



Year 5 (Phase 4) **ROUTES** **ANNUAL REPORT**

October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020 AID-EGEE-A-15-00001



**USAID Reducing Opportunities for
Unlawful Transport of Endangered
Species (ROUTES) Partnership**

**Annual Report
October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020**

Agreement number: AID-EGEE-A-15-00001

Agreement period: October 1, 2015 - December 31, 2021

Approved by: ROUTES Oversight, TRAFFIC

Submitted by: ROUTES Lead, TRAFFIC

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This document was produced by TRAFFIC, with input from ROUTES Partners, for review by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

ABOUT

The USAID Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species (ROUTES) Partnership is an innovative and transformational partnership that brings together transport and logistics companies, government agencies, development groups, law enforcement, conservation organizations, academia and donors to disrupt wildlife trafficking activities, and forms a key element of the concerted international response to addressing wildlife poaching and associated criminal activities worldwide.

GOAL

The goal of this partnership is to disrupt wildlife trafficking by reducing the use of legal transportation supply chains.

OBJECTIVES



Improve the data and analytics on wildlife trafficking within passenger and cargo supply chains for evidence-based, focused action;



Engage corporate leadership to collaborate to combat wildlife trafficking;



Improve the ability of transportation personnel to assist law enforcement to combat wildlife trafficking;



Integrate wildlife trafficking into relevant industry standards and protocols;



Strengthen collaboration between transport and law enforcement

Welcome to the ROUTES annual report

for October 2019 to September 2020

Welcome to the ROUTES annual report for October 2019 to September 2020. During the latter half of the year there was unprecedented global change and challenges caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic, and while the ROUTES Partnership has been affected it also has delivered many excellent outcomes and products. In recent months with the transformation of the air transport sector due to COVID-19, the Partnership has needed to radically, and adaptively, manage its approach to sustain and deliver results. This report reflects on the success of the ROUTES Partnership and explains the great lengths that were undertaken to adapt to the pandemic. TRAFFIC, as leader of the ROUTES Partnership, is grateful to USAID and its dedicated staff, and the core ROUTES partners for their flexibility, creativity and resolve in working together to overcome pandemic related changes.

As the Partnership moved towards the end of the 2019 calendar year, a report providing regional analysis of wildlife trafficking through air transport was released providing regional and in-depth analysis of wildlife trafficking in six regions, helping to raise awareness and support the growing response from airlines and airports to tackle wildlife trafficking. ROUTES partners were providing representation and training at aviation industry events in Africa, raising the profile of wildlife trafficking technology responses with international enforcement and customs agencies, and had planned further engagement and training opportunities, in Africa and Asia, to support the aviation industry in delivering on their [United for Wildlife \(UfW\) Buckingham Palace Declaration \(BPD\)](#) commitments.

These opportunities included a co-convened ROUTES and UfW Southern Africa Transport Taskforce kick-off and planning meeting, held in February 2020. The meeting, involving over 30 representatives from government agencies, the private sector and civil society, supported discussions on the development of a regional strategy to combat wildlife crime, and the critical champions and actions required. The meeting heralded an opportunity for ROUTES and UfW to demonstrate our combined and collaborative support

to the air transport sector and provided a template for planning and supporting additional regional taskforce approaches.

However, with the declaration of the pandemic in March 2020, dramatic responses were imposed including the closure of borders and restrictions on international and national travel. The pandemic has had an acute impact on the aviation industry with losses estimated to reach over USD \$500 billion and companies facing severe difficulties. Whilst, the pandemic has highlighted the risks associated with zoonotic disease spillover and the potential risks posed to the aviation industry from live animal smuggling, the transport of undeclared bushmeat, and the potential disease transmission along the transportation supply chain; the Partnership has adapted its strategy and work plan to more effectively provide support and relevant information to the aviation industry, whilst being considerate of the concerns that the industry was facing.

ROUTES' approaches and outreach have moved to virtual platforms, including hosting a virtual booth at the Africa Tomorrow conference; and more resources available online including a new awareness video, are being made promoted, supporting ongoing requests from airlines and airports for information and training on wildlife trafficking prevention. The results demonstrated in this report are testament to the continued efforts and support to reduce wildlife trafficking by members of the ROUTES Partnership and the air transport industry, even when faced with such a tumultuous year.

Looking forward to 2021, the issue of wildlife trafficking has never before been so much in the global spotlight before, as a result of the pandemic. There is a renewed emphasis to address wildlife trafficking as part of the aviation industry's effort to build a sustainable and resilient future, and the ROUTES Partnership is primed to respond to support these efforts.

Sincerely,
ROUTES Lead

OBJECTIVE 1

Improving Data and Analytics

Highlights



RUNWAY TO EXTINCTION

The latest wildlife trafficking report, Runway to Extinction, was launched in February 2020, providing recommendations to the air transport industry on how to address wildlife trafficking, the report focuses on six regions and has been reported on over 30 times.



ROUTES DASHBOARD

The ROUTES Dashboard received 835 unique users from over 100 countries between November 2019 and September 2020. It now incorporates a Route Risk Tool, which can be used to identify the level of risk of wildlife trafficking on selected flight routes.



RECOMMENDATIONS IMPLEMENTED

Recommendations drawing on ROUTES' resources were provided to ACI's Airport Excellence Programme (APEX) in Security, a key step to enable airports to improve measures to prevent wildlife trafficking.

Report launches

ANIMAL SMUGGLING IN THE AIR TRANSPORT INDUSTRY AND PREVENTING ZOOONOTIC DISEASE

In response to the crippling effects of COVID-19 on the air transport sector, and the risks from zoonotic diseases spread by wildlife trafficking, ROUTES launched a new report, *Animal Smuggling in Air Transport and Preventing Zoonotic Disease*, authored by C4ADS. The report details the financial and operational impacts of pandemic-level human disease arising from zoonoses on the aviation industry. It highlights the disease risks amplified by the evasion of animal health and safety protocols that wildlife trafficking can cause and urges specific actions by stakeholders in order to help prevent future outbreaks.

10.3k

ONLINE READERSHIP

8+k

REACHED ON CORE TWITTER

RUNWAY TO EXTINCTION

Completing a series of in-depth analyses of wildlife trafficking trends and smuggling strategies, ROUTES launched *Runway to Extinction*, focused globally and on six regions: Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, Middle East and Oceania. To respond to the need for detailed information and country-specific guidance, ROUTES also released a series of ten country assessments. Each assessment provides an in-depth examination of that country's exposure to wildlife trafficking, and its linkages to the global air transport supply chain. These assessments enable air industry leaders to shape stronger detection and security protocols, internal policies, and inform outreach to regional stakeholders in the highest-priority jurisdictions to stem the flow of wildlife trafficking through air routes.

39.2m

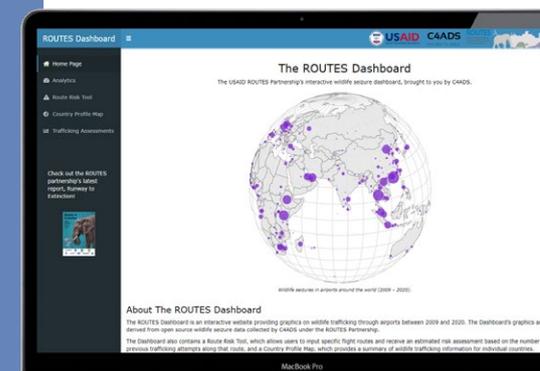
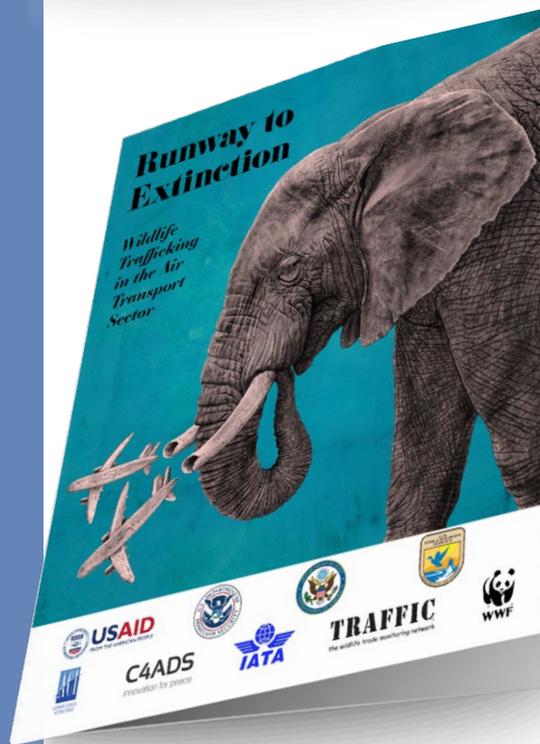
ONLINE READERSHIP

321k

COVERAGE VIEWS

ROUTES DASHBOARD

Supporting these assessments, improvements to the *ROUTES Dashboard* continued, with new tools available to enable industry and users to interrogate seizure data related to air transport and identify potential exposure to wildlife trafficking on specific routes.





OBJECTIVE 2

Engaging Corporate Leadership

Highlights



GROWING ENGAGEMENT

AirAsia and Ethiopian Airlines became engaged with ROUTES, totalling 21 airlines engaged and at least 16 which have taken direct and measurable action.



AIRPORTS TASKFORCE

Airport participation in the ACI Wildlife Task Force increased by 70% this year, and seven new airports signed the Buckingham Palace Declaration.



UN SDG INDICATORS

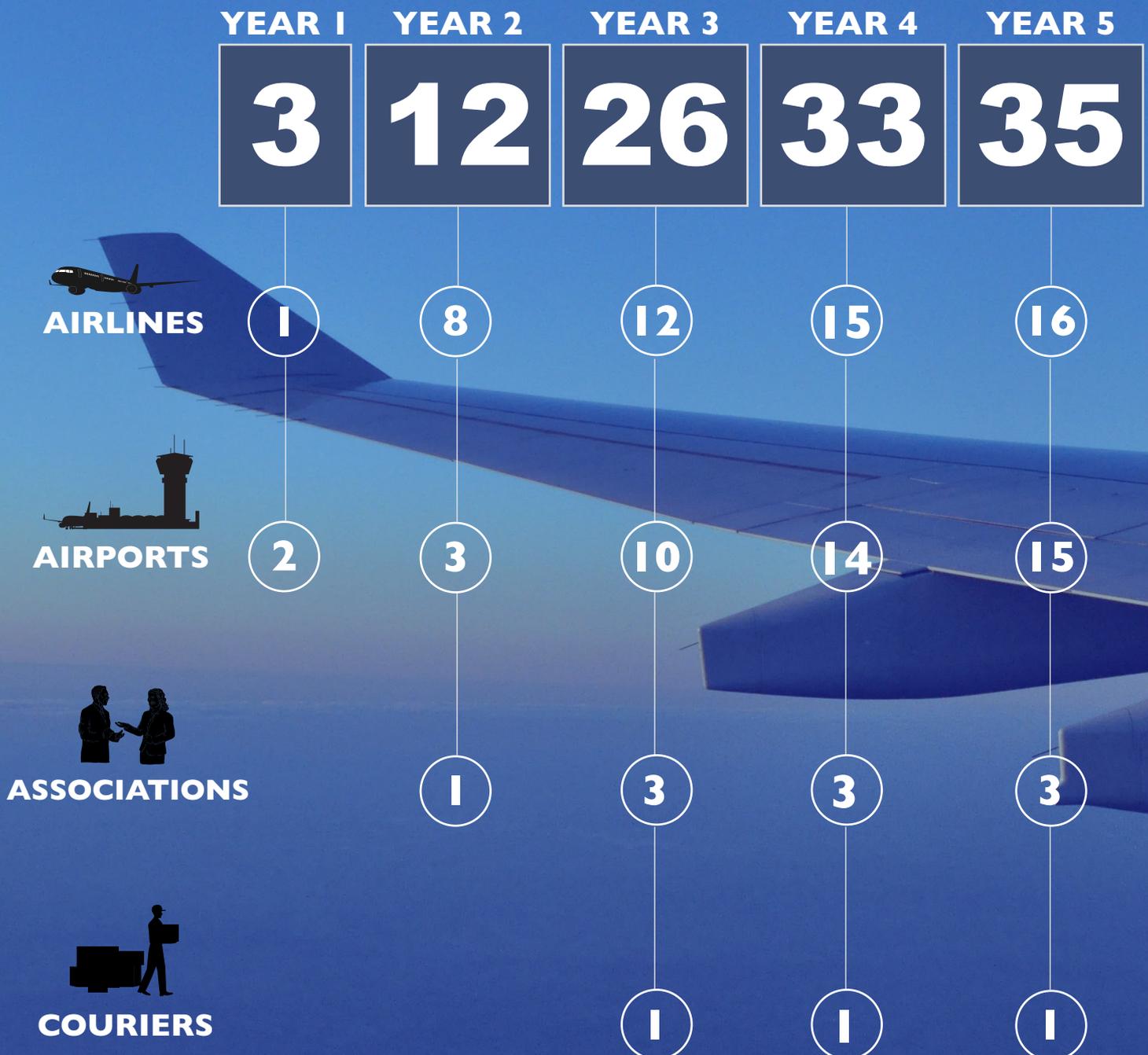
Indicators were identified to support the air transport industry to report and communicate how their actions taken to combat wildlife trafficking contribute towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals 3, 14, 15, 17.

ROUTES Objective 2: Engaging Corporate Leadership

Despite the immense challenges faced by industry in the last six months, airlines, airports and associations continued to take action against wildlife trafficking. Actions ranged from associations communicating ROUTES' reports and other resources to their members, companies posting information about wildlife trafficking and ROUTES on social media during international wildlife awareness days, to companies hosting training workshops, integrating ROUTES' materials into their online systems, and strengthening policies. These actions were supported by ROUTES partners providing expertise and technical advice, content for communication and social media postings and continued dialogue with industry representatives.

Running total of:

active industry stakeholders: airlines, associations, couriers, and at airports



ROUTES Objective 2: Engaging Corporate Leadership

In February 2020, ROUTES and UfW co-convened aviation industry stakeholders, industry associations, and government and law enforcement representatives in Johannesburg, South Africa to discuss wildlife trafficking and the potential for a collective response. Over 30 companies and organizations enthusiastically participated in plenary and breakout group discussions on strategies to address illegal wildlife trade. The meeting identified key activities to implement, as well as stakeholder mapping and strategy development to ensure a successful intra-region partnership. The meeting inspired attendees to commit to officially forming a Southern Africa Transport Taskforce to combat wildlife trafficking. The meeting also provided an opportunity to learn and plan how future regional taskforces could be established and supported.

South African Airways (SAA) also demonstrated their commitment and leadership in combating wildlife trafficking by showcasing their partnership with the African Pangolin Working Group. On World Pangolin Day, at OR Tambo International Airport, SAA hosted 'Havoc', the first sniffer dog specialized in detecting the scent of all four African pangolin species. SAA demonstrated Havoc's skills aboard an aircraft, and through an obstacle course of transport containers and baggage. SAA's support of canine detection programs demonstrates the importance of leveraging novel detection methods to stop the smuggling of critically endangered wildlife in real time.



OBJECTIVE 3

Enhancing Staff Ability to Detect Wildlife Trafficking

Highlights



AWARENESS VIDEO

A new ACI wildlife trafficking awareness video was created for airport staff, in 6-minute and 12-minute versions, with subtitles available in French, Spanish and Chinese, and is available to all ACI members



TRAINING IMPLEMENTATION

Malaysia Airlines trained 98 cargo staff using ROUTES role-specific materials and has subsequently integrated ROUTES' e-modules into its learning platform as a trial.



SUSTAINING MOMENTUM

The Association of Asia Pacific Airlines uploaded the ROUTES training materials to their website which have subsequently been downloaded by most of their 15 members.

ROUTES Objective 3: Enhancing Staff Ability to Detect Wildlife Trafficking

TRAINING, CAPACITY BUILDING AND AWARENESS EVENTS

ROUTES has developed training resources to enable integration with aviation industry training platforms including induction training, annual refresher training and during shift transitions. Since October 2019, training workshops have also been held for airport staff and trainers at Entebbe International Airport, Uganda, airline staff in the AirAsia base at Kuala Lumpur International Airport, and representatives of a range of airports in Africa following the ACI Africa Annual General Assembly and Regional Conference and Exhibition held in Accra, Ghana. Exposure to the training resources and follow-up support has resulted in 3 companies integrating ROUTES materials into their online systems.



On World Wildlife Day (March 3, 2020), AirAsia partnered with ROUTES to hold an awareness event for all AirAsia staff at Kuala Lumpur International Airport. The event included presentations, videos and props to raise awareness of wildlife trafficking methods and how staff can report suspected incidents to law enforcement. It was a huge success, with 50 staff attending the event in person, as well as potentially thousands of staff throughout the building watching the livestreaming of the event.

Role-specific training was also delivered to AirAsia's cargo and logistics arm, Teleport. AirAsia has now integrated all six ROUTES role-specific e-modules into its IT system and has requested additional virtual trainings for its staff based in Thailand, India, Indonesia and the Philippines.





OBJECTIVE 4

Integrating Wildlife Trafficking Into Industry Standards

Highlights



IENVA CERTIFICATIONS

South Africa Airways, Air Canada and Finnair were independently certified to have met the wildlife trafficking module of the IATA Environmental Assessment (IEnvA), demonstrating each airline's commitment to combating wildlife trafficking and their fulfilment of the Buckingham Palace Declaration commitments.



INDUSTRY RECOGNITION

The International Civil Aviation Organization requested increased multi-stakeholder collaboration to support attainment of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs), including SDG 15, following information papers submitted by ACI and IATA to the ICAO 40th Assembly.

Guidance

WILDLIFE TRADE GUIDANCE MANUAL AND INFORMATION PAPERS

To help inform IATA members about wildlife trafficking prevention measures, an Illegal Wildlife Trade Guidance Manual was developed to encompass all areas of airline operations that may be affected by, or could influence a response to, wildlife trafficking. The manual collates information on:

- ✓ **recommended practices,**
- ✓ **policies,**
- ✓ **training programs**
- ✓ **data collection procedures;**

Once finalized, it will incorporate the links between wildlife trafficking and public health risks to strengthen its relevance to the changing priorities of the aviation sector. To complement the IEnvA wildlife trafficking module, a standalone illegal wildlife trade assessment manual was developed to enable non-IEnvA registered airlines who have signed the UfW BPD to demonstrate their actions against wildlife trafficking.

ACI and IATA submitted information papers to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) 40th Assembly session on the UNSDGs. The papers discussed ACI's, IATA's and the aviation industry's commitment to action against wildlife trafficking as part of contributing to SDG 15, related to life on land, and also highlighted the use of commercial aviation by transnational criminal groups. The papers emphasized the need for a concerted response by transport stakeholders and regulatory and law enforcement bodies. The resulting ICAO report encouraged Member States to showcase the contribution of aviation to the SDGs, which ROUTES recognizes as a key factor in encouraging air transport stakeholders to take action. It is hoped that the guidance developed by ROUTES under Objective 2, highlighting ways that the industry can report their actions to prevent wildlife trafficking as contributions to the SDGs, will encourage recognition of the industry's actions against wildlife trafficking.



ICAO

40th

ASSEMBLY

24 SEP - 04 OCT

2019

OBJECTIVE 5

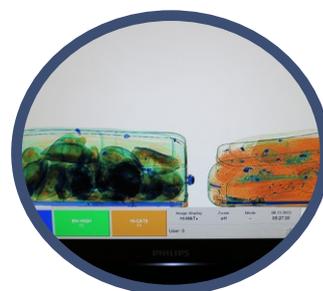
Strengthening Collaboration Between Transport and Law Enforcement

Highlights



BUILDING COLLABORATION

Dialogue between the private sector and enforcement agencies, on the potential for collaborative actions, has increased with participation in fora focussed on environmental crimes and including international agencies such as INTERPOL and the World Customs Organisation.



AUTOMATED DETECTION

Identified as a gap through ROUTES' collaboration and engagement with other initiatives developing technology to automatically detect wildlife through screening systems, an informal working group, with participation by the World Customs Organisation and INTERPOL, was established to facilitate the development of automated technology.

ROUTES Objective 5: Increasing Industry Awareness of Wildlife Trafficking



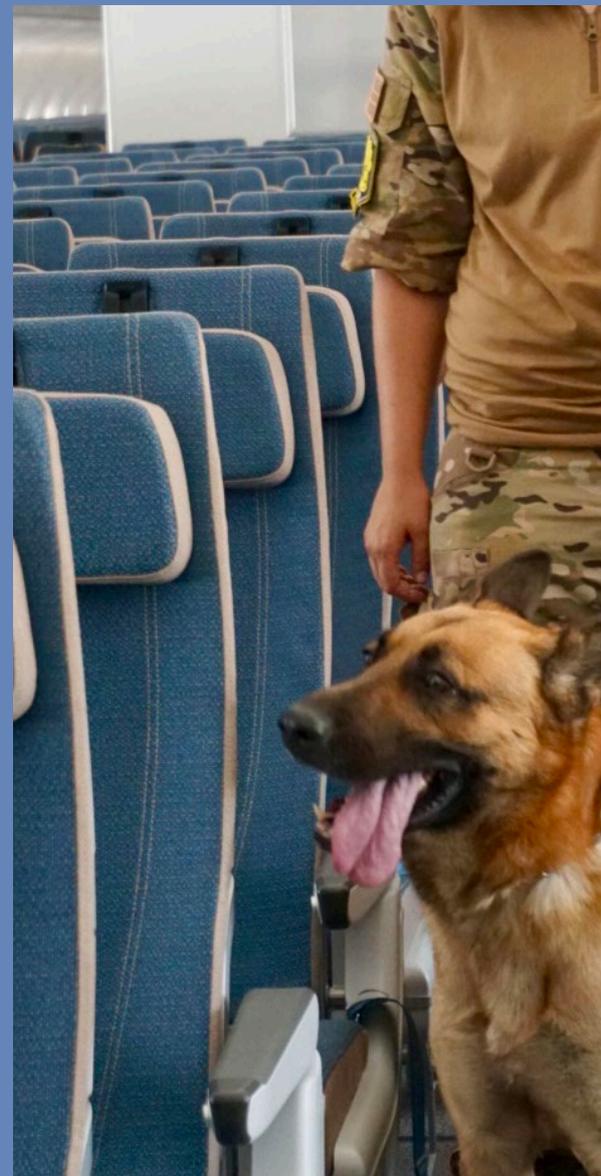
ENGAGEMENT AT INDUSTRY EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

Through industry events and conferences, panel discussions and webinars, ROUTES partners have taken the opportunity to raise awareness of wildlife trafficking issues in aviation, and highlight responses that are being taken and the need for greater collaboration between law enforcement, regulators and the private sector to achieve success. These opportunities have ranged from side events at the CITES COP to INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Groups and Green Crime webinars. Information on existing communication and coordination mechanisms is also being collected from a number of airports to help inform best practice in cooperation and information exchange between private sector and law enforcement.

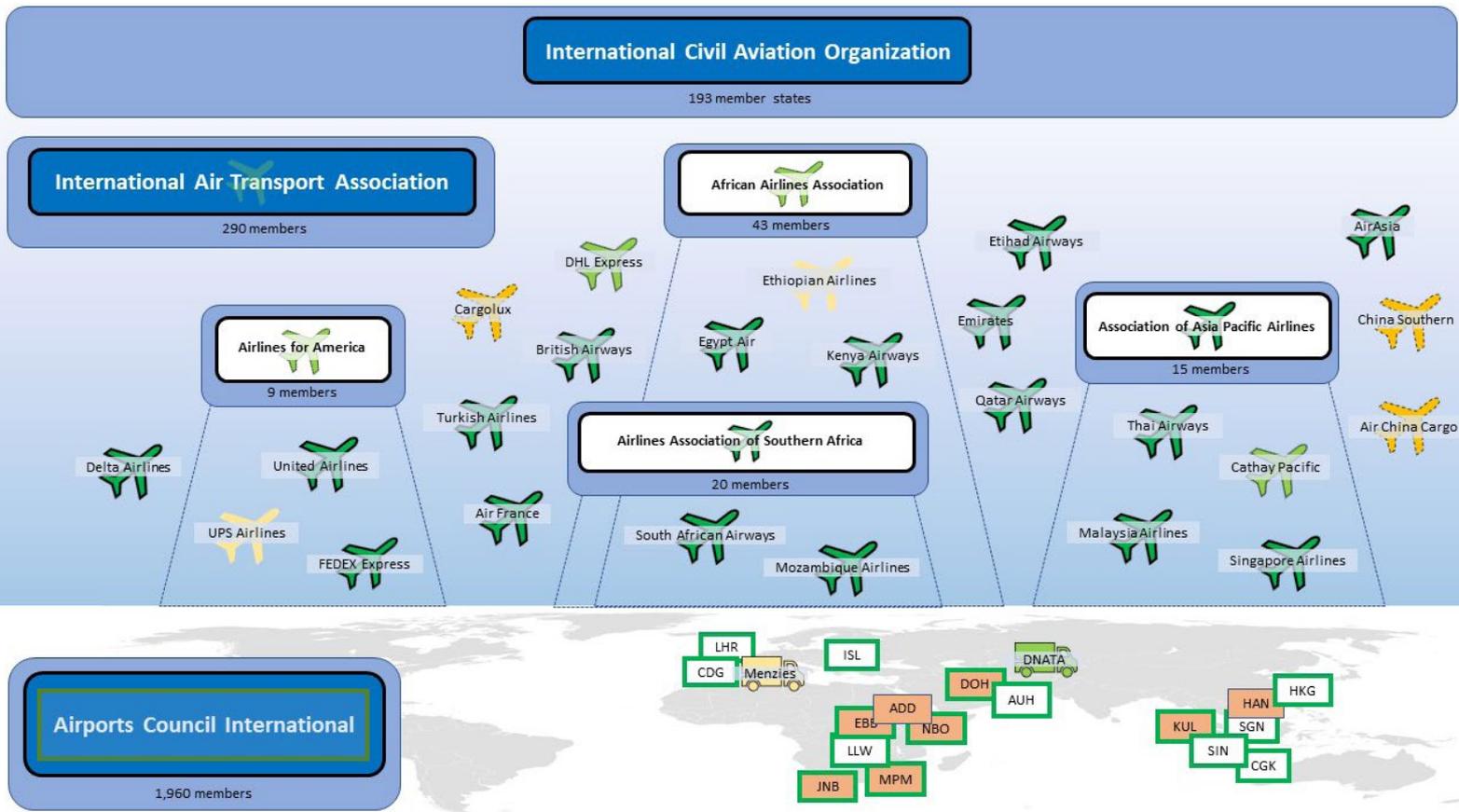
ENGAGEMENT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

Engagement with law enforcement bodies has also become critical with the planning and development of machine learning technology for the automated detection of trafficked wildlife in scanned baggage. In the process of developing an algorithm to detect wildlife hidden in baggage, the integration of the technology within aviation systems and the requirements for response by enforcement agencies are also being considered to ensure that the scaling-up of the algorithm is feasible and supported. Coordination with other algorithm initiatives, World Customs Organisation and INTERPOL has led to the creation of a working group on automated inspection to detect trafficked wildlife.

The beta version of an aviation industry app for reporting suspicious incidents was integrated into the Crime Stoppers International (CSI) platform, providing the basis for receiving, managing and sharing suspected wildlife trafficking reports. Collaboration with CSI will ensure that both the information received and the individual making the report will have confidentiality. During the testing of the app, and depending on further industry discussions, the app may incorporate a reporting channel for other illicit activities such as human trafficking, for a more holistic approach to combating trafficking and ensure greater uptake by users.



Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning



ROUTES' engagement and impact with prioritized companies, associations and airports.

The graphic above shows ROUTES' influence over the companies, associations and airports which it considers priorities to engage with, as of September 2020. The type of influence on companies and airports includes direct engagement as well as influence through engaged airline and airport associations. Through these companies, associations and airports, ROUTES' influence reaches many additional industry stakeholders not included here.

Communications

ROUTES communications activities work to position ROUTES as a strategic, effective, and global authority on wildlife trafficking in the transport sector, capable of catalyzing industry and political change. This year, ROUTES communications focused internally on increasing engagement within the partnership and helping ROUTES partners publicly share news and updates about their work. At the same time, communications activities focused externally on supporting ROUTES events, and increasing ROUTES' visibility through industry media coverage.

118K
Reached
on
Twitter

130+
Live
Webinar
Attendees

79
Industry &
Regional
Media Hits

506K
Media
views

18
Partners
participating
in wildlife
awareness
days

6
Partner
updates &
newsletters

ROUTES Crosscutting: Communications & Next Steps

To continue to accommodate the challenges currently facing aviation, ROUTES is adapting its approaches to utilize virtual platforms, ensure resources are acceptable in multiple forms to increase access and uptake, and focus on building sustainability of wildlife trafficking responses.

In addition to its current and continued engagement with active companies and airports in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and North America, opportunities will be taken to engage with aviation stakeholders in the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region, including to trial and roll out the wildlife trafficking reporting app at a LAC-based airport.



Objective 1

- A report based on analysis of wildlife trafficking seizure data, focusing on either convergence between wildlife trafficking and other illegal activities or the security risks of wildlife trafficking, will be produced.
- A report analysing wildlife trafficking in the LAC region will be produced, including a focus on 2-3 countries in the region.



Objective 2

- Industry champions will be promoted through the creation and communication of short interview videos.
- A Wildlife Trafficking Guidance Handbook will be completed, providing guidance and steps that airports can take to address wildlife trafficking and facilitate collaboration between law enforcement and transport sector stakeholders.
- A series of engagement and awareness webinars with LAC aviation stakeholders will be held with the aim to develop a collaborative action plan against wildlife trafficking in one location.



Objective 3

- The ROUTES training resource bank will be expanded through the development of a general awareness e-module for staff at airports and translation of all ROUTES' e-modules into four additional languages.
- Training will be provided to LAC aviation stakeholders and one regional airline association as part of the regional engagement approach.
- Aviation stakeholders will continue to be supported with the integration of training materials into company systems.

Looking Ahead



Objective 4

- The IATA Guidance Manual for wildlife trafficking prevention measures and inclusion of public health aspects will be finalized and shared with IATA members.
- A beta test of the standalone IATA Illegal Wildlife Trade assessment will be conducted with one airline.
- A ROUTES manual to guide airports in meeting the commitments of the UfW BPD will be developed.



Objective 5

- The need and opportunities to share insider threat information between transport and law enforcement will continue to be promoted with enforcement agencies.
- An algorithm to automatically detect trafficked wildlife products will be developed and tested in a baggage screening system.
- The aviation industry app to report suspicious wildlife incidents will be tested, translated and rolled-out on the Crime Stoppers International platform.



Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species

ROUTES' sustainability

The continued engagement of the air transport industry, and their responses to wildlife trafficking during the pandemic, demonstrate a resilience of commitment and concern to this global problem.

The actions that ROUTES and the air transport sector are taking to build awareness, provide resources and identify sustainable responses and recognition for industry actions, continue to be requested and are being adopted and adapted, independent of ROUTES' engagement.

The awareness of wildlife trafficking and the risks to air transport supply chains has been amplified by the pandemic, with awareness of zoonotic disease spillover and its associated risks. Increases in wildlife trafficking (in scope and scale), poor transport conditions, avoidance of quarantine controls on import, and black-market trade outside regulated markets and retail outlets, all amplify the risks of disease transmission from live animals. There are potential zoonotic disease risks associated with the carriage of live wild mammals and birds particularly; bushmeat has also been highlighted for potential health risks. Many institutions and experts have stated that in general wildlife trade regulations focus on conservation, legality and sustainability of trade and there is a disconnect with the health sector regulations and connectivity on preventing zoonotic transmission.

ROUTES will need to evaluate and understand potential risks to inform the transport sector if additional measures to minimise the risk of disease transmission in wildlife trade are required and that can build upon the work of ROUTES in combating wildlife trafficking. In order to develop and include preventative measures combining health and wildlife trade interventions within supply chain systems, a coordinated multi-stakeholder response – including organizations in both the transport and the health sector – is required to support government and enforcement authorities in addressing these issues. Involvement of governments and enforcement agencies is critical to ensure that adequate laws and regulations are in place and enforced, by collaborating with the transport sector to properly, and efficiently, handle legal wildlife transport and to support the interception of illegal shipments.

ROUTES' current engagement with air transport and enforcement representatives could provide an unparalleled opportunity to extend collaborative action with the health sector and provide guidance on the development of measures to minimize risk in the wildlife trade supply chain, combat wildlife trafficking and help prevent future threats from zoonotic disease transmission.

For more information on the ROUTES Partnership visit routespartnership.org.

