ROUTES

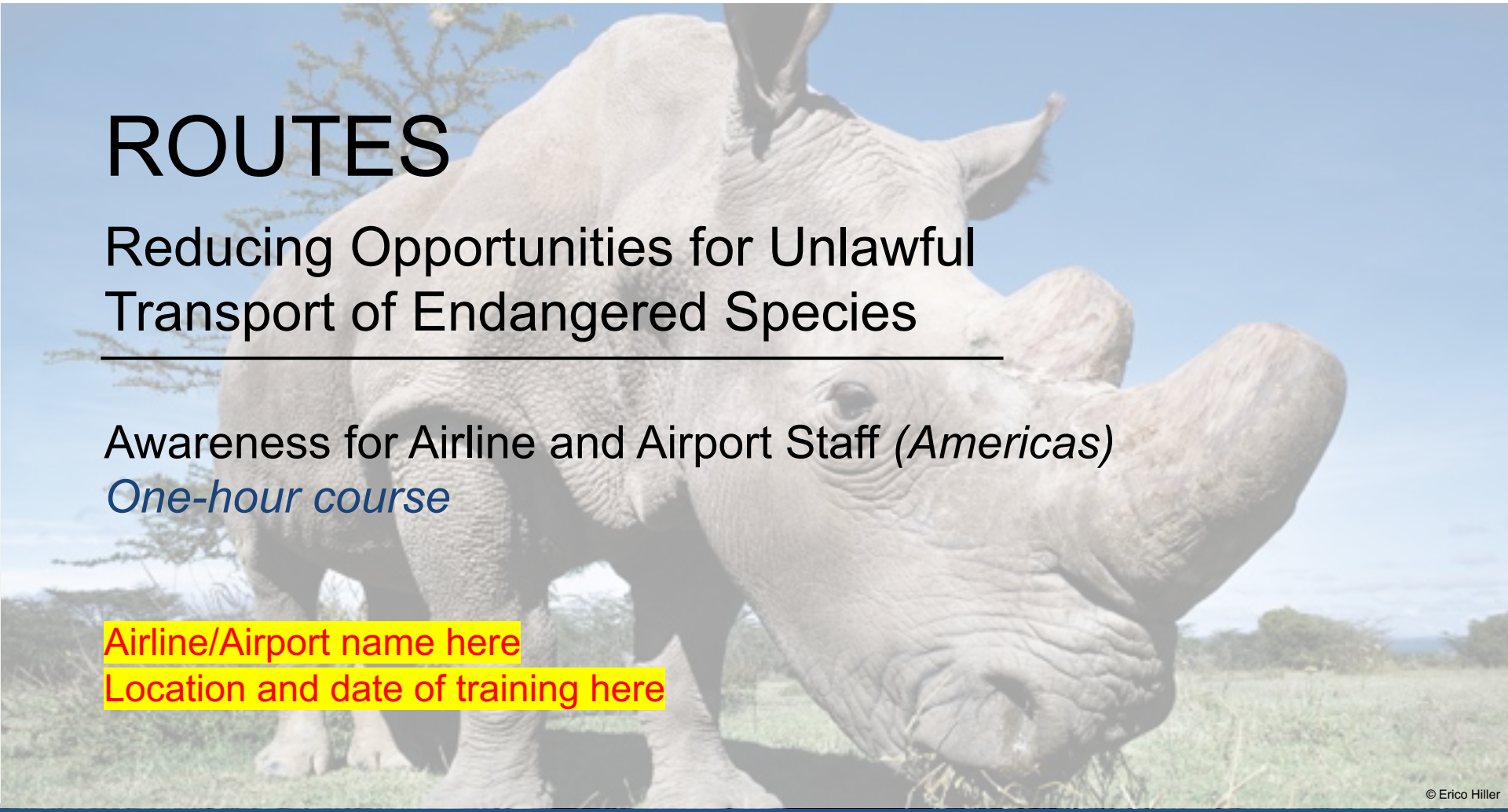
Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species

Awareness for Airline and Airport Staff *(Americas)*

One-hour course

Airline/Airport name here

Location and date of training here



© Erico Hiller

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.

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

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

Wildlife Trade

LEGAL TRADE

Worth over USD350 billion/year*

WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

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

Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species

* www.traffic.org/trade (figures from 2006).
** Transnational Crime in the Developing World. 2011. Global Financial Integrity.

Laws and Regulations

NATIONAL LAWS

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

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

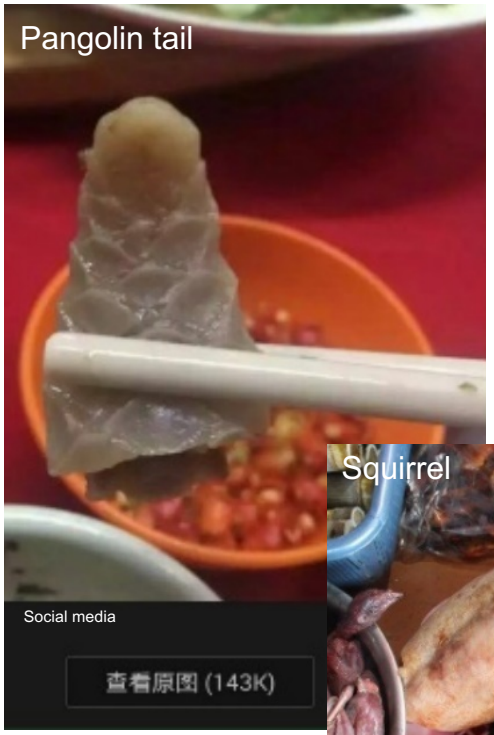
Economic

Safety

Why is Wildlife Traded?

Timber

Food

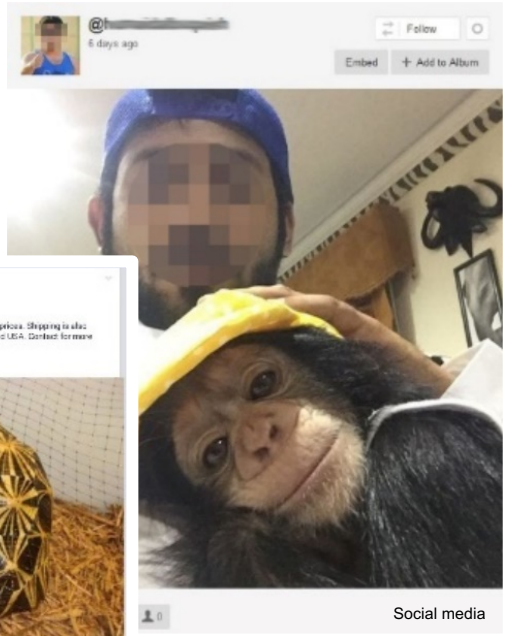


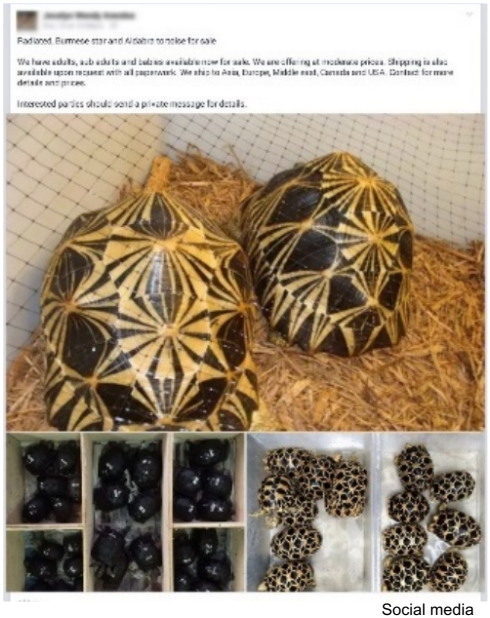
Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species

Why is Wildlife Traded?

Medicine

Pets





Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species

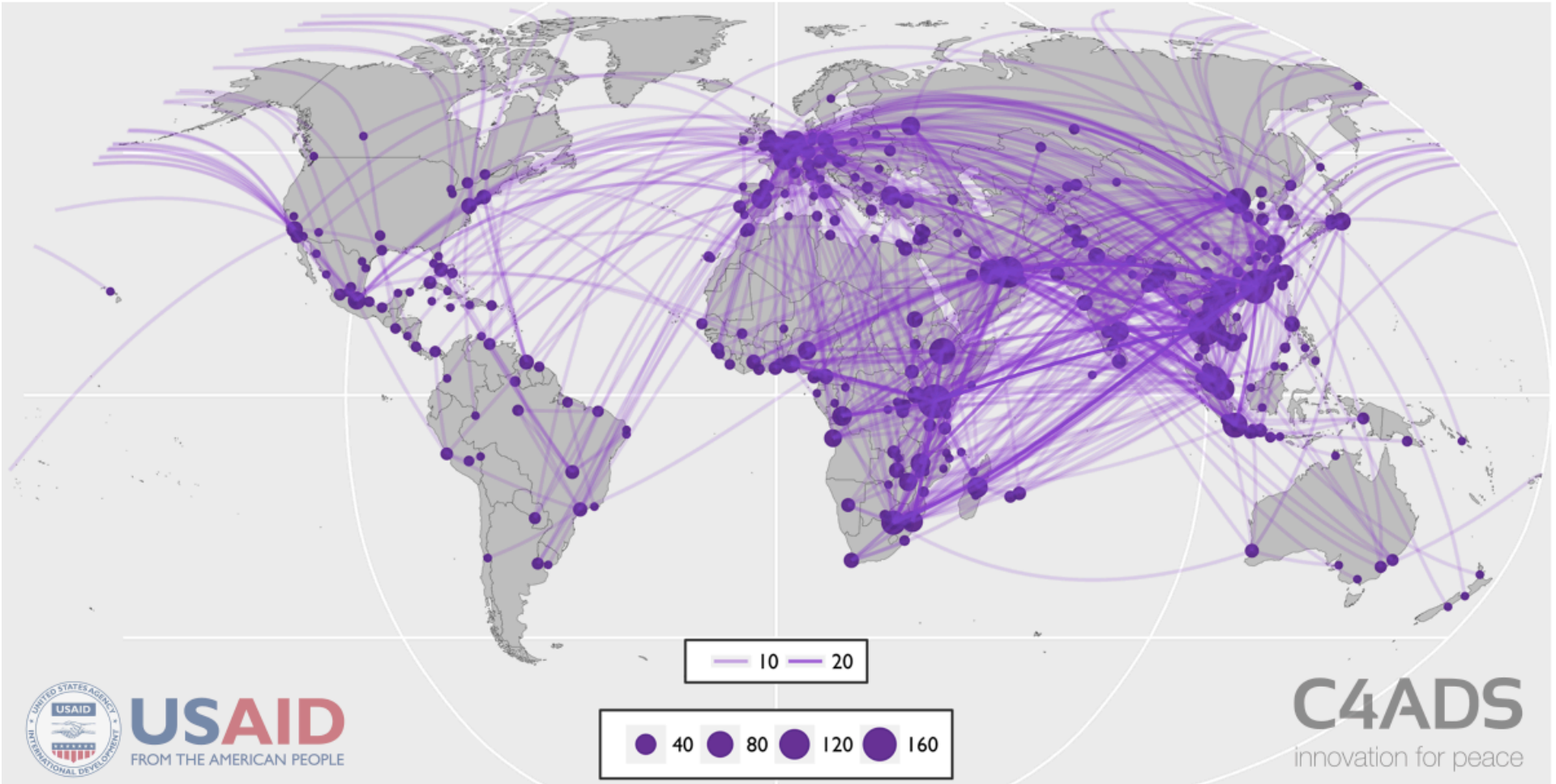
Why is Wildlife Traded?

Zoos & Collectors

Trophies & Luxury

Helmeted Hornbill and carved beaks

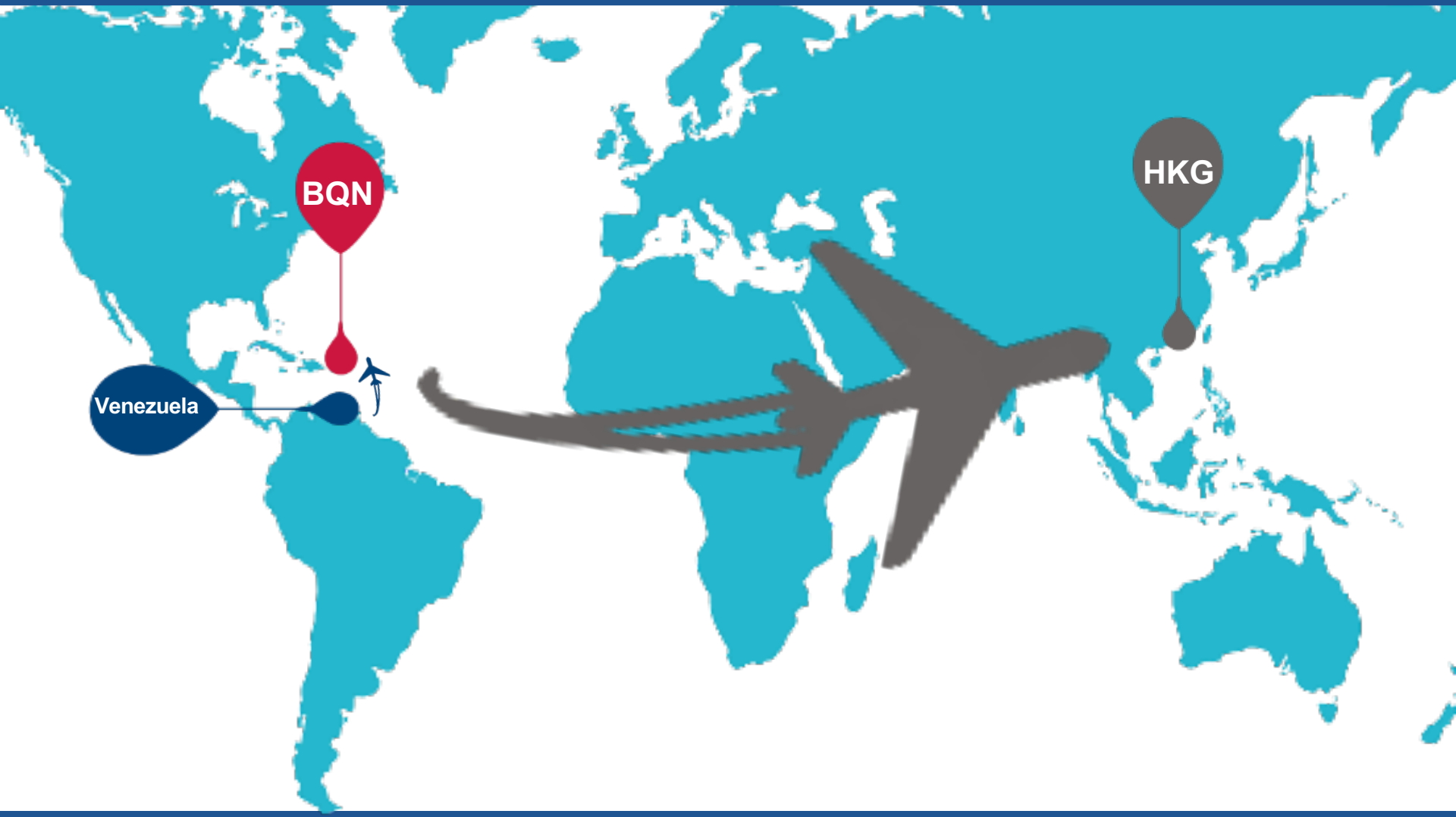
Known air trafficking routes 2009 – 2017



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.

Guyana to New York

Venezuela to Hong Kong via Puerto Rico



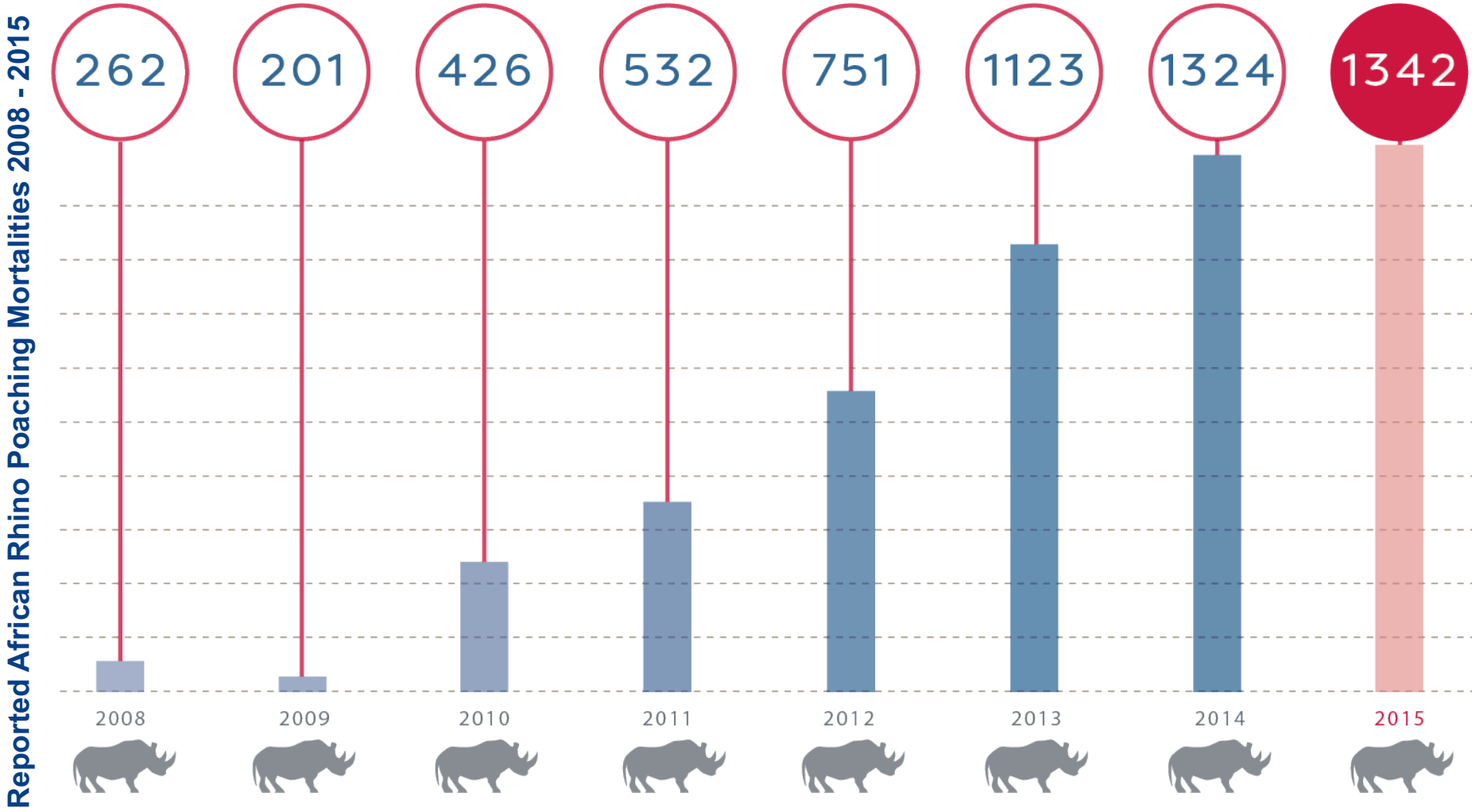
Mexico to Spain, via Amsterdam

U.S.A. to China and China to U.S.A.

Mexico to Madrid

Nigeria to Los Angeles

Number of Rhinos Poached



Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species

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

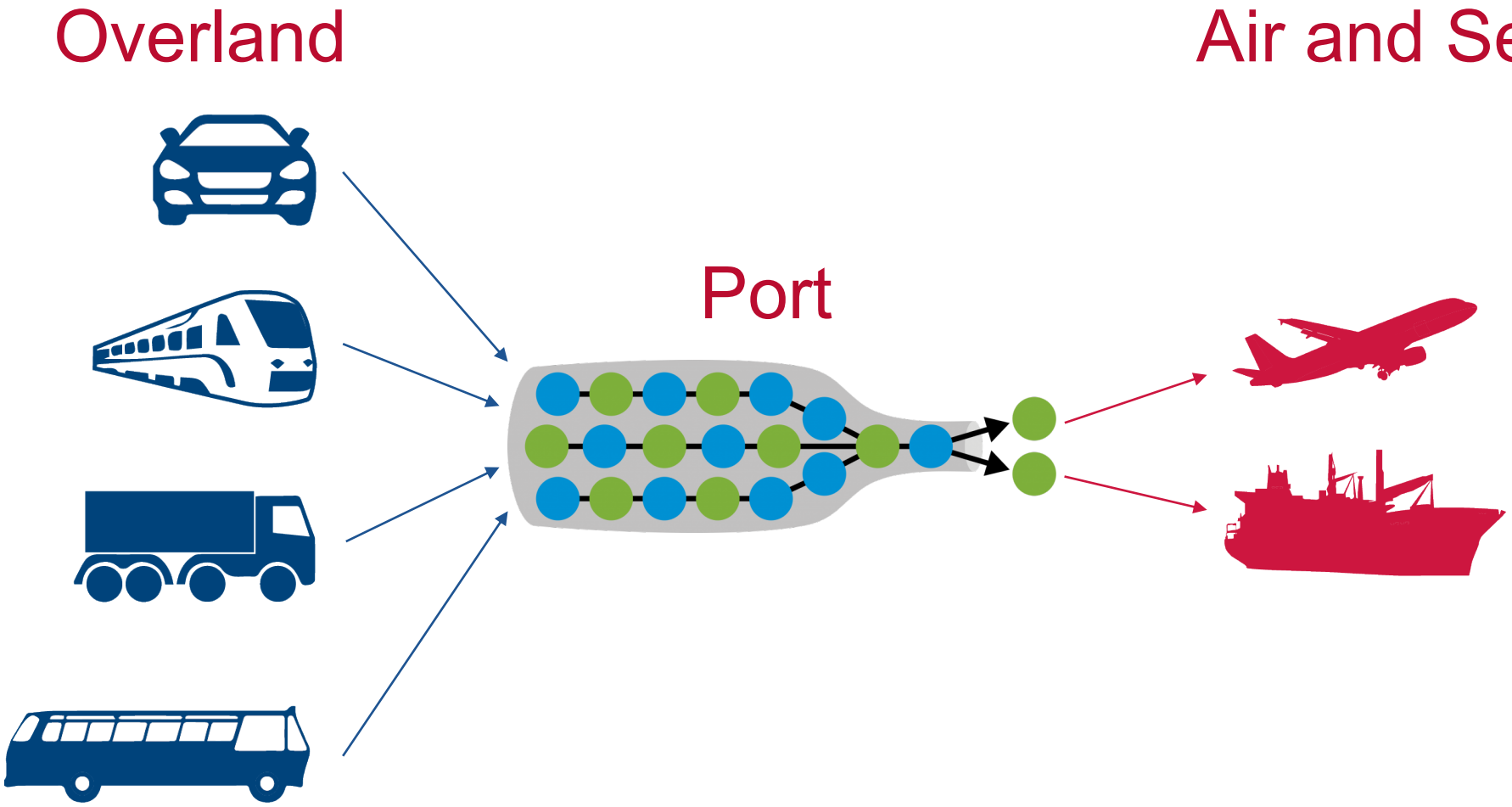
Frontline Officer
Low reward

1,000+ rangers killed in the last ten years

How is wildlife trafficked?

Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species

The Importance of Transport Networks



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

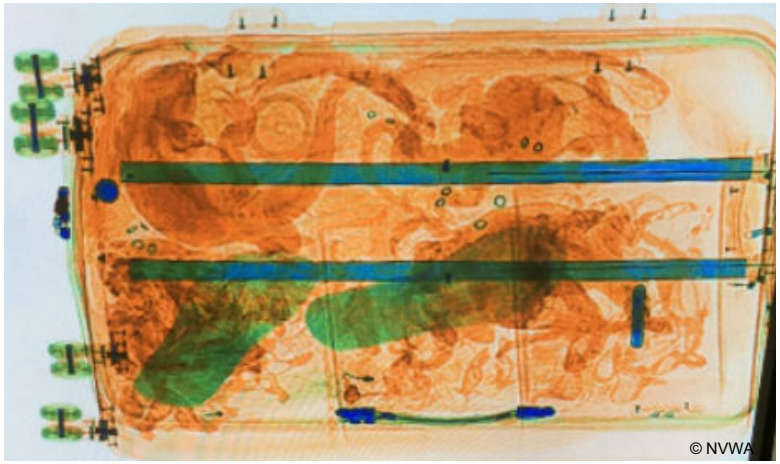
Wildlife Trafficking on Airlines Overview

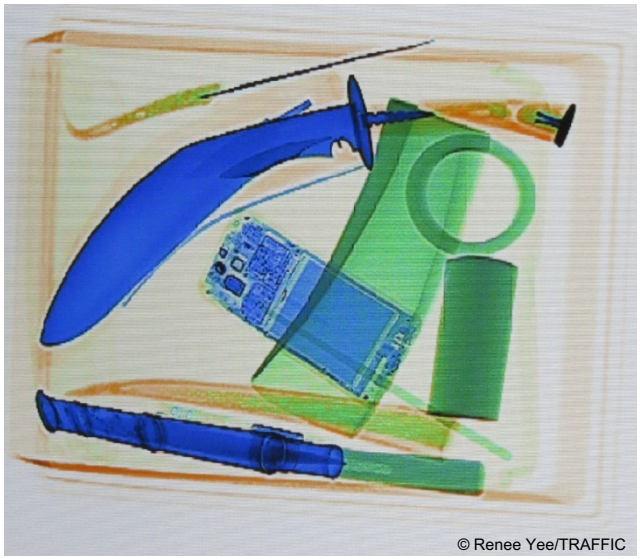
- Why wildlife traffickers use airlines
- Wildlife smuggling by air
- Wildlife trafficking routes

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.

Air cargo carriers & couriers

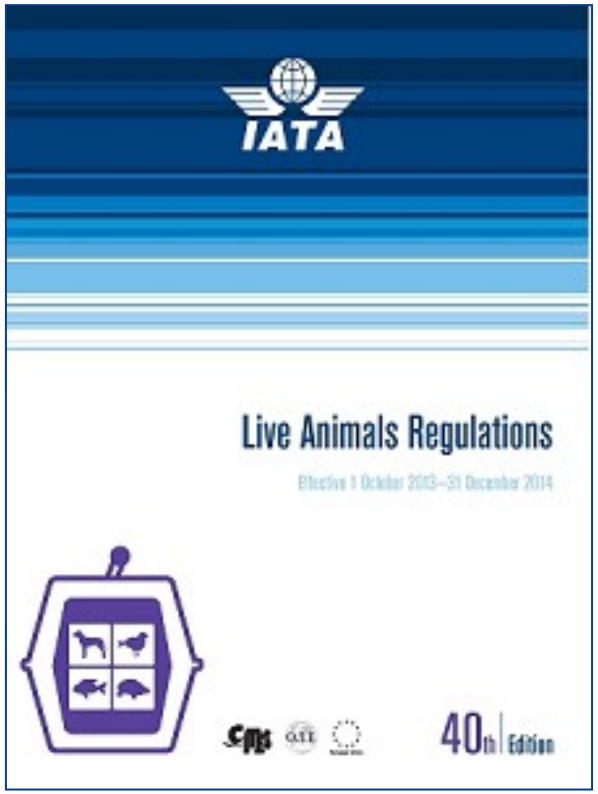
- Larger shipments
- Live animals, parts & products

Wildlife Smuggling by Air

Products and Parts

Live animals

Live Animal Transport – IATA



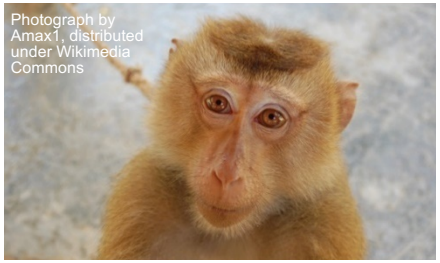
The transport of live animals by air must comply with the International Air Transport Association's Live Animals Regulations

TUFF
PUP
DISQUARED.TV

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

- 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

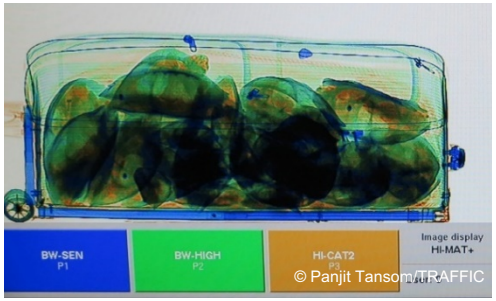
Here are some examples…

Wildlife Smuggling – On the person

Wildlife Smuggling – In baggage

Carry-on

Check-in



Wildlife Smuggling

Cargo

Post or Courier

Wildlife Smuggling

Disguised

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 – 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

Case study – Baggage

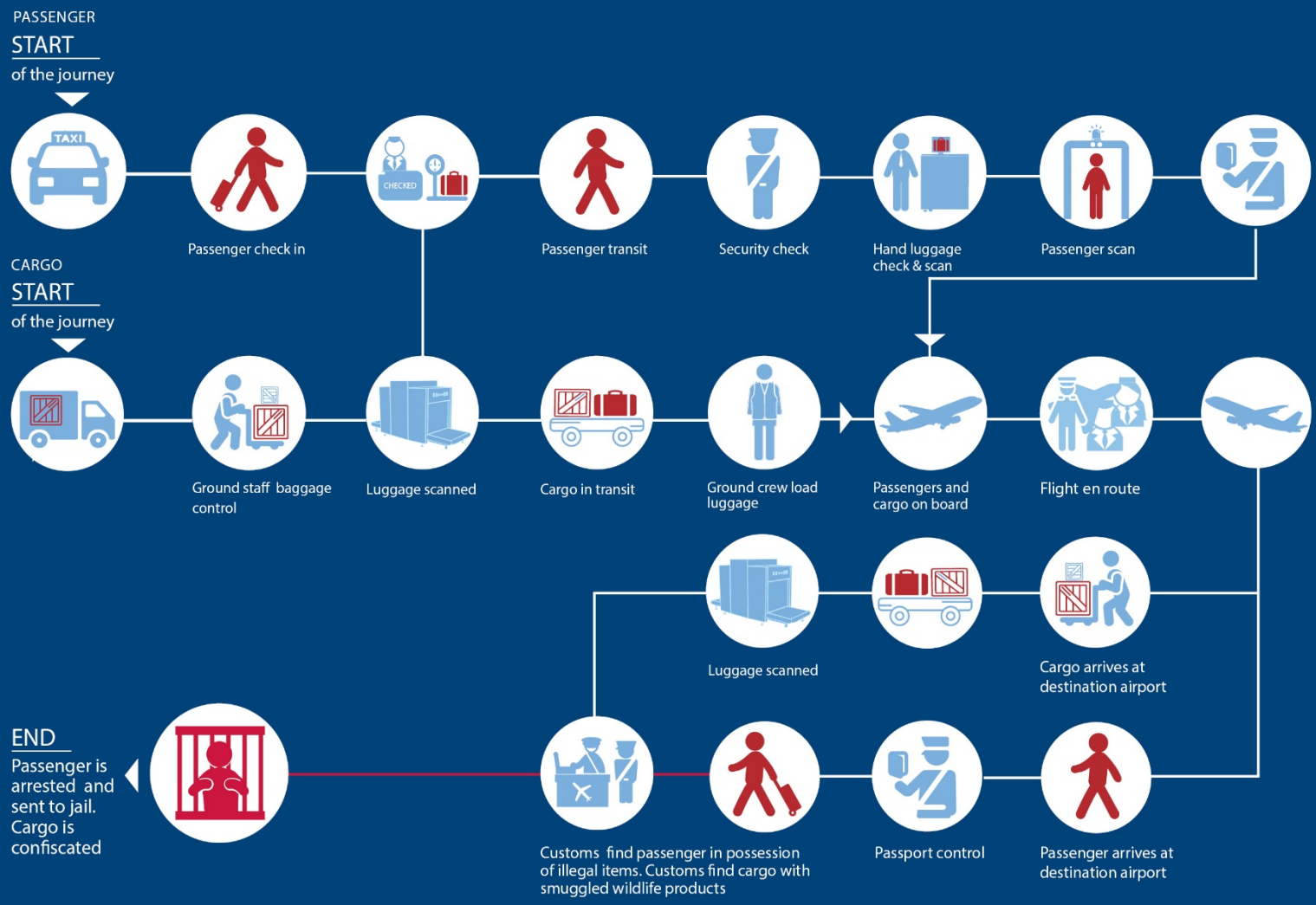
- **Viet Nam to Los Angeles, U.S.A.**
- 93 birds found in passenger baggage
- Most of the birds died

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

U.S. Attorney's Office

WHAT YOU CAN LOOK OUT FOR

Trail of the Trafficker



Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species

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!

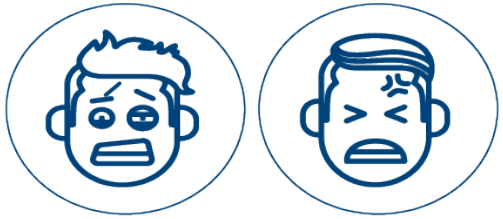
Inappropriate Clothing

- 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

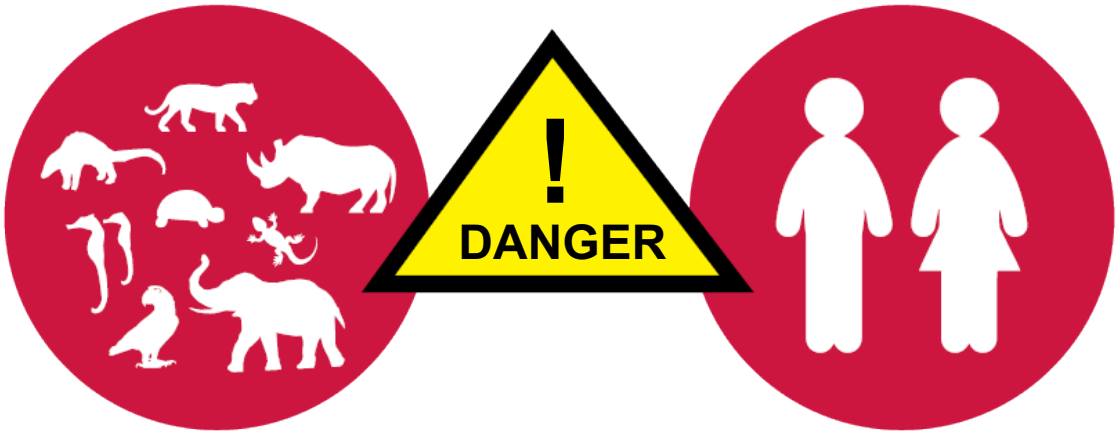
PLAY

Minimize your risk

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

Don’t handle smuggled wildlife

Protect yourself

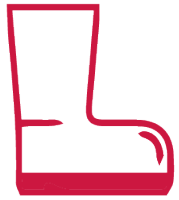


- Rabies
- Ebola
- SARS
- MERS
- Tuberculosis
- Anthrax
- Plague
- Salmonellosis

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

Goggles

Mask



Rubber boots

Gloves

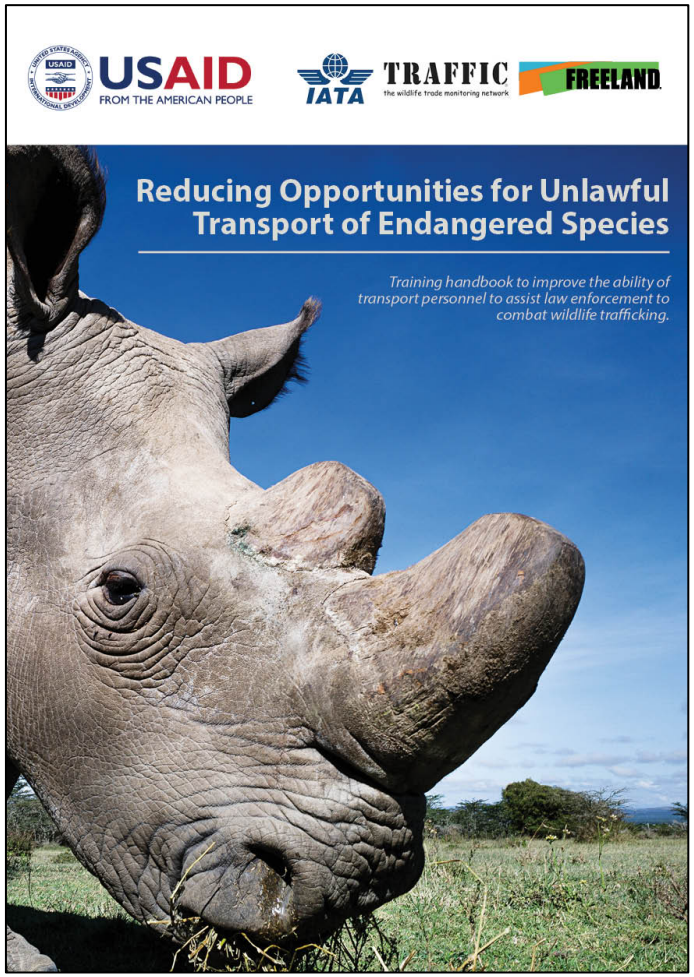
Support prosecution

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

PHYS.ORG Nanotechnology Physics Earth Astronomy & Space Technology Chemistry

Home » Biology » Ecology » November 1, 2014

S.Africa arrests two Vietnamese with record 41kg of rhino horns

November 1, 2014

231 Like 0 G+1 Tweet Submit submit reddit Favorites Email

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

Two Vietnamese men were arrested at Johannesburg airport with a record haul of 18 rhino horns, weighing 41 kilos (90

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

THANK YOU

https://routespartnership.org

Report Wildlife Crime

Insert appropriate contact number/s here

YOUR LOCAL CONTACTS

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

Additional Slides

Mexico to Florida and Hong Kong

Venezuela to China

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 – Baggage

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

Case study – Hand-carry baggage

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

Bay Islands VOICE

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

Coral Confiscated at Roatan Airport

Tourist was Returning to US with Marine Organisms Protected by CITES

June 23rd, 2014

by -

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

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

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

Home Video News World Sport Business Money Comment Culture Travel Life W

USA Asia China Europe Middle East Australasia Africa South America Central Asia K

HOME » NEWS » WORLD NEWS » CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN » COSTA RICA

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