



INTERPOL



VEHICLE CRIME

Future Oriented Policing Concepts



In keeping with its consistent support of international organisations to strengthen the global community, the United Arab Emirates – through the Interpol Foundation for a Safer World – is funding seven INTERPOL projects within seven crime areas, including Counter Terrorism, Cybercrime, Illicit Drug Trade, Illicit Goods and Global Health, Vehicle Crime, Vulnerable Communities and Protecting Cultural Heritage.



The INTERPOL Foundation for a Safer World is the rallying point for likeminded organizations to unite with INTERPOL to respond to today's crime challenges. It encourages an international commitment and partnership with the private sector to protect citizens, infrastructures, businesses and investments from the threats of terrorism, cybercrime and organized crime.



VEHICLE CRIME



THE ISSUES



The term 'vehicle crime' refers to a number of highly organized illegal activities, in particular the theft and trafficking of vehicles and the illicit trade in spare parts. These activities affect personal property, businesses, the economy and public safety in all regions of the world.

The organized theft of motor vehicles, while of immediate concern to the individual owner, also has a financial implication for insurance companies, is damaging to the reputation of car manufacturers and – in most cases – is linked to other organized crime operations.

For organized criminal groups, the acquisition, shipment and trade of stolen vehicles is a low-risk way to make profits. Stolen vehicles are frequently trafficked in order to finance and carry out other criminal activities, such as drug trafficking, arms dealing, people smuggling and international terrorism.

Additionally, the illicit market in spare parts is a lucrative source of income for criminal organizations and offers them many practical uses. Not only does this phenomenon have a financial impact on the industry, but it also puts drivers in danger as illicit spare parts are likely to fall below recognized safety standards.

In recent years, the use of the Internet has contributed to a dramatic increase in the resale of illicit vehicle components, making this an issue of major concern for law enforcement, car manufacturers, regulatory bodies and public health organizations across the world.

KEY ACTIVITIES

› SECURE EXCHANGE OF RELEVANT DATA

The INTERPOL Stolen Motor Vehicle (SMV) database is a vital tool in the fight against international vehicle theft and trafficking. It allows police in our member countries to run a check against a suspicious vehicle and find out instantly whether it has been reported as stolen. An international database of this nature is crucial as vehicles are often trafficked across national borders, sometimes ending up thousands of miles away from the location where they were stolen. In 2016, more than 120,000 motor vehicles worldwide were identified as stolen, thanks to the SMV database.

The INTERPOL Stolen Motor Vehicle database
A vital tool in the fight against international vehicle theft and trafficking

› LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS IN THE FIELD

The SMV database is put to use in the field through INTERPOL's SMV Task Force. Made up of police officers and investigators – all of whom are experts in the area of combating vehicle crime – the Task Force supports member countries with law enforcement operations, for example at ports and border crossings, which result in dozens of arrests and the recovery of stolen vehicles every year.

7.2
million
records

› POLICE TRAINING

We also run a standardized training programme to facilitate investigations into international cases of vehicle theft. Courses are run at basic, intermediate and advanced level in order to assist investigators in areas such as vehicle and document identification; investigative strategies, techniques and tools; the use of INTERPOL's databases and global network; and legal considerations. The course combines classroom training with an operation or practical exercise, allowing participants to consolidate their new skills by applying them in the field.

› JOINT INITIATIVES WITH INDUSTRY PARTNERS

In order to effectively combat vehicle crime, a combined effort is required from all stakeholders. INTERPOL has long-standing working relationships with a number of major car manufacturing companies. For example, Project INVEX (INTERPOL Vehicle Data Exchange) is an initiative with the car manufacturers Audi, BMW, Porsche and Volkswagen that works to find new ways of detecting stolen motor vehicles and to increase the quality of the data in the SMV database.

129
participating
countries

**Types of
vehicles**

cars, trucks, motorcycles,
heavy equipment, etc.

120,000
motor vehicles
identified in 2016

A black and white photograph of three men in work attire inspecting the engine of a car with its hood open. The man on the left is wearing a dark cap with 'TUNING CR' on it and sunglasses. The man in the middle is wearing a dark polo shirt. The man on the right is wearing a dark cap with a logo and a dark t-shirt with 'TRIN MINE' and 'INTERVAL' printed on it. A large blue semi-transparent arrow graphic points from left to right across the middle of the image. The text 'LOOKING AHEAD' is written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the blue arrow.

LOOKING AHEAD



We are working to establish INTERPOL as a leading authority and resource in the fight against transnational vehicle crime.

This fight can remain effective only if the law enforcement community innovates in line with rapid technological progress. We are therefore working to enhance our current initiatives to better support the law enforcement community in our member countries and relevant stakeholders in the private sector and law enforcement.

By working closely with other stakeholders, we will be able to pioneer advances in vehicle industry security and generate more efficient tools to identify and recover stolen vehicles.

National police authorities will be able to gain investigative leads on organized vehicle crime activities in areas where routine checks are not usually possible.

These activities, carried out via INTERPOL channels, will enable the global police community and the car manufacturing industry to identify and prevent threats to their security and products.

Cooperation will lead to greater innovation in countering criminal activities, as well as increasing the likelihood of locating and recovering stolen vehicles.

In future, collaboration could be extended to additional industries. For example, we have seen that insurance companies, banks and financial institutions also lose billions of dollars annually due to international vehicle crime.



SPECIFIC INITIATIVES

EXPAND DATA

Expanding the scope of INTERPOL's Vehicle Data Exchange (INVEX) platform to include **additional global car manufacturers** and as many **INTERPOL member countries** as possible.

INCREASE ANALYSIS

Increasing the analytical capabilities of SMV-related activities to enable the law enforcement community to carry out rapid and effective vehicle crime investigations.



DATA AVAILABILITY

Making a **vehicle data application available to law enforcement officers** via INTERPOL's secure global police communications network (I-24/7) in order to help reduce international car trafficking. This application is already available in Germany and has grown to be one of the most sought-after operational tools related to vehicle crime, providing accurate information from car manufacturers, in order to establish the true identity of a car and so detect forgeries and cloned cars.

SHARE AND ENHANCE EXPERTISE

Enhancing a long-term capacity building and operational programme to **bring together vehicle experts from law enforcement and the private sector** to consolidate expertise and share best practices. These unique and highly specialized interdisciplinary networks permit the implementation of a joint and effective approach against international vehicle crime.

Cultivating existing partnerships with car manufacturers, international organizations and insurance associations in order to **enhance the expertise** INTERPOL provides to its member countries, thereby increasing the recovery rate of stolen assets and limiting the economic losses caused by criminal activities.



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