
Air Transport & Wildlife Trafficking

Why the air transport sector should take action to disrupt wildlife trafficking



The air transport sector is a significant pillar in the global economy, contributing 3.5% to the world's GDP. This reliance on air transport emphasizes the need for its supply chains to be safe and secure. Because of its ability to move people and goods to far-reaching destinations in a relatively short period of time, this sector has become a target for illegal activity. Organized criminal syndicates exploit weaknesses in security protocols, jeopardizing the sector's integrity.

THE IMPACT

The illegal wildlife trade is one of the largest black markets in the world. It puts pressure on already vulnerable species, and risks compromising the safety and health of local and global communities. Elephant, rhinoceros, pangolin and various bird and reptile populations are among some of the most impacted wildlife. These iconic species serve critical roles in their ecosystems, and significant drops in their populations have the potential to fundamentally disrupt ecosystems that support human well-being. This illegal trade has already devastated elephant populations by as much as 60% in some countries and cost over 1,000 park rangers lives over the past decade. Linked to other illicit activities such as human and drug trafficking, wildlife trafficking has prompted a coordinated global response to overcome this destructive crime.

THE RISKS

Wildlife trafficking poses significant financial, security, and safety risks:

- **Reputational risk:** companies associated with wildlife trafficking seizures often receive negative publicity-potentially impacting their corporate reputation.
- **Legal risk:** companies may be at risk of prosecution by failing to ensure that what they are carrying is legal, resulting in substantial costs to a company and operational restrictions.
- **Business risk:** as a result of wildlife loss in destination countries, companies may experience a decline in passengers traveling for the purpose of nature-based tourism.
- **Health and safety risks:** the safety hazards associated with wildlife trafficking span from physical harm from improper handling to the transmission of diseases – a significant concern when 75% of human infectious diseases in the last decade were transmitted by animals.

Illegal Wildlife Trade



Pushes species
to extinction



Threatens human
health & safety



Impacts corporate
reputation and profits



Creates risk in industry
supply chains

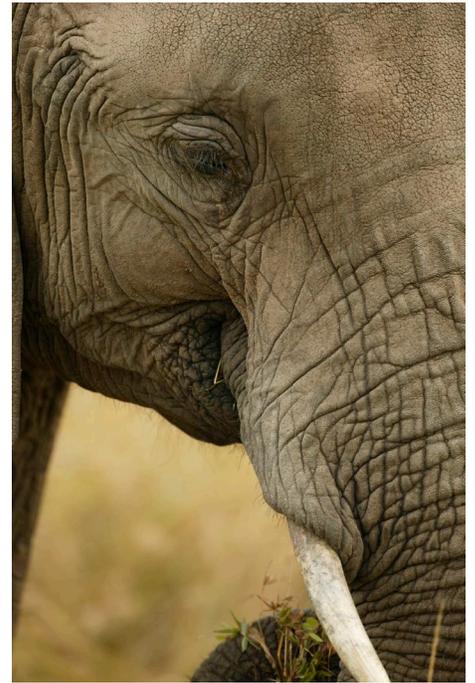


Harms local economies
and sustainable development

THE BENEFITS OF ACTING

Acting against wildlife trafficking has the potential to provide significant benefits.

- **Supply chain security:** red flags for trafficked wildlife are often similar to those for other trafficked goods. Strengthening security protocols to ensure wildlife is not trafficked through your supply chain will result in increased vigilance and safer systems to ward off other illegal activity.
- **Regulatory compliance:** complying with IATA Live Animals Regulations and CITES Regulations ensures the safe, humane and legal transportation of animals.
- **Reputation:** increasing awareness and acting on the issue of wildlife trafficking has the potential to improve brand reputation by demonstrating a commitment to wildlife and the environment.
- **Business Integrity:** acting against wildlife trafficking protects employees from illegal activities as well as reinforces a company's sense of integrity and Code of Conduct.



How To Take Action

Raise Awareness

Sign the United for Wildlife Buckingham Palace Declaration and work with ROUTES' support to implement the commitments

Communicate that disrupting wildlife trafficking is a priority for your company at company events/departmental meetings

Encourage clients, contractors, and peers to take action, such as through corporate communications and messaging

Raise awareness among employees by posting "Case Study" posters on wildlife trafficking

Share pertinent information on how traffickers transport illegal wildlife products by posting "Trail of a Trafficker" and "Trafficking Stops Here" posters

Implement Training

Incorporate wildlife trafficking into onboarding, role-specific, and region-specific trainings

Host or enable staff to attend wildlife trafficking awareness meetings using general or region-specific "Airline Wildlife Trafficking Awareness" modules

Utilize ROUTES e-modules and presentation decks to train employees on ways to identify and respond to instances of wildlife trafficking

Alert employees to specific red flags to be aware of by posting "Awareness Checklist" posters and sharing "Quick Reference Cards"

Ensure employees are prepared with the appropriate contact phone numbers to report an instance of wildlife trafficking by completing the "Quick Reference Contact Cards" with employees

Strengthen Policies and Protocols

Adopt an illegal wildlife-free corporate policy as part of a Code of Conduct (e.g. a zero-tolerance policy regarding trafficked wildlife)

Work with industry associations including IATA and ACI to support industry-wide action

Encourage good performance of clients and contractors through wildlife considerations in contracts

Follow CITES Regulations to ensure international trade in plants and animals does not threaten their survival in the wild

Follow IATA's Live Animals Regulations (LAR), the global standard to ensure all animals are transported safely and humanely by air

Establish a protocol for employees to report wildlife trafficking

ROUTES

Reducing Opportunities
for Unlawful Transport of
Endangered Species



The USAID Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species (ROUTES) Partnership brings together government agencies, transportation and logistics industry companies and representatives, international conservation, development and law enforcement organizations and donors in order to disrupt wildlife trafficking activities, and forms a key element of the concerted international response to addressing wildlife poaching and associated criminal activities worldwide.

At the heart of ROUTES is a core group of partners collaborating with the U.S. Government and the transport sector that includes the Center for Advanced Defense Studies (C4ADS), Freeland, the International Air Transport Association (IATA), TRAFFIC and WWF.

This document is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of WWF and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID, the United States Government or ROUTES Partners.

For resources referenced in this document or for more information visit:
www.routespartnership.org

 info@routespartnership.org  [@routespartners](https://twitter.com/routespartners)  [@routespartnership](https://facebook.com/routespartnership)  +1 202-495-4223