



RUNWAY TO EXTINCTION

WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING IN THE AIR TRANSPORT SECTOR



WELCOME TO *RUNWAY TO EXTINCTION*

What country are you calling in from?

What region are you most interested in?

- a) Africa
- b) Americas
- c) Asia
- d) Europe
- e) Middle East
- f) Oceania

THE USAID REDUCING OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNLAWFUL TRANSPORT OF ENDANGERED SPECIES (ROUTES) PARTNERSHIP

DISRUPTING WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING ALONG LEGAL TRANSPORT SUPPLY CHAINS BY



IMPROVING DATA ANALYTICS



ENGAGING CORPORATE LEADERS



TRAINING TRANSPORT PERSONNEL



STRENGTHENING POLICIES & PROTOCOLS



INCREASING CLIENT AWARENESS

GOAL: TO DISRUPT WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING BY REDUCING THE USE OF LEGAL TRANSPORTATION SUPPLY CHAINS.



C4ADS
innovation for peace



TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network



C4ADS CAPABILITIES

C4ADS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that uses high-advantage open data and cutting-edge technologies to solve transnational security challenges. We aim to connect the vibrancy of the non governmental-sector with the potent capabilities of government.

PEOPLE

Young, multilingual, widely traveled, and tech-savvy analysts

Analysts speak 15+ critical languages and have field travel experience to 50+ countries including conflict zones and fragile states.

DATA

Fuse disparate data across languages, regions, and types for integrated capability

200+ business, tax, property, shipping, and judicial registries in 120 jurisdictions, alongside social media and geospatial data

TECHNOLOGY

Adapt and build cutting-edge technologies

Philanthropic partnerships with leading technology companies in addition to internal data science and engineering capabilities



IMPROVING DATA ANALYTICS

C4ADS Air Seizure Database contains data collected from customs press releases, local news reports, CITES annual reports, NGO reports, academic reports, and certain social media accounts.

Flying Under the Radar (2017):

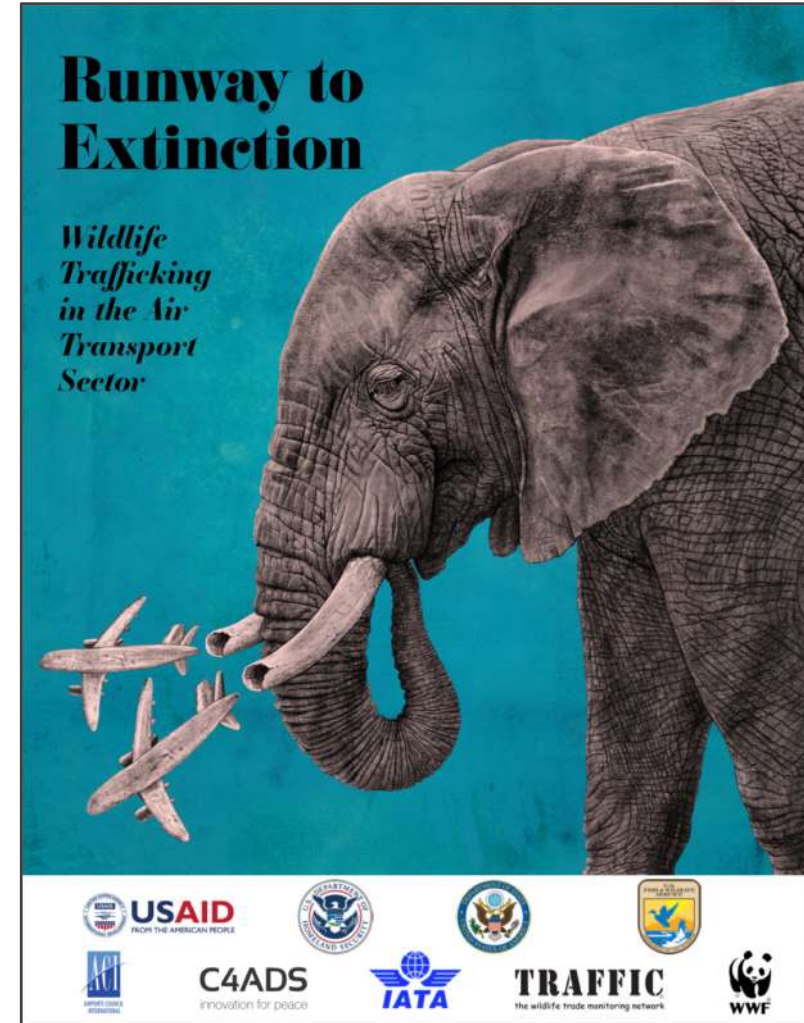
- Included ivory, rhino horn, reptile, and bird seizure data from 2009 - 2016
- Identified trafficking hotspots, trends, and trafficking methods

In Plane Sight (2018):

- Expanded to include pangolin, marine product (e.g. seahorses), and mammal seizure data from 2009 - 2017
- Included analysis of seizure data from the WCO CEN (2015 – 2016) and FWS LEMIS databases (2009 – 2016)

Runway to Extinction (2020):

- Examines wildlife trafficking in six world regions: Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, Middle East, and Oceania
- Focused on a three-year period (2016 – 2018) to highlight more recent trafficking trends





**WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING IS GLOBAL IN
SCOPE, WITH SEIZURES REPORTED
INCREASINGLY FREQUENTLY.**

WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING ROUTES AND METHODS ARE DETERMINED MORE BY THE TYPE OF WILDLIFE BEING TRAFFICKED THAN BY THE REGIONS TRAFFICKING ATTEMPTS PASS THROUGH.



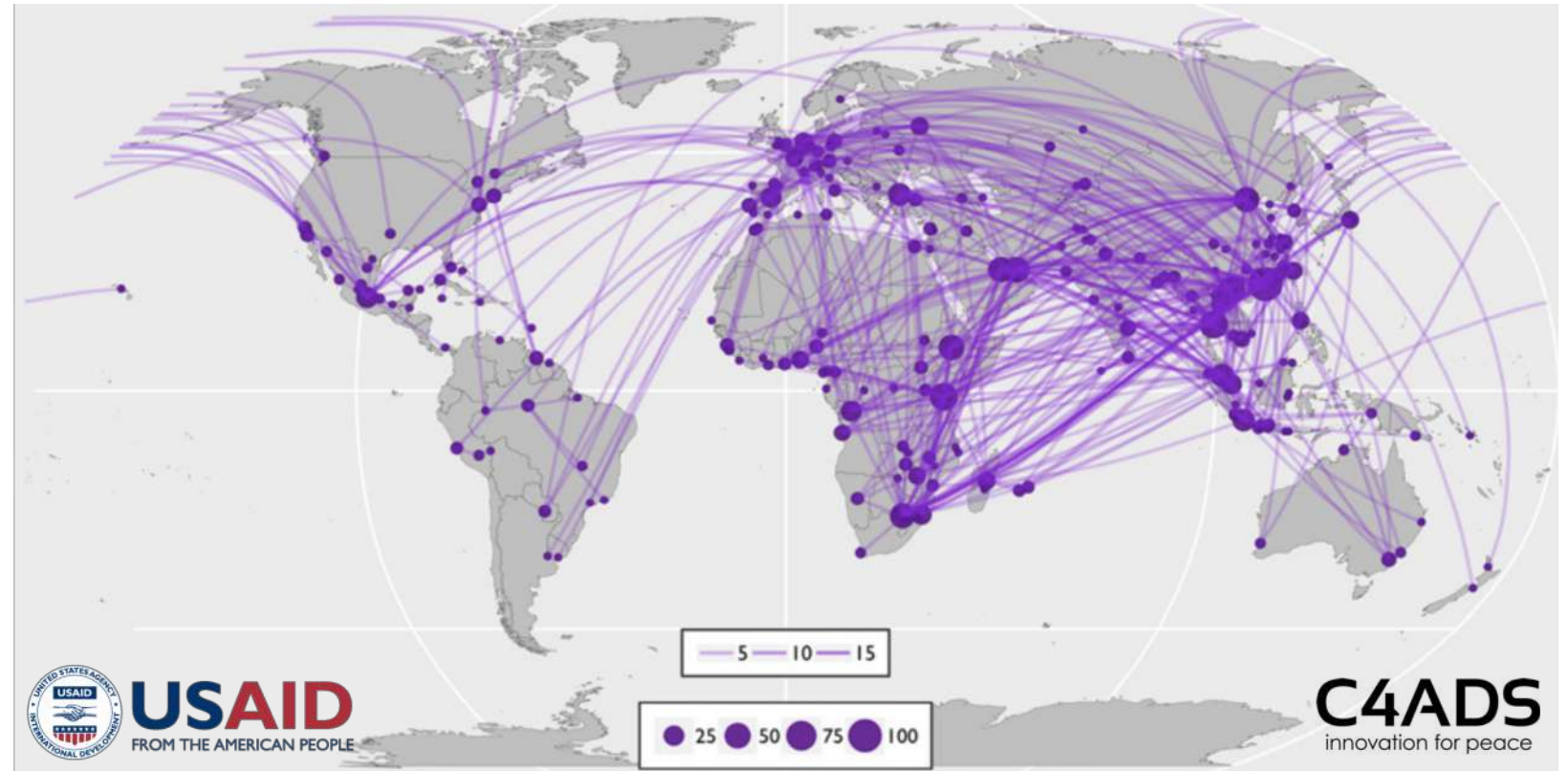
**EACH REGION'S EXPOSURE TO
WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING IS PRIMARILY
DETERMINED BY ITS PROXIMITY TO
SPECIFIC SOURCE REGIONS AND
DEMAND MARKETS.**

TRAFFICKERS OF ALL TYPES EXPLOIT THE SAME VULNERABILITIES WITHIN AIRPORTS.

OVERALL

We use the term “trafficking instance” to account for entire trafficking routes in our analysis, rather than just the point of seizure. For example, we would consider a shipment of turtles that originated in India, passed through Malaysia, and was seized in Thailand as a “seizure” for Thailand, and a “trafficking instance” for all three countries.

COUNTRY	TRAFFICKING INSTANCES
CHINA	240
VIETNAM	76
THAILAND	57
INDONESIA	56
SOUTH AFRICA	56
MEXICO	51
UAE	44
MALAYSIA	40
KENYA	33
DRC	32

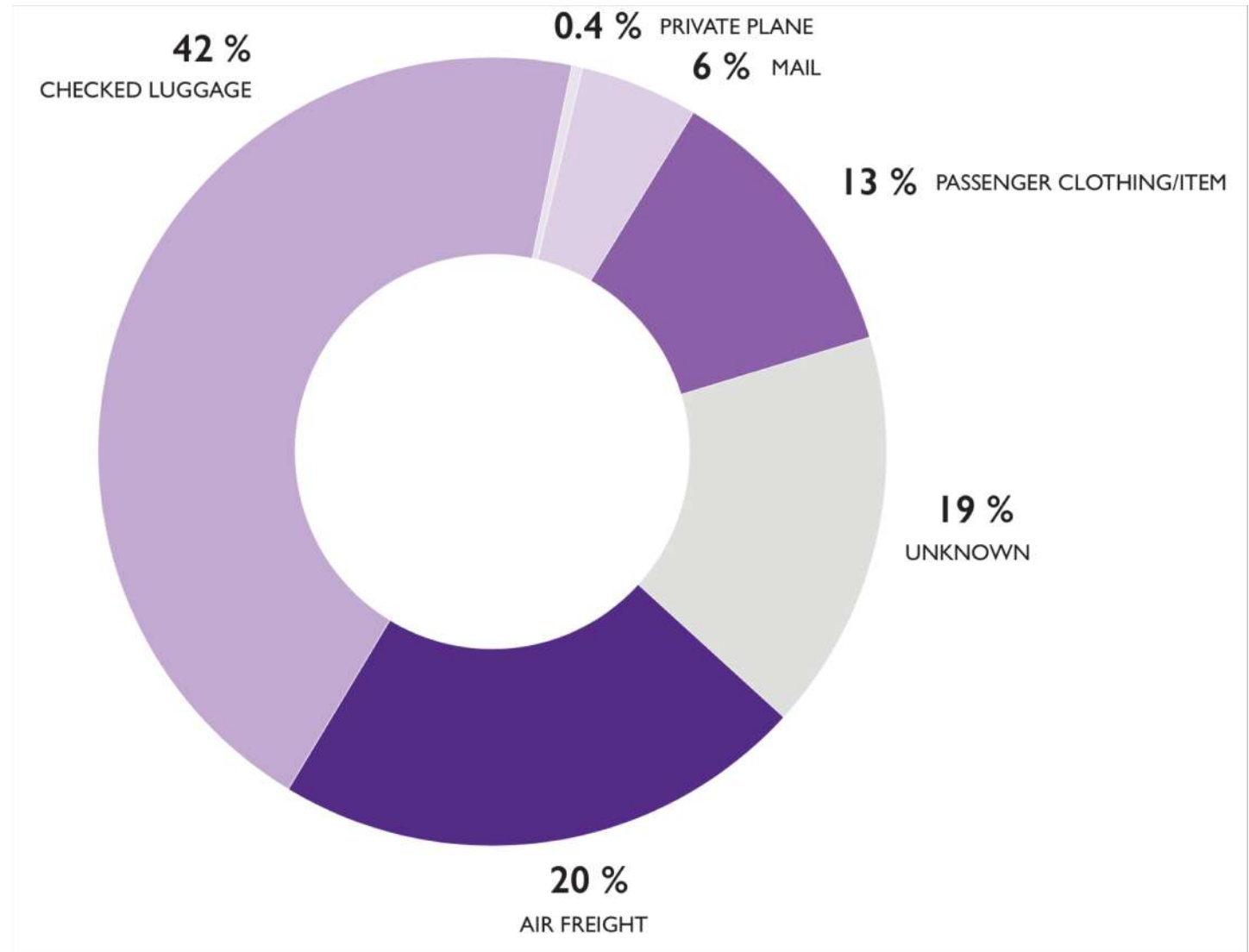


Flight Routes for All Wildlife Seizure in the C4ADS Air Seizure Database (2016 – 2018)

OVERALL

MAIN TAKEAWAYS:

- Checked luggage is dominant by seizure count
- Mail seizures are likely undercounted, since they tend to be reported infrequently
- Traffickers of certain species and wildlife products tend to use the same transport methods (e.g. turtle traffickers rely on similar transport methods)



QUESTIONS

Wildlife trafficking networks tend to change trafficking methods immediately after a seizure.

a) True

b) False

Which region counted more “mail” seizures than seizures of any other type (e.g. checked luggage, private plane, etc.) between 2016 and 2018?

a) Africa

b) Americas

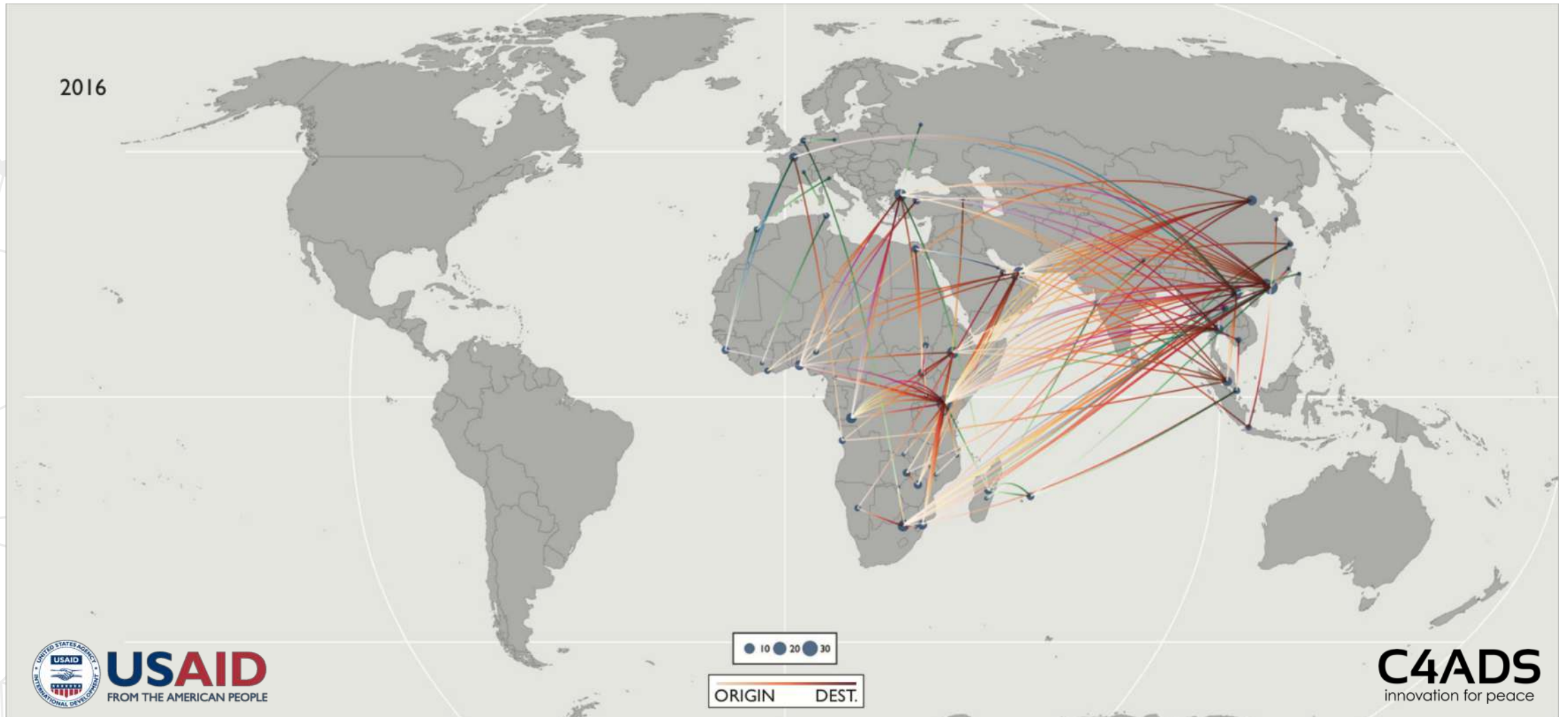
c) Asia

d) Europe

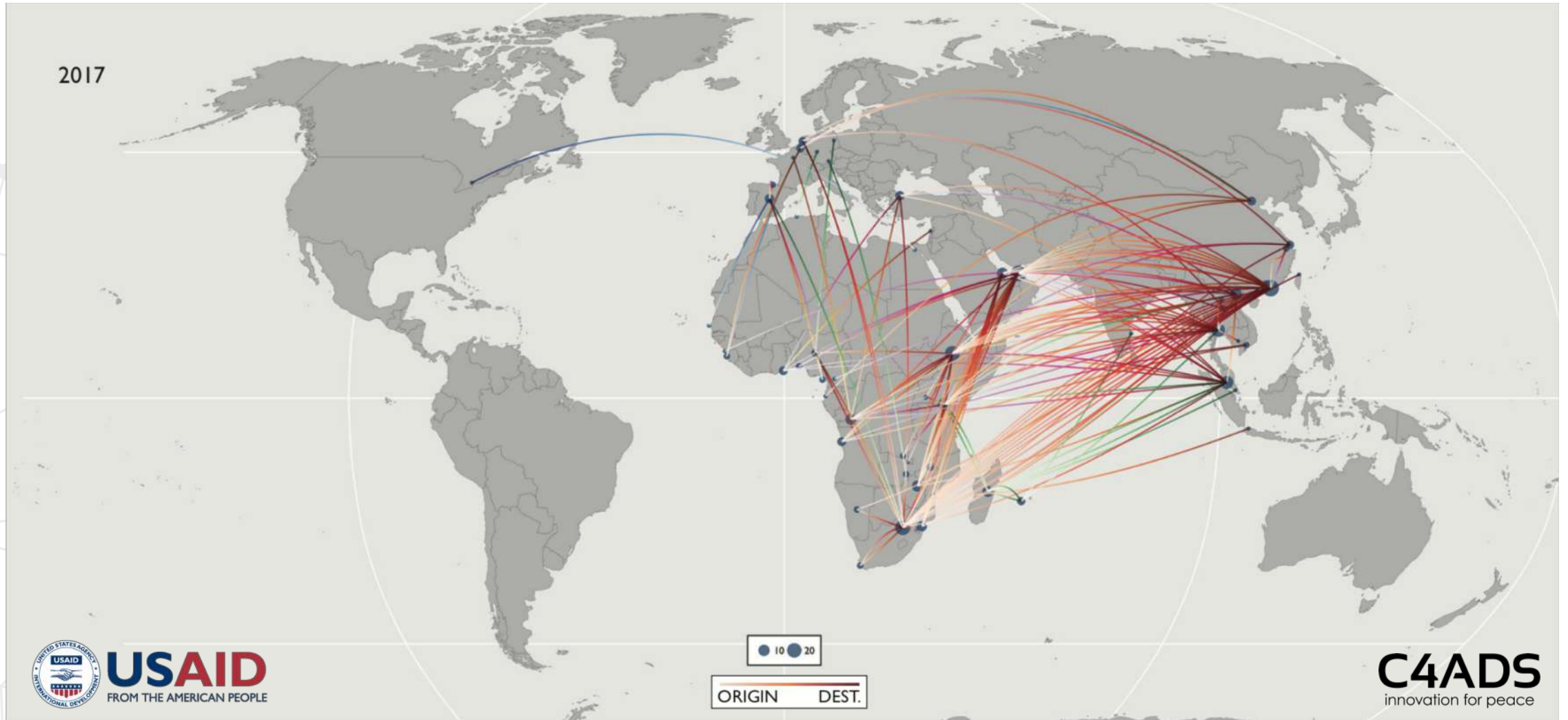
e) Middle East

f) Oceania

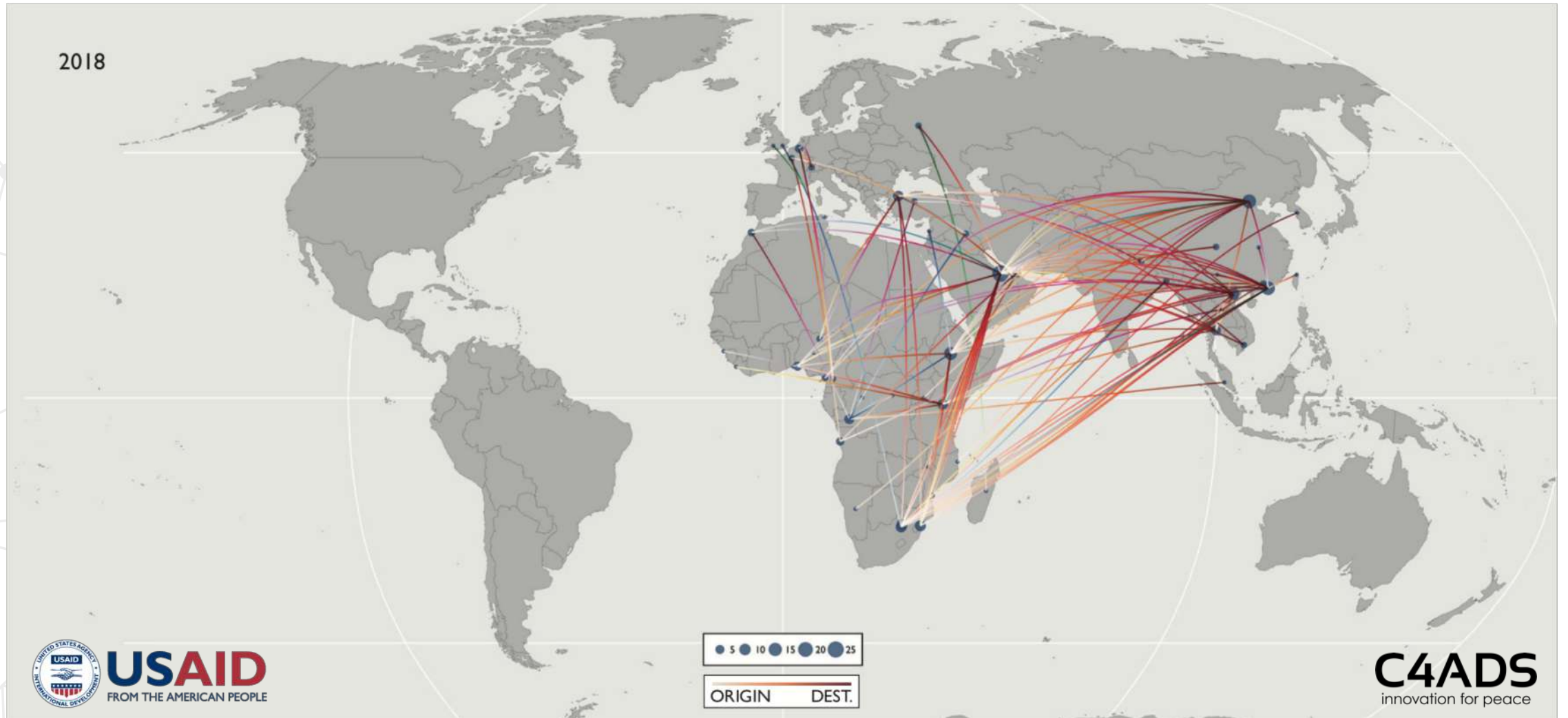
AFRICA



AFRICA



AFRICA



AFRICA



Wildlife Product Processing

Seizure Date: Jan 4, 2018

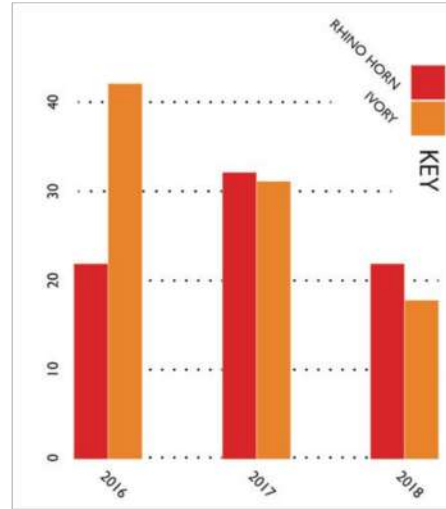
Contraband: Rhino horn pieces

Flights: Unknown

Route: MPM – ADD – HKG

Method: **Passenger** and **Baggage**

This seizure follows a pattern of increasing seizures of wildlife products as processing seems to shift to Africa. Seizures from passengers may increase as a result.



Rhino Horn on the Rise

Seizures of ivory have decreased, while seizures of rhino horn have increased. At the same time, ivory seizures have become increasingly small-scale.

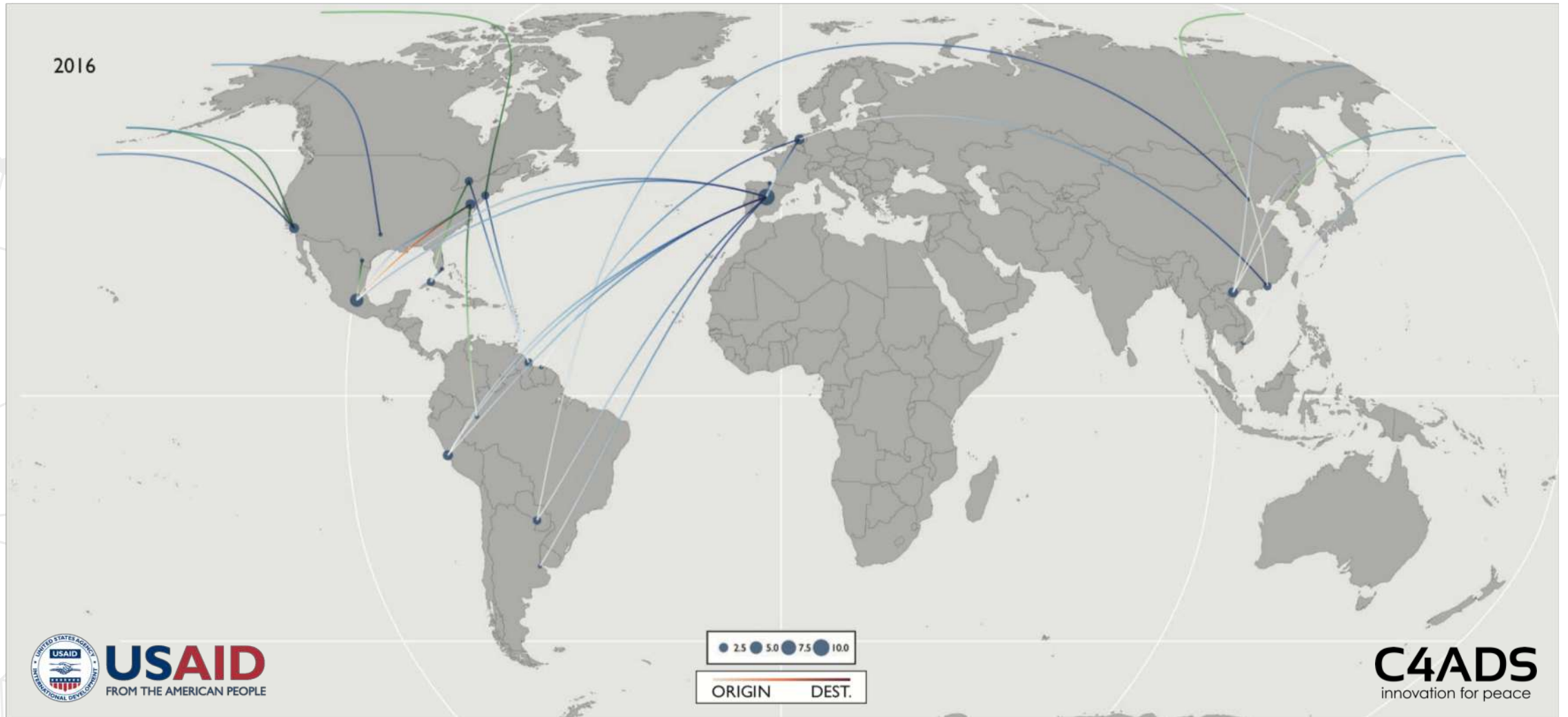
Flights between Johannesburg and Hong Kong or Vietnam are particularly high-risk for rhino horn trafficking attempts.



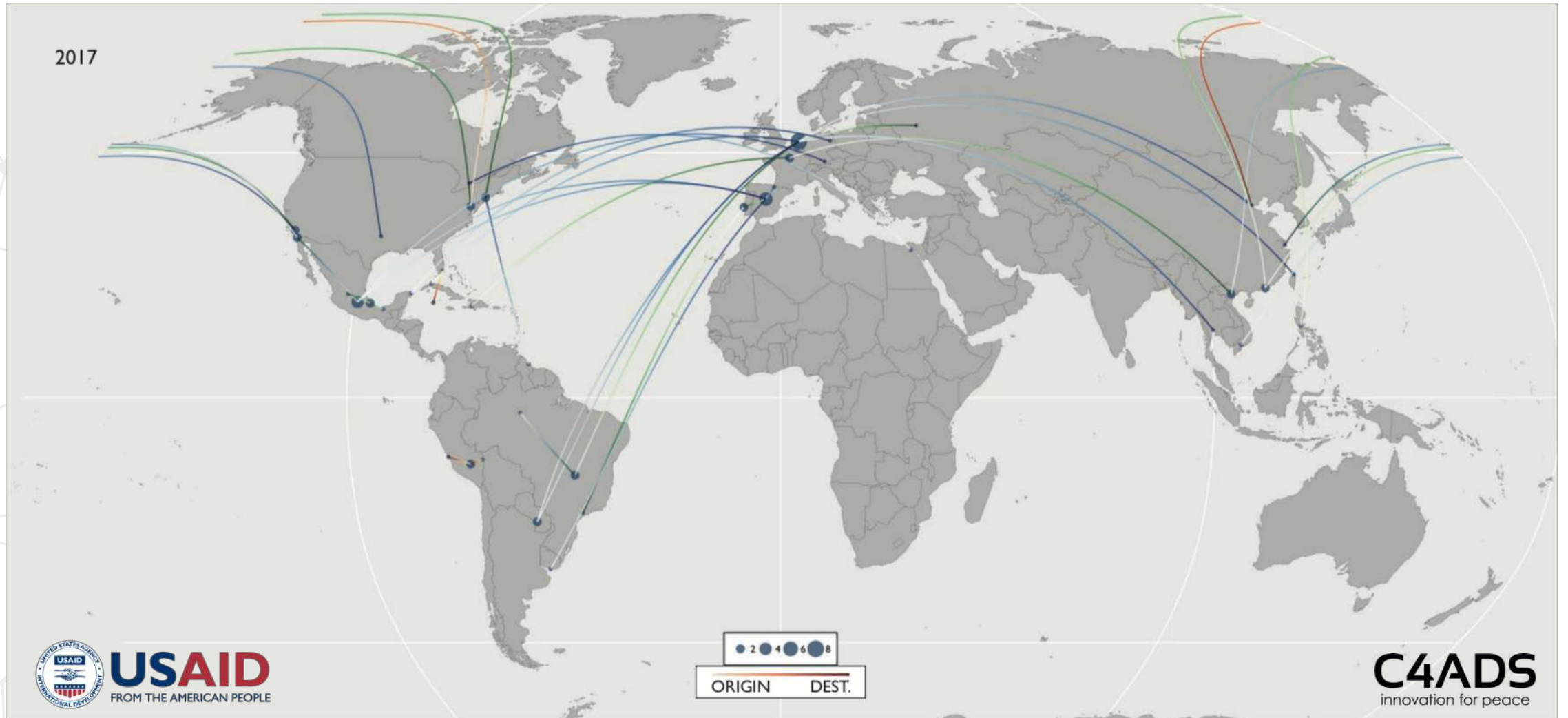
Sniffer Dogs and Seizures in Transit

Kenya makes an unusually high number of seizures given its status as the most prominent transit country for wildlife trafficking in Africa. Many of these seizures are made by sniffer dogs, which are able to screen Kenya's many transiting passengers and their baggage quickly and efficiently. Recent declines in trafficking attempts passing through Kenya may suggest that effective enforcement is having a deterrent effect.

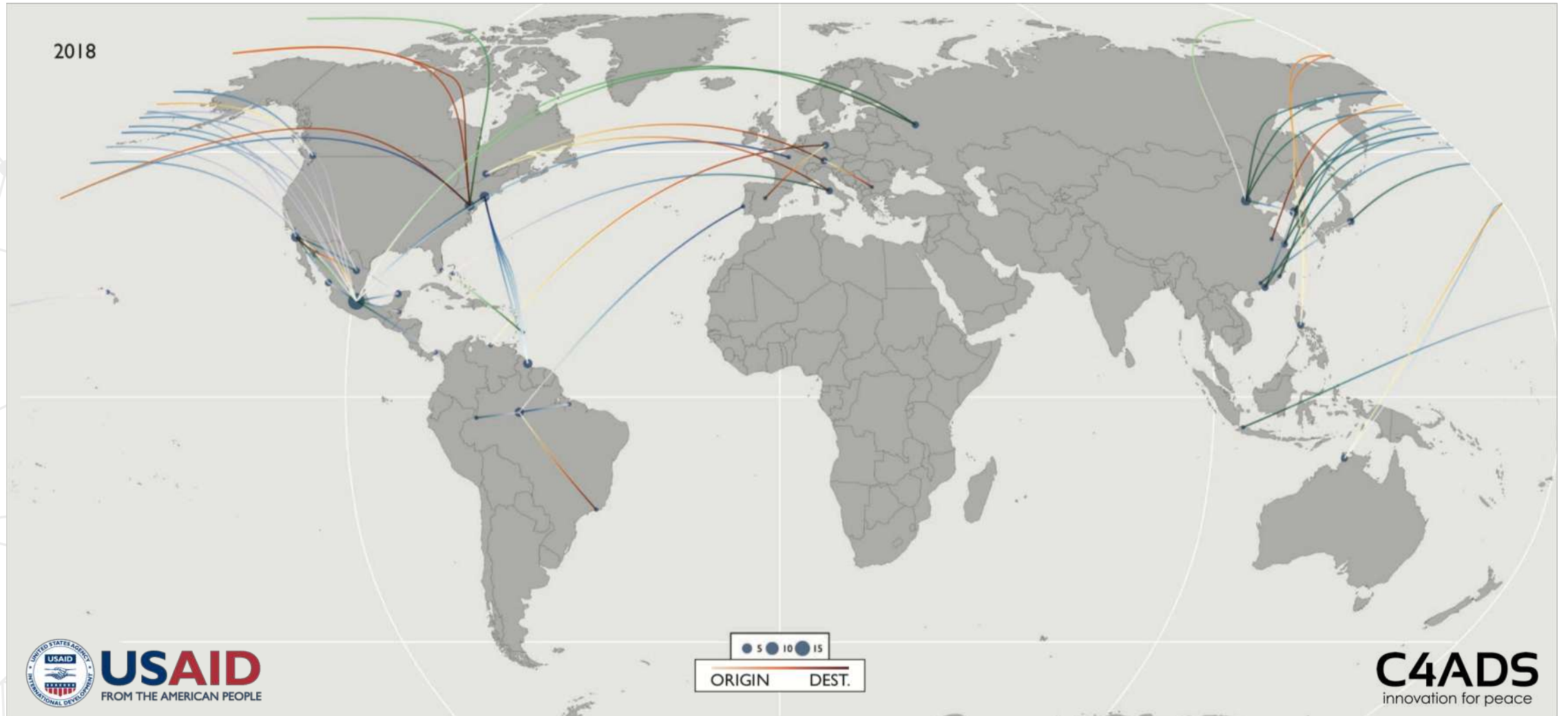
AMERICAS



AMERICAS



AMERICAS



AMERICAS

Domestic wildlife trafficking is prevalent in the Americas. Smuggled wildlife is often flown from remote regions to urban areas, either to be sold in wildlife markets or flown abroad.



Domestic Flights

Seizure Date: April 2017
Contraband: Capuchin monkey
Flights: Unknown
Route: CUZ – PEM – LIM
Method: **Baggage**



Big Cat Trafficking in Mexico

Seizure Date: Feb 4, 2018
Contraband: Tiger cub
Flights: Unknown
Route: Jalisco – QRO
Method: **Mail**

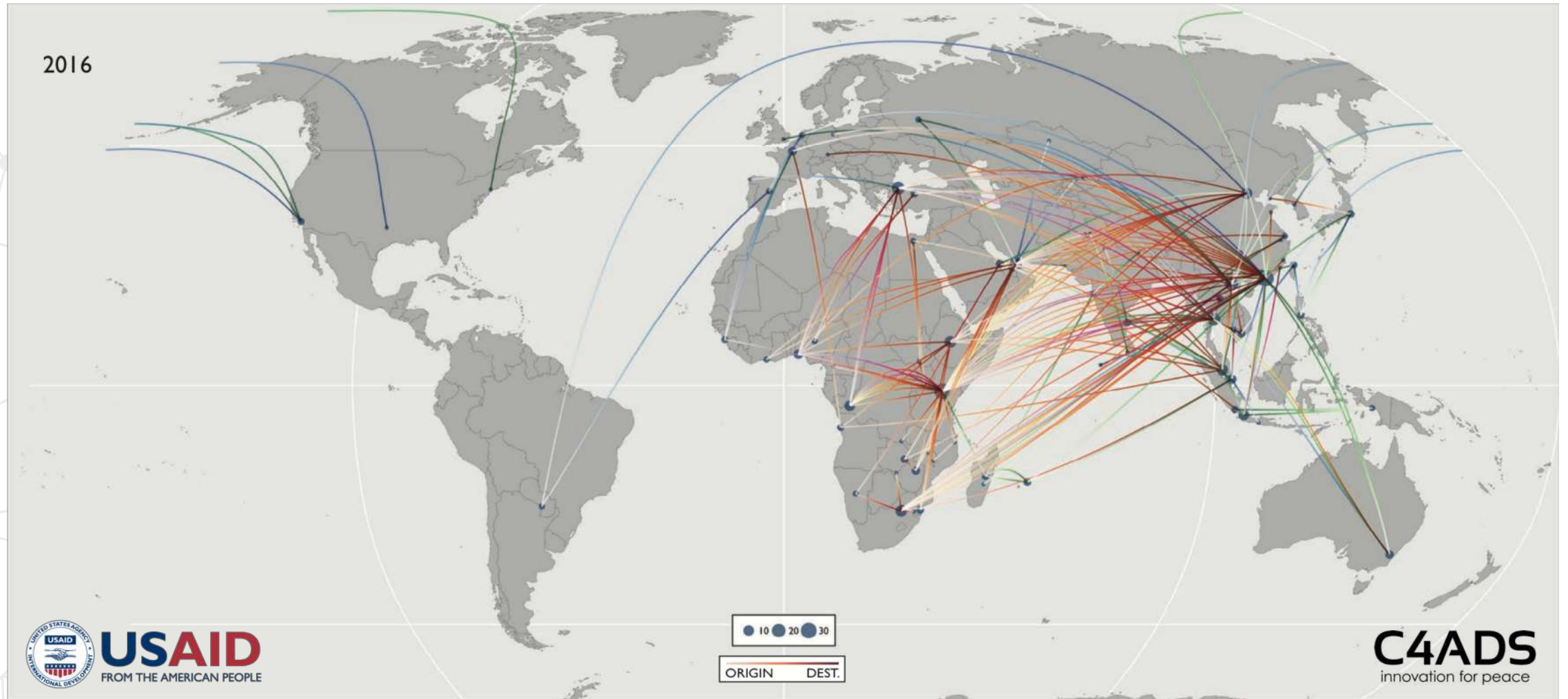


Aquarium Fish in Brazil

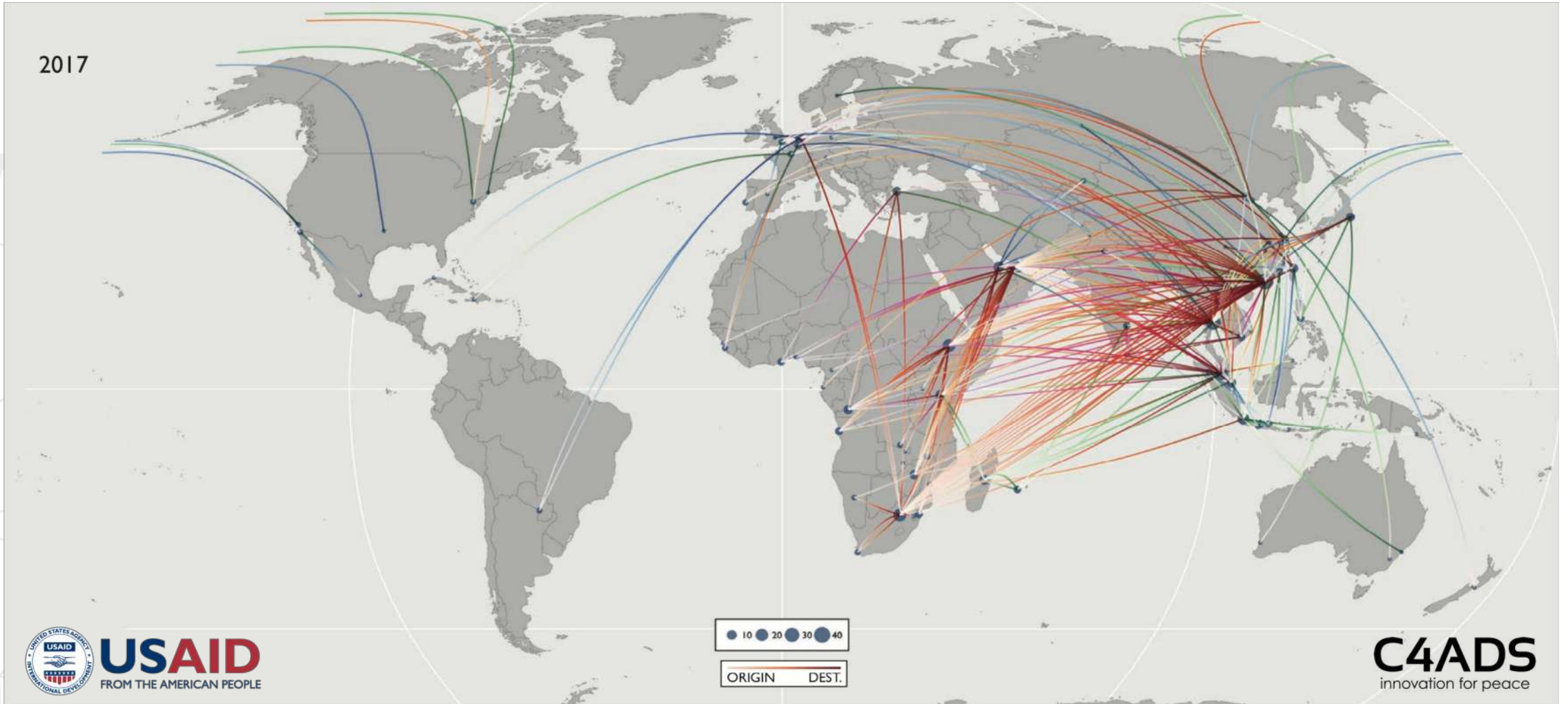
Seizure Date: Oct 2017
Contraband: 672 aquarium fish, including two species unknown to science
Flights: Unknown
Route: MAO – TBT
Method: **Baggage**

Other similar seizures and comments from officials suggest that this seizure is not unique. Aquarium fish are reportedly trafficked in plastic bags filled with water in suitcases to Colombia through Tabatinga, Brazil.

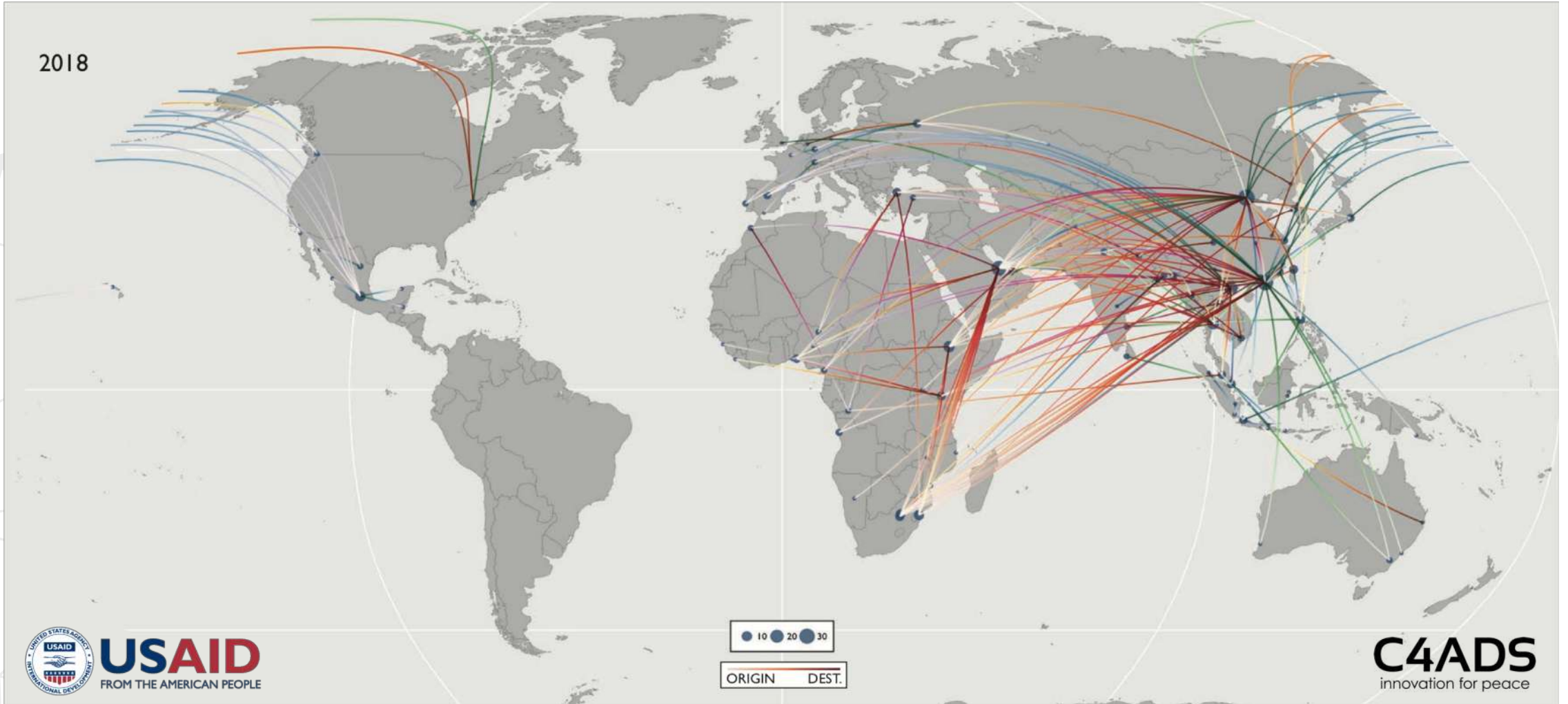
ASIA



ASIA



ASIA



ASIA



Bangkok to Japan

Seizure Date: Oct 2017
Contraband: 10 otters
Flights: Thai Air Asia X XJ600
Route: DMK - NRT
Method: **Baggage**

One of a series of seizures involving live animals (otters, fennec foxes, jerboas, etc.) purchased in Bangkok's Chatuchak Weekend Market and destined for the pet trade in Japan.



Live Birds and Health Risks

Seizure Date: Dec 9, 2016
Contraband: 12 Chinese hwamei birds (CITES Appendix II)
Flights: Unknown
Route: SIN - Vietnam
Method: **Baggage**

The birds were hidden in plastic containers without food or water for 12 hours. One tested positive for influenza A strain H3N8 (equine influenza, the apparent cause of the 1889 – 1890 flu pandemic).

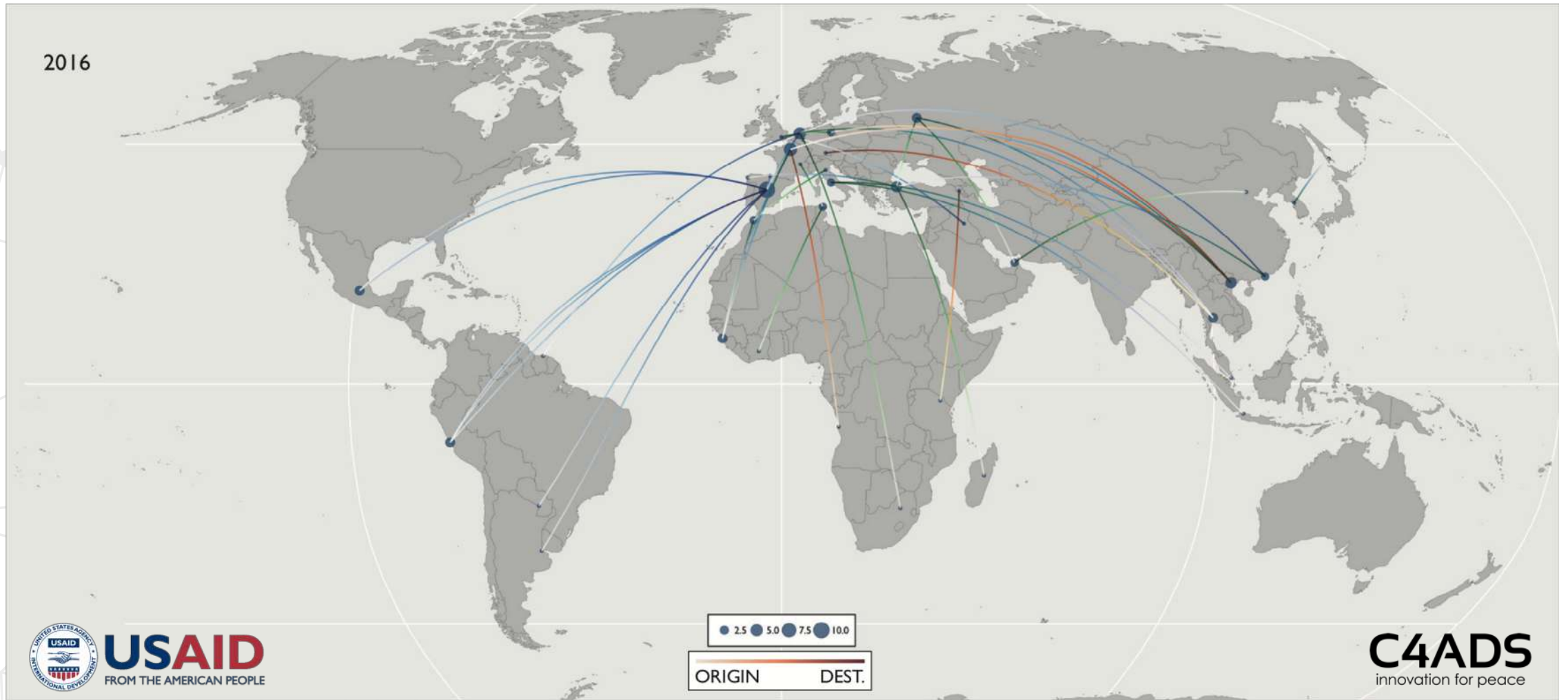


Pig-Nosed Turtles and Insider Threat

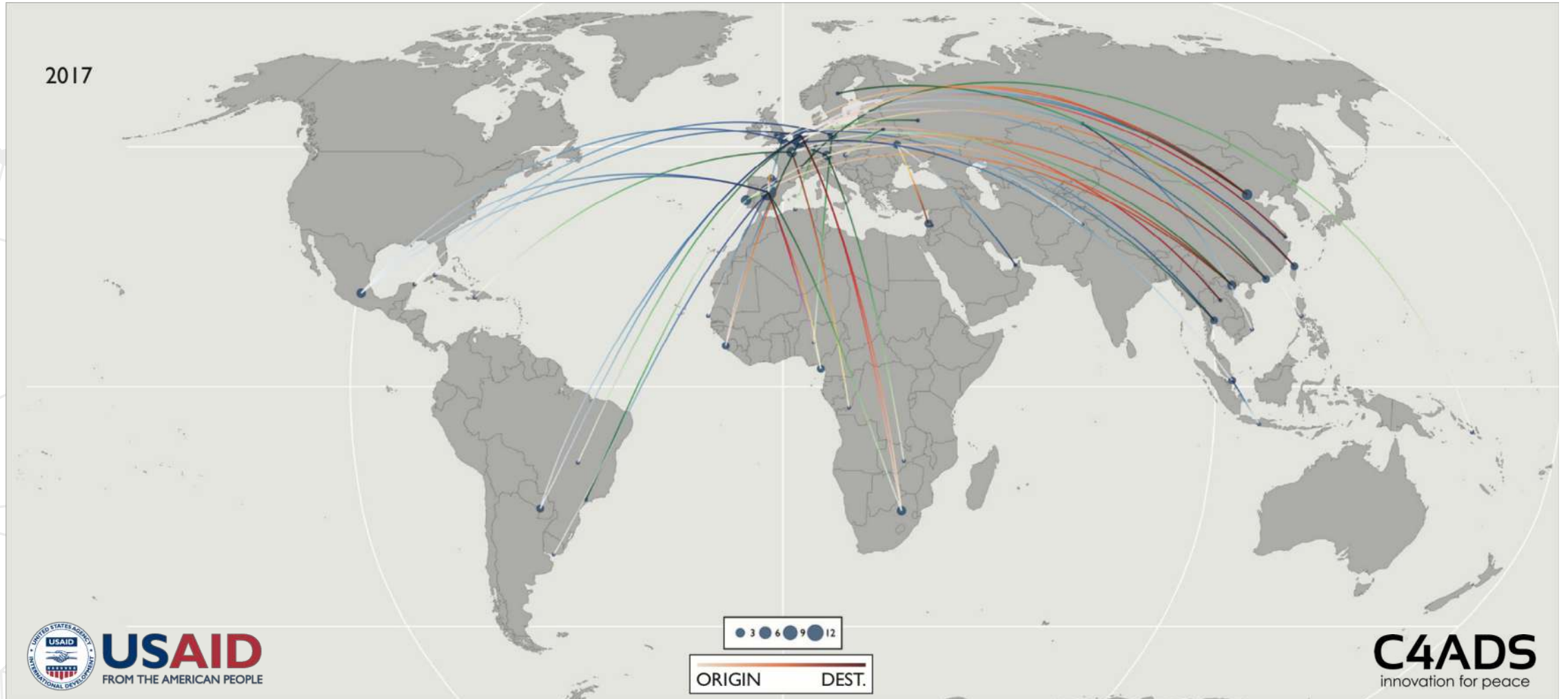
Seizure Date: Feb 2016
Contraband: 3,230 pig-nosed turtles (CITES Appendix II)
Flights: Sriwijaya Air
Route: TIM – DJJ – CGK
Method: **Air Freight**

Traffickers intentionally moved the turtles through the old airport, which had no x-ray machines. One of a series of seizures that ended after a ground handler for Sriwijaya Air was arrested.

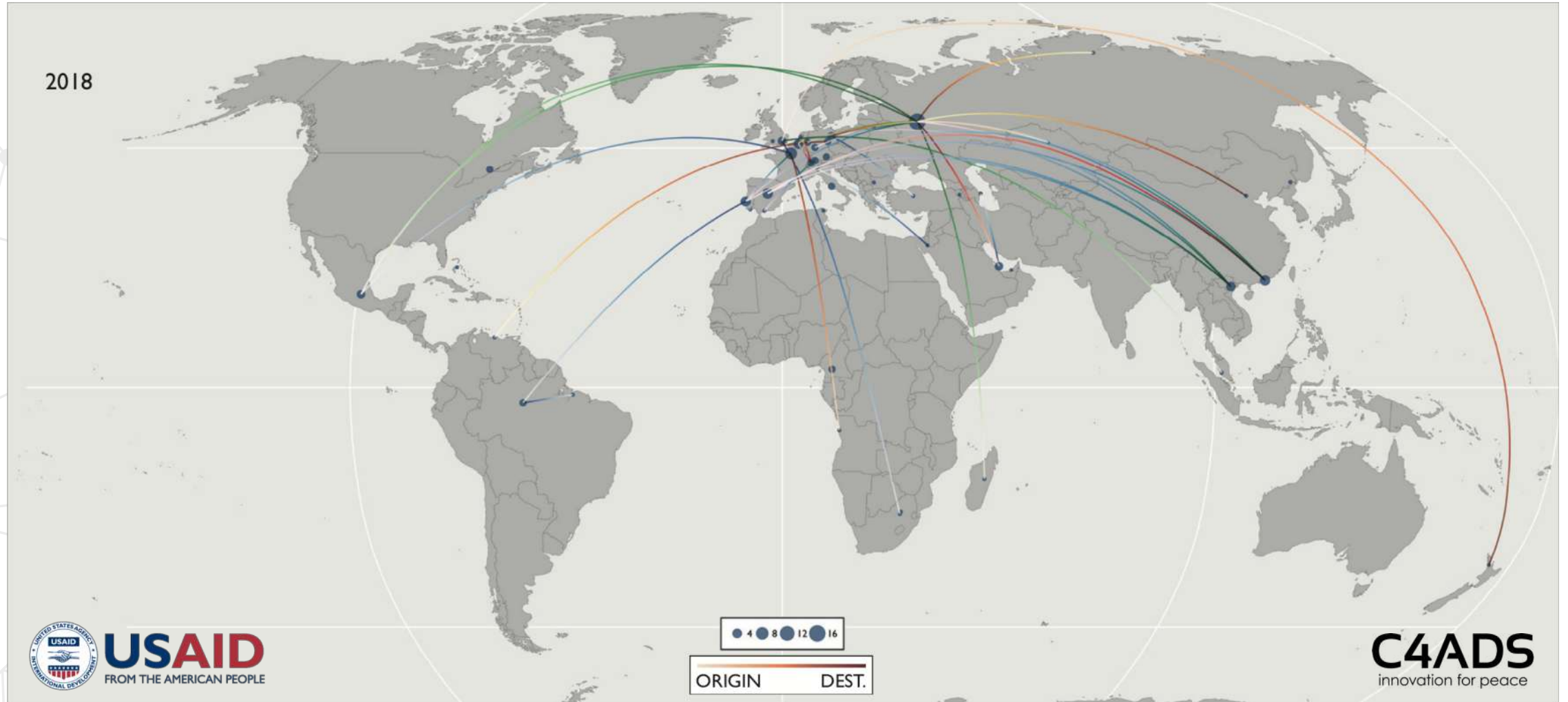
EUROPE



EUROPE



EUROPE



EUROPE



Repeat Offender

Seizure Date: June 26, 2018
Contraband: 19 eggs and 2 newly-hatched vultures
Flights: Unknown
Route: South Africa - LHR
Method: Passenger

One of several seizures involving Jeffrey Lendrum, who tended to smuggle eggs wrapped in cloth around his abdomen.



European Eel Trafficking

Seizure Date: Feb 6, 2019
Contraband: 252,000 European eels
Flights: Unknown
Route: ZAG - SVO
Method: Baggage

Many European eel trafficking instances show signs of organized activity. In this case, two suitcases were filled with bags of European eels, accompanied by ice and surrounded by thermal padding to maintain a steady temperature.



Bushmeat in Europe

Seizure Date: April 2017
Contraband: Dead monkey and two skinned pangolins
Flights: Unknown
Route: Eq. Guinea – MAD – BIO
Method: Baggage

Passenger left his suitcase at Madrid Airport during a stop-over. Bushmeat is in demand at many African diaspora markets in European cities. Much of the bushmeat originates in West Africa.

EUROPE



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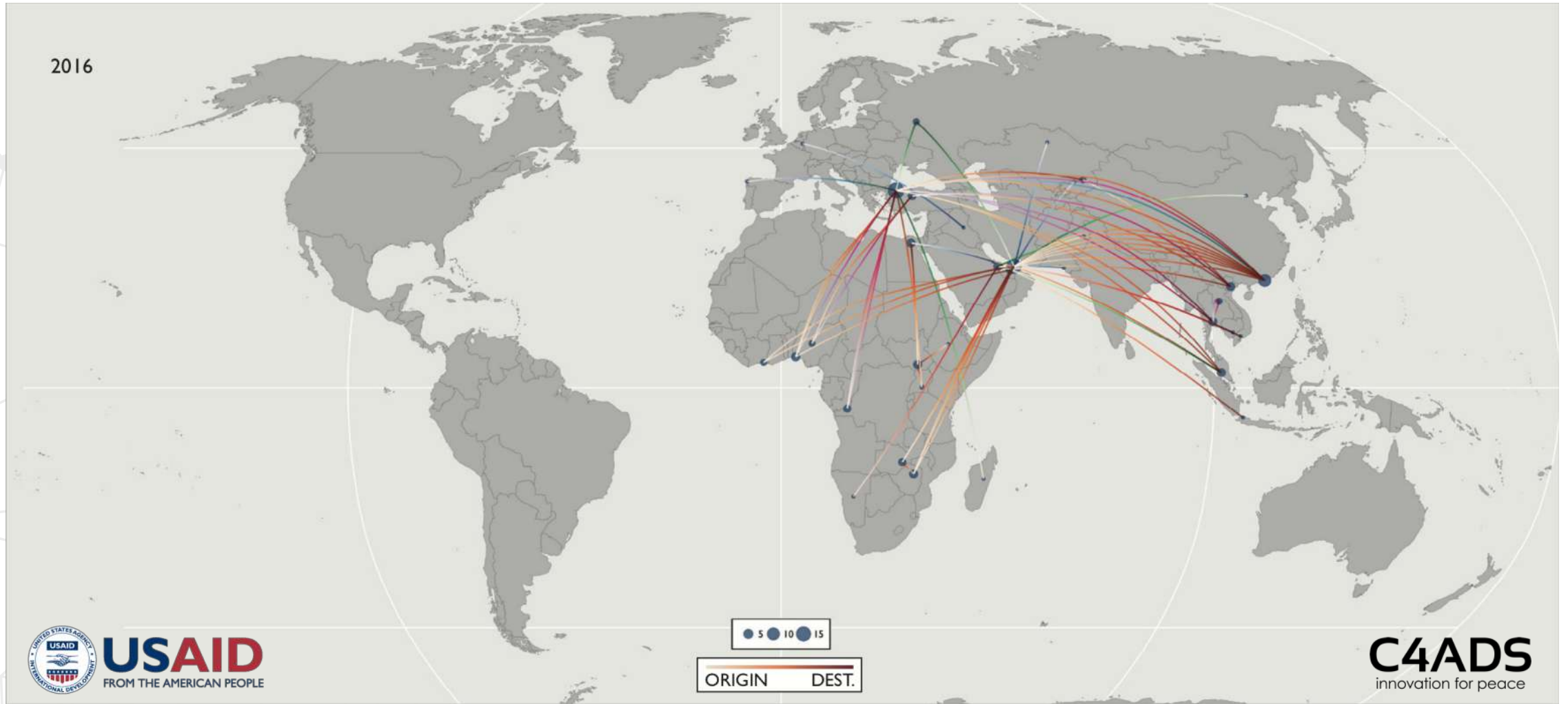


Bushmeat in Europe

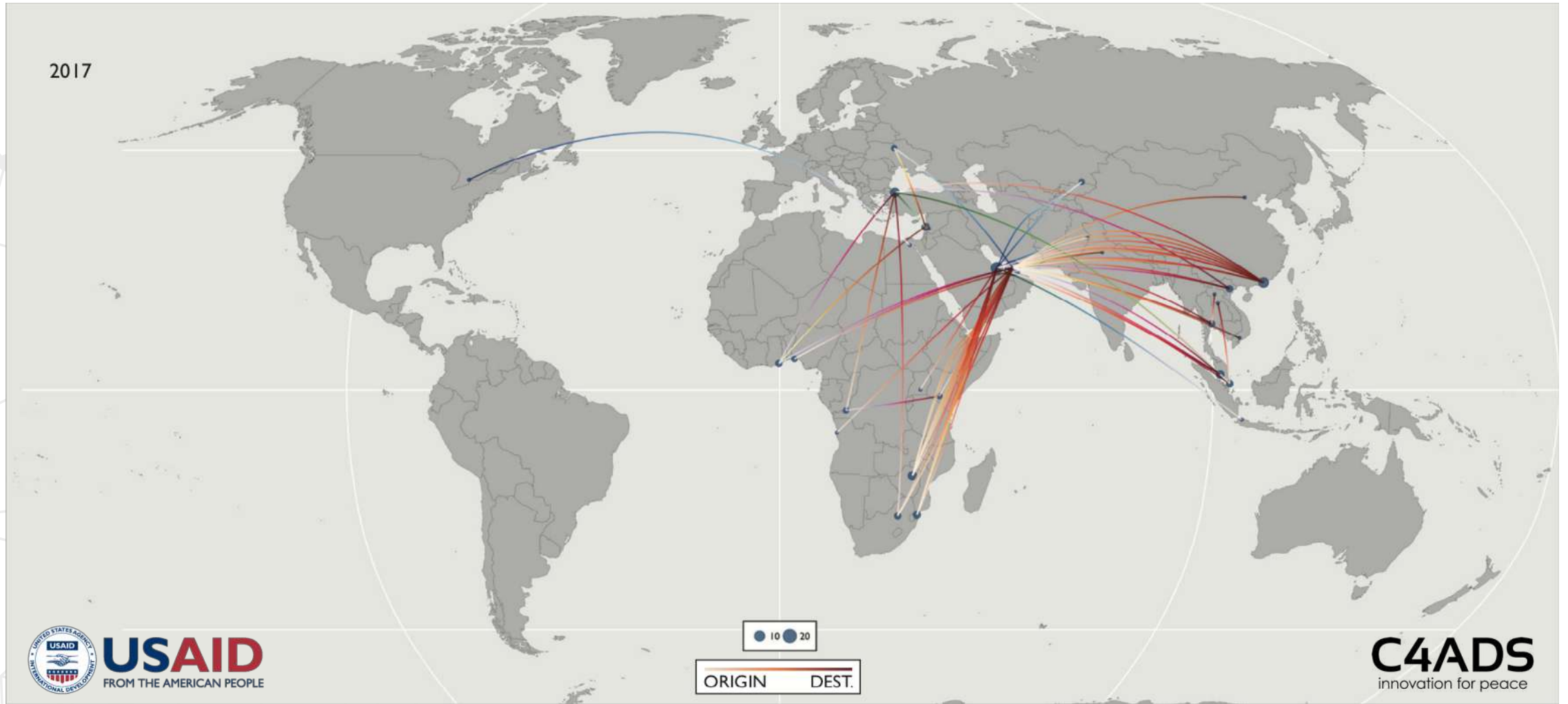
Seizure Date: April 2019
Contraband: White-bellied pangolin and Gabonese viper bushmeat
Flights: Unknown
Route: Cameroon - ZRH
Method: Baggage

Officials found the bushmeat in the possession of a Cameroonian woman residing in Switzerland. The meat violated both epidemic and species protection regulations.

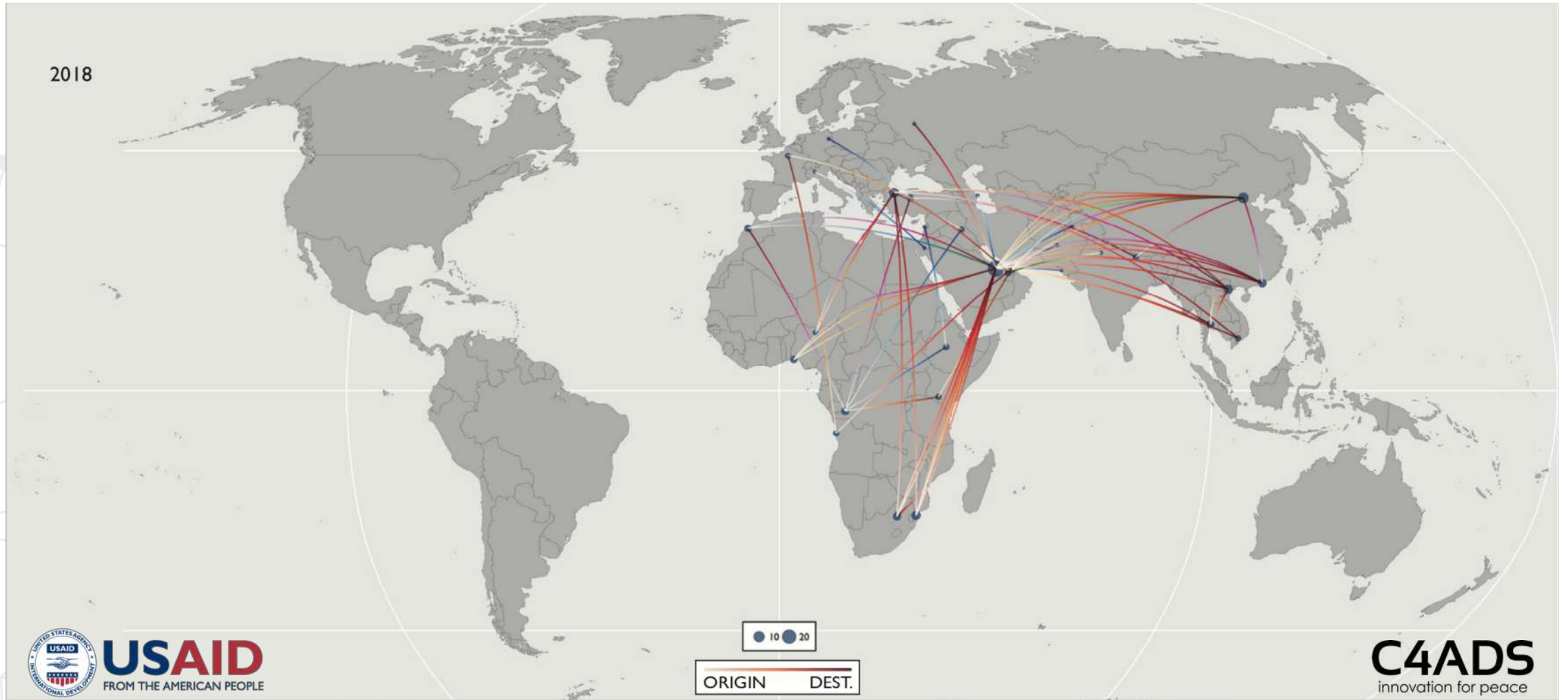
MIDDLE EAST



MIDDLE EAST



MIDDLE EAST



MIDDLE EAST



Falcon Trafficking

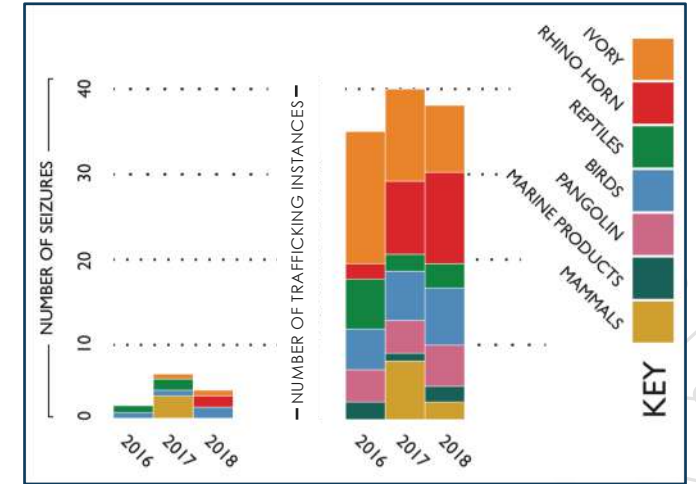
Seizure Date: Oct 2016
Contraband: 41 peregrine falcons
Flights: Unknown
Route: CAI - Bahrain
Method: Baggage

Trafficker bribed four police officers to smuggle drugged falcons with their eyelids sewn shut. The birds were supposed to be sold to "princes in the Gulf."

Tiger Cubs Abandoned in Lebanon

Seizure Date: March 2017
Contraband: 3 tiger cubs
Flights: Shamwings
Route: Ukraine – BEY – Syria
Method: Air Freight

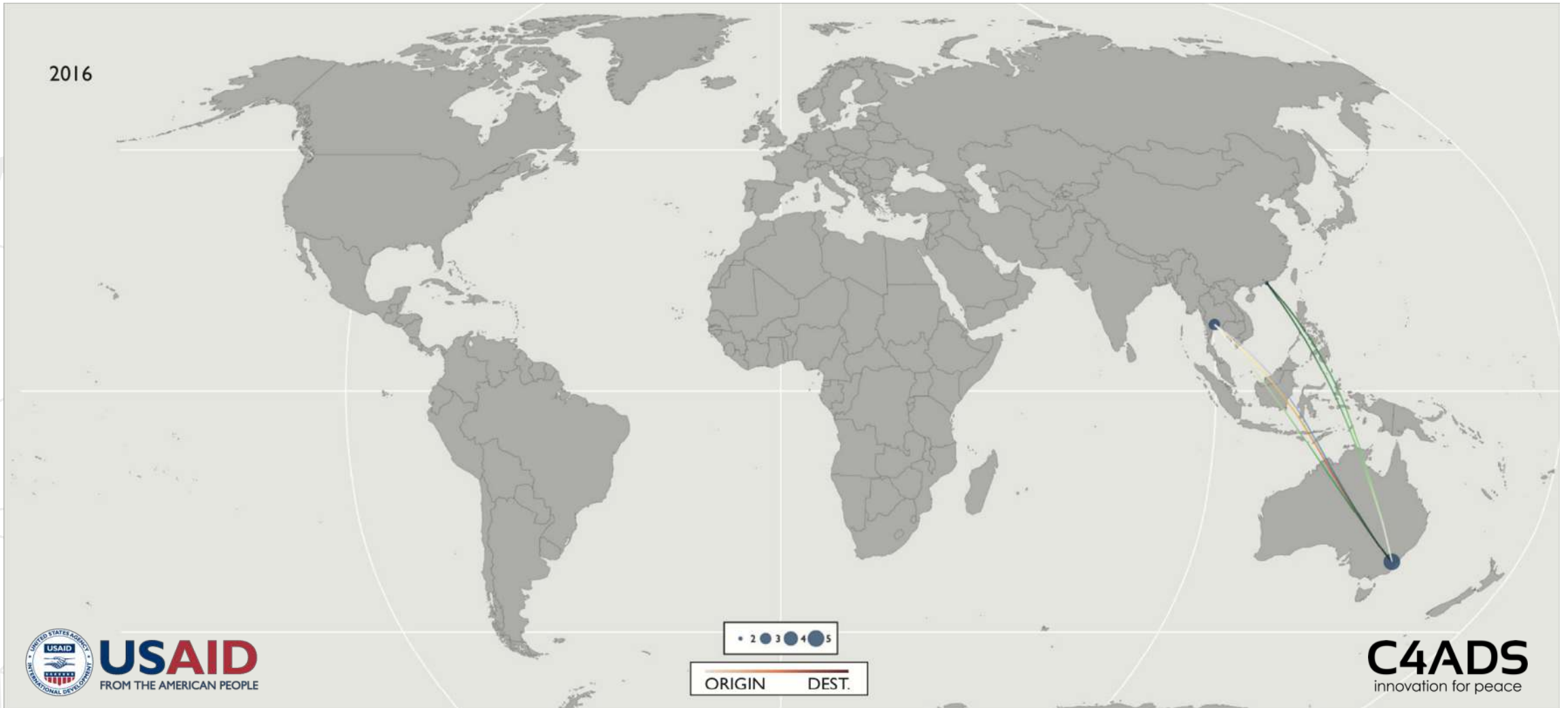
Three tiger cubs were stuck in Beirut Airport for seven days in a small crate without adequate bedding, food, or water. The cubs' transport conditions were in violation of IATA's Live Animals Regulations (LAR), which invalidated their CITES permit.



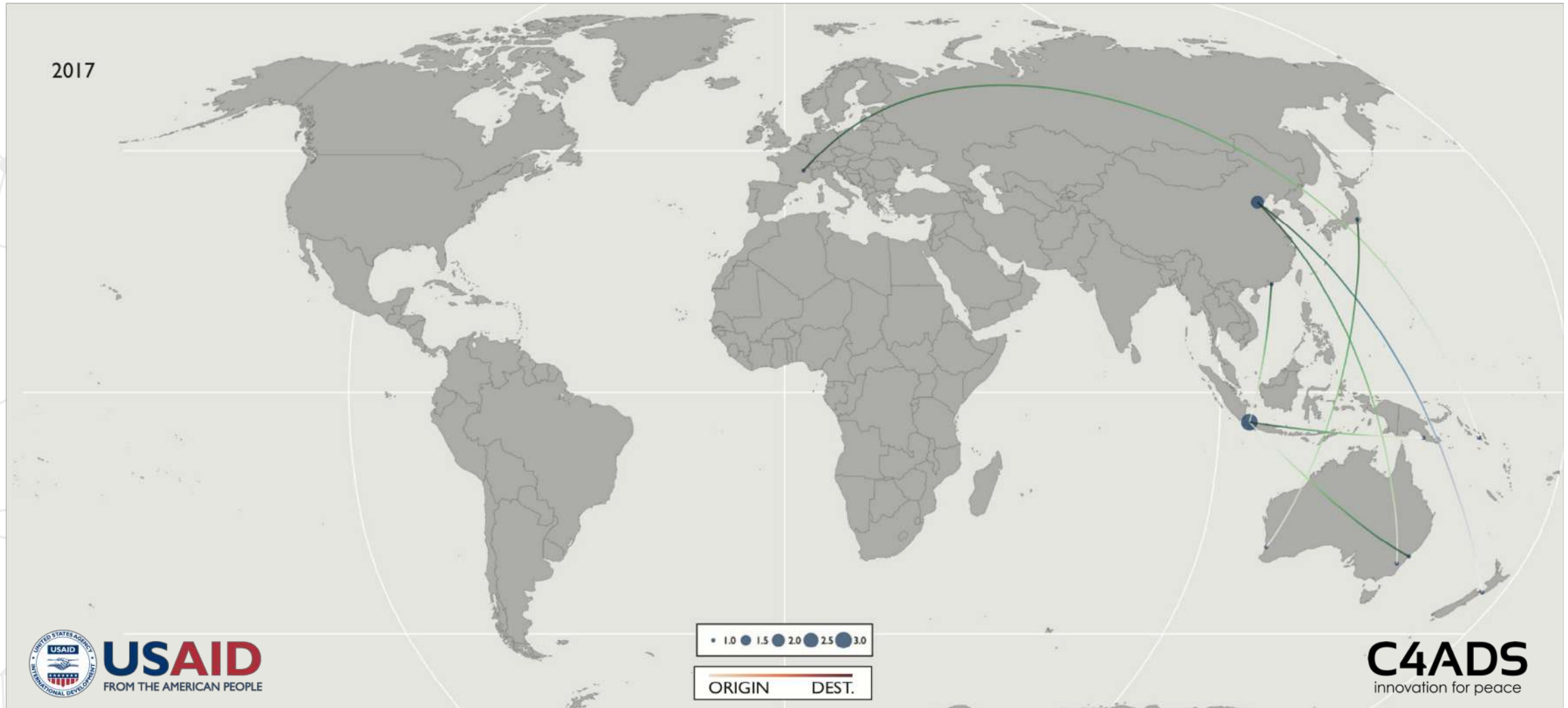
Transit Hub for Smuggled Wildlife

Wildlife trafficking instances passing through Middle Eastern airports numbered at least five times more than seizures in Middle Eastern airports between 2016 and 2018.

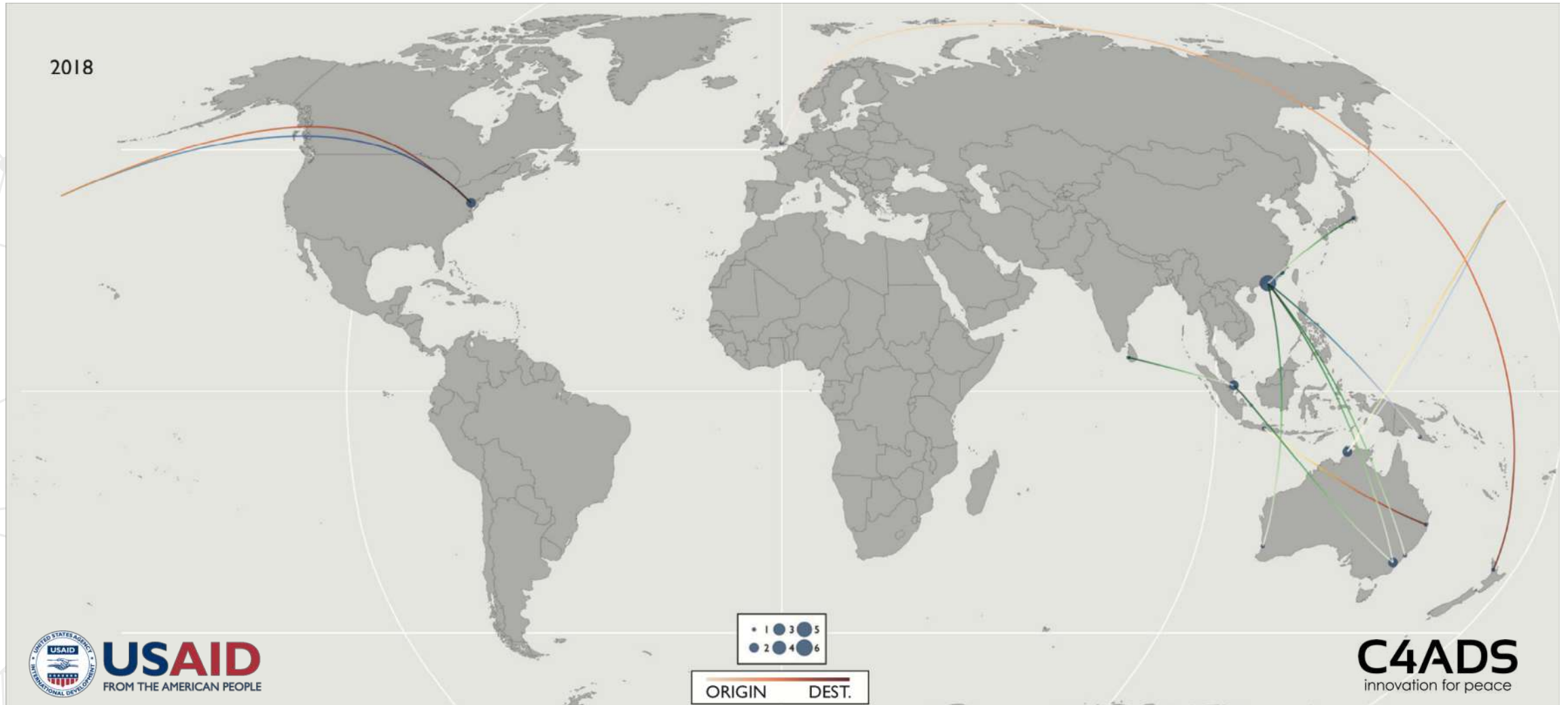
OCEANIA



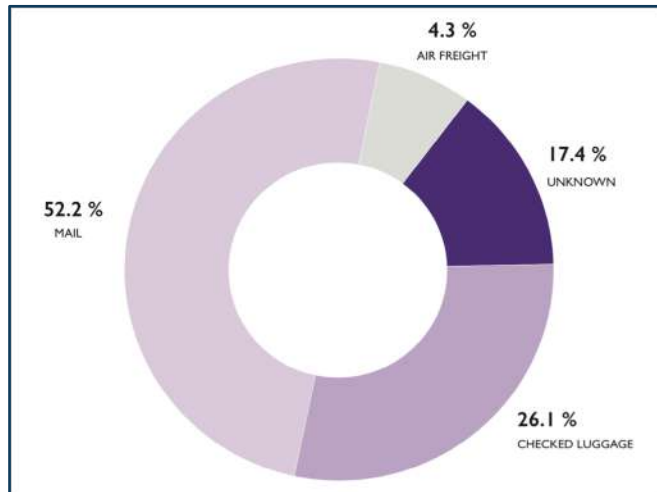
OCEANIA



OCEANIA

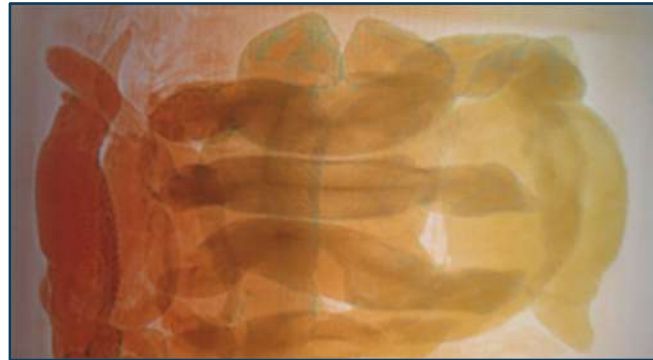


OCEANIA



Mail Seizures

Unlike every other world region, Oceanian countries discovered and seized trafficked wildlife in mail shipments more than in any other transport method. Many of these seizures occurred in Australia, where officials seem to be particularly adept at identifying contraband in mail shipments and reporting them publicly on the Australia Border Force (ABF) website.



Reptiles in Perth Airport

Seizure Date: Dec 13, 2016
Contraband: 10 bobtail lizards and one blue-tongued lizard
Flights: Unknown
Route: PER – HKG
Method: Mail

Seizure led officials to a Chinese passenger boarding a flight for Hong Kong wearing the same type of socks used to wrap the lizards. A second mail shipment was found on Dec 14th.

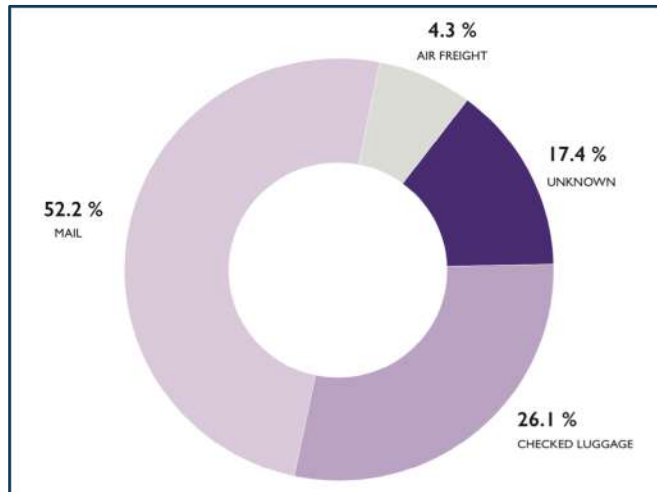


Biothreats in Island Nations

Seizure Date: June 2017
Contraband: 50 turtles and lizards
Flights: Unknown
Route: Indonesia – SYD
Method: Mail

This shipment was declared and packaged as toys. All 50 animals were euthanized to prevent the potential spread of disease to Australian species, which are ill-equipped to handle diseases originating elsewhere.

OCEANIA



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Reptiles in Perth Airport

Seizure Date: June 5, 2019
Contraband: 13 bobtail lizards
Flights: Unknown
Route: PER – Singapore ; PER – Malaysia
Method: **Baggage**

Officials discovered bobtail lizards hidden in laundry bags inside plastic containers wrapped in plastic. Some lizards were in poor health. Both suspects were part of an international syndicate linked to similar offenses in Sydney, Melbourne, and Perth in 2019.



Biothreats in Island Nations

Seizure Date: June 2017
Contraband: 50 turtles and lizards
Flights: Unknown
Route: Indonesia – SYD
Method: **Mail**

This shipment was declared and packaged as toys. All 50 animals were euthanized to prevent the potential spread of disease to Australian species, which are ill-equipped to handle diseases originating elsewhere.

RECOMMENDATIONS

AWARENESS

- Increase awareness among air passengers, aviation staff, freight forwarders, shippers, and enforcement officials.
- Adopt or create a pamphlet or tool tailored to each country to help customs and enforcement officials, as well as relevant industry personnel, identify restricted species and wildlife products commonly trafficked through their territory.
- **Ensure public reporting mechanisms are in place and well-known so passengers can report suspected wildlife trafficking instances.**

TRAINING

- **Provide training on red flag indicators associated with wildlife traffickers and shipments. Ensure that follow-up trainings are provided as necessary to support uptake.**
- Incorporate training for airline staff on how to safely handle trafficked live or dead animals after discovery into existing training programs. Create and provide “forensic protection protocols” training to preserve evidence for trial.

ENFORCEMENT

- **Develop clear escalation procedures upon discovery of potential illegal activity.**
- **Engage with the private sector to ensure that aviation personnel are aware of the types of information needed to follow up on reports of wildlife trafficking. Provide feedback to industry and the public on the outcomes of submitted tips.**
- Develop post-seizure procedures to safely and securely store wildlife products or ensure the proper care of trafficked live animals. Develop procedures to monitor seized live animals and wildlife products.

- Dedicate additional resources to combatting the illegal wildlife trade in common hub airports exploited by wildlife traffickers.
- Develop or enhance customs screening procedures for transit flights.
- **Customs and enforcement should be aware of flight routes opening through high-risk areas.**
- **Develop and maintain a comprehensive internal database of entities previously involved in wildlife seizures.**
- **Develop a system to test counter-wildlife trafficking protocols.**
- Improve wildlife customs screening requirements for postal mail shipments. Ensure mail seizures are reported to the same degree as passenger, checked luggage, or air freight seizures.
- **Increase cooperation with other agencies along high-risk supply chains. Inform foreign agencies of seizures on flights that have left or are destined for their countries.**

SEIZURE REPORTING

- Store collected seizure information in one centralized database.
- Develop a procedure to publicly report seizure information. Update seizure press releases with prosecution results.

POLICY

- **National laws should, at a minimum, enforce CITES regulations and regulate the domestic trade in non-native species. Penalties for wildlife trafficking should be raised until they are sufficiently deterrent.**

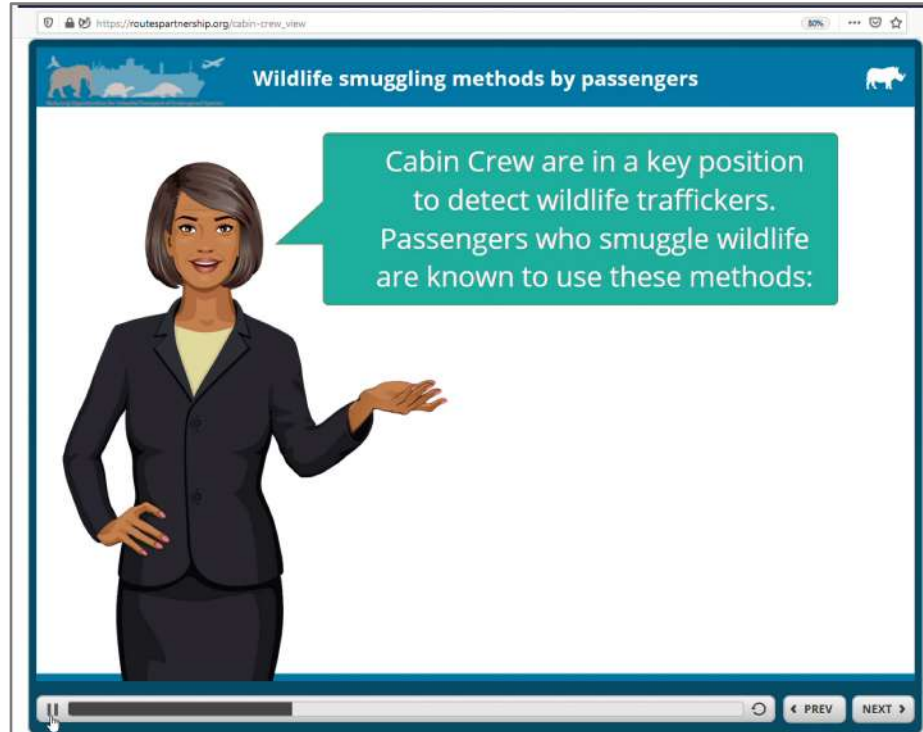
DETECTION

- **Pursue shift towards electronic paperwork for air freight and updated technology for customs screening. Expand cargo and passenger information systems to include red flags for IWT. Incorporate CITES e-permits in e-documentation systems.**

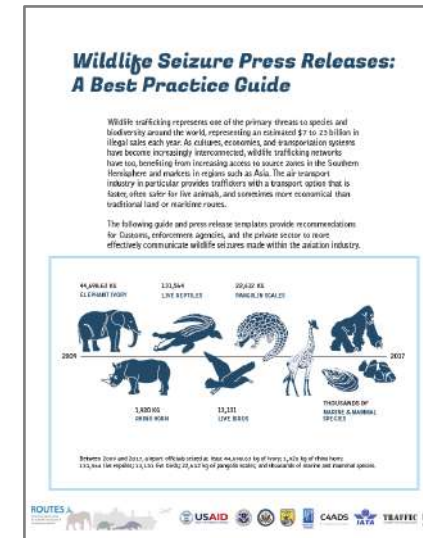
WHAT ELSE IS ROUTES DOING?

The ROUTES Partners have developed a wide array of resources, some of which directly address our recommendations.

Actions	Opportunities	Description	Addressed Information
S.1	IAWT Agency and Private Coordination	Ensure IAWT is a standing agenda item in airport operations and operations meetings. Assign private sector operators an responsibility to meetings biweekly with IAWT of relevant agencies.	How to coordinate with relevant agencies. Includes the IAWT Agency, ICAO, IATA, and relevant agencies. Includes the IAWT Agency, ICAO, IATA, and relevant agencies.
S.1.4.C	Partnerships	Build firm collaborative partnerships between public sector agencies and the private sector.	Building partnerships with relevant agencies. Includes the IAWT Agency, ICAO, IATA, and relevant agencies.
S.1	IAWT Teams / IAWT Taskforce	Establish agencies to allocate a specific team responsible for the identification of IAWT agencies inside the airport which operates as the focal point for public information related to wildlife trafficking (e.g. website creation, contact relevant authorities, ensure the safety and security of relevant law enforcement activities, and other public and private stakeholders as appropriate). This can involve the typical six challenges (i.e. information sharing) which exist in these situations.	How to coordinate with relevant agencies. Includes the IAWT Agency, ICAO, IATA, and relevant agencies.
S	Follow-up	Develop dialogues with the law enforcement agencies in other countries connected to the airport and, if available, consider an emergency response program to address the need of the enforcement agencies operating in each airport.	Customs Mutual Assistance Agreements (CMAA) provide the legal basis for the level of information exchange.
S.1.4.D	IAWT PMS	Develop an IAWT strategy and action plan for the airport, to be submitted to all stakeholders.	IAWT PMS is available online to help with the design and implementation of action plans at airports.
S	Interagency Reporting	Develop a system for reporting, exchange, and analysis with local and national interagency sharing tools, between agencies when a cooperation involving wildlife or wildlife traffickers is relevant.	IAWT PMS is available online to help with the design and implementation of action plans at airports.
S	Alignment	Align IAWT strategies and actions against enforcement agencies.	IAWT PMS is available online to help with the design and implementation of action plans at airports.



- Best practices to address wildlife trafficking through airports and how to report on seizures
- General awareness and role-specific training modules and communication material
- Identification of high-risk routes




MOVING FORWARD

- **ROUTES Dashboard:**
 - Interactive visualizations based on the C4ADS Air Seizure Database
 - Route Risk Tool
 - Country Profile Map
 - Country Assessments
- **Health risks of wildlife trafficking**
- **Automated detection of wildlife products**
- **Airline certification for wildlife trafficking responses**
- **Strengthening multi-sector collaboration at airports**

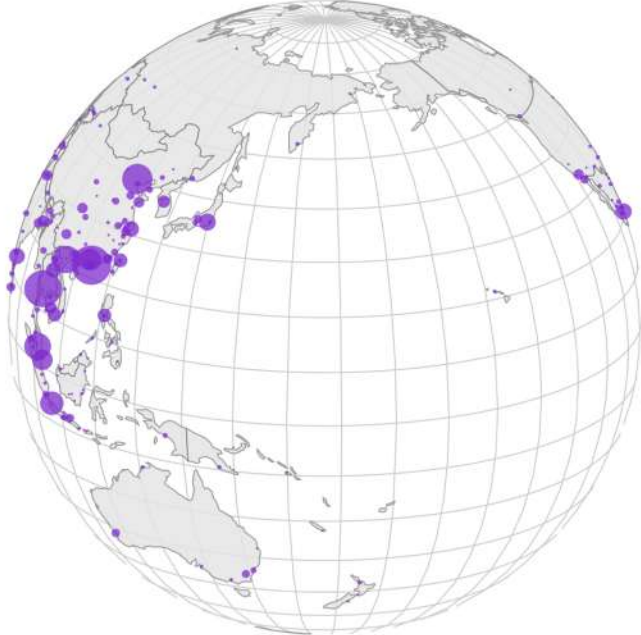
- Home Page
- Dashboard
- Route Risk Tool
- Country Profile Map
- Assessments

Check out the ROUTES partnership's latest report, Runway to Extinction!



The ROUTES Dashboard

The USAID ROUTES Partnership's interactive wildlife seizure dashboard, brought to you by C4ADS.

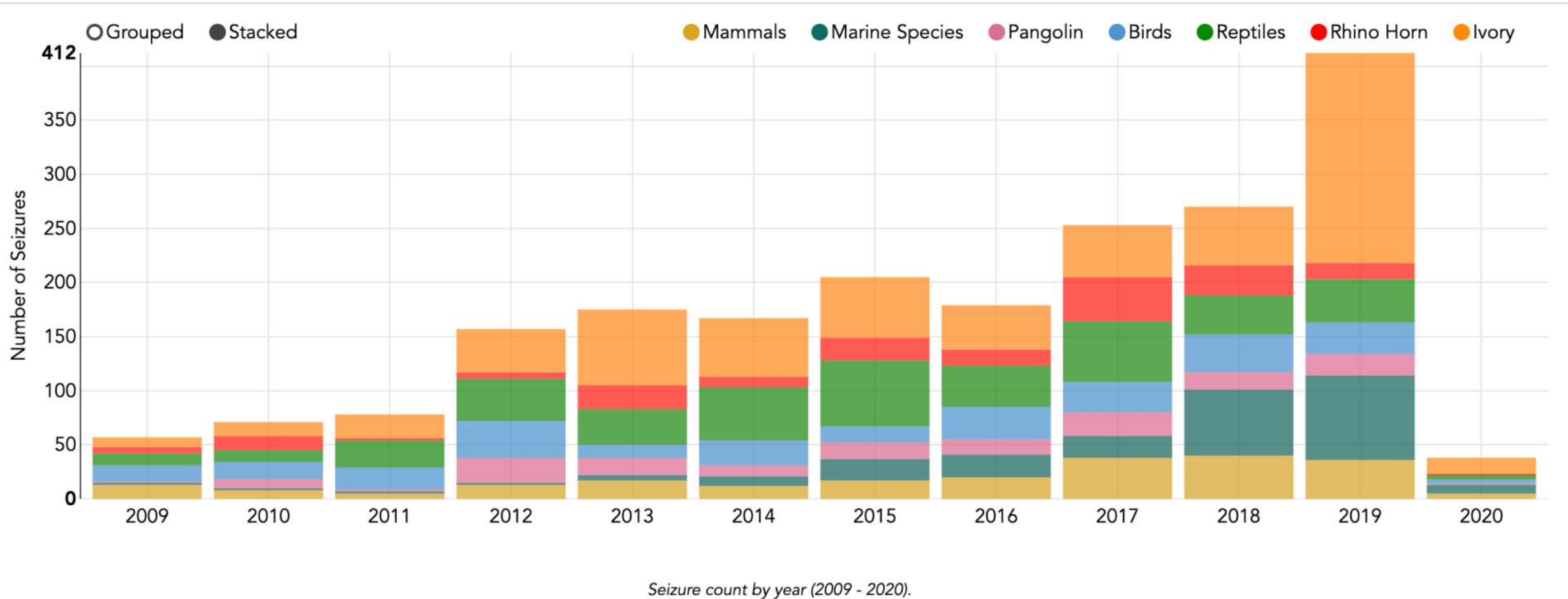


Wildlife seizures in airports around the world (2009 – 2020).

About The ROUTES Dashboard

The ROUTES Dashboard is an interactive website providing graphics on wildlife trafficking through airports between 2009 and 2020. The Dashboard's graphics are derived from open source wildlife seizure data collected by C4ADS under the ROUTES Partnership.

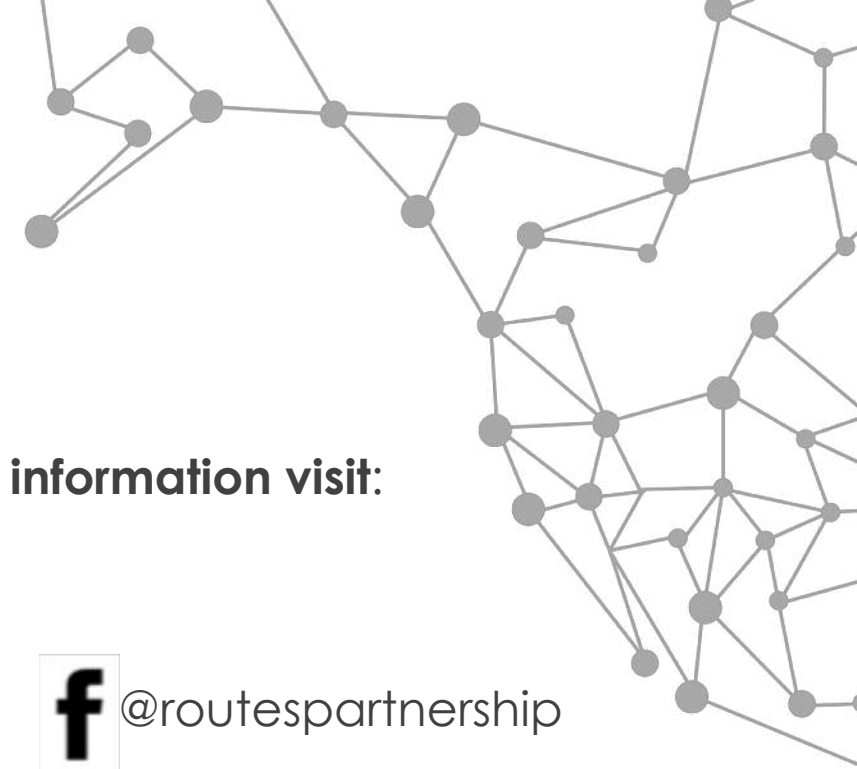
MOVING FORWARD



Click on a category in the key to remove it from the graph, or double click a category to view data for only that category.

ROUTES

Reducing Opportunities
for Unlawful Transport of
Endangered Species

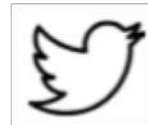


For resources referenced in this document or for more information visit:

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C4ADS
innovation for peace



TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network

