

Police, Law Enforcement and the Environment

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Introduction

Enforcing environmental laws and regulations is an important ingredient in protecting the environment and reducing environmental harm. This is generally achieved by various environmental law enforcement agencies operating from a global to local level. For instance, some environmental law enforcement agencies operate only at an international level whereas others only operate at the local level. Furthermore, environmental law enforcement agencies utilise various enforcement methods to ensure compliance to environmental legislation. In some cases enforcement agencies rely on coercive powers to demand compliance to environmental laws, generally labelled 'command and control' strategies; others rely on conciliatory and educational strategies to persuade individuals, organisations and governments to comply with environmental laws and regulations.

The aim of this paper is to identify police services operating in environmental law enforcement from the global through to the local level. The role that police services play in the enforcement of environmental laws and regulations requires analysis and understanding if better enforcement policies are to be developed. However, before such analysis is possible there is a need to identify 'who does what' in the field of environmental law enforcement at an institutional level. Identifying the different levels of environmental law enforcement involves considering all police institutions from the international to the local level. The identification of environmental law enforcement institutions is also important in that many of the law enforcement institutions are increasingly cooperating at the international, regional, national, state and local levels.

Before discussing the police institutions involved in environmental law enforcement, certain terms need to be defined. Policing is generally about space and territory (see Herbert 1997). In other words, police services have a prescribed geographic territory, which they defend from activities prohibited by law, defined as crimes. In this instance, environmental crime is an 'unauthorised act or omission that violates the law and is therefore subject to criminal prosecution and criminal sanctions' (Situ & Emmons 2000:3). For the purposes of this paper international policing institutions are those that operate across the globe at an international level, while regional police services have a number of police services from separate sovereign countries operating within a geographic area of the globe. National police services operate within the territorial boundaries of a sovereign country and state or provincial police services operate in delineated territorial boundaries of a nation. Local police services operate within a delineated geographic area, city or a state.

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Police Differences and Similarities

Implementation of environmental legislation has involved considerable cooperation between diverse policing institutions through international multilateral agreements, regional political or legal blocks, and national, state or local laws (see Birnie & Boyle 2002). For example, similar environmental laws and their methods of enforcement have, to some extent, been incorporated into the domestic laws of many member states of the European Community (EC) and indeed some member states allow the EC to legislate in a qualified manner on environmental matters (Birnie & Boyle 2002:9). Consideration of regional political systems such as the EC requires understanding of how environmental laws are enforced by police services across diverse policing jurisdictions.

Police services, typically, are the legitimatised state apparatus that have the power to enforce the laws of the land, by coercive methods if necessary (see Reiner 1985:2; Freckelton 1988). Traditionally, police services were seen as a 'crime fighting' or a 'crime prevention' force (Waddington 1999). However, modern police services now provide a variety of services to the community beyond these traditional concerns (White & Perrone 1997:10-32).

Modern police organisations perform many different functions that cover a myriad of administrative, regulatory, social welfare and law enforcement roles in civil society. For example, police in many jurisdictions are responsible for the licensing of firearms, provision of motor vehicle licenses and registration, providing social services and importantly, enforcing environmental laws. The increased participation of the police in civil society has become the subject of considerable investigation and research (see for instance, Waddington 1999; Finnane 1994; Bolen 1997; Bryett & Harrison 1994). Indeed, there has been a significant amount of research into policing practices, procedures, tactics and the roles that police now play in society.

Policing and social control systems across many jurisdictions have thus attracted considerable research attention (see for example, Morgan & Smith 1989; Waddington 1999; Uglow 1988, McCulloch 2001). However, many of these studies are country specific and, in many cases, focus on a particular police service, tending not to engage in cross-national comparisons. One of the reasons that these studies have not compared policing systems in different countries has been the concern that the differences in cultural and societal structures of the police services being studied are too wide to develop an understanding of policing at a comparative international level (Bayley 1999:3). The general objection to comparative international studies of policing is that the differences '...are perceived to be so great as to bear no relation to one's own national or local [policing] experience' (Bayley 1999:3).

Debate over the study of policing at an international level has also been linked to debate about whether the countries that are being compared are similar in legal, cultural and political terms. The issue is one of cultural dimensions – that is, the political and social context of the policing services being compared must be similar in socio-political perspectives and in spatial and temporal dimensions to be of any value to social science (Bayley 1999). However, as will be affirmed here, comparisons between police services from different countries are possible and indeed necessary '...for the scientific insight that policy-making requires' (Bayley 1999:11). Appreciation of differences is as important as acknowledgement of similarities when it comes to the development of insight into what works best in particular social settings.

The law enforcement organisations involved in enforcing environmental laws are varied and have many different operational principles dealing with and responding to environmental crimes. Specifically, law enforcement agencies can be divided into two main categories. The first is general law enforcement agencies or police services, and the second is specific environmental law enforcement agencies. General law enforcement agencies can be described as traditional law enforcers who mainly deal with conventional crimes such as street crime. Environmental law enforcement agencies are more specialised enforcers dealing mainly with environmental crimes.

International Environmental Law Enforcement Organisations

Recent years have seen a proliferation of international, regional and national law enforcement organisations working together at an international level. One of the main international law enforcement institutions is the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), which in its present form was created in 1956. It is the largest international police organisation in the world with 181 member countries spread over five continents. Every member country has a local Interpol office called a National Central Bureau, which is staffed by police officers from the member country and which works to coordinate Interpol goals within their borders.

The mission of Interpol is 'To be the world's pre-eminent police organisation in support of all organisations, authorities and services whose mission is preventing, detecting, and suppressing crime' (International Criminal Police Organization 2004). Interpol advocates that this is achieved by:

- Providing both a global perspective and a regional focus;
- Exchanging information that is timely, accurate, relevant and complete;
- Facilitating international co-operation;
- Co-ordinating joint operational activities of its member countries;
- Making available know-how, expertise and good practice (International Criminal Police Organization 2004).

Interpol supplies national law enforcement services with information on international crimes committed in other member countries and has developed databases on persons, organisations and businesses of interest that may be involved in international criminal activities. However, environmental crime is a relatively new challenge for law enforcement agencies worldwide and although administrative/civil actions are often an effective response to environmental violations, criminal enforcement is also now seen as an essential factor in preventing and deterring environmental crime. Interpol has been actively involved in this area since 1993 when the first meeting on environmental crime was organised upon the request of some member countries. In particular, the two key areas of environmental law enforcement that Interpol are involved in are the illegal shipment of hazardous waste and the illegal trade in endangered species (Klem 1994).

Interpol also works in cooperation with the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP). This cooperation includes the UNEP providing resources for implementation and compliance efforts, facilitating communication and data exchange through liaison with Secretariats to the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) and the World Customs Organization.

Some of the MEAs that require enforcement include, for example:

- Those covering biodiversity and wildlife, including the 1946 International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling; the 1971 Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance; the 1973 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES); the 1979 Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species; the 1992 UN Convention on Biological Diversity and its protocol, the 2000 Cartagena Protocol on biosafety; and the 1994 International Tropical Timber Agreement.
- Those designed to protect the atmosphere, including the 1979 UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Long-Range Trans-boundary Air Pollution (together with five protocols on particular pollutants: nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, sulphur, heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants); the 1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, and its protocol, the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer; and the 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and its protocol.
- Those dealing with the marine environment, including the 1972 London Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and other Matter; the 1973 Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, and its protocol, the 1978 Marpol Protocol; and the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, together with an implementing agreement.
- Those regulating the use of chemicals, including the 1998 Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade.
- Those dealing with waste, including the 1989 Basel Convention on the Control of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.
- Others, including the 1991 Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment; the 1992 UN Convention to Combat Desertification; and the 1998 Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (for full discussion on international environmental agreements see, Birnie & Boyle 2002).

Multilateral Environmental Agreements are based on Principle 12 of the Rio Declaration 1992, which suggests that international environmental agreements are clearly preferable to unilateral action in tackling trans-boundary or global environmental problems. Well over 200 MEAs now exist, with memberships varying from relatively small groups to over 180 member countries.

Case Example

In Nigeria, it became known that since August 1987 huge consignments of toxic waste had been imported from Italy and illegally dumped in a small port called 'Koko Town' on the outskirts of Warri delta region of the country. It was suspected that an Italian national, working for a construction company in Nigeria, was the main offender. Through a Nigerian accomplice the Italian managed to obtain a permit to import chemicals and other substances into the country. Interpol investigations revealed extensive irregularities in clearing the toxic waste consignments from Italy. Shipping documents described the toxic waste as items listed in a pharmaceutical permit allowing importation. Investigations at the dumping

site revealed that the waste was highly toxic, radioactive and harmful to humans and the environment. Some of the drums containing the harmful waste were damaged due to inappropriate handling, storage and corrosion. Consequently, the hazardous waste contaminated the soil, the ground water supplies and a river in Koko (Klem 1994:337).

International agencies and experts were mobilized to clean up the toxic spills. 4000 tons of hazardous and radioactive waste were eventually taken back to Italy and the Italian government took over the responsibility for cleaning up and decontaminating the dumping site in Nigeria.

Regional Law Enforcement Organisations

Europe

There has been considerable cooperation between national law enforcement organisations in Europe. This has resulted in a regional law enforcement organisation being created. The European Law Enforcement Organisation (Europol) aims at improving the effectiveness and cooperation of the competent authorities in the member states in preventing and combating terrorism, unlawful drug trafficking, and other serious forms of organised crime. On 12 November 2001, the European Parliament approved an initiative for a framework extending Europol's mandate to include environmental crime. The objective of this was to enhance the effectiveness of co-operation within the scope of the Europol Convention by giving Europol the means to carry out its tasks in relation to all aspects of international organized crime, particularly environmental crime.

In further developments in Europe, the Baltic Sea Region Task Force falls under the umbrella of the Helsinki Convention, which entered into force on 17 January 2002. The contracting parties to the convention include Denmark, Estonia, European Commission, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russian and Sweden. The objectives of the task force are to facilitate trans-national understanding of the incidence of environmental crime in the member states and develop cooperative enforcement structures to combat organised environmental criminals (Secretariat of the Task Force on Organised Crime in the Baltic Sea Region 2002:4).

On 1 May 2002, the European Commission supported Article 40 of the 1990 Schengen Convention, which will enable cross-border surveillance of friends, family, accomplices and victims of suspects being investigated. The Commission suggested that increasing the opportunities for police officers to continue surveillance operations in other member states who are party to the convention, would represent progress towards developing police co-operation and boosting the success of judicial inquiries.

Case Example

Although Europol is not actively engaged in policing environmental laws in member states of Europe at present, the following example highlights the types of enforcement operations in which Europol will be engaged. The Bundesgrenzschutzamt See (German Sea Frontier Police) in January 1999 observed an oil tanker with Maltese registration discharging oil in the Danish Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). A few days later, oil from the tanker drifted ashore on the coastline in five locations around Skagerrak. The investigation involved searches at Wilhelmshaven, Germany, where the cargo of crude oil was unloaded, and at Muuga, Estonia, where a new cargo of fuel oil was loaded. In addition, searches were conducted of the owner and manager's residences in Malta, Italy and Greece. Investigations

involving interrogations and searches for documents in other European countries were carried out in accordance with the European Convention of 1959 on mutual assistance in criminal investigations (Wandall 2002:12).

Federal Environmental Law Enforcement

A number of countries have national law enforcement agencies to protect the integrity of their national borders. In particular, the increased threat from terrorism and the increased occurrence of environmental crimes within national territories have created the need for much greater cooperation between national and state police organisations. For example, countries like the USA, Australia, Germany and Indonesia all have federal police services that are responsible for investigating crime in their respective countries. Many of these federal police organisations also cooperate with internal state police services to help deal with crime at a national and state level. The Environmental Protection Agencies/Authorities (EPA) are other law enforcement bodies that are mandated to enforce environmental laws and regulations.

USA

Federal Bureau of Investigation

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is the investigative arm of the US Department of Justice. To combat environmental crime in 1996 the FBI created the Hazardous Materials Response Unit to respond to the threat of terrorism involving chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons and to increases in environmental crimes within the USA. The Unit responds to criminal acts and incidents involving hazardous materials and develops the FBI's technical proficiency and readiness for crime scene and evidence-related operations in cases involving chemical, biological, and radiological materials and wastes. This is accomplished through an integrated effort involving specialised response teams, a national training program, interagency liaison, technical assistance to FBI field and Headquarters divisions, and the development of field response programs. The Unit also trains, equips, and certifies FBI field office personnel for hazardous materials operations (Federal Bureau of Investigation Hazardous Materials Response 2000).

USA Environmental Protection Agency (Federal)

In the USA the Environmental Protection Agency is required to ensure that all states implement the minimum standards of the various federal environment protection laws. The EPA has particular enforcement roles to play in ensuring that industries, individuals and governments adhere to minimum environmental standards and prosecute any violations of these laws. The EPA's Criminal Investigation Division (CID) Special Agents are sworn federal law enforcement officers with statutory authority to conduct investigations, carry firearms, make arrests for any federal crime and to execute and serve warrants (United States Environmental Protection Agency 2004b).

It is of note that there are considerable differences between the USA EPA and the activities of similar Australian agencies, such as the New South Wales Environmental Protection Authority (see below). For example, the NSW Environmental Protection Authority does not engage in coercive methods of environmental law enforcement, unlike the USA Environmental Protection Authority. Rather, the NSW Environmental Protection Authority acts as the main prosecutorial service of environmental offences in New South Wales (New South Wales Environmental Protection Authority Prosecution Guidelines 2004), but rely upon police for coercive interventions as required.

Case Example

On May 17, 2004 a private contractor from Mobile, Alabama, pleaded guilty to two counts of violating the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The contractor was contracted by the Escambia County Utility Authority in Florida to transport and dispose of wastes from its wastewater treatment facility. The wastes included oils, tar, paint wastes, hydraulic fluid and solvents, which are required under RCRA to be disposed of by a licensed hazardous waste disposal facility. Instead, the contractor dumped the waste chemicals at separate locations throughout Southern Alabama. The Jacksonville Area Office of EPA's Criminal Investigation Division, EPA's Emergency Response Branch and the FBI investigated the case. The prosecution was brought by the U.S. Attorney's Office in Mobile and the Environmental Crimes Section of the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. (United States Environmental Protection Agency 2004a)

Australia**Australian Federal Police (AFP)**

The AFP enforces Commonwealth criminal laws, and protects the national interests from crime in Australia. The AFP is Australia's international law enforcement and policing representative, and the principal source of advice to the Australian Federal Government on policing issues. In responding to offences that are committed against the environment the AFP federal agents work with the assistance of other state police forces and such environmental regulatory agencies as the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) as part of the investigation process. For example, in the event that a ship travelling in Australian waters discharges oil, the investigation process may include identifying the ship and taking samples from various parts of the ship and investigating the circumstances surrounding an alleged oil spill (see Davies 2002).

Case Example

As Davies (2002) notes, in Australia offences such as the presentation of false documentation to the Commonwealth, are in themselves not an environmental offence. However, offences like falsifying documentation can and have been used to prosecute offenders for environmental harms. In one such case professional fishermen were catching Orange Roughy fish well in excess of the legal quota then disguising the fact by incorrectly identifying the fish on documentation presented to the relevant fishing authorities. The Orange Roughy is a slow growing and breeding deep-sea fish and has considerable commercial viability that is easily threatened by fishing practices that exploit the fish stock. The falsified documentation presented to fishing authorities became the basis for the prosecution of the fisherman (Davies 2002:26).

In another investigation, AFP agents issued a summons to the operators of the Club Med Lindeman Island Resort following a joint investigation with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA). The investigation followed a complaint by the Queensland Environmental Protection Authority that the resort had pumped raw sewage into an area of the ocean that is located within the marine park. Federal agents and investigators from GBRMPA executed search warrants at the resort. The investigation found that between 700,000 and 1,000,000 litres of raw sewage was pumped into the ocean after an underground pipe burst. Holiday Villages (Australia) Pty Ltd trading as Club Med Lindeman Island Resort were convicted with negligently discharging waste in the Marine National Park 'A' Zone of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park between 30 November and 7 December 2000 and were fined \$6000.00 plus court costs (Australian Federal Police 2003)

State/Provincial Environmental Enforcement

Many countries have policing organisations that are responsible for law enforcement at the state or provincial level (Waddington 1999). For example, Australia, the USA and Germany all have state police services with specific territorial jurisdiction. The realms of responsibility range from controlling traffic to the apprehension of offenders within their geographical borders. Generally, most state police services do not enforce environmental laws or regulations and have far less effect on the control of industry or business activities. When state police services do become involved with environmental crimes, it is normally the result of other investigations. However, there are some state law enforcement services that have specialised environmental law enforcement units that respond to environmental crimes.

USA: Massachusetts

The Environmental Strike Force (ESF) is an interagency unit comprised of law enforcement officials from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Environmental Police officers from the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement, state police, and prosecutors from the Office of the Attorney General. The Strike Force gathers evidence during investigations against alleged environmental offenders. The Massachusetts Environmental Strike Force is responsible for enforcing environmental laws, and for licensing and registering boats and recreational vehicles. These environmental police officers work in the seven inland and coastal regions of the state and are responsible for enforcing a wide variety of laws and regulations relating to the environment. Environmental law enforcement officers also investigate cases of illegal waste disposal, wetlands violations, and assist in search and rescue efforts (Massachusetts Environmental Strike Force 2004).

Case Example

In December 2001, a demolition contractor pleaded guilty to forty counts of violating the notification requirements under Massachusetts's environmental laws. The guilty plea resulted from an investigation by ESF after several Department of Environmental Protection staff working at a landfill became ill after being exposed to a polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) contaminated road base product delivered by the contractor. The 2-year investigation determined that the source of the contaminated material was a stockpile of material processed by the contractor at a quarry. Records revealed that contractor sold or shipped the contaminated material to two residential developments and numerous commercial locations. After pleading guilty the contractor was ordered to pay a \$1 million criminal fine and another \$400,000 in restitution to DEP and to Massachusetts Highway Authority for cleanup and response costs incurred during the investigation. The contractor also agreed to clean up three additional sites that had received the contaminated material, to remove two corporate officers who held management positions at the time of the incidents, to hire an independent onsite environmental auditor, and to implement an environmental management system to help prevent future incidents (*Commonwealth v MRP Site Development, Inc.*).

Australia: New South Wales (NSW) Environmental Protection Authority

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is the primary NSW environmental law enforcement organisation responsible for protecting the environment. The EPA works in partnership with business, industry, government and community organisations. The regulatory functions of the EPA require it to be active in environmental education,

environmental economics, environmental research and monitoring, and regular reporting on the state of the environment to the government and NSW community. As a general principle, when a serious breach of the environment protection laws comes to the attention of the EPA, the authority will lead any investigation and take any appropriate action. This suggests that because of the functions, powers, objectives, and the legal and specific expertise within the organisation, the EPA is generally better equipped than other law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute serious breaches of NSW environmental laws (New South Wales Environmental Protection Authority 2004:1-2).

Case Example

An unauthorised discharge of up to 70,000 litres of wastewater effluent from a pig farm on 3-4 October 1999 resulted in contaminated effluent entering and progressing down a watercourse on a neighbour's property. Sampling results suggested that the effluent entered a nearby waterway. The concentrations of nutrients in the discharge channel on the neighbour's property and downstream in the creek were well in excess of the Australian and New Zealand Environment Conservation Council (ANZECC) guidelines. As this was the third incident the defendant was convicted of the offence and fined \$30,000. The defendant also had to pay the costs of the prosecutor, which was a further \$5,920 (*EPA v Larkray Pty Ltd* [2001] NSWLEC 92).

Australia: Tasmania Police

The Tasmanian Police Service does not have a specialist environmental enforcement unit. However, Tasmania Police have been involved in investigating some types of environmental crimes, such as abalone poaching. Another associated area of environmental law enforcement has been the Bush Watch initiative. Bush Watch is similar to Neighbourhood Watch programmes operating in many cities and towns across Australia. The focus of Bush Watch is in the rural areas of Tasmania, where it is designed to prevent livestock theft, and to protect native fauna and flora (Tasmania Police 2003).

Case Example

Tasmania Police's Oakum Task Force has investigated the involvement of criminal organisations in the systematic theft of abalone from Tasmanian state waters, and its subsequent processing and export from the state. Their investigations culminated in 169 charges relating to either serious criminal matters such as drug trafficking, or significant matters under the Living Marine Resources Management Act (1995), being preferred against 17 individuals from four separate syndicates involved in illegal abalone operations (Tasmania Police 2003:43-44).

Local Law Enforcement

There are varied enforcement agencies dealing with the implementation and enforcement of environmental laws at a local level. Enforcement agencies include county sheriff's departments in the USA or municipal police services such as the Toronto Police Service in Canada. These police organisations have very restricted territorial boundaries and enforce national, state and local laws within these areas. These police services are different from state police services in that the officers, particularly the sheriffs in the USA, can be elected officials.

El Paso County Sheriff's Department Environmental Crimes Unit, Texas

The El Paso County Sheriff's Department Environmental Crimes Unit in Texas is an example of a local enforcer of environmental laws. Many of the incidents that the Environmental Crimes Unit deal with are small and isolated cases of building waste or rubble dumping and illegal dumping of light industrial or household waste (El Paso County Sheriff's Department Environmental Crimes Unit 2004).

Case Example

On 5 August 2001 a caravan park owner intentionally pumped out sewage from a septic tank at 9 a.m. in the morning for over twenty-five minutes. The sewage ran back underneath a caravan owned by a resident forming a pool of sewage for the following three days. The liquid contained particles of human waste, was black in colour, and smelled for three to four days. The offender was found guilty of a charge laid by the El Paso County Sheriff's Department Environmental Crimes Unit and was sentenced to one year jail time, probated two years, was fined \$20,000 and placed on \$18,500 probation with sentences to run concurrently (*Winfried Heiringhoff v State of Texas*).

Environmental Crime: The Local to the Global

Environmental crimes, whether committed by organised criminal gangs, corporations or individuals can affect environs outside the immediate area where the offence occurs. For example, an environmental crime committed in one location may not adversely affect that specific area, particularly if the pollution or harmful substances released are carried by air or water. However, it may do considerable damage to the environment some distance from the source of the pollution.

The effects of environmental crime or harm can manifest in ways that cut across international, national, state and local borders. In response, different police services may be required to collaborate in order to counter the problem. Identifying policing institutions at the different levels of intervention raises important issues about what role police organisations are to play in combating environmental crimes that involve different political and policing jurisdictions. In particular, we need to know what kind of structures and strategies are needed to facilitate cooperation between different police services dealing with this type of crime to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in protecting the environment.

Police cooperation from the local to international level raises important questions about how policing organisations view other policing institutions whom they may work with in investigating environmental crime. The levels at which policing organisations are involved in enforcing environmental laws are indicated in Table 1. The very existence of different levels of police involvement highlights the fact that environmental crime can and does cut across borders and different jurisdictions. Moreover, the type of intervention in policing environmental crimes can move from one level to another in either direction. For example, in the case of Operation Oakum in Tasmania, state police became involved in a multi-level policing operation that included state, federal and international police organisations; in the Nigerian case the investigation moved from the international to the local law enforcement arena.

**Table 1:
Operational Levels of Police Organisations**

Operational Level	Examples of Police Organisations
International	Interpol
Regional	Europol
National	Australian Federal Police
State	Tasmania Police
Local	The El Paso County Sheriff's Department Environmental Crimes Unit

The way in which police and governments respond to incidents of environmental crime requires considerable cooperation by diverse police institutions to ensure that the environment is protected.

The issue of police cooperation in combating environmental crime requires considerable research to understand how police services from different jurisdictions understand the legal systems of other police services that they may have to cooperate with. This is particularly relevant in combating not only environmental crime but also other international crimes such as terrorism. Given the international and trans-border nature of some environmental crimes, police services will have to become global in their outlooks towards their counterparts in other countries. Knowledge of and familiarity with the strategic and operational approaches taken by diverse enforcement bodies would also be useful in enhancing cooperation across jurisdictional boundaries.

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