



Concept Note

Breakout Group on Crimes That Affect the Environment and Organized Crime Youth Consultation Preceding COP12 UNTOC

Overview

The breakout group will explore the intersection between crimes that affect the environment (CAE) and organized crime. CAE such as wildlife crime, illegal logging, crimes in the minerals and fisheries sectors, and waste trafficking are increasingly perpetrated by organized criminal groups. These activities not only damage ecosystems and biodiversity but also fuel corruption, destabilize communities, and undermine the rule of law. The breakout group aims to provide youth participants with a deeper understanding of the nature of these crimes and engage them in discussions about solutions and preventive measures, to explore opportunities for collaboration between UNODC and youth participants to strengthen engagement in addressing these issues.

Date/Time: Thursday 10 October, 11:45-13:00

11:45 – 12:05	Crimes that affect the environment and organized crime <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Substantive overview of the topic</i>- <i>Manuela Matzinger, Programme Officer, CAE</i>- <i>Tanya Wyatt, Lead Researcher – CAE, Research and Trend Analysis Branch</i>
12:05 – 12:45	Break-out groups discussing crimes that affect the environment and organized crime <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Questions to be discussed: see below</i>• <i>Four break-out groups (in person, online with interpretation, two online without interpretation)</i>• <i>Moderators:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Nicole Quijano-Evans, Deputy Head, Crimes that Affect the Environment (CAE)</i>- <i>Tanya Wyatt, Lead Researcher – CAE, Research and Trend Analysis Branch</i>- <i>Manuela Matzinger, Programme Officer, CAE</i>- <i>Lejda Toci, Programme Officer, CAE</i>
12:45 – 13:00	Summary of the outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Rapporteurs report back on the recommendations made</i>

Objectives:

- Raise awareness among youth about the links between environmental crimes and organized criminal activities.
- Increase youth understanding of UNODC's work to address CAE
- Facilitate the exchange of ideas on entry points for increasing youth engagement in addressing CAE.
- Formulate recommendations for States on enhancing youth engagement in efforts to prevent CAE and organized crime.

Structure:

1. **Presentation:** Overview of crimes that affect the environment, current trends, links to organized crime, and UNODC's approach. This will set the stage for an interactive discussion during the breakout group.
2. **Break-out group discussion:** Youth participants will be asked to share their views, experience and ideas in small working groups. They will be invited to reflect on their experiences and knowledge of CAE; and brainstorm on ways to enhance/strengthen youth engagement in UNODCs work.
3. **Summary of outcomes:** A pre-identified rapporteur for each breakout group will present the recommendations.

Possible Discussion Points:

1. What are the most pressing CAE in your region. From your point of view, how is this affecting youth and what are the challenges you face?
2. How do organized criminal groups exploit natural resources for profit?
3. How can governments and youth-led organizations collaborate to strengthen prevention efforts and disrupt organized criminal groups involved in CAE?
4. What are the barriers to youth participation in preventing CAE, and how can they be overcome?

Expected Outcomes:

- Identification of key challenges in addressing CAE, and existing barriers for youth engagement.
- Concrete recommendations from youth participants on how to enhance their involvement in efforts to prevent CAE.
- Insights on potential partnerships or existing best practices between youth, civil society, and governments to address CAE.

This breakout session will contribute to shape the recommendations that will be delivered to Member States during the plenary statement and contribute to a more inclusive and youth-driven approach to address and prevent CAE.

Pre-reading Materials:

The publications listed offer valuable insights into UNODC's approach to crimes that affect the environment and serve as useful background information to enhance the breakout group discussions. Youth delegates are invited to browse these resources to deepen their understanding of relevant areas of interest.

- [World Wildlife Crime Report](#)
- Global Analysis on Crimes that Affect the Environment [part 1](#)
- [GPCAE Annual Report 2023](#)
- UNODC approach on:

- Crimes that Affect the Environment: [https://www.unodc.org/res/environment-climate/resources/html/UNODC Approach to Crimes that Affect the Environment .pdf](https://www.unodc.org/res/environment-climate/resources/html/UNODC%20Approach%20to%20Crimes%20that%20Affect%20the%20Environment.pdf)
- Crimes in the Forest Sector: [https://www.unodc.org/documents/Wildlife/UNODC Approach Crimes Forest Sector.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/Wildlife/UNODC%20Approach%20Crimes%20Forest%20Sector.pdf)
- Crimes in the Fisheries Sector: [https://www.unodc.org/documents/Wildlife/UNODC Approach to Crimes in the Fisheries Sector.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/Wildlife/UNODC%20Approach%20to%20Crimes%20in%20the%20Fisheries%20Sector.pdf)
- Crimes in the Waste Sector: [https://www.unodc.org/res/environment-climate/resources/html/UNODC Approach to Crimes in the Waste Sector.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/res/environment-climate/resources/html/UNODC%20Approach%20to%20Crimes%20in%20the%20Waste%20Sector.pdf)
- Illegal Mining and Illicit Trafficking in Precious Metals: [https://www.unodc.org/documents/Wildlife/UNODC Response Framework Minerals.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/Wildlife/UNODC%20Response%20Framework%20Minerals.pdf)
- Website:
 - <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/environment-climate/>
 - <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/environment-climate/resources.html>