



ENVIRONET: Global Real Time Communication Tool for Environmental Border Protection

URL: <https://195.99.88.190/cencomm2>

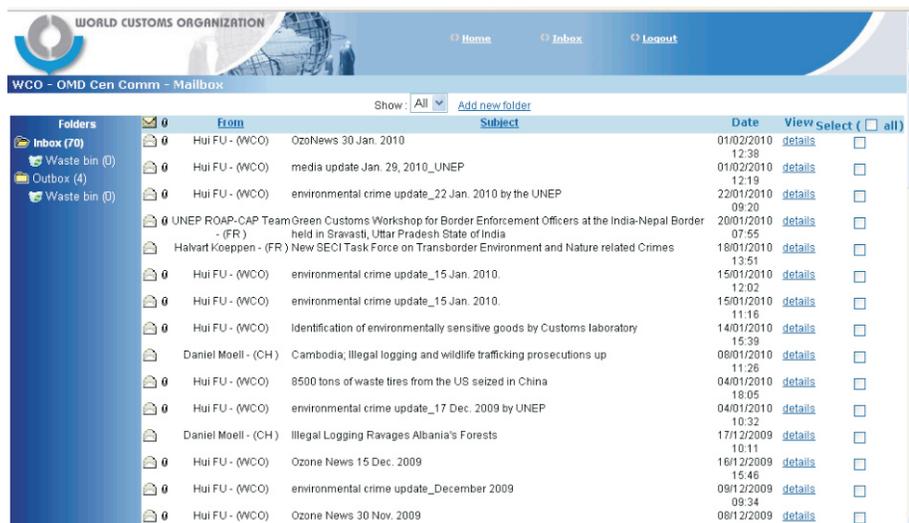
1. ENVIRONET-An Internet Based Forum

ENVIRONET is a real-time internet based forum for information exchange and cooperation to exert environmental border protection among Customs administrations, competent national environmental authorities, organizations and networks that promote the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) as well as other agencies with similar responsibilities. ENVIRONET was launched by the World Customs Organization (WCO) Secretariat in June 2009. It is aimed at pooling experts and professionals working on MEAs and environmental issues to assist Customs frontline officers in addressing environmental crime, and at the same time facilitating information sharing among varying stakeholders.

As one of the CENCOMM (Customs Enforcement Network Communication) applications, ENVIRONET is internet based and accessible only to the closed user group (CUG), thus ensuring its security. Information transmitted via this tool is encrypted for protection.

2. ENVIRONET-An Interface for Environment and Customs Community

All information which is relevant to Customs environmental border protection will fall into the scope exchanged via ENVIRONET, in particular implementation of MEAs with trade related provisions, i.e. CITES , Montreal Protocol , Basel Convention , Stockholm Convention , Rotterdam Convention , Chemical Weapons Convention , Cartagena Protocol , etc. In addition, information related to nuclear, illegal logging, and UUF (Unregulated, Unreported Fishing) could also be included.



- Best practices;
- Training materials, identification guides, manuals, other information valuable for environmental enforcement;
- Seizures and on-going trafficking;
- Discussion of specific topics;
- Assistance from experts outside Customs community;
- Cooperation between Customs administrations and other agencies and organizations

- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora
- Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer
- Basel Convention on the Control of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (PoP)
- Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
- Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction
- Cartagena Protocol on Bio-safety to the Convention on Biological Diversity

Discussions at ENVIRONET are grouped into the following 5 topics:

- A. Hazardous waste, chemical weapons, hazardous chemicals, PoPs
- B. Endangered species
- C. Living Modified Organisms (LMOs)
- D. Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS)
- E. General Interest (for information not covered by any topic of A-D)

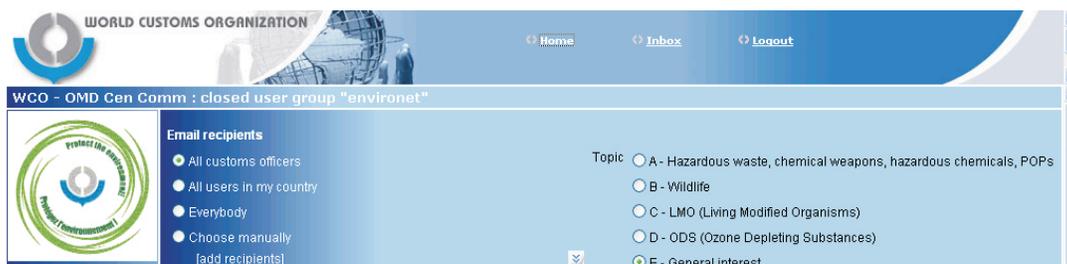
As is shown in the following picture, senders are able to choose recipients of their messages as they wish:

All Customs officers

All users in my country

Everybody

Choose manually



3. ENVIRONET-An Easily Accessible and Secure System

Via a secured URL address, all users will be connected. To access the system, users will be granted separate logins and passwords by management and maintenance team. Colleague working at the same unit may share the username and password, in particular those working in shifts.

The ENVIRONET Access Form for each nominated user from Customs administrations and other competent national authorities should be signed by the Customs National Contact Point of Regional Intelligence Liaison Office (RILO) in each country, and submitted to the WCO Secretariat. Applicants from international organizations and their regional networks may send the Forms directly to the WCO Secretariat.

Facts and Figures:

- Minimal technical limitation: no installation, a computer with dial-up connection and Microsoft IE5.0 or higher.
- Both English and French versions of ENVIRONET have been developed.
- Users at ENVIRONET from the Customs administrations, Environment Agencies, Police and international organizations have exceeded 970 from over 110 countries and international organizations as of April 2010.
- Around 600 messages have been shared among all users.
- Library of ENVIRONET provides information on training materials, identification guides, Alerts, and other information useful to environmental enforcement.
- A user can choose to be alerted via registered email when there is any incoming message or new upload to the Library.

This Fact Sheet is based on Concept Note for ENVIRONET and ENVIRONET User Manual developed by WCO. For more information on ENVIRONET, please contact WCO secretariat and RILO for Asia and the Pacific.

This fact sheet has been developed by the United Nations Environment Programme, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (UNEP DTIE) OzonAction, Compliance Assistance Programme, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific region (CAP ROAP), in collaboration with WCO Secretariat and RILO for Asia and the Pacific.