

BEST PRACTICE CASE STUDIES
FROM SELECTED AIRPORTS

Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade



CASE STUDY # 1

BECOMING A RESPONSIBLE GATEWAY

HEATHROW

2016 - PRESENT



INTRODUCTION

Whilst we were reviewing our approach to sustainability in 2016, we consulted with several sustainability and environmental stakeholders, as well as our airport business partners. There was a strong consensus that Heathrow should play a convening role in the fight against illegal wildlife trafficking. We held a stakeholder event in 2016 with Border Force, the Royal Foundation, and WWF to discuss and agree how Heathrow could contribute. Following this, Heathrow decided to sign up to the Buckingham Palace Declaration, and join the United for Wildlife Transport Taskforce. Signing the Declaration allowed us to follow a ready-made structure of actions we needed to take. It also gave us access to a network of other organisations with experience in this area that we could learn from, as well as access to resources for training and intelligence reports.

Stakeholders involved:

- Internal Stakeholders: Sustainability, Communications, Commercial (Cargo, Airlines, Retail), Operations (Baggage and Security)
- External Stakeholders: UK Border Force, The Royal Foundation, and WWF

WHAT HAS TAKEN PLACE TO BOOST THE FIGHT?

In 2017, we published our new sustainability strategy Heathrow 2.0, and for the first time included a commitment to tackle illegal wildlife trafficking within our sustainability programme. This focuses on two objectives;

1. To raise awareness with passengers about the impact of illegal wildlife trafficking to help stem the demand.

Examples of passenger campaigns: On World Elephant Day in 2017, with Border Force and IAG, we spoke to passengers about the issues;

in 2018 we promoted the UN Wild for Life campaign on the digital screens across all 4 terminals for one week, supported with activity on social media and activities in our terminals for families (selling WWF fluffy toys, and face painting).

2. We work with Team Heathrow business partners to improve the detection of illegal wildlife and wildlife products being transported through Heathrow. We raise awareness of people in key roles at the airport that will help to spot any suspicious activity – we include awareness training in annual refresher training of our security officers, and raise awareness of our baggage teams. In 2018, we held a forum for our business partners (airlines and cargo handlers) to raise awareness of illegal wildlife trafficking and discussed what action can be taken by organisations individually and as an airport community collectively.



WHAT ENCOURAGED HEATHROW TO IMPLEMENT SUCH A PROGRAMME?

“ Traffickers use international hub airports, such as Heathrow, to illegally transport endangered animals and wildlife products around the world. As an airport, we have a unique position to convene internal and external stakeholders to help them under-

stand how and where to focus efforts to make the biggest impact. We use information from the ROUTES partnership, and guidance from the UK's enforcement agency, Border Force.

The drivers that encouraged us to counter illegal wildlife trafficking ac-

tivities include; helping in conservation efforts and sustainability, ensuring the health and safety of our airport colleagues and passengers, maintaining wildlife for nature-based tourism and the economies of communities that rely on wildlife.

WHAT CHALLENGES DID HEATHROW FACE IN MOVING THIS EFFORT FORWARD?

We faced challenges in two-folds. The first challenge was helping our airport stakeholders understand that Heathrow is exploited by traffickers as an international hub airport. The other challenge was understanding where to focus Heathrow's efforts to make the biggest impact.

Thank you to Heathrow for sharing this case study with the world

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Heathrow

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CASE STUDY # 2

ADOPTING ZERO TOLERANCE

KENYA AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

APRIL 2017

INTRODUCTION

A passenger's bags weighing 33.6Kgs were suspected to contain game trophies during a re-screening of bags. The bags originated from Cotonou and were connecting to Bangkok. The passenger was summoned to open the baggage before the multi-agency security stakeholders. The bags were found to contain Ivory and the items were sealed and concealed to bypass screening procedures. The passenger was arrested and presented before a court of law located at the airport where he pleaded guilty to the charges and was fined Kshs. 30,000 (USD 300).

Kenya's well-developed transport infrastructure has been used to facilitate the transit of illegal wildlife products. Kilindini Port in Mombasa and Jomo

Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) in Nairobi are the leading exit points with JKIA recording high numbers of seizures of contraband destined for China and Vietnam. Kenya's national airline, Kenya Airways, operates direct flights from Nairobi to Eastern Asia and has reported passengers carrying wildlife contraband as part of their baggage. To combat this, re-screening of all transit bags and cargo by the security team on targeted routes was implemented which has led to a decline in the trafficking of illegal game trophies in Nairobi.

Stakeholders involved:

- Kenya Airport Authority (KAA): Managing Directors Office, Legal department, Operations and Safety (Airport Manager's Office and Birds and Wildlife section), Projects and

Engineering Services (Environment section), Security

- Kenya Airways: Security team, Environment team
- Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Police, Kenya Customs Official

WHAT HAS TAKEN PLACE TO BOOST THE FIGHT?

KAA is working with the national carrier, Kenya Airways, as the key stakeholder. KAA is at the point of implementing the recently signed Buckingham Palace Declaration. Kenya Airways also signed the Buckingham Palace Declaration in March 2016 and has made tremendous steps in implementing the policy.



Kenya Airports Authority's Action:

- Adopted the zero-tolerance policy
- Sponsored a booth during World Wildlife Day at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport to educate passengers on the illegal wildlife trade
- Created a hotline number to allow people to report suspicious illegal wildlife trafficking activity easily
- Pushed for the creation of a court of law inside the airport (JKIA) in order to allow cases to be heard faster and make the sentencing process quicker
- Posted a permanent message on its

- website and throughout its airports about their zero-tolerance policy
- Houses a canine unit at the airport. The Kenya Wildlife Service dogs are trained to detect wildlife products in transit
- Harmonized a system with Kenya Airways for the seamless sharing of information about suspicious wildlife trafficking activity

Kenya Airways' Action:

- Developed a standard operating procedure in conjunction with external aviation security stakeholders on the handling of wildlife trafficking cases

- in airports
- Adopted a zero-tolerance policy
- Provided classroom courses on awareness between 2015 and 2018 to approximately 800 aviation stakeholders at JKIA
- Created an awareness campaign targeting passengers using their inflight entertainment system and inflight magazine
- Allowed unobstructed access to the Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS) to enhance detection of wildlife products using the canine unit on passenger bags and cargo



Ground Pangolin © David Brossard

WHAT ENCOURAGED KENYA AIRPORTS AUTHORITY TO IMPLEMENT SUCH A PROGRAMME?

“ KAA is committed to the fight against Illegal Wildlife Trafficking by ensuring that illegal wildlife products do not pass through our airports. JKIA is a one of the leading hubs in Africa and has a huge volume of cargo and passengers respectively passing

through either as origin, transit or destination. With the number of transit goods and passengers increasing, there is a need to increase vigilance and create awareness on illegal wildlife products and trafficking. The drivers that encouraged us in the

countering of wildlife trafficking activities include sustainability, conservation, health and safety of staff and passengers, reputation, wildlife maintenance for nature-based tourism and the communities that rely on wildlife as part of their economy. ”

WHAT CHALLENGES DID KENYA AIRPORTS AUTHORITY FACE IN MOVING THIS EFFORT FORWARD?

Despite the continuous effort, the systems for detection of wildlife products at the airport are not sophisticated enough to deter wildlife traffickers. Our security has introduced canine units on passenger bags and cargo to address the gap. In addition, judicial process for wildlife trafficking cases used to be very lengthy. With the new court of law within JKIA, the fight against illegal wildlife trade has been

boosted with faster processing of cases.

Thank you to Kenya Airports Authority and Kenya Airways for sharing this case study with the world.

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corporate.kenya-airways.com

CASE STUDY # 3

HUNTING WILD BAGGAGE

ROYAL SCHIPHOL GROUP

AUTUMN 2018



WHAT HAS TAKEN PLACE TO BOOST THE FIGHT?

Schiphol became a member of the ACI Wildlife Trafficking Task Force in 2017. In close cooperation with other ACI members, we are helping our partners in the chain and other parties in the aviation industry to tackle this illegal trade. Training aerodrome personnel to detect traded wildlife smugglers is one of our joint activities. Other measures at Schiphol include initiatives and innovations geared towards exchanging data on actual and potential smugglers. To reinforce our commitment, we aim to sign the Buckingham Palace Declaration at the ACI World Annual General Assembly in 2019, preferably together with our leading partners. For Schiphol, taking responsibility means standing shoulder to shoulder with our stakeholders to combat wildlife trafficking.

INTRODUCTION

Raising awareness among employees of the Royal Schiphol Group was extremely important for us as a first step towards the fight against wildlife trafficking. Schiphol featured the topic in its internal magazine 2018 autumn edition which was distributed to approximately 2,500 employees to coincide with World Animal Day (4 October 2018). As the frontrunner in

the world in driving supply chain management responsibility, we highlighted our collaboration with the customs authority.

Stakeholders involved:

- Royal Schiphol Group: Corporate communications, asset management
- External Stakeholders: Customs, passengers and laboratory

WHAT ENCOURAGED THE ROYAL SCHIPHOL GROUP TO IMPLEMENT SUCH A PROGRAMME?

“ Joining the ACI Wildlife Trafficking Task Force was a major milestone for us. We see it as con-

firmation that this crucial issue is now a focus of increasing attention throughout the sector. This is extremely important given the complexities

involved. The drivers that encouraged us in the countering of wildlife trafficking activities include sustainability and reputation. ”

WHAT CHALLENGES DID ROYAL SCHIPHOL GROUP FACE IN MOVING THIS EFFORT FORWARD?

I can share the challenges I've faced as the corporate responsibility advisor. They were related to receiving internal support and managing external relationship.

About six years ago when I first rang the bell about the subject, there was not much awareness on the topic and I could not receive enough support. I kept my patience and waited for the right moment to come. Meanwhile I continued building my network with the relevant stakeholders - Customs, Police, Interpol, etc. I tried to raise awareness by organizing a presenta-

tion and a photo exposition, but both initiatives, unfortunately, weren't successful. The biggest turnaround came when ACI started the Task Force on wildlife trafficking and one of my colleagues who knew my expertise in the area suggested that I join it. I received support from my management and we finally stepped on board of the plane!

In addition, I experienced difficulties in balancing the different corporate culture between the Customs and the Royal Schiphol Group. We have different goals, and different policies in sharing confidential information.

Corporate culture on the hierarchy are quite distinct as well. I learned that the best way to work in cooperation is by asking the right question and supporting in ways that optimize their job and to give opportunities to highlight their success.

Thank you to Royal Schiphol Group for sharing this case study with the world.

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CASE STUDY # 4

PROTECTING UNIQUE SPECIES AND OUR ISLANDS

GALAPAGOS ECOLOGICAL AIRPORT

2016 - PRESENT

INTRODUCTION

Galapagos Islands are known worldwide as the "Enchanted Islands", famous for numerous endemic species and flora and fauna which are unique. Because of this, the islands have been exploited by humans to the point where there are several species in danger of extinction and now appear in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. The Galapagos Ecological Airport is aware of the worldwide illegal wildlife trade, especially in vulnerable places like the Galapagos Islands, and as a result, has developed a strong relationship with the Galapagos National Park which has a unique legal base in the Archipelago to ensure the survival of these endangered species.

The Galapagos Ecological Airport is the executing arm in compliance with the law and supports in all that it can to conserve the species. We feel we have to take care of our islands' natural beauty and be responsible with our

sustainable operation. Hence, we train our staff to take necessary measures, collaborate with the authority to facilitate their work, and spare no resources or efforts to preserve our islands.

Between 2016-2018 as a result of our efforts of traffic control of species and organic elements at Galapagos Ecological Airport, we prevented the export of:

- IGUANAS: 4
- SEA URCHIN: 5,4 kg
- SNAIL: 7,1 kg
- LOBSTER: 42,3 kg
- SEA CUCUMBER: 3689 kg
- SAND: 206,6 kg
- STONES: 92,6 kg
- CORAL: 87,4 kg
- SHELL: 20,2 kg
- SULFUR: 4,9 kg

Stakeholders involved:

- Internal: Environment Department
- External: Galapagos National Park Authority

WHAT HAS TAKEN PLACE TO BOOST THE FIGHT?

Collaborating with the Galapagos National Park Authority, our work can be summarized into two-folds:

- Training: Our staff receives recurring training on the Galapagos National Park's regulations and how to recognize organic species and wildlife trafficking
- Special Access: We provide authorities a strategic location at the terminal to facilitate their work. Airport's security checkpoints are shared with the authority as well. At the security check points, we have our well-trained staff and the enforcement officer who observe the x-ray screening images to detect any irregularities. Whenever we suspect a passenger taking part in illegal wildlife trade, we are prepared to give the officials all the facilities to apply the legal actions required.





Sea Cucumber © Henry Nicholls



WHAT ENCOURAGED GALAPAGOS ECOLOGICAL AIRPORT TO IMPLEMENT SUCH A PROGRAMME?

“ Sustainability, conservation, and boosting the eco-tourism of the Galapagos Islands is an important consideration for the airport. The airport itself is devised, designed and built completely taking into account

our relationship with the natural environment, and minimizing the environmental impact. As the world's first ecological airport, preserving the natural beauties and wonders of the island is therefore one of the priorities. In addition, the drivers that encour-

aged us in the countering of wildlife trafficking activities include conservation and sustainability, reputation and maintaining wildlife for nature-based tourism and the economies of communities that rely on wildlife. ”

WHAT CHALLENGES DID GALAPAGOS ECOLOGICAL AIRPORT FACE IN MOVING THIS EFFORT FORWARD?

As an airport, we can highlight the importance of managing the security and control of the airport. However, we are aware that the trafficker always seeks to evade controls.

Therefore, it is important to provide continuous training to staff and research new technologies to be at the forefront of the combat against illegal trade. We spare no resources or efforts to ensure the control of the species on the islands.

Thank you to Galapagos Ecological Airport for sharing this case study with the world.

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CASE STUDY # 5

REPATRIATION AND REHABILITATION OF ROCK IGUANAS

NASSAU AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

FEBRUARY 2014



INTRODUCTION

There are currently three species and seven subspecies of the Rock Iguanas throughout the Bahamas. The Bahamas is a biodiversity hotspot, with tourist spending millions of dollars to view its wildlife such as iguanas, flamingoes, turtles, pigs and bonefish.

In 2014, 13 Rock Iguanas (*Cyclura rileyi cristata*) were trafficked from the Bahamas to London by two Romanian women. They are critically endangered subspecies restricted to a single cay in the Bahamas. The women were stopped by the UK Border Force at the Heathrow Airport in London where the Rock Iguanas (12 alive, 1 deceased) were discovered concealed in socks.

The iguanas were quarantined and received Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags for tracking. Repatriation plans quickly ensued and inter-agency meetings had been held to facilitate their return. Eventually, the trafficked iguanas were returned to the Bahamas but only 9 survived the journey. They were sent for rehabilitation and have been monitored for their well being since 2015.

This rescue mission not only exemplifies strong ties between the Bahamas and British government as well as efforts between government agencies and other stakeholders in relation to wildlife protection, conservation and safety, but also the need for coordinated response to wildlife trafficking.

Stakeholders involved:

- The Ministries of the Environment and National Security
- Department of Agriculture Inspectors and Veterinarians
- Nature Conservancy
- Bahamas National Trust
- Civil Aviation Authority
- Nassau Airport Development Company
- British High Commission

WHAT HAS TAKEN PLACE TO BOOST THE FIGHT?

Following the 2014 incident, we are working to connect with relevant stakeholders and identifying ways to support and prevent future trafficking incidents. After the initial meeting with

the agricultural and environmental agency partners, it was highlighted that training was required of select airport personnel at the airport to assist with identifying and preventing future trafficking occurrences. Nassau Airport Development Company will assist in the development of training

and educational programmes. We will also review other methods in order to further raise awareness. Overall, the Wildlife Trafficking programme from Nassau Airport Development Company's perspective is in the planning and informing stage.

WHAT ENCOURAGED THE NASSAU AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT COMPANY TO IMPLEMENT SUCH A PROGRAMME?

“ Wildlife trafficking is a significant threat to the Bahamas as individuals continuously aim to illegally export its wildlife around the world. The incidents triggered interest in protecting natural beauties of

Bahamas and allowed me to commit to the cause by joining ACI Wildlife Task Force.

The drivers that encouraged us in the countering of wildlife trafficking activities include conservation, health

and safety of staff and passengers, wildlife maintenance for nature-based tourism, sustainability, reputation, and maintaining the economies of communities that rely on wildlife.



Thank you to the Nassau Airport Development Company for sharing this case study with the world.

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Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species