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Konu : ICS Birleşik Yaban Hayatı Ulaştırma Görev Gücü Bülteni Hk.

SİRKÜLER No: 595 / 2019

İlgi: Uluslararası Deniz Ticaret Odası'ndan (International Chamber of Shipping –ICS) alınan 06.09.2019 tarihli ve MC(19)77 sayılı yazı ve Eki.

Sayın Üyemiz,

Birleşik Yaban Hayatı (United for Wildlife) tarafından yayımlanan güncel Ulaştırma Görev Gücü Bülteni (Transport Taskforce Bulletin) bilgi edinilmesi amacıyla Ek'te (Ek-1) sunulmuştur.

Bilgilerinizi arz/rica ederim.

Saygılarımla,

İsmet SALİHOĞLU
Genel Sekreter

Ek :

1- İlgi yazı ve Eki Bülten. (12 Sayfa)

DAĞITIM:

Gereği:

- Tüm Üyelerimiz (WEB Sayfasında ve e-posta yolu ile)



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06 September 2019

MC(19)77

TO: MARINE COMMITTEE

Copy: All Members and Associate Members (for information)

UNITED FOR WILDLIFE TRANSPORT TASKFORCE BULLETIN

Action Required: members are requested to distribute the attached Transport Taskforce Bulletin to their member shipowner companies for their information.

As members will be aware and further to ICS Circular BOARD(15)44 as a signatory to the declaration on illegal wildlife trafficking ICS will distribute the bulletins produced by United for Wildlife to all members.

The latest Transport taskforce bulletin is self-explanatory and is attached as an annex to this circular for member shipping companies' information.

Chris Oliver
Nautical Director

Annex A – UNITED FOR WILDLIFE TRANSPORT TASKFORCE BULLETIN

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United for Wildlife TASKFORCE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

1 SEPTEMBER 2019

Joint monthly advisory for the United for Wildlife Transport and Financial Taskforces, highlighting recent issues of high concern related to wildlife trafficking. A core output of the Taskforce Information Sharing System.

RISK TRENDS & DRIVERS

Emerging wildlife trafficking trends and focus areas

Myanmar Now a Key Wildlife Trafficking Corridor

Myanmar (Burma) has emerged as a key transit point for wildlife trafficking in and via Southeast Asia, according to Taskforce analysis. Multiple major recent cases involving wildlife trafficking networks operating in Myanmar have been

reported, especially involving the trafficking of pangolin, elephant ivory, elephant skins, big cat parts, and other wildlife products. Drivers of this activity, according to available NGO and United Nations reporting, include ongoing conflict, high levels of criminality, and weak government control in the country's border regions, as well as proximity to both established wildlife trafficking corridors in Southeast Asia and demand centres in China. According to available information, Myanmar-based scrap yards, taxidermy shops, pet fairs, warehouses, and health clinics are especially implicated in wildlife trafficking activity, as well as wildlife markets and shops located in the border areas near Mine Lar (also known as Mong La) and Tachileik in Shan State.

FURTHER READING

- Using Myanmar as a major transit point, illegal wildlife trade spreads in region Myanmar Times
- Wildlife trafficking on the rise via Myanmar in region Northeast Now
- Southeast Asia a hub of illegal wildlife and timber trade: UN Khaosod English
- In jungles of Myanmar, sin city looks to a better future Myanmar Times

Matadi Port, DRC Highly Vulnerable to Wildlife Trafficking

Matadi Port (UN/LOCODE: CD MAT) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is highly vulnerable to illicit wildlife trafficking activity, in particular related to the illegal export of elephant ivory, pangolin, and protected timber to destinations in Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, and elsewhere in East and Southeast Asia. Multiple major cases of wildlife trafficking involving shipments originating in Matadi have been documented in recent months, including a record seizure in Singapore in July 2019 of 11.9 tonnes of pangolin scales and 8.8 tonnes of elephant ivory confiscated from a shipment from Matadi to Vietnam. According to available information, wildlife trafficking networks are able to consistently export large quantities of the illegal products out of Matadi Port, often allegedly in collusion with corrupt port personnel and organised smuggling gangs operating out of the port. Matadi Port is also an established smuggling hub for illegal shipments of gold, narcotics, weapons, and minerals. Available reporting indicates that this activity is ongoing, and Matadi is

likely emerging as a major transit and export hub for illegal wildlife shipments from around Africa.

FURTHER READING

- [Singapore seizes pangolin scales, ivory worth over \\$40m](#) Al Jazeera
- [Singapore makes record-breaking African ivory and pangolin seizure](#)

TRAFFIC

- [Da Nang customs uncovers 9.1 tonnes of goods suspected as tusks](#)
VietnamPlus

CONVERGENCE REPORT

Highlighting convergence of wildlife trafficking with other threat areas

CORRUPTION & KLEPTOCRACY

Rosewood Trafficker Collusion with Environmental Officials in Ghana

Chinese and West African rosewood trafficking networks allegedly actively conspire with high-level Ghanaian government officials, including senior members of the country's CITES Management Authority, in order to evade recently implemented bans on the export of rosewood from Ghana, according to recent open-source reporting. Specific tactics include export permit fraud, document forgery, invalid and retrospective issuance of CITES permits, mis-declaration of timber species, use of corrupt low-level officials and export facilitators, and the fraudulent fixing of stockpile auctions. In some cases, trading firms associated with traffickers will intentionally seek to pay export fines or penalties to the Timber Industry Development Division (TIDD) of Ghana's Forestry Commission in order to obtain paperwork which is then used to secure CITES export documentation in contravention of export bans.

FURTHER READING

- [Ban-Boozled: How corruption and collusion fuel illegal rosewood trade in Ghana](#) EIA
- [China's desire for rosewood drives illegal timber trade in Ghana](#) Epoch Times
- [How Chinese appetite puts African rosewood on verge of extinction](#) Daily Trust

CORRUPTION & KLEPTOCRACY

Collusion of Forestry Officials with Timber Traffickers in Bolivia's Amazon region

Officials within the Bolivian Forest and Land Authority (Autoridad de Bosques y Tierras — ABT) regularly collude with timber traffickers operating in the country's Amazonian forest region, according to available information. Officials implicated allegedly include ABT director René Noel Sivila Céspedes, who is accused in a recent investigative journalism report of signing over 2,000 documents allowing for the fraudulent clearing of protected areas between 2015 to 2018, especially in San Ignacio de Velasco, a reserve of Amazon rainforest and wetlands located in Santa Cruz department near the Bolivia–Brazil border. According to open-source reporting, this corruption has resulted in large-scale illegal logging across nearly a quarter of the reserve. Specific tactics include the falsification of certificates and approval stamps, forgery and illegal alteration of official documents, physical facilitation of shipments across borders and other control points, and manipulation of environmental surveys to obscure the scale of destruction of the forest.

FURTHER READING

- [Bolivia forestry officials profit from harvest of illegal wood](#) InSight Crime
- [Four sawmills involved in exporting illegal timber to China](#) Los Tiempos [*in Spanish*]
- [Value of seized wood exceeds USD550,000 in just six months](#) La Prensa [*in Spanish*]

TYPOLOGIES & RED FLAGS

Key wildlife trafficking red flag risk indicators observed since most recent Bulletin. Presented in draft form and open for discussion and refinement.

Clients – Individuals

Risk indicators related to accounts and behaviours of individual persons

RED FLAG: Beneficial owners or commercial associates of Myanmar-based scrapyards, taxidermy shops, pet fairs, warehouses, or health clinics, especially in or near the towns of Mine Lar (Mong La) and/or Tachileik in Shan State.

RED FLAG: Large cash or other deposits and/or unexplained wealth from employees of the Forestry Commission of Ghana (FCG), in particular those working in the FCG's Wildlife Division, Timber Industry Development Division (TIDD), or Faculty of Renewable Natural Resources.

RED FLAG: Large cash or other deposits and/or unexplained wealth from employees of the Forest and Land Authority (Autoridad de Bosques y Tierras - ABT) in Bolivia, particularly those working in the region of Santa Cruz.

Clients – Corporates

Risk indicators related to corporate and business clients

RED FLAG: Timber-trading firms beneficially owned by Chinese nationals with business operations in Ghana, Nigeria and/or Sierra Leone.

RED FLAG: Myanmar-based firms with commercial business lines related to scrap, taxidermy, legal wildlife trading, pet fairs, warehousing, and/or health clinics, especially those located near Mine Lar (Mong La) and Tachileik in Shan State.

RED FLAG: Ghana-based timber or general trading firms which have in the past had to pay fines or penalties to the Timber Industry Development Division (TIDD) of the Forestry Commission of Ghana.

Transactions

Risk indicators related to transactions and client account activity

RED FLAG: Maritime shipments from Matadi Port, DRC destined for any of the following countries: Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Malaysia.

RED FLAG: Maritime shipments from Matadi Port, DRC with additional red flag or suspicious activity indicators, e.g. declared counterparties have been implicated in previous seizures or wildlife trafficking activity; anomalies in shipping documentation; shipments with an illogical or unclear business purpose; et al.

RED FLAG: Transactions with payment notes or transaction descriptions containing any of the following terms: 'rosewood,' 'hogmu,' 'payung,' or 'pradu'.

RED FLAG: Shipments of legal wildlife (fauna and flora) with anomalous, incomplete, or otherwise suspicious CITES or phytosanitary certificates.

Concealments

Risk indicators related to smuggling concealments and commodity declarations

RED FLAG: Timber or wood products, especially if in maritime shipments originating from Matadi Port, DRC.

MEDIA ROUND-UP

Summary of adverse and other media relevant to Taskforce members.

Enforcement Outcomes

- Moazu Kromah and the case of the West African ivory cartel International Policy Digest
- Attempt to smuggle nine crocodiles and eight rare birds to Sharjah thwarted Gulf News
- China seizing more illegally trafficked ivory products from Japan, research shows The Japan Times
- Thai animal traffickers keep getting away with crimes, and authorities ask for U.S. help The Washington Times
- Malawi - Three-month manhunt ends with arrest of Chinese ivory trafficker Malawi24

Convergence

- *Conflict / Stability:* Herders protest as wildlife conservancies drive them out Daily Nation
- *Narcotics:* Race to save the rainforest The Telegraph

Species

- *Elephant:* Japan's ivory registrations surged ahead of July rules change Kyodo News
- *Elephant:* Mammoth hunters probe permafrost for 'ethical ivory' Russian Insight
- *Rhino:* The challenges of campaigning against wildlife trafficking in Vietnam Mongabay
- *Lion:* Big cat trade driven by demand for traditional Asian medicine, according to report Mongabay
- *Tiger:* At least two dead tigers seized each week from smugglers threatening big cats' future, study says The Independent

- *Pangolin*: Nigeria finds itself at the heart of the illegal pangolin trade Mongabay
- *Avian*: Songbirds silenced as Colombia fights wildlife trafficking The Associated Press
- *Asian water dragon*: Treated as food and pet, Asian water dragon endangered in Vietnam VN Express
- *Sea cucumber*: Sri Lanka pushes for protection of sea cucumbers amid overexploitation Mongabay

Responses

- CITES: 8 takeaways from the most important wildlife event you've never heard of National Geographic
- Proposal to 'protect' long-extinct woolly mammoth at upcoming CITES conference is latest bid to save elephants from global ivory trade Humane Society International
- Singapore to ban domestic trade in ivory CNA
- Australia set to shut down loophole supporting illegal ivory trade Yahoo News
- The global trade in lion body parts is dealt a major blow in South Africa's high court The Canary
- With India's tiger success story, is it time to save other endangered species too Oneindia

RESOURCES & UPCOMING EVENTS

Events, tools, training and other resources relevant to Taskforce members

Financial Taskforce Red Flags Development Workshop

Santander Bank have kindly agreed to host a red flags development workshop for Financial Taskforce members on 17 September at their offices in London. For further information or to receive the agenda, please contact Rob Campbell at robert.campbell@royalfoundation.com.

TASKFORCE SUCCESS STORIES

Success stories and examples of Taskforce collective action

Regional IWT Learning Academy in Hong Kong (Financial Taskforce)

On 1 August, the UfW Financial Taskforce convened an IWT Learning Academy in Hong Kong. The Academy brought together over 60 local experts and stakeholders from the private sector, law enforcement, Financial Intelligence Units, NGOs, government policy departments and the UfW Financial and Transport Taskforces.

The three-hour afternoon workshop focused on sharing regionally specific knowledge and perspectives on:

- The problem of the illegal wildlife trade.
- Why the private sector and in particular the financial industry should care about IWT.
- What financial institutions in key source, destination and transit markets can do, from a practical perspective, to combat it.

The Academy event was a great success in enhancing engagement and collaboration between regional public, private, and third sector actors involved in combating IWT, as well as facilitating the coordination of local and regional IWT specialist networks to respond to IWT cases and drive best practice IWT

solutions. Thank you to all who participated and contributed to the lively Q&A and post-workshop networking session.

Future Taskforce IWT Learning Academies will be held over the coming year in major financial and transport centres around the world.



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for
wildlife**

About

United for Wildlife Taskforce Intelligence Bulletins are joint monthly advisories for both Buckingham Palace and Mansion House Declaration Signatories on issues of high concern related to wildlife trafficking and the finance and transport sector, and are a core output of the Taskforce Information Sharing System. This Bulletin is published by the Basel Institute on



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Contact

For questions or additional data/analysis relevant to this alert, please reply to this message or contact your UfW Taskforce points of contact, Rob Campbell (robert.campbell@royalfoundation.com) or Tim Wittig (timothy.wittig@unitedforwildlife.org).

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