

# EL PACCT



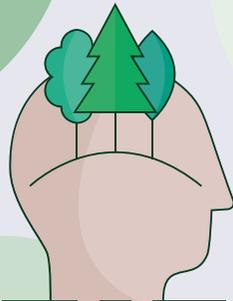
## combat environmental crime



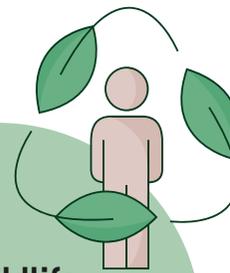
PROGRAMME FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION



The Latin American region is home to **40% of the world's biodiversity** and almost **25% of endangered species**



**83% of wildlife in Latin America has disappeared since 1970**



**247 environmental activists were killed in 2018 in 27 different countries. 60% were in Latin America**

The **JAGUAR NETWORK** was created in 2019 to carry out successful operations in Latin America. It comprises police officers specialised in environmental crime, who are assigned to streamline coordination, information sharing and strategic intelligence, as well as good practices among Latin American countries and the European Union.

1

The countries that make up the network are: Germany, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Spain, France, Italy, Mexico, Panama, Peru and Portugal, in addition to **EUROPOL**, which are active collaborators in the network. The network is supported by **INTERPOL**.

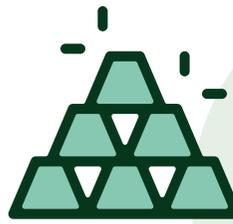
**20% of the Amazon has been deforested or destroyed in the last 40 years**



2

Since the creation and establishment of the Jaguar Network in May 2019 and up to early 2020, the network directly and indirectly supported eleven international investigations and their respective operations. The investigations have had different intervention frameworks since some have been undertaken in several Latin American countries, and others have set out to dismantle criminal organisations based in both Latin America and the European Union.





The Colombian and Peruvian environmental crime authorities estimate that **illegal profits from environmental crimes in the country exceed those of drug trafficking**



1



## Wildlife trafficking between Costa Rica and UE

The Costa Rican Environmental Agrarian Prosecutor's Office and the Judicial Investigation Agency broke up an international wildlife trafficking operation to the European Union in late November 2019. Several European countries were involved in the investigation through the Jaguar Network.

The criminal group had already managed to send several shipments in groups of four to 700 species of dead butterflies, beetles, spiders and wasps, worth up to 1,000 euros each on the market. During the operation, five raids were carried out and four people were arrested.



In 2018, around **800 seizures of wild animals were registered** according to the National Conservation Areas System (SINAC) in Costa Rica

2



## Fighting against mercury trafficking

Operation Mercury was led by Colombia in cooperation with Mexico and Panama. Eight people were arrested, and several kilos of gold and dozens of kilos of mercury were seized after more than a dozen search warrants were executed.

EUROPOL tracked the impact of the operation, which has involved several EU countries and Latin America.

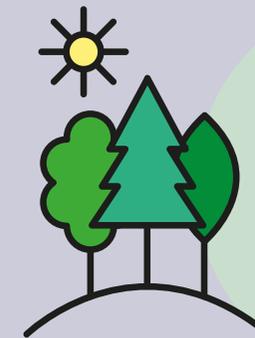
- Mercury is used to separate gold and quartz.
- Three to seven grams of mercury are required to separate one gram of gold.
- One gram of mercury pollutes between 80 and 200 thousand litres of water.
- One kilo of gold fetches 49,000 euros (20 February 20). **According to Peru, one ton of gold is illegally exported from the country every day.**

3



## Specialised Multidisciplinary Team in Panama

With a vast regional biodiversity reserve, the Republic of Panama is working to launch a specialised multidisciplinary team to fight environmental crime and protect nature. The squad will be divided into two sub-teams: one based in Panama City to tackle complex cases; and a second decentralised, highly operational sub-team in the Darién Gap.



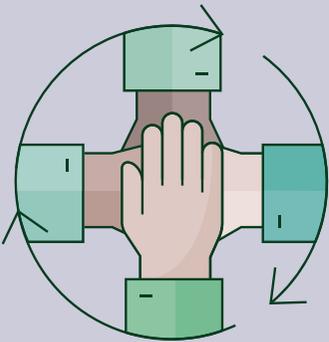
According to the Panamanian Ministry of Environment, **50% of Panamanian forests are deforested.**



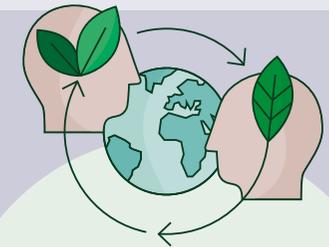


they are closely associated with the activities of the **JAGUAR NETWORK**

## DIALOGUE



- 1** We look forward to establishing real information sharing through the Jaguar Network.
- 2** Evaluating experience in research techniques by the EU and Latin America through working networks.
- 3** Exchanging information on environmental crime with EUROPOL.
- 4** Support investigating specific cases and creation of joint investigation teams.



EL PACCTO will use **cyber surveillance as a tool to strengthen the fight against environmental crime**



To effectively fight environmental crime, **we will support activities to combat money laundering and the recovery of criminal assets.**



EL PACCTO will work to help **Argentina, Chile, Cuba, Paraguay and Uruguay to join the Jaguar Network**

## ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2020

The actions planned were presented and the dates proposed were validated, particularly for activities involving:

1. Regional seminar on environmental crime and illegal mining.
2. Criminal assets and environmental crime.
3. Operation Harpie.
4. Reinforce the "Joint Investigation Teams".

