

Environmental Crime: defining the field

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Environmental Crime

Environmental sustainability and eco-security are now priority issues on the agenda of national and local governments. Changes in environmental policies and legislation are being implemented throughout Europe to reduce our carbon footprint, encourage sustainable activities, and ultimately protect citizens and the environment. Faced with such changes, opportunistic citizens and criminals quickly develop effective methods to circumvent and take advantage of the new 'vulnerability landscape', making new measures poorly effective, or even counter effective.



NECC 2008



UCL President and Provost opening NECC, 7/10/08.

National Environmental Crime Conference

The *Bridging-the-Gaps* award allocated to Dr Borrión (Jill Dando Institute of Crime Science) and Dr Emes (Centre for Advanced Instrumentation Systems) contributed to the development of the first National Environmental Crime Conference, in partnership with the Environment Institute and the Centre for Environmental Laws at UCL.

This event was held in October 2008 and brought together multi-disciplinary academic expertise with practitioners and policy-makers to discuss a range of current and future eco-crime problems such as wildlife crime, industrial pollution and illegal waste disposal.

Future

The Environment Agency has confirmed their support to UCL's initiative by sponsoring the second edition of the conference, to be held on 28th October 2009 in London. The event will become the annual showcase for environmental crime initiatives in the UK, and act as a platform to develop a coherent research agenda for reducing the threat that eco-crime poses to national and local communities.

Environmental crime is now a recognised domain of the new Security Science Doctoral Research Training Centre (UCL SECR^eT). Students interested in carrying out Environmental Crime research at UCL should visit our website for information about programme and scholarships: www.ucl.ac.uk/secret