



**USAID**  
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the wildlife trade monitoring network



# ROUTES

## Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species

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Awareness for Airline and Airport Staff (*Africa*)  
*One-hour course*

**Airline/Airport name here**

**Location and date of training here**

© Erico Hiller



Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species

November 2018



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



**C4ADS**  
innovation for peace



**TRAFFIC**  
the wildlife trade monitoring network



# ROUTES Partnership:

Assisting the private sector to respond to the international poaching crisis by targeting how organized criminals move contraband from source to end-use markets.

## Goal:

Disrupt wildlife trafficking by reducing the use of legal transportation supply chains.



Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species

The ROUTES Partnership is supported by USAID

# Training Content

This training is divided into four sections:

- *Overview of Wildlife Trafficking*
- *Wildlife Trafficking on Airlines*
- *Identifying Traffickers*
- *What Should You Do?*



# Overview of Wildlife Trafficking





# Wildlife Trafficking Overview

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- Risk to legal transport supply chains
- Why wildlife is traded
- Laws and regulations
- Wildlife trafficking
- Impact and magnitude



# Wildlife Trade

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## LEGAL TRADE

Worth over USD350 billion/year\*

## WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

Fourth largest global criminal market  
(after illicit drugs, counterfeit goods  
and human trafficking)\*\*



# Laws and Regulations

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## NATIONAL LAWS

Every country has laws to protect wild animals and plants from overharvesting.

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## INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS



Aims to ensure that international trade does not threaten the survival of wild animals and plants.

*Signed by more than 180 countries.*



# Risks to Legal Supply Chains



**Reputation**



**Legal**



**Economic**



**Safety**



# Why is Wildlife Traded?

## Timber



Photograph by JFPerry, distributed under CC-BY-SA-2.0 license



Photograph by anonymous, distributed under CC-BY-SA 3.0 license

## Food

Pangolin tail



Social media

查看原图 (143K)

Squirrel



© Sulma Warne / Freeland





# Why is Wildlife Traded?

## Medicine

Cobra in wine



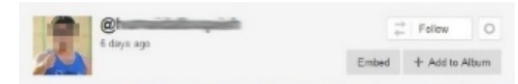
Bear bile



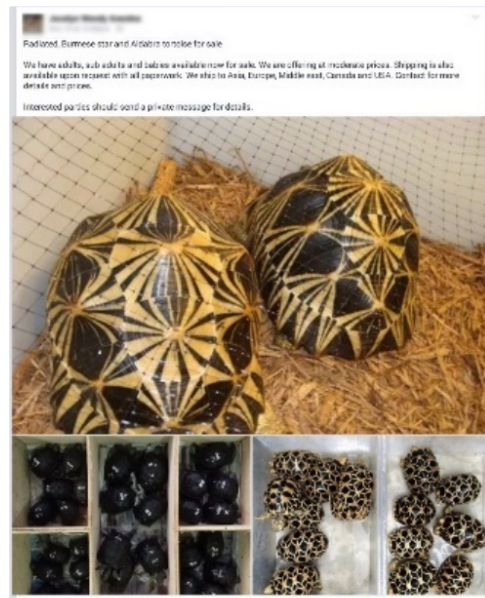
Bear gall bladder



## Pets



Social media



Social media



# Why is Wildlife Traded?

## Zoos & Collectors



## Trophies & Luxury

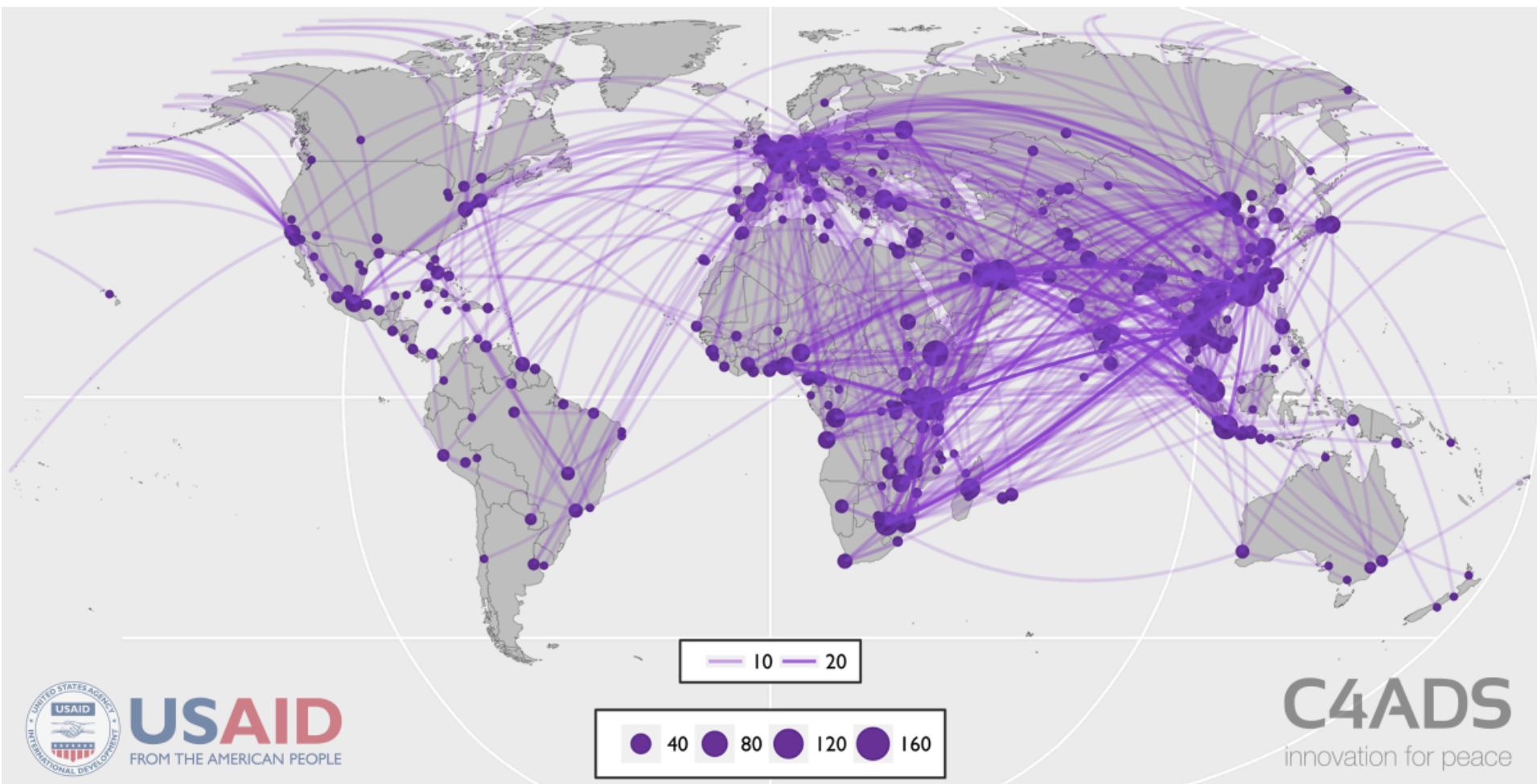


Helmeted Hornbill and carved beaks





# Known air trafficking routes 2009 – 2017



Utermohlen, M. and Baine, P. In Plane Sight: Wildlife Trafficking in the Air Transport Sector. C4ADS and Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species (ROUTES). August 2018.



# Maputo to Kuala Lumpur, via Doha



# Zimbabwe to Hong Kong, via Amsterdam



# Madagascar to Bangkok, via Nairobi



# Dar es Salaam to Beijing, via Zurich

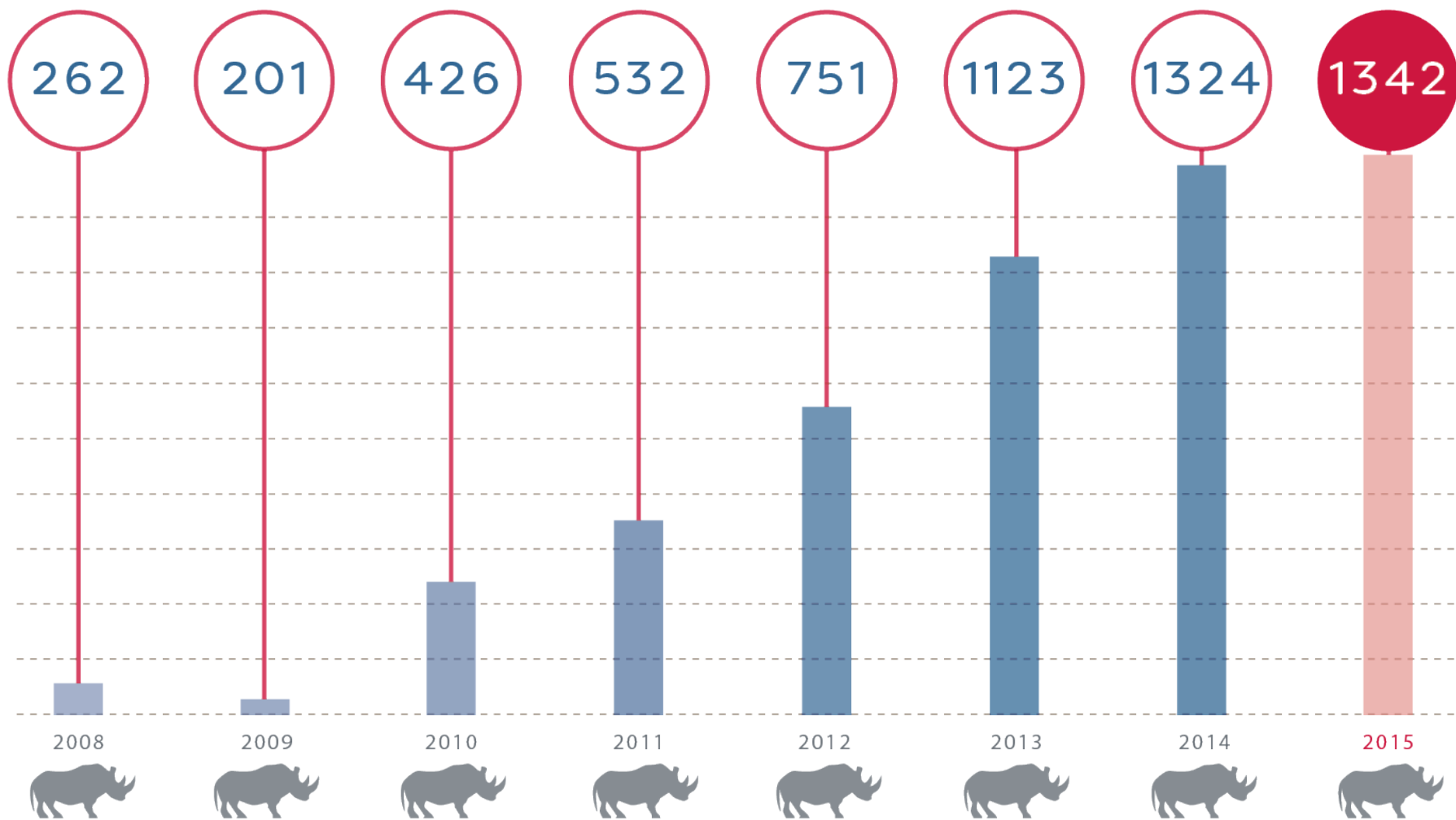


# Luanda to Phnom Penh



# Number of Rhinos Poached

Reported African Rhino Poaching Mortalities 2008 - 2015







**55**  
ELEPHANTS ARE  
**KILLED**  
EVERY DAY

**20,000**  
**A YEAR\***

© Freeland



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# IMPACTS OF ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

**Threat to national security and stability**

**Loss of tourism and income**

**Risks to environmental & global health**

**Supports corruption and organized crime**

**Unpaid government revenue and Taxes**



LOW RISK



**Criminal**  
High reward

HIGH RISK



**Frontline Officer**  
Low reward

1,000+ rangers killed in the  
last ten years





# How is wildlife trafficked?

By AIR



© Operation Cobra - Tanzania

By SEA



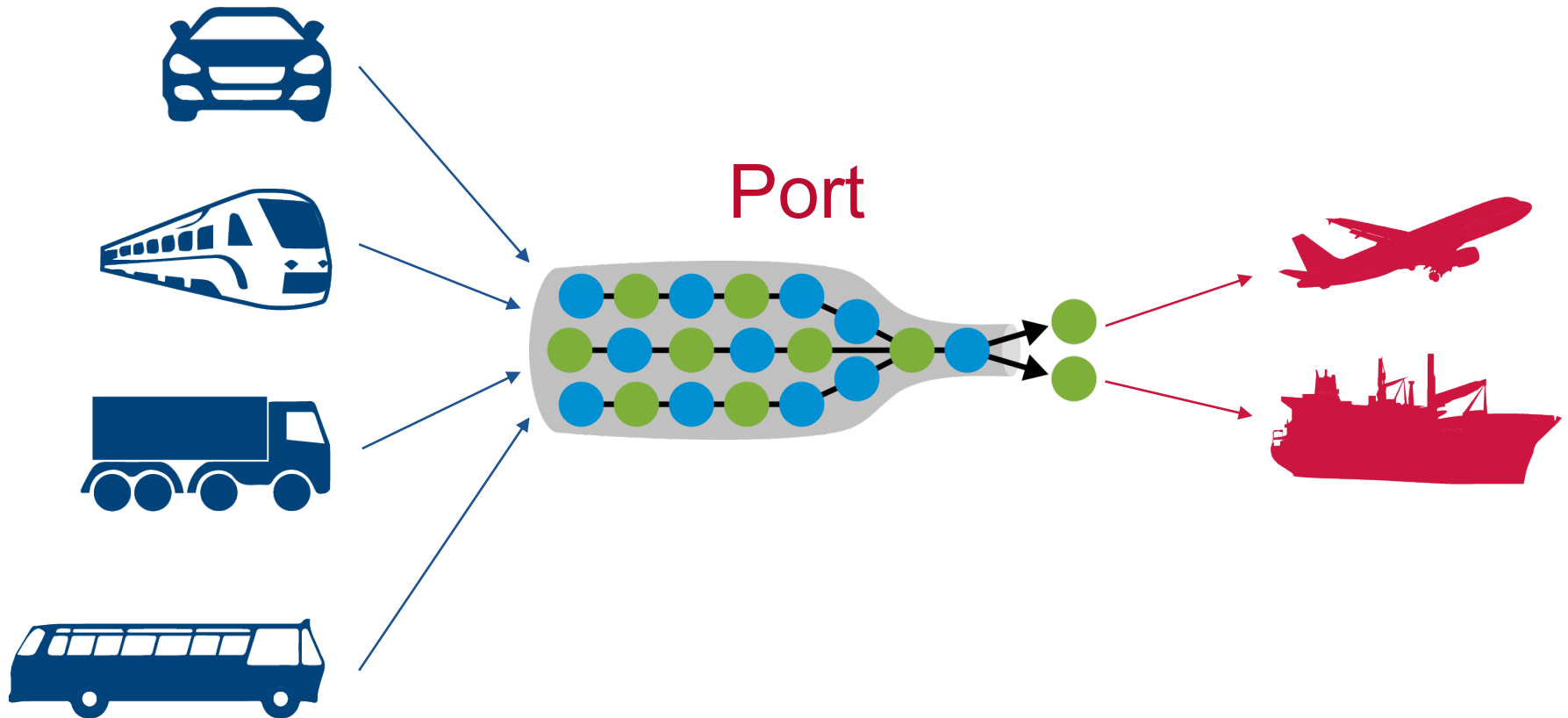
By LAND



# The Importance of Transport Networks

Overland

Air and Sea



# Wildlife Trafficking on Airlines





- Working to combat wildlife trafficking
- Taskforce aims to examine the role of the transport industry
- Has denounced the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products
- Has developed a pledge for the transport industry





# Wildlife Trafficking on Airlines Overview

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- Why wildlife traffickers use airlines
- Wildlife smuggling by air
- Wildlife trafficking routes



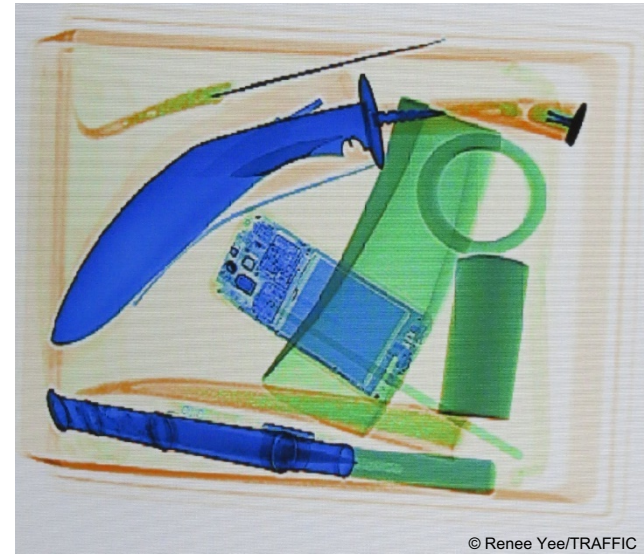
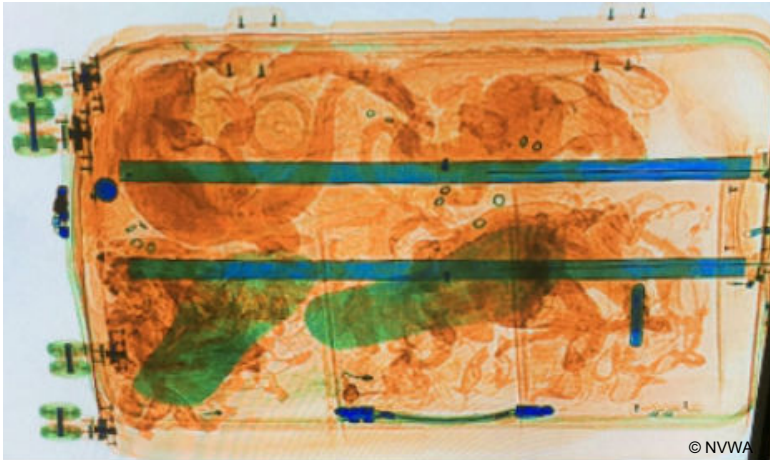
# Why Wildlife Traffickers use Airlines



- Fast
- Convenient
- Cheap
- Small chance of getting caught
- Corruption



# Wildlife Smuggling by Air



# Wildlife Smuggling by Air

## Passenger airlines

- Small shipments
- High value
- Live animals
- Light products
- In carry-on/check-in baggage
- On passengers.



© Freeland

## Air cargo carriers & couriers

- Larger shipments
- Live animals, parts & products



© TRAFFIC





# Wildlife Smuggling by Air

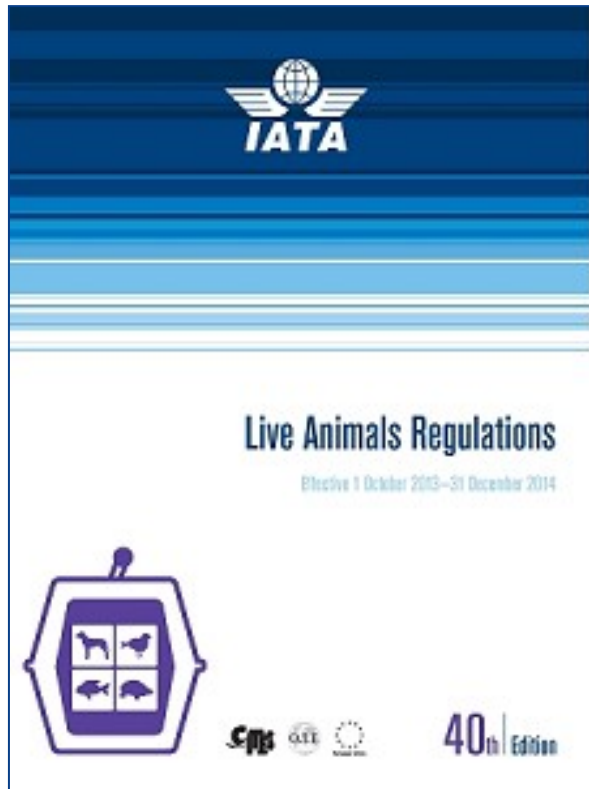
## Products and Parts



## Live animals



# Live Animal Transport – IATA



**The transport of live animals  
by air must comply with the  
International Air Transport  
Association's  
Live Animals Regulations**



main  
concept



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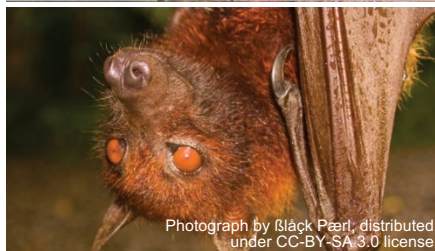


# High Risk

## DISEASE

### Primates

(apes and monkeys)



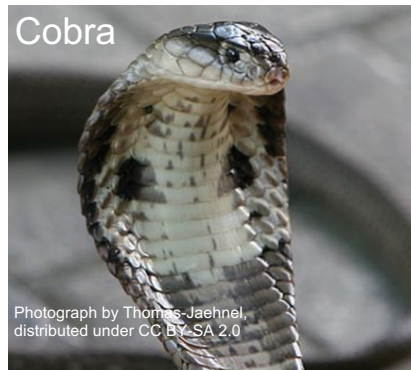
### Carnivores

(civets and cats)

### Birds

### Bats

## POISON / DANGER



# Identifying Traffickers



# Detect Wildlife Trafficking



**Detect**



**Protect**



**Respond**



**Report**



# Identifying Traffickers Overview

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- How wildlife is smuggled
- Identifying wildlife traffickers
- What to look for



# Wildlife traffickers move wildlife by air in four main ways:

- Hidden on their body
- In personal baggage (check-in or carry-on)
- Air cargo
- By post or courier



Here are some examples...





# Wildlife Smuggling – On the person



© UK Border Agency CITES team



© Australian Customs Service

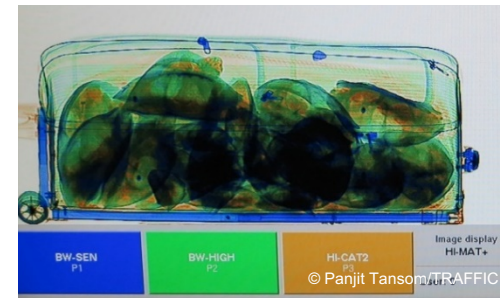


# Wildlife Smuggling – In baggage

## Carry-on



## Check-in





# Wildlife Smuggling

## Cargo



## Post or Courier



# Wildlife Smuggling

## Disguised



© UK border Agency CITES Team



© UK border Agency CITES Team



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# Case study – Hand Carry baggage

- **Abidjan to Hong Kong, via Dubai**
- 26kg ivory products
- Hidden in tailor-made vests, inside hand baggage





# Case study – Check-in baggage

- **Angola to Viet Nam, via Paris**
- 26 elephant tusks, 142kg ivory
- Ivory covered with ‘sealant’ in suitcases



Video screenshots taken from <https://youtu.be/N4OnaKv0fHk>



# Case study – International Mail

- **Zimbabwe to Hong Kong via Amsterdam**
- In two separate cases 24kg & 51kg ivory found in inbound airmail parcels labelled ‘Decorative Tiles’
- Ivory hidden under sawdust



# Case study – In Cargo

- **Entebbe, Uganda to Singapore via Abu Dhabi**
- 500kg ivory sent as cargo
- Ivory hidden in four metallic drums, labelled as 'shea butter'



Tom Milliken/TRAFFIC



# Additional Case Study Examples

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- **Entebbe, Uganda to Amsterdam, Netherlands**  
719kg ivory and 2,029kg pangolin scales in cargo –  
25 January 2016
- **Juba, South Sudan via Entebbe, Uganda to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**  
1,200kg ivory seized from cargo – 17 June 2016
- **Malawi to Bangkok, Thailand via Ethiopian Airways**  
330kg ivory described as rough stone – 8 March 2017
- **Malawi to Hanoi, Viet Nam via Nairobi, Kenya**  
119kg rhino horn hidden in 2 suitcases – 16 March 2016



# WHAT YOU CAN LOOK OUT FOR





# Trail of the Trafficker

PASSENGER  
START  
of the journey



Passenger check in

Passenger transit

Security check

Hand luggage  
check & scan

Passenger scan

CARGO  
START  
of the journey



Ground staff baggage  
control

Luggage scanned

Cargo in transit

Ground crew load  
luggage

Passengers and  
cargo on board

Flight en route

END  
Passenger is  
arrested and  
sent to jail.  
Cargo is  
confiscated



Customs find passenger in possession  
of illegal items. Customs find cargo with  
smuggled wildlife products

Passport control

Passenger arrives at  
destination airport



# What you can look out for



## Check-in

- Unusual route and connections
- Baggage smells unusual



## Security

- Clothes too big
- Wrong clothes for climate
- Multiple connection boarding passes



# What you can look out for



## Scanner

- Unusual smell or movement
- Contents not as expected
- Scan shows organic items or ivory



## Immigration

- Abnormal travel
- Nervous passenger



# What you can look out for



## Cargo Handler

- Origin doesn't match declared contents
- Air holes where none needed



## Ground Staff

- baggage/cargo moving
- baggage/cargo smells
- baggage/cargo makes noise
- Unusual/multiple connection tags



# What you can look out for



## Cabin Crew

Passengers who:

- Don't eat or move
- Are very nervous
- Smell unusual
- Wear baggy clothing



## Customs

- Tip offs
- Known trafficking routes
- Frequent checks
- Passengers and small bags that might conceal wildlife



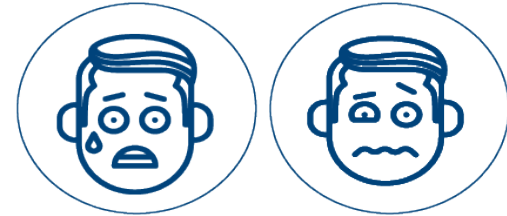


# Remember!



## Inappropriate Clothing

- Wrong clothes for climate
- Baggy clothing
- Clothes don't match occupation



## Involuntary Responses

- Sweating, dilated pupils
- Avoids eye contact
- Nervousness
- Shaking & twitching



# Remember!



## **Nervous Body Movements/Speech**

- Adjusts clothing/jewelry
- Talks fast
- Delayed responses
- Repeats questions



## **Use Your Senses**

- Unusual smells
- Animal sounds/noises
- Moving clothing



# WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?



# ROUTES video



How Aviation Staff Can Help Stop  
the Illegal Wildlife Trade



PLAY

# Minimize your risk

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- Risks of handling wildlife
- Minimize risks to protect yourself and others
- Reporting wildlife crime
- Tip offs work!





# Don't handle smuggled wildlife



© Australian Customs Service



© TRAFFIC



© Adrian Pingstone/Commons Wikimedia



# Protect yourself



- Rabies
- Ebola
- SARS
- MERS
- Tuberculosis
- Anthrax
- Plague
- Salmonellosis

- Lyme disease
- Monkeypox
- Hantavirus
- West Nile Virus
- Tularemia
- Avian influenza
- Brucellosis



Goggles



Mask



Rubber boots



Gloves



# Support prosecution

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## Protect items which could be used to help investigations and prosecutions:

- Don't let unauthorized personnel remove any items (e.g. baggage tags, documentation etc.).
- Give any photos to the authorities to help their investigation.
- Wear gloves if you are involved in the investigation.

If you are unsure, seek advice.



# Report Wildlife Crime



Insert appropriate contact number/s  
here



## YOUR LOCAL CONTACTS

- Customs
- Airport
- Police
- Wildlife Department
- Animal Quarantine
- Airport Security
- Etc.





# Tip offs do work

## Record Seizure 18 rhino horns



The image is a screenshot of a news article from the website PHYS.ORG. The article is titled "S.Africa arrests two Vietnamese with record 41kg of rhino horns" and is dated November 1, 2014. The main image shows a cache of 18 rhino horns, which are large, curved, and light-colored, arranged on a tiled floor. The article text below the image states: "A cache of 41kg of smuggled rhino horns is seen at O.R. Tambo Airport in Johannesburg after it was confiscated from two Vietnamese passengers on a flight to Hanoi from Mozambique." Below the article, there is a caption: "Two Vietnamese men were arrested at Johannesburg airport with a record haul of 18 rhino horns, weighing 41 kilos (90". The article also features social media sharing options for Facebook, Twitter, and Reddit, along with a "Submit" button.

South African authorities stop plane  
after tip off from airport staff

## Notorious smuggler 14 Peregrine Falcon eggs



Suspicious passenger activity led to  
tip off at Birmingham Airport, UK







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# THANK YOU

<https://routespartnership.org>



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# Report Wildlife Crime

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**Insert appropriate contact number/s  
here**

## YOUR LOCAL CONTACTS

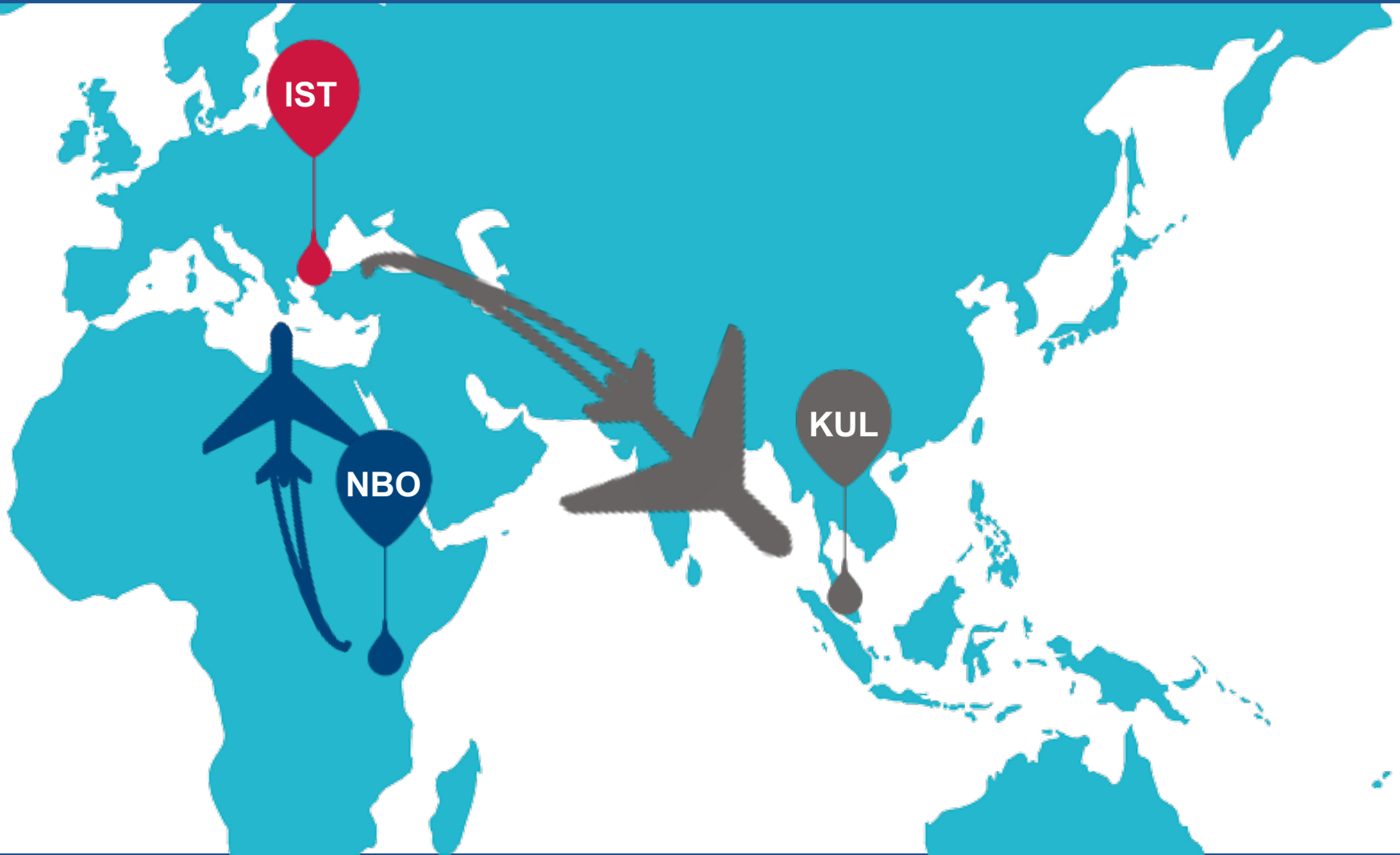
- Customs
- Airport
- Police
- Wildlife Department
- Animal Quarantine
- Airport Security
- Etc.



# Additional Slides



# Nairobi to Kuala Lumpur, via Istanbul



# Africa to Kuala Lumpur, via Nairobi and Dubai





# Case study

- **Africa to Hong Kong**
- ~ 1900kg of ivory seized at Hong Kong Airport since 2015
- Seized from cargo, passenger clothing, hand and check in baggage and in postal packages.



**Origins:** Angola, Cote d'Ivoire, DRC, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Zimbabwe

**Transit:** Ethiopia, Netherlands, South Africa, Singapore, Turkey, U.A.E.



# Case study – Cargo

- **Lagos to Ha Noi, Viet Nam via Abu Dhabi**
- 309kg ivory found in cargo shipment
- Declared as ‘hydraulic toughened glass’



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# Case study – Cargo

- **Mozambique to Malaysia via Qatar**
- 18 rhino horns found in a small crate in a cardboard box at the cargo warehouse
- The crate was declared as 'obra de arte' (*artwork*)



TRAFFIC



# Case study – Baggage

- **Africa to Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, via Qatar**
- **2kg rhino horns in passenger suitcase**
- **Horns were cut into pieces and hidden in milk powder cans**



# Case study

- **Yaounde to Accra via Ivory Coast**
- Two men arrested with 218 parrots as they prepared to smuggle them out of Cameroon
- Men linked to a similar attempt intercepted in Accra





# Case study – Baggage

- **Addis Ababa to Bangkok via Phnom Penh**
- 21 rhino horns seized from passenger baggage
- Two women claimed the baggage but fled as it was scanned



# Case study – Cargo

- **Madagascar to Malaysia, via Abu Dhabi**
- 330 endangered tortoises
- Hidden in baggage inside cardboard boxes, labelled as ‘stones’



# Case study – Baggage

- **African countries to Paris**
- **260kg bushmeat found in 6 day operation at Paris Roissy-Charles de Gaulle Airport**
- **Passengers mostly travelling from West Africa**



# Case Study – In Cargo

- Entebbe, Uganda to Singapore via Abu Dhabi
- 500 kg ivory sent as cargo
- Ivory hidden in four metallic drums, labelled as shea butter



© Tom Milliken/TRAFFIC





# Case Study – Check-in baggage

- Travelled from Angola to Hong Kong via Ethiopia
- 15 Vietnamese nationals
- 790kg ivory
- 32 suitcases
- Next flight to Korea and then Cambodia



© Hong Kong Customs



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