish has been INTERPOL's flagship operation against drug trafficking for several years. Typically focusing on Latin America, in 2017 it was expanded to include actions targeting the drug trade in Southeast Asia and the Pacific regions. Three operations were conducted during the year:

- **Operation Lionfish III** – More than 55 tonnes of illegal drugs were seized in the traditional Lionfish action targeting drug trafficking between Latin America and West Africa, and some 357 individuals were arrested. The cocaine haul of 25 tonnes was estimated to be worth close to USD 1 billion.

- **Operation Lionfish-ASEAN** – This action against trafficking routes across Asia and the Pacific identified a network of West African and Asian organized crime groups behind methamphetamine trafficking in the region. In total some 350 kg, 50 litres and 2,175 tablets of illicit drugs including cocaine, cannabis, heroin and amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) worth an estimated USD 18 million were seized.

- **Operation Lionfish-Asia Pacific** – Known cocaine trafficking routes from South America to the Asia-Pacific region via Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia were monitored during the operation, leading to 17 seizures worldwide. Seizures of methamphetamine occurred in nearly all 23 participating countries, with 630 kg recovered in tablet, crystalline and powdered form. Intelligence sharing led to the identification of new methamphetamine trafficking routes and methods of concealment.

Goal

7

Support environmental security and sustainability

Environmental crime is a serious global threat which has consequences that reach far beyond the natural resources being exploited. The impact of criminal activity affecting the environment is widespread: plant and animal species reach the brink of extinction, and our very health is threatened by pollution of our air and waters.

A significant proportion of environmental crime is carried out by organized criminal networks, drawn by the low risk and high profit nature of these crimes. These networks are usually engaged in many other forms of serious crime – for example, the same routes used to smuggle illegal wildlife products are often used to smuggle weapons, drugs and people. Environmental crime often occurs hand in hand with other offences such as passport fraud, corruption and money laundering.

Organized and emerging crime strategy

INTERPOL's organized and emerging crime strategy sets out a framework for the Organization's actions to help member countries tackle environmental crimes, through:

1.
Identifying the criminal networks involved

2.
Identifying the trafficking routes and illegal markets

3.
Targeting enabling crimes such as corruption and travel document fraud

4.
Tracing and preventing the movement of illicit assets gained through these crimes

Wildlife trade on the Darknet

An INTERPOL research report, the 'Illegal Wildlife Trade in the Darknet', found limited but clear evidence of criminals using the Darknet to sell illicit wildlife products such as rhino horn, elephant ivory and tiger parts. The report said wildlife traders are likely to be attracted to the Darknet because of its strong anonymity and security mechanisms, with sellers already familiar with the encryption technology, financial instruments and communication methods commonly used in this anonymous space. The report was funded by the International Fund for Animal Welfare, the US Department of State and the African Wildlife Foundation.

Achievements

Strengthen capacity to investigate environmental crime

A new project to identify and dismantle the organized crime networks making billions in illicit profits behind wildlife trafficking between Africa and Asia was launched at the start of the year. Targeting high profile traffickers in Asia sourcing wildlife from Africa, the project provides a strengthened law enforcement response in source, transit and destination countries, particularly those linked to the illicit trade in ivory, rhinoceros horn and Asian big cat products.

With digital devices permeating all corners of society, INTERPOL commenced a training programme on using digital forensics to support maritime investigations. The first training course, tested with the Portuguese Maritime Police, aimed to help police identify and understand the purpose of the main electronic equipment found on vessels; determine which equipment could potentially contain data of interest for a criminal investigation; how to extract such data from the devices; and how to organize the data to best support an investigation.

Several training courses were conducted to help police in different regions develop the skills necessary to effectively fight environmental crimes.

➡ **Online wildlife trade** – Participants from nine Asian countries received training on monitoring social media and other digital platforms, including Darknet markets, from INTERPOL, the Australian Federal Police, and Environment and Climate Change Canada.

➡ **Firearms tracing** – A course on using INTERPOL's firearms investigation capabilities to track and identify criminals involved in poaching and related crimes brought together officers from nine African countries.

➡ **Digital forensics** – Extracting and analysing data from seized electronic devices was the focus of this course for wildlife investigators in 10 Asian countries.

Protect resource-dependent communities, vulnerable species and natural heritage

An INTERPOL Purple Notice was issued to alert police on human trafficking for labour exploitation in the fisheries sector across Southeast Asia. The notice described the modus operandi often used to recruit and transport unsuspecting workers onto vessels, into processing factories or aquaculture sites, where they are then exploited and abused, as well as the structures and methods used by the criminal networks involved.

Purple Notices
Member countries can request INTERPOL to issue a Purple Notice 'to seek or provide information on modus operandi, objects, devices and concealment methods used by criminals'.

187
Issued in 2017

623
Valid

A specialized training course was held in Kyrgyzstan on preventing the poaching and trafficking of snow leopards, a highly endangered species. Crime scene investigation, evidence collection and interviewing witnesses were the focus of the country, which was part of a three-year capacity development initiative to deliver standardized enforcement training to all wildlife officers in the country.

Build mechanisms to protect biodiversity and natural resources

More than 1.5 million tonnes of illegal waste were discovered worldwide during the month-long '30 days of action' in June targeting the illegal shipment and disposal of waste. It was the largest global enforcement action against waste crime and trafficking, with police, customs, border and environmental agencies from 43 countries participating. The operational results confirmed that Asia and Africa were the main destinations for waste illegally exported from Europe and North America, with trafficking also occurring between countries within Europe. It also revealed the existence of criminal networks involved in waste crime in Central America, a region not typically associated with this type of crime.

In October, INTERPOL's Wildlife Crime Working Group convened some 100 experts from across the world to shape collaborative responses to wildlife and forestry crime. Participants came from law enforcement, academia, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. Key topics on the agenda included collaboration between the transport sector and law enforcement against wildlife trafficking; online investigation and cybercrime threats related to illegal wildlife trade; and integrity, anti-corruption and anti-money-laundering efforts.

Identify and disrupt illicit financial stream and profits

INTERPOL launched a training programme in Indonesia on combating financial crimes in the forestry sector. The first session on illegal logging, land encroachment and related financial crimes was held in March. Topics discussed included using satellite and other technology to combat forestry crimes, conducting financial investigations, asset tracing and recovery, and digital evidence collection and preservation.

A Global Forestry Crime Conference held in June gathered some 100 representatives from the timber industry, financial institutions, investigative non-governmental organizations, and law enforcement agencies in 40 countries to shape strategies against corporate crime in the forestry sector worldwide.

Disrupt organized crime networks

Two of East Africa's most wanted wildlife criminals, who were the subjects of INTERPOL Red Notices requested by Tanzania, were arrested in Malawi. Brothers Chancy and Patrick Kaunda of Malawi were suspected of attempting to export 781 elephant tusks, valued at USD 5.8 million, from Tanzania to Malawi without the proper permits in 2013. Their arrests – supported by INTERPOL – took place within the framework of Operation Usalama IV, an initiative led by the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO) and the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (SARPCCO) targeting transnational crimes in Africa.

At the request of Malawi, INTERPOL issued a Red Notice for a suspected ivory trafficker following the seizure of hundreds of pieces of elephant tusks in Thailand. Madi Conteh, a Gambian national, was suspected of concealing 330 kg of ivory in a shipment falsely labeled as gemstones which was seized in Bangkok.

Operation Thunderbird against the illegal trade in wildlife and timber involved police, customs, border agencies, environment, wildlife and forestry officials.

49 countries and territories involved

898 suspects identified

1,400 seizures, worth more than **USD 5.1 million** including:

+13 big cats

17.8 tonnes of marine wildlife

5,200 birds

22 tonnes of various animal parts

2,800 reptiles

+3,000 pieces of ivory

22,000 products such as medicines, ornaments and carvings

300 tonnes of wood and timber

Vienna, Austria
UNODC Liaison Office

Brussels, Belgium
European Union

Lyon, France
Headquarters

New York, US
United Nations

San Salvador, El Salvador
Regional bureau

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
Regional bureau

Yaoundé, Cameroon
Regional bureau

Buenos Aires, Argentina
Regional Bureau

- General Secretariat
- Regional Bureaus
- Special Representative Offices

192 Member countries

National Central Bureaus

Each member country maintains a National Central Bureau, which links national police with each other and with INTERPOL's tools and services. Staffed by highly trained national police officers, the NCB is typically a division of the national police agency or investigation service and serves as the contact point for all INTERPOL activities in the field.

Two new member countries– the State of Palestine and the Solomon Islands – joined INTERPOL in 2017. An NCB is being established in each of them to connect the countries to INTERPOL's global network.

Bangkok, Thailand
Liaison Office

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
African Union

Nairobi, Kenya
Regional Bureau

Singapore
INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation (IGCI)

Harare, Zimbabwe
Regional Bureau

Afghanistan - Albania - Algeria - Andorra - Angola - Antigua and Barbuda - Argentina - Armenia - Aruba - Australia - Austria - Azerbaijan
Bahamas - Bahrain - Bangladesh - Barbados - Belarus - Belgium - Belize - Benin - Bhutan - Bolivia - Bosnia and Herzegovina - Botswana
Brazil - Brunei - Bulgaria - Burkina Faso - Burundi - Cambodia - Cameroon - Canada - Cape Verde - Central African Republic - Chad
Chile - China - Colombia - Comoros - Congo - Congo (Democratic Rep.) - Costa Rica - Côte d'Ivoire - Croatia - Cuba - Curaçao - Cyprus
Czech Republic - Denmark - Djibouti - Dominica - Dominican Republic - Ecuador - Egypt - El Salvador - Equatorial Guinea - Eritrea - Estonia
Ethiopia - Fiji - Finland - Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - France - Gabon - Gambia - Georgia - Germany - Ghana - Greece - Grenada
Guatemala - Guinea - Guinea Bissau - Guyana - Haiti - Honduras - Hungary - Iceland - India - Indonesia - Iran - Iraq - Ireland - Israel - Italy
Jamaica - Japan - Jordan - Kazakhstan - Kenya - Korea (Rep. of) - Kuwait - Kyrgyzstan - Laos - Latvia - Lebanon - Lesotho - Liberia - Libya
Liechtenstein - Lithuania - Luxembourg - Madagascar - Malawi - Malaysia - Maldives - Mali - Malta - Marshall Islands - Mauritania - Mauritius
Mexico - Moldova - Monaco - Mongolia - Montenegro - Morocco - Mozambique - Myanmar - Namibia - Nauru - Nepal - Netherlands
New Zealand - Nicaragua - Niger - Nigeria - Norway - Oman - Pakistan - Panama - Papua New Guinea - Paraguay - Peru - Philippines - Poland
Portugal - Qatar - Romania - Russia - Rwanda - St Kitts and Nevis - St Lucia - St Vincent and the Grenadines - Samoa - San Marino
Sao Tome and Principe - Saudi Arabia - Senegal - Serbia - Seychelles - Sierra Leone - Singapore - Sint Maarten - Slovakia - Slovenia
Solomon Islands - Somalia - South Africa - South Sudan - Spain - Sri Lanka - State of Palestine - Sudan - Suriname - Swaziland - Sweden
Switzerland - Syria - Tajikistan - Tanzania - Thailand - Timor-Leste - Togo - Tonga - Trinidad and Tobago - Tunisia - Turkey - Turkmenistan
Uganda - Ukraine - United Arab Emirates - United Kingdom - United States of America - Uruguay - Uzbekistan - Vatican City State - Venezuela
Vietnam - Yemen - Zambia - Zimbabwe

Governing bodies

General Assembly
Supreme governing body comprising delegates from each member country. Takes decisions on policy, resources, working methods, finances, activities and programmes.

Executive Committee
Elected by General Assembly and chaired by the President of the Organization. Provides guidance and direction to the Organization and oversees the implementation of decisions made by the General Assembly.

General Secretariat
Based in Lyon, France, the General Secretariat operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It encompasses the headquarters, Regional Bureaus, the INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation and Special Representative Offices. The Secretary General runs the Organization's daily operations from the General Secretariat, in line with the decisions of the General Assembly and Executive Committee.

86th INTERPOL General Assembly

The 86th INTERPOL General Assembly session was held in Beijing, China. The annual gathering saw several important changes to the Organization's structure:

➡ New member countries – In 2017, INTERPOL welcomed two new member countries when the General Assembly voted to admit the State of Palestine and the Solomon Islands to the Organization.

➡ Executive Committee elections – Five new members were elected to the Executive Committee.

MENG Hongwei
China
President

Benyamina ABBAD
Algeria
Vice President for Africa

Todd SHEAN
Canada
Vice President for the Americas

KIM Jong Yang
Republic of Korea
Vice President for Asia

Alexander PROKOPCHUK
Russia
Vice President for Europe

Anbuen NAIDOO
South Africa
Delegate for Africa

Rogerio GALLORO
Brazil
Delegate for the Americas

Anselm LOPEZ
Singapore
Delegate for Asia

Catherine DE BOLLE
Belgium
Delegate for Europe

Olushola Kamar SUBAIR
Nigeria
Delegate for Africa

Jolene LAURIA
United States
Delegate for the Americas

Fredolin LECARI
Moldova
Delegate for Europe

Jean-Jacques COLOMBI
France
Delegate for Europe

INTERPOL Standing Committee on Ethical Matters

The INTERPOL Standing Committee on Ethical Matters acts as an advisory board to the General Secretariat on ethical and due diligence matters. The committee met in November to review the Organization's regulatory framework, human resources strategy, and potential ethics and reputational risks linked to accepting financial contributions from the private sector. As a result, the committee produced 23 recommendations in the areas of ethics, internal oversight and due diligence.

## Updates to review mechanisms

The Commission for the Control of INTERPOL's Files (CCF) is an independent body responsible for ensuring that all processing of data – such as names, fingerprints and DNA profiles – complies with the Organization's regulations. It is also the conduit through which individuals may file complaints or enquire about information held on them.

A new structure and set of operating rules, approved by the General Assembly in 2016, went into effect in March 2017. In addition to setting out clearly specified binding deadlines for the CCF to take decisions, it was also restructured into two chambers:

➡ A **Supervisory and Advisory Chamber** to ensure the processing of personal data by the Organization is in compliance with INTERPOL's rules;

➡ A **Requests Chamber** to examine and decide on requests for access to data, and for the correction or deletion of data.

The changes reinforced the Commission's supervisory and advisory functions, while strengthening its ability to provide an effective remedy for individuals with regard to data concerning them possibly processed in INTERPOL's files.

To avoid refugee status being abused by criminals and terrorists, the General Assembly adopted a policy on the processing of data on refugees which outlines a range of measures which should be taken by member countries during the asylum application process. These include systematically checking INTERPOL's databases and ensuring regular communication and information sharing between authorities in charge of reviewing asylum applications and INTERPOL NCBs. The policy also encourages member countries to inform INTERPOL's General Secretariat headquarters, or the Commission for the Control of INTERPOL's Files, if an individual has been granted refugee status and on the outcome of an asylum application review.
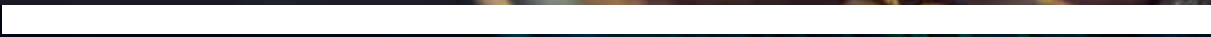
Finances

INTERPOL's primary source of funding is the annual statutory contribution provided by each of its 192 member countries, which may also make additional contributions on a voluntary basis, either monetary or as in-kind services. These member country contributions, together with other miscellaneous income, make up the Organization's Regular Budget.

In addition to the Regular Budget, resources are also provided by external donors including government agencies, international and non-governmental organizations, foundations and private entities. Such external funding is managed separately in trust funds and special accounts, and is used to fund special projects.

Collectively, the Regular Budget and the Trust Funds and Special Accounts constitute INTERPOL's Consolidated Budget.

2017 budget

For the year 2017, INTEROL's consolidated income amounted to EUR 124.3 million, including in-kind contributions. This comprises:

Regular Budget
other contributions
(including in-kind):
EUR 36.8 million

Regular Budget
member country
statutory contributions:
EUR 54.4 million

External Funding
EUR 33.1 million

Total income:
EUR 124.3 million
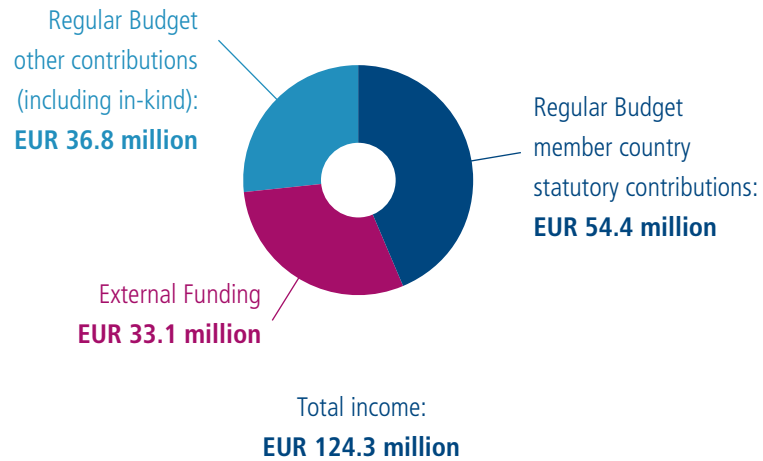
In 2015, INTERPOL had a EUR 3.2 million budget deficit. Following two years of financial discipline, INTERPOL made a EUR 2.1 million surplus in 2017.

In 2017, extra-statutory contributions totalled EUR 69.9 million, compared to EUR 48.4 million in 2014. This significant growth was due to a growth in public sector funding.

Financial situation (in EUR)

+2.1 million

-3.2 million

2015

2017
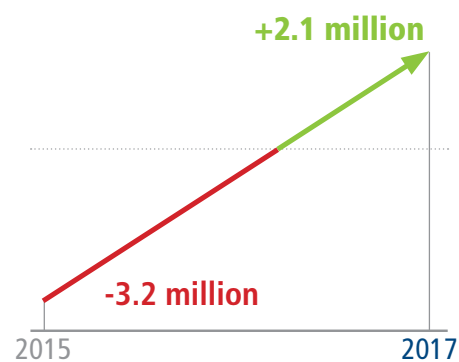
Regular Budget

Our 192 member countries pay annual, compulsory statutory contributions based on a proportional scale agreed between the members and voted upon annually by the General Assembly. Member country contributions fund the running costs of the General Secretariat and its satellite offices, as well as policing, training and support activities according to the strategic and corporate priorities of the Organization.

Additional voluntary contributions included monetary donations and in-kind assistance, including the secondment of personnel, licensing of software, and the free use of equipment or office space.

External funding

Contributions from external donors from a range of different sectors allow INTERPOL to carry out additional activities, complementing those financed by the Regular Budget. Such contributions are managed and reported on separately from the Regular Budget, and are held either in a dedicated trust fund (the INTERPOL Fund for International Police Cooperation) or in a Special Account. This funding supports different types of activities which are agreed in advance with the contributors.

INTERPOL receives contributions from both public entities – such as governments and intergovernmental organizations – and private donors such as companies and foundations, as well as the INTERPOL Foundation for a Safer World. INTERPOL prioritizes the public sector as the primary target for its external fundraising efforts, and continues to review and refine its external funding policies to ensure that all contributions, and the funding process itself, meet strict transparency and due diligence requirements to safeguard the interests of all parties concerned.

INTERPOL Foundation for a Safer World

The INTERPOL Foundation for a Safer World is the rallying point for likeminded organizations and individuals to unite with INTERPOL and the global law enforcement community in a joint response to today's crime challenges. It is an independent entity which serves as a central point to receive external contributions intended to fund INTERPOL's crime-fighting programmes and activities.

The Foundation has pledged to contribute EUR 50 million to INTERPOL over five years from 2016 - 2020, thanks to a contribution from the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Of this amount, EUR 10 million was received in 2017.

The contribution from the UAE supports seven key crime-fighting projects:

- Securing societies against the terrorist threat;

- Reducing vehicle crime;

- Protecting vulnerable communities;

- Protecting cultural heritage;

- Cybercrime: information sharing and real-time analytical platform;

- Targeting the illicit drug trade;

- Preventing the trafficking of illicit goods and medical products.

Unity for Security

The EUR 50 million contribution from the UAE was formalized in March, ahead of the Unity for Security Forum. Held in Abu Dhabi, the high-level event brought together ministers, senior government officials and representatives from the private sector to collectively address future security threats focused around these seven INTERPOL projects.

Statement of financial position

As at 31 December (in 000s Euros)

		2017	2016
Assets	**Current assets**		
	Cash and cash equivalents	111,131	100,395
	Statutory contributions receivable (net)	814	3,057
	Accounts receivable	7,526	7,827
	Prepaid expenses	2,045	1,799
	Inventories	476	534
	Total current assets	**121,992**	**113,612**
	Non-current assets		
	Investments	4,031	4,031
	Statutory contributions receivable (net)	250	252
	Intangible assets	1,653	1,211
	Plant, Property and Equipment	15,113	16,637
	Total non-current assets	**21,047**	**22,131**
	TOTAL ASSETS	**143,039**	**135,743**
Liabilities	**Current liabilities**		
	Accounts payable and accrued charges	7,102	6,920
	Contributions received in advance	3,286	8,835
	Trust Fund and Special Accounts	56,895	49,742
	Employee future benefits	8,276	8,109
	Total current liabilities	**75,559**	**73,606**
	Non-current liabilities		
	Employee future benefits	22,311	19,060
	Total non-current liabilities	**22,311**	**19,060**
	TOTAL LIABILITIES	**97,870**	**92,666**
Net Assets	Capital financing reserve	16,766	17,848
	Accumulated reserve funds	28,403	25,229
	TOTAL NET ASSETS	**45,169**	**43,077**

Statement of financial performance

For the financial year ended on 31 December (in 000s Euros)

	Budget 2017	2017	2016
Operating revenue			
Statutory contributions	54,368	54,368	52,783
Regional Bureau financing	1,267	1,267	1,230
In-kind contributions	34,311	30,977	32,597
Voluntary contributions	3,576	3,551	3,551
Reimbursements and recoveries	45,892	33,510	21,976
Financial income	600	673	631
Other income	1,516	768	653
Exchange rate gains/(losses) net		(786)	307
Total operating revenue	**141,530**	**124,328**	**113,728**
Operating expenses			
Pay costs	62,539	51,740	49,941
In-kind pay costs	24,341	19,630	20,508
Other staff costs	1,447	2,135	1,566
Premises running costs	3,259	3,255	2,992
In-kind premises running costs	9,970	11,347	12,089
Maintenance	3,820	2,791	2,524
Missions and meetings	20,467	18,487	12,539
Office expenses	3,394	2,368	2,712
Telecommunication costs	1,411	1,176	1,052
Third party and other costs	5,821	4,759	2,697
Depreciation and amortization	4,761	4,548	5,088
Total operating expenses	**(141,230)**	**(122,236)**	**(113,708)**
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	**300**	**2,092**	**20**

Statement of changes in net assets

As at 31 December (in 000s Euros)

	Capital Financing Reserve	Accumulated Reserve Funds
Balance at 31 December 2015	**19,760**	**23,297**
Surplus (Deficit) for the year	-	20
Items not in the Statement of Financial Performance		
- Capital expenditure	3,178	(3,178)
- Depreciation and amortization	(5,088)	5,088
- Disposals	(2)	2
Balance at 31 December 2016	**17,848**	**25,229**
Surplus (Deficit) for the year	-	2,092
Items not in the Statement of Financial Performance		
- Capital expenditure	3,509	(3,509)
- Depreciation and amortization	(4,548)	4,548
- Disposals	(43)	43
Balance at 31 December 2017	**16,766**	**28,403**

Statement of cash flows

For the financial year ended on 31 December (in 000s Euros)

		2017	2016
Cash Flows from operating activities	Surplus for the financial year	2,092	20
Adjustments for non-cash movements	Depreciation and amortization	4,548	5,088
	Effect of unrealized (gains) losses on foreign currency	281	(317)
	Loss on disposal of assets	43	
	Changes in assets		
	Decrease in statutory contributions receivables (net)	2,245	1,489
	(Increase) Decrease in accounts receivables	301	(327)
	(Increase) in prepaid expenses	(246)	(256)
	Decrease in inventories	58	29
	Changes in liabilities		
	Increase (Decrease) in accounts payable and accrued charges	182	(35)
	Increase (Decrease) in contributions received in advance	(5,549)	2,121
	Increase in Trust Fund and Special Accounts	7,153	20,454
	Increase in employee future benefits	3,418	1,028
	Net Cash Flows from operating activities	**14,526**	**29,294**
Cash Flows from investing activities	Purchases of Plant, Property and Equipment	(2,391)	(2,392)
	Purchases of intangible assets	(1,118)	(784)
	Purchases of investments	-	(4,000)
	Proceeds from sale of investments	-	2,846
	Net Cash Flows from investing activities	**(3,509)**	**(4,330)**
	Effect of foreign currency exchange rates in cash and cash equivalents	(281)	317
	Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	**10,736**	**25,281**
	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of period	100,395	75,114
	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of period	**111,131**	**100,395**

"We must combine our global efforts to stay one step ahead of ever-evolving criminals by enhancing the capabilities of all stakeholders to confront these increasingly ingenious and sophisticated challenges."

Meng Hongwei,
INTERPOL President

INTERPOL

Today's crimes are interconnected and global. More than ever, there is a need for multilateral police cooperation to address the security challenges facing the world. INTERPOL's role is to enable police in our 192 member countries to work together to make the world a safer place.

We provide secure access to global databases of police information on criminals and crime, operational and forensic support, analysis services and training. Our colour-coded Notices are used to alert police worldwide to wanted people, security threats and modus operandi.

All these policing capabilities are delivered worldwide and support three global programmes against the issues that we consider to be the most pressing today: counter-terrorism, cybercrime, and organized and emerging crime.

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