



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**TRAFFIC**  
the wildlife trade monitoring network



# ROUTES

## Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species

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Awareness for Airline and Airport Staff (*Americas*)  
*Module 3 – Identifying traffickers*

**Airline/Airport name here**

**Location and date of training here**

© Erico Hiller



# Training Objectives

## *Module 3 – Identifying Traffickers*

By the end of this module, you will:

- Be aware of some of the ways used by traffickers to smuggle wildlife by air
  - In carry-on baggage, check-in baggage, disguised as something else by post or courier or in cargo
- Understand where airline and airport staff might be able to identify wildlife trafficking
- Be aware of clues which can help you identify wildlife traffickers







There are four key ways traffickers move wildlife and wildlife products by air:

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



# Wildlife smuggling – On the person



© UK Border Agency CITES team



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# Wildlife smuggling – On the person



© Australian Customs Service



© Australian Customs Service



# Wildlife smuggling – On the person



© Hong Kong Customs



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# Challenges: Concealed contraband

**detiknews**

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Selasa 10 Nov 2015, 11:49 WIB

## Wanita Kuwait Cantik Ini Ditangkap karena Selundupkan Hewan Langka di Betis

Edward Febriyatri Kusuma - detikNews

f t G+ 19 komentar

**Jakarta** - Usaha penyelundupan dua Owa Jawa (*Hylobatidae*) oleh Warga Negara Kuwait Tamila F Basmanova berhasil digagalkan. Wanita cantik itu nekat membawa owa di betisnya. Kok bisa?

Informasi yang dihimpun, terungkapnya penyelundupan hewan langka Indonesia itu berkat ketelitian petugas mesin X-ray di Bandara Soekarno Hatta, Tangerang. Setelah



# Wildlife smuggling – Carry-on baggage



© Wildlife Checkpoint Suvarnabhumi Airport



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# Wildlife smuggling – Carry-on baggage

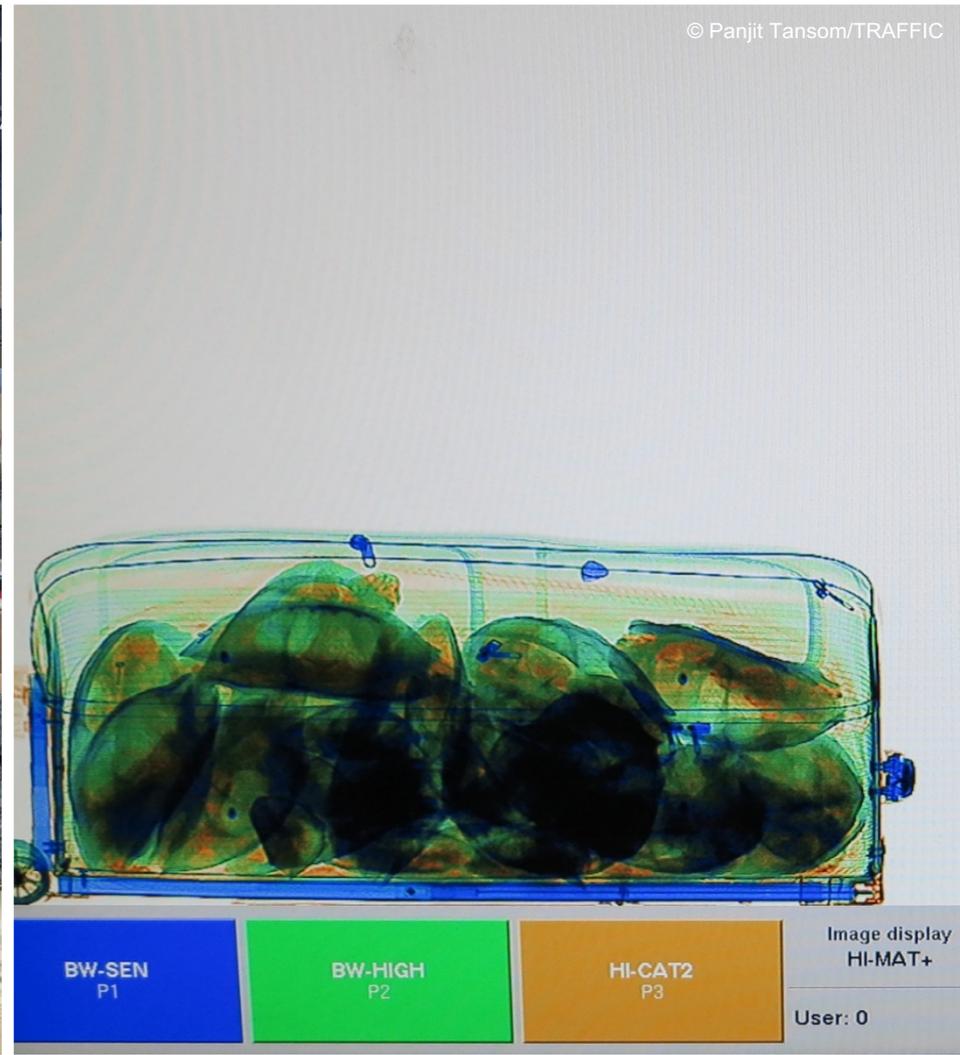


© Freeland/Matthew P



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# Wildlife smuggling – Check-in baggage



© Panjit Tansom/TRAFFIC



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# Wildlife smuggling – Disguised



# Wildlife smuggling – Cargo



© Freeland



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# Wildlife smuggling – Cargo



© Chris R. Shepherd/TRAFFIC



# Wildlife smuggling – Post



© Australian customs



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# Wildlife smuggling – Post



© The Star/Malaysia



Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species

# Case study – On the person

- Guyana to JFK Airport, New York, USA
- Nine birds found in the sleeves of a passenger's shirt
- The finches were hidden in toilet paper tubes



© USFWS



# Case study – Check-in baggage

- **Detroit, U.S.A. to Shanghai, China**
- Over 1000 live turtles in passenger baggage
- Animals hidden in cereal boxes and rubber boots



U.S. Attorney's Office



# Case study – Baggage

- **Mexico to Spain**
- 120 birds smuggled in four suitcases
- Suspects had been travelling between Mexico and Spain regularly

## Illegal traffic of species: 120 birds hidden in four suitcases

The Civil Guard stops in Barajas two people for trying to introduce birds from Mexico. Almost half of the animals died asphyxiated in the trip



MANUEL PLAZUELOS   
Madrid · 12/27/2017 · 11:29 CET



# Case study – Baggage

- **Viet Nam to Los Angeles, U.S.A.**
- 93 birds found in passenger baggage
- Most of the birds died



U.S. Customs and Border Protection



U.S. Attorney's Office



Use this slide to provide local information on wildlife trade, for example this could include recent seizures, changes in the law etc.

This should be airport related.



## WHAT YOU CAN LOOK OUT FOR



PASSENGER  
START  
of the journey



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

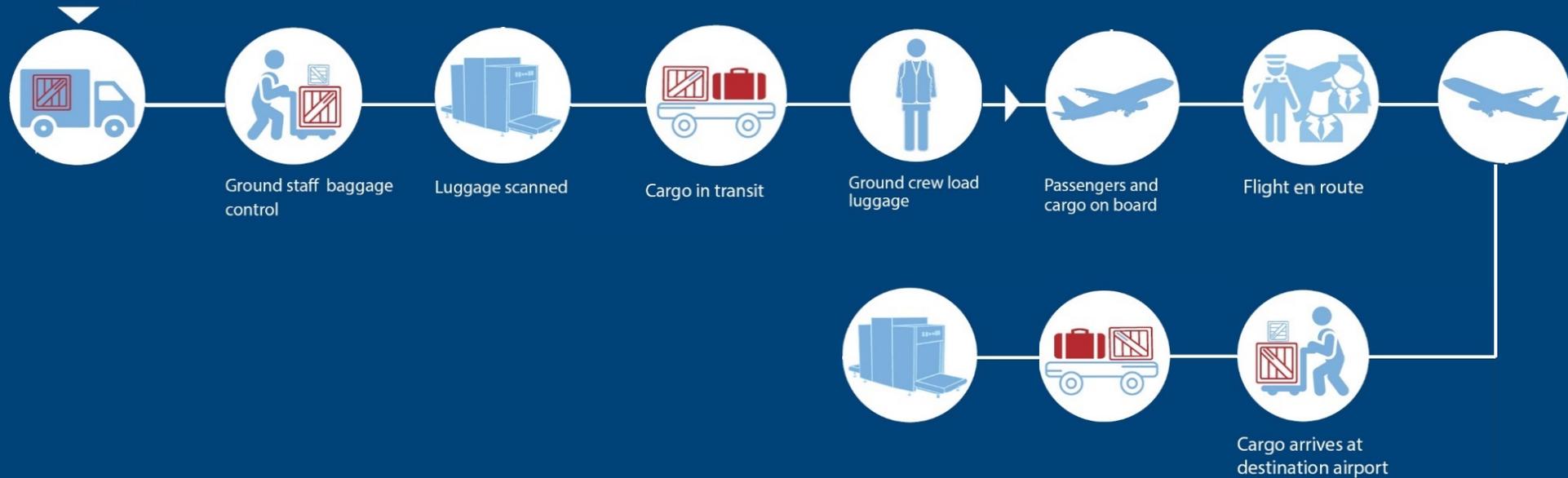
Ground crew load  
luggage

Passengers and  
cargo on board

Flight en route



CARGO  
START  
of the journey



**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



Luggage scanned



Cargo arrives at destination airport



# 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

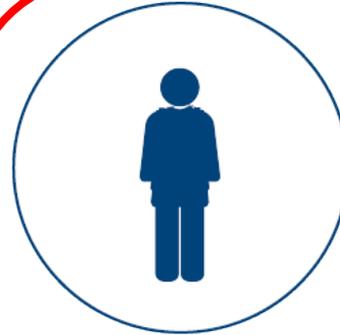


# What you can look out for



## 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

- Act on tip offs
- Known trafficking routes
- Frequent checks
- Check passengers and small bags



# 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/jewelery
- Talks fast
- Delayed responses
- Repeats questions



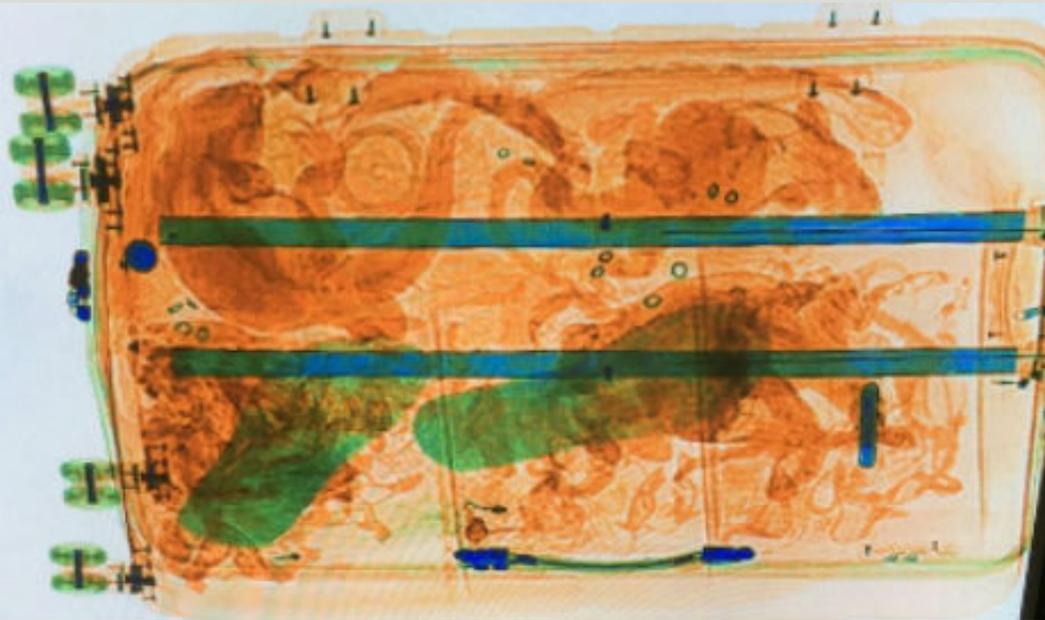
## **Use Your Senses**

- Unusual smells
- Animal sounds/noises
- Moving clothing



# What you can look out for

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© NVWA



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# What you can look out for



© Renee Yee/TRAFFIC



Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species

# THE NUMBERS GAME!

1 2 3 ...



26  
BILLION



30092016



Over 320  
BILLION



Over  
35,000



# Numbers

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0303



# Numbers

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84



# THANK YOU



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# Any Questions?



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# Additional Slides



# Case study – Baggage

- **Viet Nam to Houston, U.S.A.**
- 55 seahorses in a bottle, submerged in liquid
- Hidden in passenger baggage



U.S. Customs and Border Protection



# Case study – On the person

- **Havana, Cuba to Miami, U.S.A.**
- 9 live birds found on a passenger
- 6 found in a fanny pack and three hidden in his underwear



Customs and Border Patrol, USA



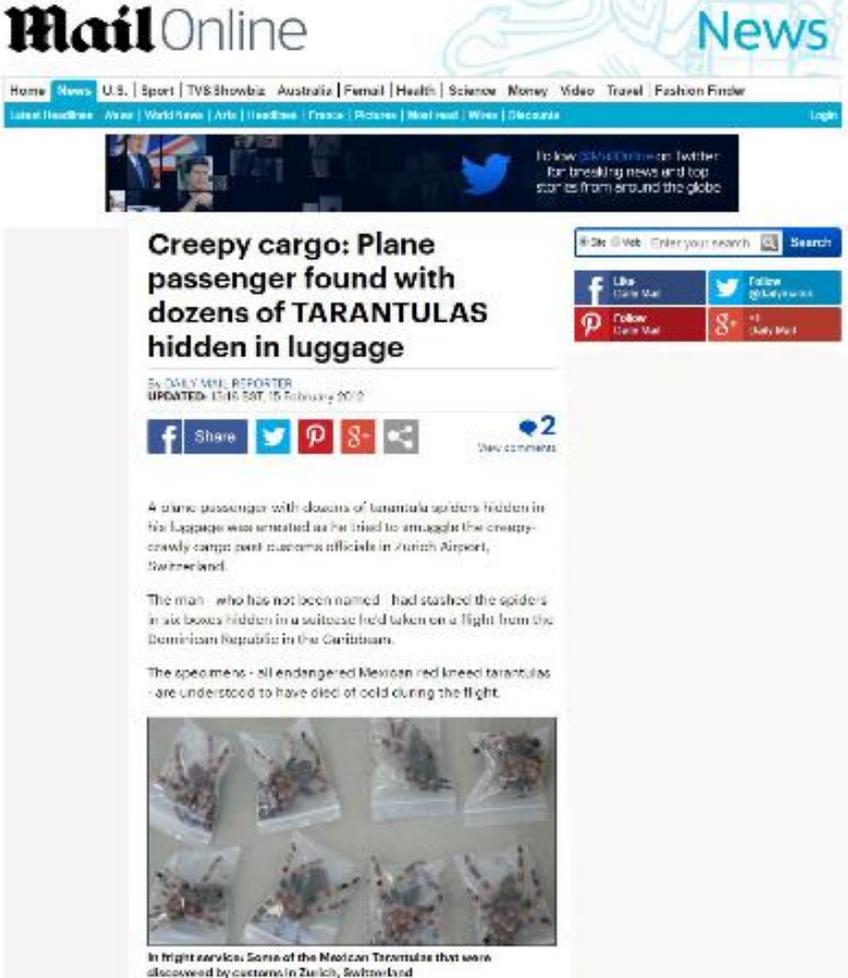
# Case study – On the person

- **Peru to Mexico City**
- 18 titi monkeys (put into socks) hidden under passenger's clothing
- Suspect was behaving nervously and had a mysterious bulge under his clothes



# Case study – Baggage

- **Dominican Republic to Switzerland**
- 261 Mexican Red-kneed Tarantulas in baggage
- The spiders were packed in individual plastic bags



The screenshot shows a news article on the MailOnline website. The article title is "Creepy cargo: Plane passenger found with dozens of TARANTULAS hidden in luggage". The byline is "By DAILY MAIL REPORTER" and it is dated "UPDATED: 15:46 GMT, 16 February 2012". The article text states: "A plane passenger with dozens of tarantula spiders hidden in his luggage was arrested as he tried to smuggle the creepy-creepy critters past customs officials in Zurich Airport, Switzerland. The man - who has not been named - had stashed the spiders in six boxes hidden in a suitcase he'd taken on a flight from the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean. The specimens - all endangered Mexican red-kneed tarantulas - are understood to have died of cold during the flight." Below the text is a photograph showing several small plastic bags, each containing a tarantula spider. A caption below the photo reads: "In flight service: Some of the Mexican Tarantulas that were discovered by customs in Zurich, Switzerland". The website header includes "MailOnline News" and various navigation links like "Home", "News", "U.S.", "Sport", etc. There are also social media sharing buttons for Facebook, Twitter, and Google+.



# Case study – Hand-carry baggage

- Honduras to U.S.A.
- Corals, conch shells, sponges and other marine organisms in shopping bags (as carry on)



Feature | Roatan | Utila | Guanaja | Ecology | People | Interview | Business | Sports | Español | C

### Coral Confiscated at Roatan Airport

Tourist was Returning to US with Marine Organisms Protected by CITES  
June 23rd, 2014  
by -



Airport security inspectors confiscated several shopping bags full of coral, conch shells, sponges and other marine organisms in late May from a tourist returning from Roatan to the US, according to Giacomo Palavicini, executive director of the Roatan Marine Park.

"If he would have put it in the luggage under the plane, he might have taken it away," said Palavicini. The items were seized only because he tried to carry them on board and stow them in the overhead bin. The security staff detected them as part of normal pre-boarding inspection.

Palavicini said such contraband was seized at the airport "pretty much every week," but this seizure was unusually

Prohibited items confiscated from departing tourists at Roatan airport in late May. (photo courtesy Roatan Marine Park)



# Case study – Hand-carry baggage

- **Costa Rica to Panama**
- 9 snakes, 84 frogs, 42 lizards and 203 tadpoles stuffed into plastic takeout containers inside baggage

## The Telegraph

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### German man caught trying to smuggle 170 animals in a suitcase

Costa Rica police stop suspect as he tries to depart with frogs, snakes and lizards in his bags



Plastic boxes and bags with animals seized from a German citizen arrested for smuggling in San Jose, Costa Rica. Photo: EPA

