

**Statement on INTERPOL General Assembly  
Resolution on Environment Crime**

**Chief Benito A. Perez  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Office of Law Enforcement  
November 9, 2010**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement applauds yesterday's affirmation by INTERPOL of its unanimous support of, and willingness to contribute to, global efforts to combat environmental crime.

Environmental crime poisons our air and water; destroys ecosystems; and decimates wildlife and plant populations. These crimes are perpetrated across borders, and their impact reaches beyond countries and continents.

Service Law Enforcement has worked with INTERPOL and its U.S. National Central Bureau over the years to address global wildlife trafficking – an environmental crime that affects the viability of species and the functioning of ecosystems worldwide.

Our partnership efforts have ranged from intelligence sharing and investigative liaison to on-the-ground enforcement activities, such as our recent participation in Operation RAMP. This INTERPOL-organized global enforcement blitz, which involved officers in the United States and 50 other countries across five continents, targeted the illegal trade of reptiles and amphibians and resulted in arrests worldwide and the seizure of smuggled animals and products worth more than \$34 million.

As a member of the INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group and other international crime fighting alliances (such as the North American Wildlife Enforcement Network), we know the importance of international cooperation in addressing wildlife smuggling and other transboundary environmental crimes. We value the INTERPOL General Assembly's endorsement of these efforts and look forward to working even more closely in the future with INTERPOL and the law enforcement agencies in its 188 member nations.