

WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING TOOLBOX TALK



ROLE: Cargo & Baggage Screeners
TOPIC: Introduction

A TOOLBOX TALK is a short informal discussion on a particular issue (e.g. safety), often given at the start of a shift.

This set of talks has been custom-made for Cargo and Baggage Screeners

- It will detail the key indicators of wildlife trafficking that Cargo and Baggage Screeners may come across in the course of their duties and how to report this.
 - Wildlife trafficking refers to the illegal trade of wild animals and plants
 - It should be recognized that not all wildlife trade is illegal, but a worrying proportion of trade is carried out in contravention of national laws and international regulations.
 - The illegal trade causes serious problems to wildlife populations, to governments, to local communities and to legitimate business which may become inadvertently caught up in this.

The role of a cargo/baggage screener is to identify and detect weapons, explosives or other dangerous devices, articles or substances which may be used to commit an act of unlawful interference.

However, screening for such items may also lead to the detection of other illegal activities such as wildlife trafficking.

Reports of suspected wildlife trafficking should be made to the police and/or the regulatory authority via your locally approved reporting procedures. Please check these each time these materials are used and share them.

TOPICS

Wildlife hidden in cargo

(1/4)

Wildlife hidden in baggage

(2/4)

Indicators of wildlife trafficking in cargo/baggage

(3/4)

Staying safe

(4/4)



WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING TOOLBOX TALK

ROUTES

Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species



<https://routespartnership.org>

ROLE: Cargo & Baggage Screeners

TOPIC: A how-to guide

A TOOLBOX TALK is a short informal discussion on a particular issue (e.g. safety), often given at the start of a shift.

- This set contains four talks, designed to be given separately (e.g. one per month/quarter).
- Each session should only last a few minutes.
- An attendance form has been included for each talk.

TOPICS

Wildlife hidden under passenger clothing

(1/4)

Wildlife hidden in carry-on baggage

(2/4)

What to look for

(3/4)

Safe handling of escaped animals in the cabin

(4/4)

BEFORE YOU START:



FIND OUT (and share)

- Your company's protocol on the reporting of wildlife trafficking.
- Individuals/agencies to contact (*email, name, phone number etc.*).



CHECK the **ROUTES Partnership website** (<https://routespartnership.org/>)

for more wildlife trafficking examples to include in your talk (e.g. from your airline/airport/region).



CHECK for comments in the notes section of this presentation for more information.



PRINT the eight images provided at the end for 'show and tell' to assist you.

Make it interesting

Make it relevant

Encourage discussion and ask if anyone has experience to share

Listen to what everyone says; and

Keep it positive!

ROUTES role-specific toolbox talks are also available for passenger check-in, passenger screening, cabin crew, cargo acceptance and ground handler staff (<https://routespartnership.org/contact>)



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



C4ADS
innovation for peace



TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network



WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING TOOLBOX TALK

ROUTES

Reducing Opportunities
for Unlawful Transport of
Endangered Species



<https://routespartnership.org>



ROLE: Cargo & Baggage Screeners

TOPIC: A how-to guide NOTES

- For information on IATA and combating wildlife trafficking:
<https://www.iata.org/policy/environment/Pages/wildlife-trafficking.aspx>
- For information on ACI and combating wildlife trafficking:
<https://aci.aero/services/member-tools-to-combat-human-and-wildlife-trafficking/wildlife-trafficking/>
- You can find more information on CITES on www.cites.org; and your country's CITES authority <https://cites.org/eng/cms/index.php/component/cp>



For regional and role-specific training materials on combating wildlife trafficking in air transport, visit the ROUTES training resources:

<https://routespartnership.org/training-modules>



To assist staff to recognise and report wildlife trafficking, Quick Reference Cards are available:

<https://routespartnership.org/contact-card>

The ROUTES website contains additional materials you can use, including:

- ROUTES publications on wildlife trafficking in air transport:
<https://routespartnership.org/industry-resources/publications>
- ROUTES industry guidance resources: <https://routespartnership.org/industry-resources/guidance-documents>
- ROUTES factsheets : <https://routespartnership.org/industry-resources/factsheets>
- ROUTES awareness posters: <https://routespartnership.org/industry-resources/posters>
- ROUTES Infographics <https://routespartnership.org/industry-resources/infographics>



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



C4ADS
innovation for peace



TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network



WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING TOOLBOX TALK

ROUTES

Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species



<https://routespartnership.org>

ROLE: Cargo & Baggage Screeners
TOPIC: Wildlife hidden in cargo (1/4)

Wildlife trafficking poses potential risks to the aviation industry



REPUTATION



LEGAL



ECONOMIC



SAFETY

The role of a screener is to identify and detect weapons, explosives or other dangerous devices, articles or substances which may be used to commit an act of unlawful interference. However, screening for such items may also lead you to the detection of other illegal activities such as wildlife trafficking. Wildlife traffickers commonly attempt to smuggle wildlife in cargo.

Indicators of wildlife trafficking in cargo:

X-ray inspection:

- Shows organic items, suspicious shapes or other elements which could indicate wildlife trafficking
- Organic items are present but not declared

Physical inspection/examination:

- Makes a noise, smells unusual, moves
- Has air holes where none needed
- Origin does not match declared contents

Make a



via your locally approved reporting procedures if you think cargo may contain smuggled wildlife

Wildlife hidden in cargo tends to be:

- ❖ Large in size
- ❖ Heavy
- ❖ Sometimes living (e.g. turtles and tortoises, snakes)
- ❖ Sometimes dead (as parts and products) (e.g. ivory, rhino horn, pangolin scales)

(300 live turtles and tortoises smuggled in air cargo)



Panjit Tansom/TRAFFIC



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



C4ADS
innovation for peace



TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network



WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING TOOLBOX TALK

ROUTES

Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species



<https://routespartnership.org>

ROLE: Cargo & Baggage Screeners

TOPIC: Wildlife hidden in baggage (2/4)

Wildlife trafficking poses potential risks to the aviation industry



REPUTATION



LEGAL



ECONOMIC



SAFETY

The role of a screener is to identify and detect weapons, explosives or other dangerous devices, articles or substances which may be used to commit an act of unlawful interference. However, screening for such items may also lead you to the detection of other illegal activities such as wildlife trafficking. Wildlife traffickers commonly attempt to smuggle wildlife in baggage.

Indicators of wildlife trafficking in baggage:

X-ray inspection:

- Shows organic items, suspicious shapes or other elements which could indicate wildlife trafficking

Physical inspection/examination:

- Makes a noise, smells unusual, moves
- Has air holes where none needed

Make a

REPORT

via your locally approved reporting procedures if you think baggage may contain smuggled wildlife

Wildlife hidden in baggage tends to be:

- High value
- Low weight
- Sometimes living (e.g. turtles and tortoises, snakes)
- Sometimes dead (as parts and products) (e.g. ivory, rhino horn)

(470 live turtles hidden in passenger baggage)



Panjit Tansom/TRAFFIC



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



C4ADS
innovation for peace



TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network



WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING TOOLBOX TALK

ROUTES

Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species



<https://routespartnership.org>

ROLE: Cargo & Baggage Screeners

TOPIC: Indicators of wildlife trafficking in cargo/baggage (3/4)

Wildlife trafficking poses potential risks to the aviation industry



REPUTATION



LEGAL



ECONOMIC



SAFETY

The role of a screener is to identify and detect weapons, explosives or other dangerous devices, articles or substances which may be used to commit an act of unlawful interference. However, screening for such items may also lead you to the detection of other illegal activities such as wildlife trafficking. Wildlife traffickers commonly attempt to smuggle wildlife in cargo and baggage.

CHECK cargo/baggage during:

X-ray inspection:

- Shows organic items, suspicious shapes or other elements which could indicate wildlife trafficking
- For cargo, organic items are present but not declared

Physical inspection/examination:

- Makes a noise, smells unusual, moves
- Has air holes where none needed

Make a

REPORT

via your locally approved reporting procedures if you think cargo or baggage may contain smuggled wildlife



EXAMPLES:

| Cargo – mis-declaration | |
|--|--|
| Items seized | Declared as |
| 18 rhino horns | • Artwork |
| Over one tonne of pangolin scales (3 shipments) | • General products • Dry herbs • Oyster shells |
| 330 live tortoises | • Stones |

All of these also listed false addresses

| Passenger baggage |
|---|
| Examples of wildlife seizures |
| 790kg ivory from 32 suitcases |
| 108 live animals from one 27kg suitcase (55 snakes, 35 lizards, 7 turtles, 8 primates (monkeys), one leopard cub and two dead crocodiles) |
| 470 live tortoises & turtles from 4 suitcases |



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



C4ADS
innovation for peace



TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network





ROLE: Cargo & Baggage Screeners
TOPIC: Indicators of wildlife trafficking in cargo/baggage (3/4) NOTES



For more information on the case studies mentioned in the previous page, refer to news articles linked below:

Examples of cargo mis-declaration:

1. Rhino Horn Seizure: <https://apnews.com/f0da0eb77e924885a0b6ef454e66b73b/malaysia-seizes-18-rhino-horns-mozambique>
2. Pangolin Scales Seizure: <http://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2017/05/09/rm9mil-in-pangolin-scales-seized-after-tipoffs/>, <http://www.traffic.org/home/2017/6/13/malaysia-makes-third-major-pangolin-scale-seizure-in-a-month.html>, <https://www.nst.com.my/news/crime-courts/2017/06/249561/customs-dept-seize-whopping-400kg-pangolin-scales-worth-rm5mil> and
3. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/05/08/malaysian-authorities-seize-700kg-pangolin-scales-smuggled-africa/>
4. Tortoises Seizure: <http://www.traffic.org/home/2017/5/15/malaysian-customs-make-large-seizure-of-threatened-malagasy.html>

Examples of smuggling in passenger baggage:

1. Elephant Ivory Seizure: https://www.customs.gov.hk/en/publication_press/press/index_id_1169.html
2. Reptiles and Primates Seizure: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3027470/Russian-customs-catch-woman-trying-smuggle-55-snakes-35-lizards-seven-turtles-six-lemurs-two-monkeys-LEOPARD-cub-flight-luggage.html>
3. Turtles Seizure: <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/regional/2013/11/08/almost-500-protected-turtles-found-in-thai-airport-bags/>



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



C4ADS
innovation for peace



TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network



WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING TOOLBOX TALK

ROUTES

Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species



ROLE: Cargo & Baggage Screeners

TOPIC: Staying safe (4/4)

Animals can cause injury and spread disease.



Disease transmission applies to living animals and meat and other products.

E.g. Rabies, Ebola, SARS, MERs, Tuberculosis, Anthrax, Bird Flu etc.

The role of a screener is to identify and detect weapons, explosives or other dangerous devices, articles or substances which may be used to commit an act of unlawful interference. However, screening for such items may also lead you to the detection of other illegal activities such as wildlife trafficking. Wildlife traffickers may try to smuggle wildlife in cargo or baggage.

Smuggled wildlife can be dangerous to airport operations and to staff and passengers.

Indicators of wildlife trafficking in cargo/baggage:

X-ray inspection:

- Shows organic items, suspicious shapes or other elements which could indicate wildlife trafficking
- For cargo, organic items are present but not declared

Physical inspection/examination:

- Makes a noise, smells unusual, moves
- Has air holes where none needed

If you suspect a live animal is loose:

- **STAY CALM**
- *Seek assistance from an expert*
- *Do not handle the animal unless absolutely necessary*
- *Use protective clothing*
- *Make a **REPORT***

(Monitor lizard found in the baggage sorting area at Heathrow)



Border Force, UK



WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING TOOLBOX TALK

ROUTES

Reducing Opportunities
for Unlawful Transport of
Endangered Species



<https://routespartnership.org>



ROLE: Cargo & Baggage Screeners

TOPIC: Staying safe (4/4) NOTES

Ask the audience if they know any examples of diseases than can pass from animals to people.

1. ALL animals have the potential to spread disease to humans.
 - a) Examples include: Rabies, Ebola, SARS, MERs, Tuberculosis, Anthrax, Bird Flu etc.
2. Disease transmission does not just apply to living animals – meat and other products can also spread disease.

If you are in a situation where you must handle an animal, make sure that you protect yourself and those around you.

1. Always wear personal protective equipment when handling animals including gloves and a mask.
2. Be sure that you thoroughly clean your hands and any surfaces which the animal(s) may have come into contact with. **It is important to follow hygiene protocols.**
3. **Anyone who is bitten/scratched etc. should see medical attention as soon as possible.**

Image:

Monitor Lizard found in the baggage sorting area at Heathrow

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/border-force-seizes-rare-live-lizard-at-heathrow>



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



C4ADS
innovation for peace



TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network





ROLE: Cargo & Baggage Screeners

TOPIC: Wildlife hidden in cargo

Image resource – *print for 'show & tell' – pg. 1/7*



(TRAFFIC)

300 live turtles and tortoises found in air cargo in Thailand

- 4 December 2012 - Based on a tip-off, 343 tortoises and freshwater turtles were seized at Suvarnabhumi International Airport in Thailand
- The animals, found at the Cargo Complex, were packed into bags and stuffed into polystyrene boxes
- Two men delivering the consignment were arrested
- The consignment was headed to Hong Kong



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

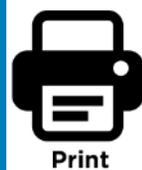


C4ADS
innovation for peace



TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network

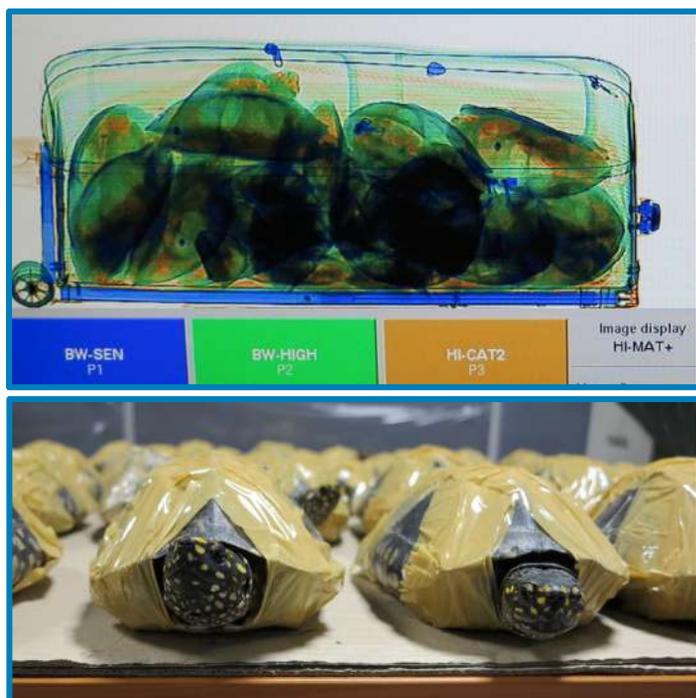




ROLE: Cargo & Baggage Screeners

TOPIC: Wildlife hidden in baggage

Image resource – *print for 'show & tell' – pg. 2/7*



(TRAFFIC)

Hundreds of turtles and tortoises smuggled in baggage

- 8 November 2013 - Authorities seized 80 live turtles and tortoises from two bags from a flight from Bangladesh
- A few days later, Thai Royal Customs seized 470 live Black Pond Turtles found in four suitcases arriving from Lahore, Pakistan
- This was followed by another seizure of 475 live turtles and tortoises found in baggage from a flight arriving from Dhaka
- All the seizures were made at Suvarnabhumi International Airport, Thailand





ROLE: Cargo & Baggage Screeners

TOPIC: Use your senses

Image resource – *print for 'show & tell' – pg. 3/7*

See



Screenshot from youtube (courtesy of the Border Service of Kazakhstan's National Security Committee)

([Agencia EFE](#))

- **No bag tags**
- **Note airholes**
- **32 falcons found in baggage**



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



C4ADS
innovation for peace



TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network





ROLE: Cargo & Baggage Screeners
TOPIC: Use your senses
Image resource – *print for 'show & tell' – pg. 4/7*

Hear



© The Star, Malaysia

(The Star)

- Hissing from cargo declared as fruit
- Smuggled turtles and cobras found



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



C4ADS
innovation for peace



TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network





ROLE: Cargo & Baggage Screeners

TOPIC: Use your senses

Image resource – *print for 'show & tell' – pg. 5/7*

Smell



© Miona Janeke

[\(BBC News\)](#)

- **Foul smell**
- **Delayed shipment**
- **Dead reptiles found inside**



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



C4ADS
innovation for peace



TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network





ROLE: Cargo & Baggage Screeners

TOPIC: Use your senses

Image resource – *print for 'show & tell' – pg. 6/7*

Feel



© TRAFFIC

([Macau News](#))

- **Heavy shipment of chocolate**
- **Contained smuggled ivory**



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



C4ADS
innovation for peace



TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network





ROLE: Cargo & Baggage Screeners

TOPIC: General Use

Image resource – *print for 'show & tell' – pg. 7/7*

Quick Reference

WHAT YOU MIGHT OBSERVE

DURING X-RAY INSPECTION



- Shows organic items, suspicious shapes or other elements which could indicate wildlife trafficking
- These may appear orange, or green in the case of ivory
- For cargo, organic items are present but have not been declared

DURING A PHYSICAL INSPECTION OR EXAMINATION



- **Use your senses**
 - Odd smells
 - Animal sounds / noises
 - Movement detected in baggage / cargo



- **Air holes present**
 - Should only be present when live animals have been declared (except fish which are transported in closed bags)
 - Items declared as containing live animals must have at least one "Live Animals" or "Laboratory Animals" label and a "This way up" label on all four sides



- **Stated origin of declared goods seem unlikely**
 - Cargo origin does not match the declared contents (e.g. bananas from Canada or rough jade from Africa)



- **Unusual routes and multiple connections**
 - Items have unusual or multiple connection tags suggesting that the route being travelled does not make sense or is one which is known to be used by smugglers

WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING TOOLBOX TALK

ROUTES

Reducing Opportunities
for Unlawful Transport of
Endangered Species



<https://routespartnership.org>



ROLE: Cargo & Baggage Screeners
TOPIC: Image resource NOTES – pg. 1/2

Wildlife hidden in cargo

<http://www.traffic.org/home/2012/12/4/thai-airport-authorities-seize-hundreds-of-animals-in-two-se.html>

December 2012

- Based on a tip-off, authorities in Thailand Suvarnabhumi International Airport rescued 343 tortoises and freshwater turtles
- The animals were packed into bags and stuffed into polystyrene boxes
- The haul was found at the Cargo Complex of the airport
- The two men delivering the consignment for shipping were arrested
- The animals, traded as food and for use in traditional medicine, were believed to be destined for markets in Hong Kong

Wildlife hidden in baggage

<http://www.traffic.org/home/2013/11/12/royal-thai-customs-intercept-three-attempts-to-smuggle-torto.html>

November 2013

- Thai Royal Customs arrested a Pakistani national on a flight from Lahore, with four suitcases containing 470 live Black Pond Turtles
- The species is listed in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which therefore makes any international commercial trade illegal.
- 5 days earlier, authorities also seized 80 live turtles and tortoises from two bags that had just arrived on a flight from Bangladesh.
- At the end of this week of two seizures, authorities again seized live turtles and tortoises from baggage.
- A total of 475 live turtles and tortoises were discovered in baggage that arrived from Dhaka.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



C4ADS
innovation for peace



TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network



WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING TOOLBOX TALK

ROUTES

Reducing Opportunities
for Unlawful Transport of
Endangered Species



<https://routespartnership.org>



ROLE: Cargo & Baggage Screeners
TOPIC: Image resource NOTES – pg. 2/2

Use your senses - SEE

<https://www.efe.com/efe/english/life/kazakhstan-thwarts-smuggling-of-endangered-falcons/50000263-3098719#>

November 2016

- Authorities at Astana International Airport intercepted baggage with air holes containing 32 live falcons bound for the United Arab Emirates.
- Image taken from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X4t9gNQY6G4> with footage courtesy of the Border Service of Kazakhstan's National Security Committee.

Use your senses - HEAR

<http://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2012/05/05/reptiles-in-papayas/>

May 2012

- Authorities discovered illegal shipment of 555 cobras and 171 freshwater turtles in shipment of papayas.

Use your senses - SMELL

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-25877368>

January 2014

- Officials were alerted to OR Tambo International Airport cargo holding facilities because of a bad smell coming from the sealed shipment. The consignment (bound for the U.S.A. from Madagascar), had been in the holding facility for five days because of cancelled flights.

Use your senses - FEEL

<https://macaunews.mo/customs-seize-34-kg-ivory-disguised-chocolate-bars/>

July 2013

- Officers who were suspicious with the weight of boxes of chocolates discovered that the 'chocolates' were actually 90 ivory seals.

