

# Green customs: a conceptual framework and projects from around the world

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# About the Green Customs Study

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## Objectives

1. Envision the full range of green customs activities
2. Show examples of Green Customs initiatives from around the world

## Framework

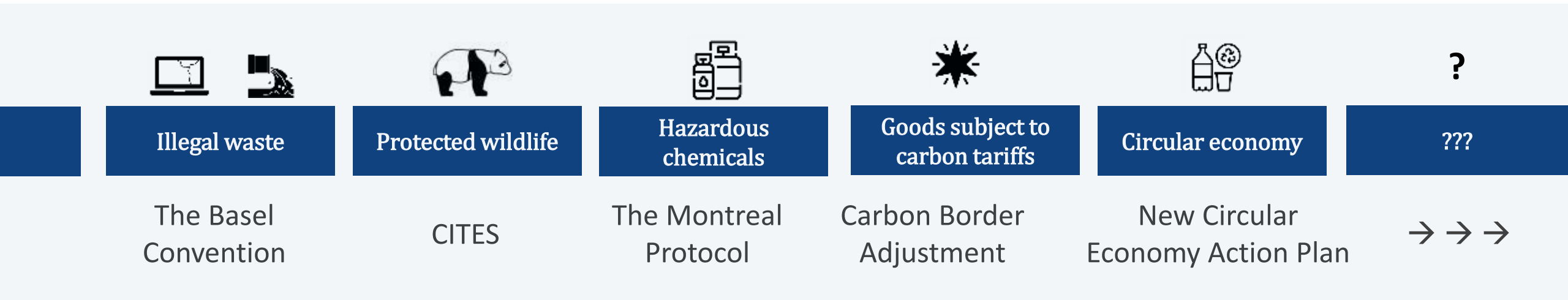
**Border controls**  
to enforce rules for environmentally sensitive goods

**Sustainable customs operations**  
to reduce own environmental footprint

**Trade facilitation**  
to enable sustainable cross-border logistics

**“Green Lane for Green Companies”**  
to encourage sustainable logistics

# Border controls to enforce rules for environmentally sensitive goods



## New capabilities needed!

- Revised HS codes for refined distinctions of environmentally sensitive goods
- Digital product passport
- Improved techniques for the identification of environmentally sensitive goods such as biodegradable plastics or refurbished electronics

# Dutch Customs initiative for the identification of biodegradable plastics

## CN Chapter. 39

### PLASTICS AND ARTICLES THEREOF

3920 Other plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, non-cellular and not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials

3920 69 - - Of other polyesters

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3920 69 00 30 - - - Mono- or multilayer, transverse oriented, shrink film:

- composed of **MORE THAN 85 % BY WEIGHT OF POLYLACTIC ACID**

.....

- **BIODEGRADABLE AND COMPOSTABLE**



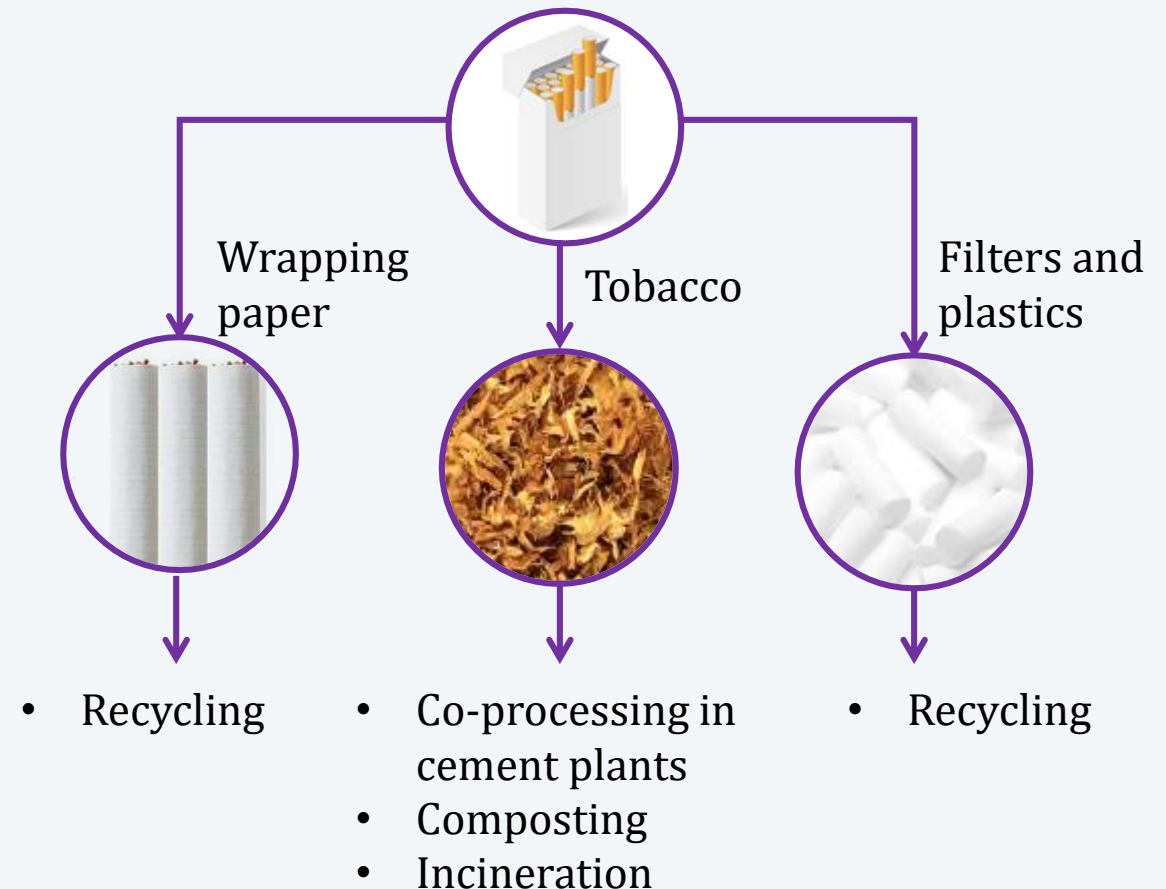
Note: Typically it is not one or the other methods that provides clarity on the identity of a product but the combination.  
At the end a combination of measures will deliver the required separation between sustainable and not-sustainable flows.

- **Verification of declaration data**
  - Extended data pipeline to cover production data, certificates and licenses
  - Automatic verification process for customs
- **Better technology to discern sustainable products from non-sustainable ones**
  - Extended libraries for mobile technologies (RAMAN and IR spectroscopy)
  - Field-deployable laboratory equipment
  - Faster methods for laboratory analysis
  - Identifying non-intrusive inspection

# Sustainable customs operations to reduce own environmental footprint

- Disposal of seized goods
- Use of renewable energy sources for power
- Co-sharing of equipment with other border control agencies
- Use of electric or hybrid vehicles
- Environmentally-friendly decommissioning of equipment

A machine dismantles seized cigarettes into components



# Trade facilitation to enable sustainable cross-border logistics



De-bottlenecking of customs processes



Prioritisation of emission-intensive cargo such as refrigerated goods



Early warning about port / border congestion

Less waiting

Less energy consumption

Better predictability  
→ slow steaming for fuel saving

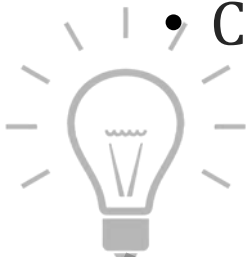
**Less  
emissions**

# “Green Lane for Green Companies” to encourage sustainable logistics

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## What could be the requirements for a Green Company status?

- Paying attention to load consolidation, load optimization and backhauling
- Investment in cleaner and more efficient (high-capacity) vessels and vehicles of transport
- Use of rail, short-sea shipping and inland waterways
- Commitment to circular economy



# Conclusions so far

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- Customs need to build capability proactively to support implementation of upcoming “green” trade rules



- The scope of Green Customs goes beyond the day-to-day control of environmentally sensitive goods



- Trade facilitation and “Green Lane Green companies” ambitions are ways how customs can promote sustainable cross-border logistics in the private sector





# Thank you!

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