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## **TRANSPORT TASKFORCE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN**

**15 January 2019**

Serial: TIB006

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### LATEST TASKFORCE ALERTS

*Full Alerts and downloadable PDFs available on the Taskforce Portal at the links provided*

#### **New Taskforce Alert** (15 Jan 2018 – Maritime)

#### **Johor, Malaysia a Key Transit Hub for Illicit Ivory and Rhino Horn Trafficking**

Pasir Gudang Port (UN/LOCODE: MYPGU), commonly known as 'Johor Port,' in Malaysia is highly vulnerable to illicit trafficking of rhino horn, ivory, and other illegal wildlife products via maritime shipments, especially those originating in Mozambique, Nigeria, and other African countries.

RED FLAGS: Shipments with the following booking patterns may indicate a higher risk of wildlife trafficking and/or warrant enhanced due diligence:

- Maritime shipments to Johor Port originating from any of the following countries of origin:
  - Mozambique
  - Nigeria
  - Tanzania
  - Uganda
  - South Africa
  - Zimbabwe
  - Angola
  - Malawi
- Maritime shipments from Johor Port to any of the following destination countries:
  - Vietnam
  - China
- Air cargo shipments from Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KUL) to destinations in Laos, Cambodia, or Vietnam
- Declared shippers or recipients that have been implicated in previous wildlife trafficking activity.
- Shipments with anomalies in shipping documentation.
- Shipments with an illogical or unclear business purpose.

View/Download Alert: <https://www.taskforcewildlife.org/alert/johor-malaysia-a-key-transit-hub-for-illicit-ivory-and-rhino-horn>

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INTELLIGENCE-LED COLLECTIVE ACTION

*Taskforce success stories and best practice case studies***Successful Prosecution of Major Wildlife Criminal Assisted by Transport Taskforce Law Enforcement**

**Partner:** On 10 January 2018, wildlife trafficker Jeffrey Lendrum was sentenced to three years and one month for attempting to smuggle 19 rare and endangered bird eggs into the UK strapped to his body. According to Grant Miller, head of the national Border Force CITES team at Heathrow and Transport Taskforce law enforcement member:

*"My officers are experts in their field and, in this case, their vigilance has stopped a prolific wildlife criminal in his tracks. Their intervention also ensured that the birds and eggs received the immediate care and attention that they needed. Wildlife crime is a global issue and Border Force officers play a crucial role in preventing offenders from moving the products across borders, stripping them of their illegal profits."*

**Major Ivory Trafficking Syndicate Dismantled, Catalyzed by Report by Transport Taskforce NGO Member:**

"Chinese authorities have confirmed the capture and repatriation of the last of three of the key players in a massive ivory smuggling syndicate based in Shuidong, China. In 2017, the Environmental Investigation Agency conducted undercover investigations into ivory smuggling in Mozambique and revealed a major Chinese-led crime syndicate operating out of the small Chinese town of Shuidong. Over the course of more than a year, Agency investigators infiltrated the syndicate and uncovered the identity of ivory traffickers occupying key positions. The findings were published in the 2017 report *The Shuidong Connection: Exposing the global hub of the illegal ivory trade* after the Agency had confidentially shared the information with the relevant Chinese authorities. The China Customs Anti-Smuggling Bureau launched an extensive raid involving up to 500 officers in several locations in Shuidong and surrounding areas."

<https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/china-dismantles-major-ivory-trafficking-syndicate>

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RECENT NEWS

**Christmas rush ideal cover for wildlife traffickers** South China Morning Post

<https://www.scmp.com/magazines/post-magazine/long-reads/article/2179037/christmas-rush-ideal-cover-wildlife-traffickers>

**Over 30 Pieces of Rhino Horns Seized at OR Tambo Airport Worth Over R23-Million** SA People

<https://www.sapeople.com/2019/01/10/over-30-pieces-of-rhino-horns-seized-at-or-tambo-airport-worth-over-r23-million/>

**Facial recognition to combat wildlife trafficking** Ecologist

<https://theecologist.org/2019/jan/14/facial-recognition-combat-wildlife-trafficking>

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CONTACT:	For questions or additional data/analysis relevant to this alert, or to report suspicious shipments or indicators of wildlife trafficking activity, please visit the Taskforce Portal at <a href="http://www.taskforcewildlife.org">www.taskforcewildlife.org</a> or contact the UfW Transport Taskforce at <a href="mailto:info@unitedforwildlife.org">info@unitedforwildlife.org</a>
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