Wildlife crime — the illegal capture, killing, transport, and trade of endangered species — now represents one of the world’s biggest black markets.

Wildlife traffickers exploit the increasing connectivity of global transportation, threatening human health and security, creating risk throughout industry supply chains, and pushing animal species into extinction.

The USAID Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species (ROUTES) Partnership brings together transport and logistics companies, government agencies, development groups, law enforcement, and conservation organizations to disrupt wildlife trafficking through legal transportation supply chains.

The ROUTES Partnership supports the transport sector by providing targeted data analytics, empowering personnel with the necessary tools and information to be a part of the solution, increasing communication and information sharing between the private sector and enforcement, and ultimately embedding wildlife trafficking solutions within existing company policies.
Illegal trade is a transport-intensive activity. Wildlife or wildlife parts are trafficked from source to consumer countries by a combination of land, air and sea routes. Depending on the mode of transport used, different actors along supply chains may knowingly or unknowingly facilitate the illegal movement of wildlife.

The ROUTES Partnership complements other conservation and law enforcement approaches such as anti-poaching, consumer behavior change and international policy efforts.