INTERPOL

Annual Report

2019

CONNECTING POLICE FOR A SAFER WORLD

Content

194 | This Annual Report presents some of the highlights of our activities during 2019 which support our 194 member countries to fight transnational crime. More information about all our activities can be found on our website: www.interpol.int

This Annual Report highlights a selection of the many activities and achievements of the Organization in 2019. These successes were made possible thanks to the commitment of the entire INTERPOL community: our President and Executive Committee, our National Central Bureaus, General Secretariat staff around the world, and the police and law enforcement services in all our 194 member countries.

Our three global crime programmes – counter-terrorism, cybercrime, and organized and emerging crime – saw impressive results on an operational level. Underpinning all activities on the ground are our databases and services. In 2019, the number of INTERPOL's specialized databases reached 18, and contained more than 100 million police files; they were consulted 230 times every second.

Police data is at the heart of our mission, and we are investing in technology through our I-Core programme to give frontline law enforcement officers better access to more data. In 2019, we completed a review of our existing capabilities, and defined a number of new projects that will transform data into actionable intelligence and investigative leads.

Finally, 2019 marked 30 years since the inauguration of our General Secretariat in Lyon, France and served to remind us of the extent of the change and progress over the past few decades. INTERPOL is committed to supporting our global membership in meeting their policing challenges of today and tomorrow.

For me personally, 2019 was a significant year as I was re-appointed for a second term by our governing body, the General Assembly. I am proud and humbled by this decision and I remain committed to ensuring that INTERPOL remains an operational beacon for police.

"Information is the lifeblood of policing and we will continue to work with our member countries to ensure that the right information is in the right hands at the right time."

Jürgen Stock
Secretary General

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Our criminal databases are at the heart of our work; each item of data is an essential piece of the puzzle in a police investigation in one or more of our member countries. We focus on improving the quality of the information, and access to it, especially at the frontline.

172 countries extending access

12 new countries implemented our FIND technology

11 new countries implemented WISDM

A total of 172 countries are now extending access to our secure I-24/7 network beyond their National Central Bureau to specialized national units or frontline officers, giving them real-time access to our databases.

Twelve new countries implemented our FIND technology into their national systems or border management system, providing integrated access to our databases from their frontline. These included the Maldives, which connected three airports and four seaports, and Fiji in the South Pacific.

Eleven new countries implemented WISDM, which automatically updates INTERPOL's databases on stolen/lost travel documents and stolen vehicles from their national repository systems.
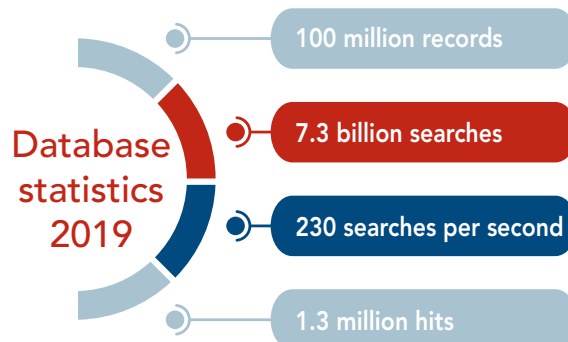
Our 18th database offers drugs analysis

The Relief database – donated by the Czech Republic – gives law enforcement access to sophisticated drugs analysis techniques that were previously only available to a handful of experts. By automatically comparing tool-marks, logos and chemical compositions of drug packages, police officers can make the connection between compressed drug shipments in different parts of the world, intercepting deliveries and dismantling networks.

Keeping up to date

Collecting, analysing and supplying data for investigative purposes is part of our core business and we need to keep pace with evolving technology and legislation.

Launched in September 2019, an EU-funded project called Roxanne brings together public and private stakeholders from 16 countries to develop a platform that will increase law enforcement's capabilities in new speech technologies, facial recognition and network analysis while factoring in the need for a clear legal and ethical framework in full compliance with both INTERPOL and EU regulations.

Database statistics 2019

100 million records

7.3 billion searches

230 searches per second

1.3 million hits

44.870

TYPES OF EVENT:
political summits, cultural events, sports championships etc.

DATABASES CHECKED:
SLTD, fingerprints, stolen vehicles, firearms, biometrics and nominals

HITS
Nominal: **44**
Facial recognition: **19**
Stolen/lost travel documents: **101**

10 IMESTS deployed in 2019

7.8 million CHECKS

34 FUGITIVES IDENTIFIED

200 THREATS DETECTED

Major Events Support Teams bring added value

INTERPOL Major Events Support Teams (IMESTs) are deployed at the request of a country to support security for large-scale political and sporting events that present a risk in terms of terrorism or organized crime. However, the border checks and other checks they carry out cast a wider net, successfully identifying criminals on the move.

INTERPOL never gives up

After nearly 20 years on the run, one of Israel's most wanted fugitives was arrested in Mexico in July thanks to a push from the Fugitives unit at the General Secretariat, and collaboration between Israeli, Mexican and US authorities. He was deported to Israel and is now serving an 18-year sentence for attempted murder and forgery.

Notices

INTERPOL
RED NOTICE

INTERPOL
YELLOW NOTICE

Issued in 2019:
13,377

Issued in 2019:
3,165

Valid at end 2019:
62,448

Valid at end 2019:
12,234

INTERPOL WANTED
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES
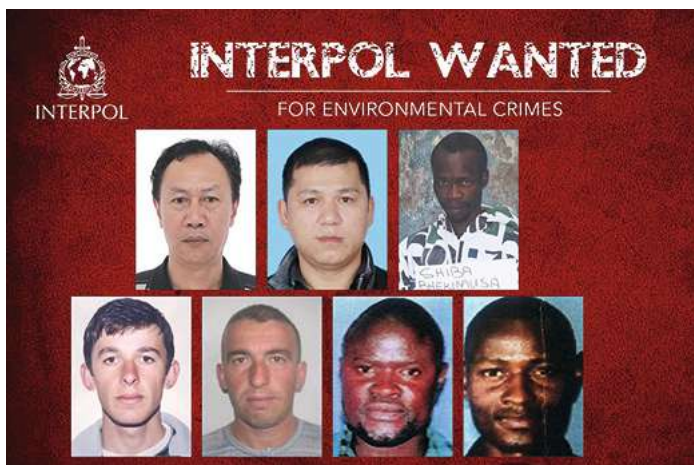
INTERPOL Wanted!

Two special INTERPOL Wanted campaigns were launched in 2019 to help track eight fugitives wanted for crimes against women and seven for crimes against the environment. The campaigns were public appeals for information to help locate fugitives.

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Terrorist networks spread far and wide, posing a threat well beyond actual conflict zones. We are driving initiatives to help police identify terrorists and prevent their cross-border movements. Other efforts are directed towards detecting and disrupting potential attacks that use chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive materials.

Sri Lanka bombings: response team on the scene

INTERPOL deployed an Incident Response Team (IRT) to Sri Lanka in April to assist the national authorities investigating the series of bomb attacks at churches and hotels that left hundreds dead and injured. Our assistance proved of great value on the ground and contributed to the arrest in the Middle East of one of the alleged ringleaders, following the publication of an INTERPOL Red Notice.

The IRT provided assistance in digital forensics, criminal intelligence analysis, coordination with foreign law enforcement actors on site, post-blast investigation, explosives expertise and disaster victim identification. The team's presence facilitated the final implementation of I-24/7 extensions to air and seaports throughout the country, enabling millions of checks to be conducted against wanted persons, stolen and lost travel documents and stolen vehicles databases.

New manual sheds light on the Darknet

Biological and chemical terrorism pose a very real threat to society today. Perpetrators use hidden and anonymous channels of communication – such as the Darknet – to exchange information and conduct their transactions. It is essential for counter-terrorism and cybercrime officers to be able to detect triggers and indicators of criminal activity related to biological and chemical materials. To assist law enforcement, our team of experts produced an INTERPOL Operational Manual on *Investigating Biological and Chemical Terrorism on the Darknet.*

Global Congress on chemical security

Almost 200 cross-sectoral experts, including representatives of the chemical industry, convened at INTERPOL in October to address the increasing threat of chemical and explosives terrorism to global peace and security. On the agenda of the Global Congress on Chemical Security and Emerging Threats were new technologies and lessons learned from recent incidents, with a particular focus on the illicit diversion of chemical precursors and explosive materials from legitimate procurement.
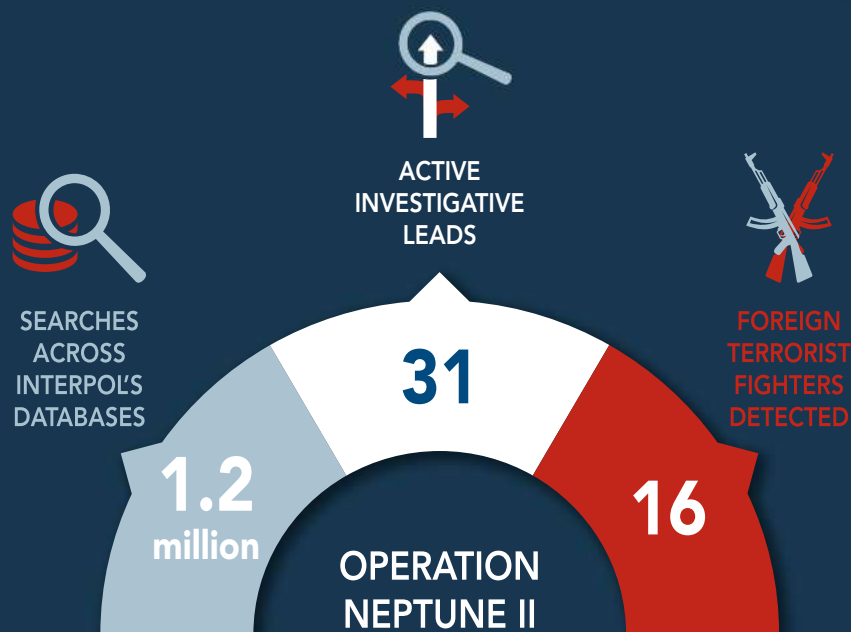
200
CROSS-SECTORAL EXPERTS

INTERPOL

1ST EDITION
INVESTIGATING BIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL TERRORISM ON THE DARKNET

OPERATIONAL MANUAL

JULY 2019

INTERPOL Restricted
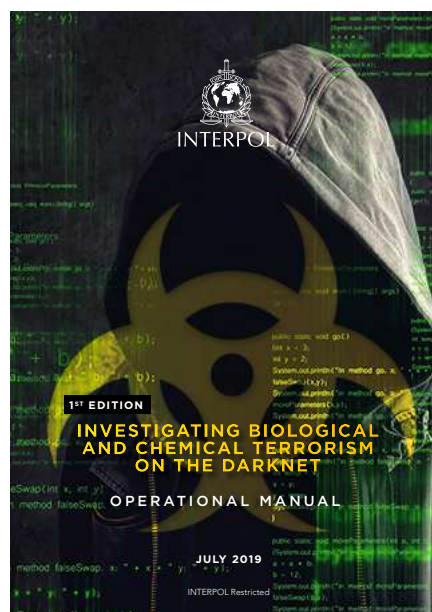
Maritime border operation catches 16 foreign terrorist fighters

An INTERPOL-led multi-agency operation carried out during the busy summer season used systematic border control and random searches at seven seaports to track suspected foreign terrorist fighters on the move. Operation Neptune II focused on intercepting suspects who were using maritime routes between North Africa and Southern Europe and hoping to pass unnoticed in the holiday traffic. Real-time checks against our databases of stolen and lost travel documents, nominal data and stolen vehicles paid off as criminals involved in human trafficking, people smuggling, firearms trafficking and the drugs trade were also apprehended.

ACTIVE INVESTIGATIVE LEADS

SEARCHES ACROSS INTERPOL'S DATABASES

FOREIGN TERRORIST FIGHTERS DETECTED

31

1.2 million

16

OPERATION NEPTUNE II

Training officers to collect biometric data from prison inmates

During a four-day operation in September, 27 officers from the forensic police, prison security service and INTERPOL in Burkina Faso recorded biometric data from 90 terrorist suspects held in Ouagadougou Central Prison. They then prepared Blue Notices to be circulated to our membership to collect additional information.

The training delivered by INTERPOL, and the equipment that was donated, have enabled the officers to work closely with the General Secretariat on an ongoing basis in order to increase the number of biometric datasets available and to prepare further Blue Notices.

Analysing key data on the spot

Following the attack on an army base in Mali in November, an INTERPOL field support mission provided local investigators with the tools and knowhow to examine data collected from suspected terrorists arrested at the Mali-Niger border.

The seized telephones and iPads yielded a wealth of data including almost 300 GB of telephone numbers, messages, emails, images, GPS coordinates and call logs. Investigators extracted 600 names and matched biometric information on suspected foreign terrorist fighters providing input for 82 Blue Notices to request additional information.

"INTERPOL acts as a global tripwire, disrupting the movement of individuals linked to criminal and terrorist activities."

Jürgen Stock,
Secretary General

Protecting vulnerable communities

Human trafficking, people smuggling, sexual abuse and forced labour are just some of the dangers that vulnerable sectors of the population face worldwide. Children in particular are in need of protection. We are committed to fighting all forms of exploitation.

50 children rescued: the tip of the iceberg

Operation Blackwrist, a two-year international crackdown on child abuse, culminated in the rescue of 50 children and the arrest of nine child sex offenders in Thailand, Australia and the United States. The youngest victim identified was just 15 months old.

Our routine Darkweb monitoring operations revealed abusive photos and videos originating from a subscription-based website with nearly 63,000 users worldwide. The abuser left very few visual or audio clues and officers reached out to the global police community to track victims. The level of cooperation was exemplary and extremely effective.

All of the images and videos seized have been uploaded to INTERPOL's International Child Sexual Exploitation database. Results stemming from Operation Blackwrist will likely be seen for a number of years, as officers comb through devices, chat groups and known associates of website users.

OPERATION BLACKWRIST

BULGARIA
took down the website's servers

THAILAND
arrested and jailed the main site administrator

UNITED STATES
identified the website IP address and cross-checked e-mail addresses

NEW ZEALAND
deconflicted intelligence and compiled information packages

AUSTRALIA
identified and arrested the second site administrator

Crimes against women: widespread human rights violations

INTERPOL made a public appeal to track eight fugitives wanted for crimes against women including murder. The appeal coincided with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on November 25 – a stark reminder of how women and girls universally experience violence and abuse across the world.

71% of all human trafficking victims worldwide are women and girls, and 3 out of 4 of them are sexually exploited

71%
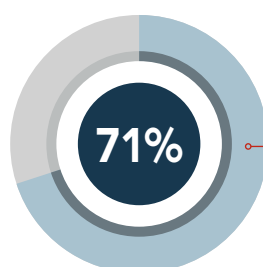
@UNWomen

Migrants are duped into undertaking treacherous – even deadly – trips through jungles, on boats or, as we've seen recently, in lorries.

In October, an INTERPOL-led operation to disrupt the crime groups behind people smuggling routes to the USA and Canada led to 53 arrests and the identification of 775 migrants from 30 different countries. Authorities in 20 countries across three continents carried out nearly one million checks at air, land and sea borders in order to disrupt the organized crime groups behind key smuggling routes to the USA and Canada.

Operation Epervier II:
220 victims rescued

As part of the operation in April 2019, almost 220 victims of human trafficking were rescued by police in Benin and Nigeria, including children as young as 11 destined for forced labour and prostitution.

Human trafficking and people smuggling: cutting the financial lifelines

The 7th Global Conference on Human Trafficking and People Smuggling held in Argentina in September discussed how to turn the tables on criminals who see victims as a product to be bought, moved and sold for financial gain.

It was the biggest edition ever, attracting a record 750 participants from 97 countries representing law enforcement, the public and private sectors, non-governmental and international organizations.

The emphasis was on using technology and cross-sector cooperation to exploit weaknesses in the criminals' complex business model from recruitment through to the end-of-the road commoditization of the victims.

"We see you, and you will be brought to justice."

Jürgen Stock,
Secretary General

OPERATION TURQUESA
Combating people smuggling

775
MIGRANTS DETECTED

27
VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESCUED

1 MILLION
INSPECTIONS

1,300
INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS MONITORED

20
PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES ACROSS 3 CONTINENTS

400
CHECKPOINTS

307,000
CHECKS AGAINST INTERPOL'S DATABASES

7
ARRESTED ON OTHER CHARGES

53
ARRESTED FOR PEOPLE SMUGGLING

11
ARRESTED FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Securing cyberspace

4

Cybercrime covers a wide range of threats and evolving crime trends that touch everyday life, from virus attacks on computers and information systems to crimes facilitated by the Internet. We support police to stay ahead of the game with assistance for operations, intelligence and capabilities development.

#BECareful

INTERPOL organized a public awareness campaign in 2019 called #BECareful about an increasingly common type of fraud – Business Email Compromise – to help people recognize the warning signs and avoid becoming victims.

In BEC fraud, also called CEO fraud, criminals hack into email systems or use social engineering tactics to gain information about corporate payment systems, then deceive company employees into transferring money into their bank account.

To gain the widest global reach for the campaign, INTERPOL brought on board police from 60 member countries and private partners.

In one case, police arrested a Nigerian scammer suspected of defrauding hundreds of companies. Police found details of more than 10,000 Chief Executive Officers and corporate accountants on his computer.

WHAT IS **B**USINESS **E**MAIL **C**OMPROMISE?

ILLEGAL ACCESS
Criminals gain entry to a victim's devices or systems – through hacking, phishing websites, malware – then deceive the victim into transferring money into their bank account.

SOCIAL ENGINEERING
Criminals can target their victims based on information they share on social media platforms.

URGENT REQUEST
The criminal impersonates a supplier requesting an urgent payment or change to banking details, or a senior employee in the company with authority to authorize payments.
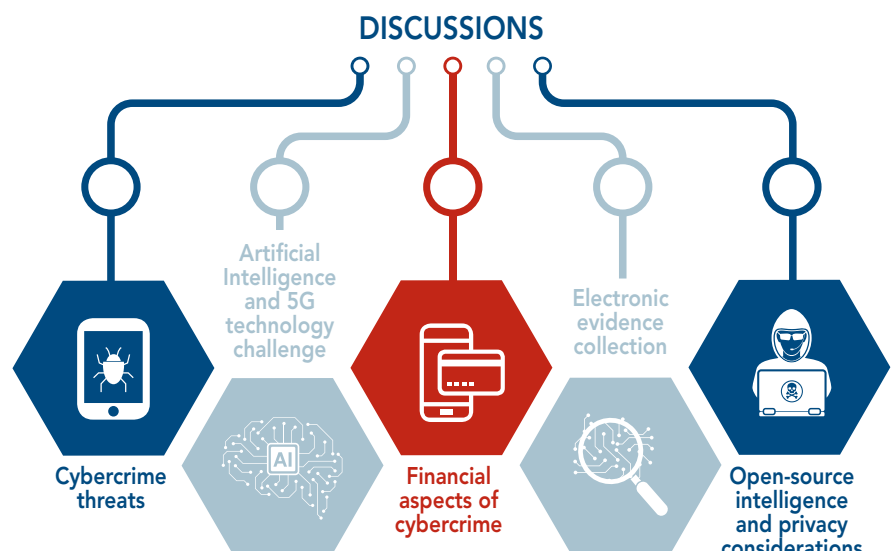
#BECareful

INTERPOL

Campaign posters and key messages were viewed more than 8 million times on social media

Law enforcement in a connected future

Criminals are quick to exploit the latest developments in technology, and this was the theme of the 7th Europol-INTERPOL Cybercrime Conference held in October. With input from public and private partners, participants discussed:

DISCUSSIONS

- Cybercrime threats
- Artificial Intelligence and 5G technology challenge
- Financial aspects of cybercrime
- Electronic evidence collection
- Open-source intelligence and privacy considerations

Enhancing our cyber intelligence capability

Member countries endorsed Project Gateway, a framework to allow INTERPOL to receive cyber threat intelligence from external partners. The pilot phase of the initiative gave us a better understanding of the global cybercrime landscape so we can design a targeted response to the threats, and expand the partnerships to receive more information and data.

Three cyber-criminals arrested

Operation Night Fury, an INTERPOL-coordinated cybercrime operation against a strain of malware targeting e-commerce websites, led to the arrest of three individuals in Indonesia. Data provided to INTERPOL through a partnership with a cybersecurity firm helped identify hundreds of infected e-commerce websites worldwide. Singapore took down two of the malicious Command and Control servers.

INTERPOL reacts fast to cryptojacking

In June 2019, INTERPOL launched an operation in Southeast Asia to combat cryptojacking, a spreading form of cybercrime where hackers use malware to hijack victims' computing power and mine cryptocurrency. Thanks to our intelligence, more than 20,000 hacked routers were identified in the region.

Under the umbrella of Operation Goldfish Alpha, cybercrime investigators and national computer emergency response teams located the infected routers, alerted the victims and patched the devices so they were no longer under the control of the cybercriminals. When the operation concluded in late November, the number of infected devices had been reduced by 78 per cent.

Darknet and cryptocurrencies taxonomy

Crimes abusing the Darknet and cryptocurrencies are borderless and investigations involve agencies in multiple countries. Our Darknet and Cryptocurrencies Task Force developed a specific taxonomy looking at entities, service categories, and abuse types. It will be published as an open-source solution that can be used by law enforcement, industry, and academia as a common language.

Guidelines for Digital Forensics

How to manage and process electronic evidence is increasingly critical in today's crimes. Our experts produced new Global Guidelines for Digital Forensics Laboratories, which outline procedures for running a digital forensics laboratory in accordance with national legislation, practice and procedures.

Regional cybercrime meetings

Recognizing the importance of sharing knowledge to keep on top of cybercrime, INTERPOL organized three regional meetings for heads and officers of cybercrime units in 2019. They focused on the benefits of cooperation with outside partners, who usually own the security software or data concerned.

For the first time, representatives from Regional Working Groups were invited to share the challenges they face at the 4th INTERPOL Global Cybercrime Expert Group Meeting, giving the 95 experts better insight into regional cybercrime patterns.

The 12th Middle East and North Africa Working Group convened in Jordan and discussed recent cybercrime cases, highlighting the importance of international cooperation among member countries as well as cooperation with private entities.

The 5th Americas Working Group in the Dominican Republic adopted recommendations in the areas of cyber capabilities development, operational activities, prevention and regional framework.

The 8th African Working Group in Kenya helped share best practices in cybercrime investigations and build digital forensics and investigative techniques as well as planning joint operations against BEC, crypto jacking, phishing and romance scams.

Promoting border integrity

5

Fugitives, missing persons, victims of trafficking, stolen goods, dangerous items, misuse of travel and identity documents … border officers at land, sea and air crossings need to be on the lookout for many issues. We provide a range of expertise and technical solutions to help frontline officers meet these challenges.

Telling the public #DontRiskIt

An INTERPOL awareness campaign, timed to coincide with the end-of-the-year holiday period, reminded the public to keep their passports and identity documents safe.

The campaign is part of Project IDEA, an EU-sponsored initiative to help certain member countries secure their borders by strengthening their technical infrastructure and migrating to the latest versions of INTERPOL systems.

Fraudulent travel documents facilitate the smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons, drugs smuggling and the mobility of terrorists

IN THE WRONG HANDS, YOUR PASSPORT IS *like a weapon!*

INTERPOL

TERRORISTS AND CRIMINALS USE THEM TO CROSS BORDERS UNDETECTED

This project is funded by the European Union's Internal Security Fund – Police

#DontRiskIt   MORE INFORMATION: INTERPOL.INT/PASSPORT

IDEA

Detecting fraudulent travel documents via INTERPOL training

As document forging techniques become increasingly sophisticated, law enforcement officers have to be capable of identifying the tiniest detail, often invisible to the naked eye.

We deliver training courses worldwide in which participants examine the latest printing methods, document security features, document verification technologies and current examination techniques. The overall aim is to strengthen the regional law enforcement capacity to detect criminals and terrorists at border controls.

In 2019, courses were delivered in Mexico, Nigeria, Rwanda, Turkmenistan and Vietnam, attended by forensic document examiners, border control officers, immigration officials and prosecutors.

Tighter borders in Southeast Asia

All 10 countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations were mobilized for the fourth edition of Operation Sunbird. The operation is a concerted effort to detect terror suspects and criminals crossing borders in the region and to foster integrated border management solutions. The operation consolidated the skills and knowledge acquired during the training phases of Project Sunbird.

Building on previous successes, police, immigration and maritime officials were active at 90 air, land and sea spots. Tighter airport security means criminals increasingly opt for sea routes, so Sunbird IV focused on making maritime borders as watertight as possible.

It led to 24 arrests and identified 36 leads linked to the movement of terrorist suspects, two of whom were on the UN Security Council wanted list.

36 IDENTIFICATIONS OF LEADS LINKED TO THE MOVEMENT OF TERRORIST SUSPECTS

24 ARRESTS

Global crackdown on airline ticket fraud

The fraudulent purchase of tickets online represents huge losses for the airline industry, but also facilitates serious criminal activities such as trafficking in human beings, illegal immigration, drug smuggling and terrorism.

During the 12th edition of the Global Airline Action Days in November, INTERPOL was joined by partners from law enforcement, national and international agencies and the private sector to tackle this phenomenon, proving the effectiveness of bringing multiple stakeholders on board.

They identified 165 suspicious purchases and arrested 79 individuals for travelling with airline tickets bought using stolen, compromised or fake credit card details.

Global Airline Action Days 2019

60 countries

12 online travel agencies

200 airports

56 airlines

165 suspicious purchases identified

79 arrests

Database checks – anytime, anywhere

Operation Adwenpa IV was a West African border operation in July giving more than 200 frontline officers from 13 countries the chance to put into practice the skills and knowledge learned during training.

It used the West Africa Police Information System in an operational setting for the first time, and officers also trialled prototype tablets permitting checks against INTERPOL databases and passport scanning without a network connection. The operation uncovered more than 100 human trafficking victims, gold bars, and fake pharmaceuticals worth EUR 900,000.

Fields: improving travel document checks

Project Fields is a joint INTERPOL-Frontex initiative to strengthen national security by improving travel document verification and upgrading available technology.

Also, in the framework of our cooperation with Frontex, four joint operations were held in 2019 at airports in Geneva, Lisbon, Munich and Zurich that led to 19 hits against our stolen travel document and nominal databases.

Operation RIPTIDE

Project Riptide aims to prevent Foreign Terrorist Fighters from transiting through land, air and sea border points in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. It has trained 932 frontline officers in the use of our databases with checks leading to the arrest of 61 transnational smugglers and fugitives, and identifying 448 potential threats.

122 database hits picked up by the INTERPOL Major Events Support Team deployed to the 30th Southeast Asian Games in Manila, Philippines in December.

Curbing illicit markets

6

People tend to associate trafficking with drugs and weapons but there is no limit to the number of illicit goods inundating the market. Some are genuine products that have been stolen while others are dangerous counterfeits – food, medicines, spare parts and even toys. Nothing is sacred: there is also a lucrative black market in cultural property with strong links to organized crime.

Record cocaine seizure in Guinea Bissau

Following one of Guinea Bissau's largest ever drug seizures in September, INTERPOL deployed a multidisciplinary Incident Response Team with experts from drug investigations, cybercrime, intelligence analysis, and financial crime.

POLICE SEIZED
1.8 TONNES
OF COCAINE

WORTH
60 TO **80** MILLION
EUR

AND MADE

10
ARRESTS

International works of art first aid course

INTERPOL and ICCROM joined forces to organize the first high-level international training course for specialized police units on «First Aid to Cultural Heritage for Preventing Illicit Trafficking in Times of Crisis». With organized crime groups taking advantage of the vulnerability of cultural sites, monuments and immovable property to loot unprotected artefacts, the focus was on building immediate response mechanisms to cultural heritage sites under threat.

INTERPOL steps in after priceless jewellery heist

INTERPOL joined the search with German authorities to recover several priceless diamond items stolen from the Green Vault museum in Dresden. Fourteen items were immediately added to the INTERPOL Stolen Works of Art Database which has a multisector user base. An app to facilitate on-the-spot identification by frontline officers and authorized partners is currently being developed.

Fighting fakes:
tackling intellectual property crime from all sides

More than 500 senior law enforcement officials, security and industry experts from across the globe gathered in Cape Town in October to shape solutions to the growing threat posed by intellectual property (IP) Crime. Although counterfeiting may seem to be a victimless crime, the proceeds often fuel other areas of organized crime, undermine legitimate trade and pose a serious health risk to consumers.

Specialized workshops addressed training and technology in Africa, and the increasing use of cryptocurrencies in IP crime.

In 2019, the number of users of our global e-learning platform – the International Intellectual Property Crime Investigators College – continued to rise. More than 23,000 users from more than 170 countries have enrolled on IIPCIC's multilingual courses which include industry-specific modules such as the illicit trade in medical products.

Not as green as they seem:
there is fast-growing trend in fake organic products

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS 2019

Operation Trigger V

Who:	Police, customs, immigration, the military, ballistics laboratories
When:	February 2019
What:	Ilegal firearms
How much:	850 firearms, USD 162,000 in cash
Where:	8 Latin American countries
How:	42,000 checks at hotspots, border points
Results:	560 arrests including trafficking ringleader

Operation Opson VIII

Who:	INTERPOL, Europol, customs, food regulatory authorities
When:	December 2018 - April 2019
What:	Fake food and drink
How much:	6,000 tonnes of food (including organic food), 33 million litres of drinks, 33,000 tonnes of illicit alcohol
Where:	78 countries
How:	67,000 checks at shops, markets, ports, industrial estates
Results:	18.7 million items (worth USD 117 million), 672 arrests

Operation Maya III

Who:	Police and customs authorities
When:	April 2019
What:	Electronics, office supplies, personal care items, medicines
How much:	746,000 items worth USD 3.5 million
Where:	Americas and Caribbean
How:	67,000 checks at shops, markets, ports, industrial estates
Results:	150 individuals and 65 illicit businesses identified

Supporting environmental security

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We have a moral obligation to future generations to protect our natural heritage from unscrupulous criminals who plunder resources, pollute our planet and destroy flora and fauna – all for financial gain. We work with our member countries and like-minded international organizations to raise awareness and combat the growing threats to our already fragile ecosystem.
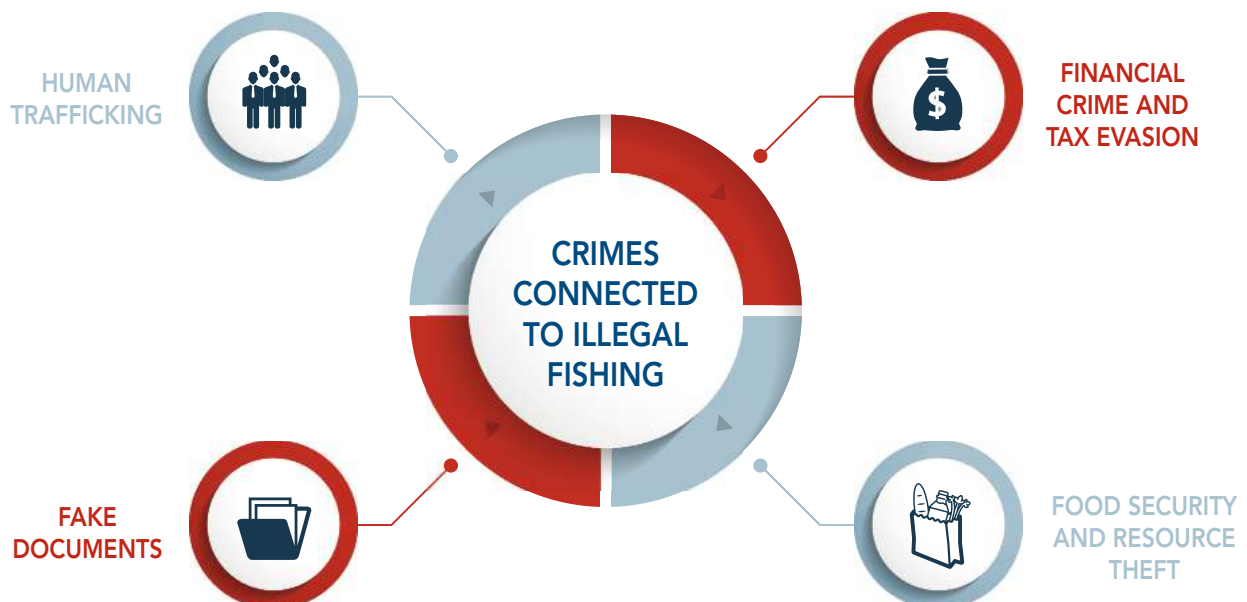

Many environmental crime offences are committed to avoid the cost of compliance with legislation

Making the polluters pay…

INTERPOL led a global operation against severe maritime pollution, codenamed 30 Days at Sea 2.0, involving 61 countries and more than 200 enforcement authorities. More than 3,000 offences were detected during the month-long campaign in October, illustrating the extent of global pollution crime.

Among the activities, authorities carried out inspections into illegal oil refineries responsible for severe oil leakages in Nigeria and organized the repatriation of plastic waste illegally shipped into Malaysia from Belgium via Hong Kong. Some countries initiated public awareness campaigns, for example in Ecuador where more than 600 kg of refuse was removed from the World Heritage site of the Galapagos Islands.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

FINANCIAL CRIME AND TAX EVASION

CRIMES CONNECTED TO ILLEGAL FISHING

FAKE DOCUMENTS

FOOD SECURITY AND RESOURCE THEFT

## Local seizure, global investigation

Thai authorities captured an Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing boat, one of the world's most wanted vessels, off the coast of Phuket in collaboration with INTERPOL in November.

INTERPOL deployed an Investigative Support Team (IST) to give technical guidance on the vessel's shipborne communication and navigation equipment in order to ensure thorough collection of investigative data.

G7 Ministers recognize INTERPOL's role

Environmental crime was high on the international agenda of the G7 ministerial meeting held in April in France. Ministers underlined the need for enhanced national law enforcement capabilities to conduct transnational investigations along with increased information-sharing via INTERPOL.

Wildlife crime not only strips our environment of its resources, it also impacts society through the associated violence, money laundering and fraud.

OPERATION THUNDERBALL

582
arrests

55
prosecutions

237
investigations
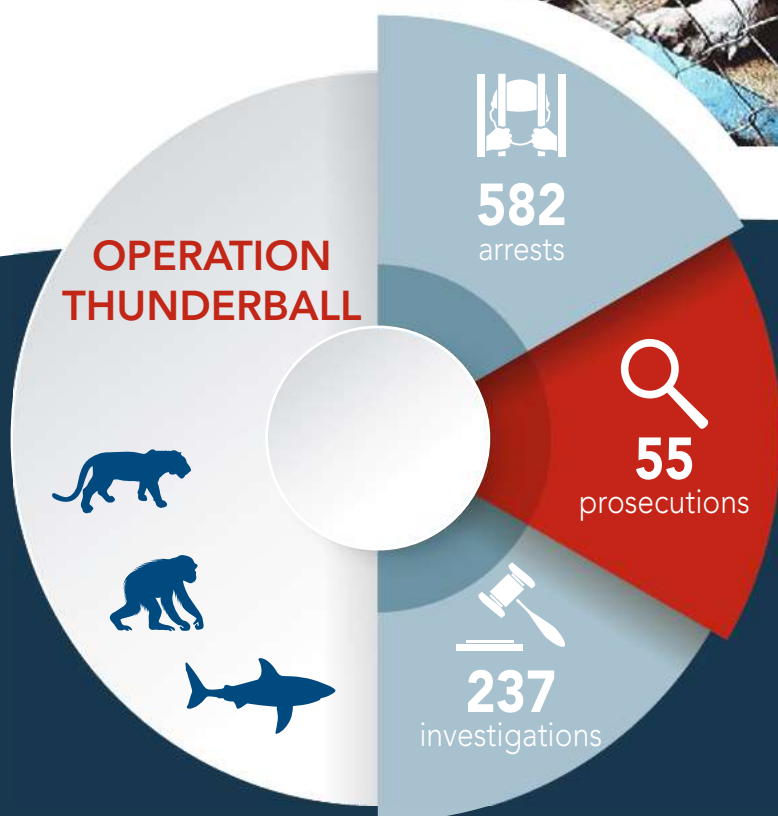
Wildlife traffickers hit hard by Operation Thunderball

In a joint operation between INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization, border, police and environmental officers in 109 countries seized protected wildlife products ranging from live big cats and primates to timber, marine wildlife and merchandise such as clothing, beauty products, food items, traditional medicines and handicrafts. Running from April to June, the operation resulted in 237 investigations, 582 arrests and 55 prosecutions.

Promoting global integrity

8

As a key player on the global stage, it is INTERPOL's duty to champion global integrity, fight corruption at all levels, hunt down transnational criminals, and help bring the perpetrators of crimes to justice, ensuring there is no such thing as impunity.

Criminal cold callers

Enterprising criminals are scaling up telecom fraud by establishing call centres to harass and swindle the unsuspecting public. This and other forms of social engineering fraud was the focus the 7th Meeting of the INTERPOL Anti-Transnational Financial Crime Working Group held in Chongqing, China in June.

Attended by more than 70 law enforcement participants from 42 countries, the meeting underscored the global nature of these crimes as well as the often unwitting involvement of individuals, whether they be money mules, naive victims of romance scams or simply links in a business fraud chain.

Zero tolerance for corruption, anywhere

An INTERPOL Anti-Corruption and Asset Recovery Global Conference held in Colombia in November gathered 250 participants from more than 60 countries, international organizations and the private sector. Subjects ranged from identifying enablers of corruption upstream through to the disposal of assets downstream.

With preparations well under way for the Olympics in 2020, two regional workshops proved particularly topical with the International Olympic Committee and the World Anti-Doping Agency joining INTERPOL to tackle the issue of competition manipulation and the trafficking of performance enhancing drugs.

Online scammer arrested

In March 2019, INTERPOL helped police arrest several Nigerian nationals under **Operation Raven.** One individual is now facing 45 charges related to financial crimes.

War crimes: learning through simulation

INTERPOL's 7th International Training Course on Genocide, War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity Investigations in November took on a whole new dimension with a simulation exercise designed to hone investigators' skills through real-life scenarios.

Experts from the International Criminal Court, Switzerland and the Netherlands briefed 17 law enforcement officers from 14 countries on fundamental investigative skills covering forensics, interview protocols, witness protection, military resource identification and recognition of sexual and gender-based violence.

The French Forensic Police helped set up simulated war crime scenes including a detention centre, execution area and mass grave.

9

Governing bodies set direction

The **88th session of the General Assembly** was held in Chile from 15 to 18 October 2019, and brought together 900 senior law enforcement and government delegates from 162 countries.

The Assembly reappointed Jürgen Stock for a second term as Secretary General and elected four new members to the Executive Committee.

Delegates endorsed 13 resolutions, including:
- redesigning INTERPOL's future portfolio of services for police (see page 22)
- approving activities and finances
- establishing strong partnerships with regional bodies.

The **47th European Regional Conference** held in Katowice, Poland in May, brought together 170 senior police officials from 55 countries. It focused on increased drug flows into Europe and the threat of returning foreign terrorist fighters as well as money laundering.

Building synergies to fight terrorism and organized crime topped the agenda at the **24th African Regional Conference**, held in February in Kigali, Rwanda. It brought together 158 senior law enforcement officials from 42 countries.

The **Heads of INTERPOL's National Central Bureaus** gathered in Lyon, France, in April for their 15th annual conference. They endorsed strengthening the role of NCBs in global security, and bringing INTERPOL databases closer to frontline police officers.

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Diversity in nationality

The diversity of our global membership is reflected in the staff who work at the 13 different duty stations of the General Secretariat, representing 114 nationalities as of December 2019. Of the total 1,050 staff, one quarter were seconded by our member countries, mostly into policing positions.

Promoting gender equality

Increasing the gender balance across the different roles of our staff is built into our recruitment procedures to ensure diversity while attracting the best talent. This includes diversity in shortlisting of candidates and of personnel on the interview panel as well as keeping a database of suitable candidates.

Raising awareness on gender-related issues among law enforcement officers in our member countries also stepped up in 2019 with two gender affairs experts assigned to capacity building projects. These were:

- Project Sunbird, which aims to boost the skills of police across Southeast Asia in combating terrorism and organized crime.
- Project Proteger, which focuses on anti-migrant smuggling in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The first workshop on Leadership for Women in Law Enforcement in West Africa was held in March 2019, training 22 participants from 13 countries in the region. It followed a successful course in Southeast Asia that attracted 21 female officers. The courses focused on strategic leadership skills.

Our staff

275 SECONDED

1,050 STAFF

775 CONTRACTED

114 NATIONALITIES

INTERPOL

Young Global Police Leaders Programme

The inaugural edition of this programme took place in Dubai and enabled participants to benefit from mentoring from high-ranking officers from various countries and organizations. They also brainstormed on horizon scanning processes to identify future challenges.

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staff training sessions in 2019. They included remote team collaboration, management, presentation skills and the new Code of Conduct.

E-learning opportunities

Our INTERPOL Global Learning Centre offers e-learning modules on a wide range of subjects to General Secretariat staff and law enforcement officials in our member countries. In 2019, there were more than 20,000 active users, and they completed 15,700 courses (60,300 modules).

325 national officers are now qualified as INTERPOL Certified NCB Officials having completed 15 training modules about the Organization, covering legal aspects, our secure communication networks, databases and international cooperation.

520 certified officials have so far completed training on INTERPOL's rules and regulations, legal awareness, policing capabilities and international cooperation.

Finances

11

Income in 2019

EUR **142** million >> **+6%** compared to 2018

Statutory contributions from member countries
EUR **59 million**

41%

Voluntary cash contributions
EUR **49 million**

35%

In-kind contributions
EUR **34 million**

Expenditure in 2019

EUR **147** million >> **+12%** compared to 2018

Counter-terrorism
EUR **21 million**

Organized and emerging crime
EUR **35 million**

Cybercrime
EUR **17 million**

**Corporate support and infrastructure
(includes IT, databases, HR, legal, finance)**
EUR **52 million**

Governance and oversight
EUR **22 million**

The total income for the General Secretariat in 2019 was EUR 142 million, an increase of EUR 8 million compared to 2018. This funded our policing activities and the corporate services that support them.

Statutory contributions from our member countries accounted for 41 per cent of this income. To be able to deliver more policing projects without increasing these contributions, we seek voluntary funding from member countries.

In 2019, voluntary cash contributions accounted for 35 per cent of our income, while 24 per cent was in-kind contributions for the use of equipment, services and buildings.

Our financial statements can be found at www.interpol.int

I-CORE: transforming policing through technology

A wide-ranging review of our policing capabilities was completed in 2019 under the I-CORE Programme. Data is key to fighting crime and I-CORE will now start implementing a number of projects to strengthen INTERPOL's function as a global police information hub, ensuring police have secure, timely and direct access to the best available data.

At its 88th session, the General Assembly endorsed a Resolution which tasked the INTERPOL General Secretariat with implementing the I-CORE Programme and with undertaking fundraising activities in order to finance it.

"There is an increasing operational demand for INTERPOL's capabilities on the frontlines. We will continue to identify innovative solutions for global policing."

Jürgen Stock,
Secretary General
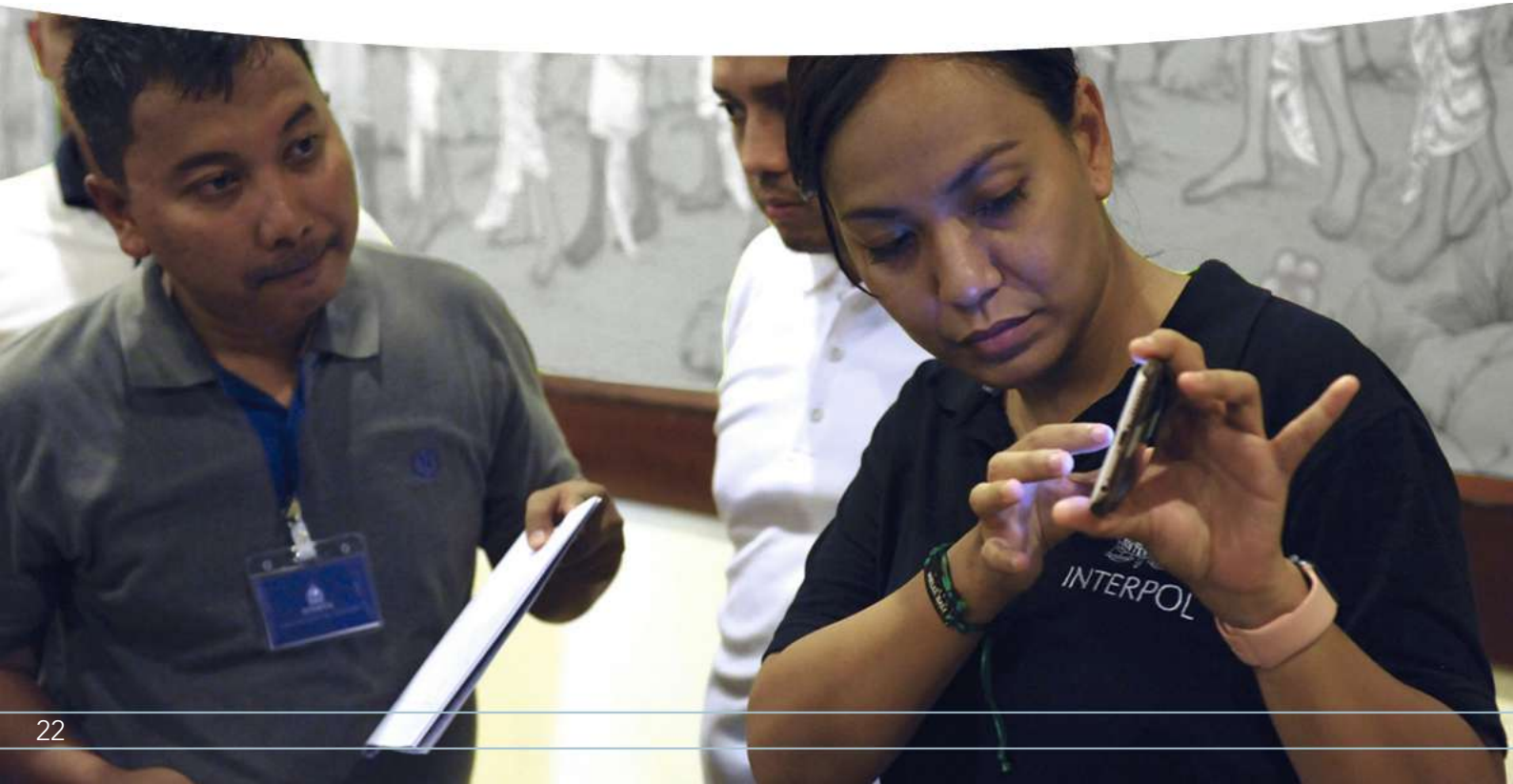
194
member
countries

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 - Eswatini - Ethiopia - Fiji - Finland - 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 - Kiribati - 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 - North Macedonia Norway - Oman - Pakistan - Palestine - Panama - Papua New Guinea - Paraguay - Peru - Philippines Poland - Portugal - Qatar - Romania - Russia - Rwanda - San Marino - St Kitts and Nevis - St Lucia St Vincent and the Grenadines - Samoa - 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 - Sudan - Suriname - 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 Uruguay - Uzbekistan - Vanuatu - Vatican City State - Venezuela - Vietnam - Yemen Zambia - Zimbabwe

About INTERPOL

INTERPOL's role is to enable police in our 194 member countries to work together to fight transnational crime and make the world a safer place. We maintain global databases containing police information on criminals and crime, and we provide operational and forensic support, analysis services and training. These policing capabilities are delivered worldwide and support three global programmes: counter-terrorism, cybercrime, and organized and emerging crime.