



Current Status of Trafficking Transportation Methods in Play During the COVID-19 Emergency

Air • CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

- In mid-March broker informs Wildlife Justice Commission operative that “all airlines have stopped carrying live animals”.
- The fear of quarantine was also a considered risk from a trafficker who reported to a Wildlife Justice Commission operative “when you fly to another country, they will quarantine you”.
- Clearance at airports facilitated by corrupt / complicit customs officers is not as secure as it has been in the past.
- Delay in products being received, meaning suppliers cannot service their business.



Ship • CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

- Transportation via sea is likely to be an alternative option as transportation by air becomes impossible.
- Products are still arriving / or due to arrive via sea as they were sent pre-lockdown.
- Example: Malaysian authorities seize record 6 tonnes of African pangolin scales on 31 March.
- Intelligence reported that ivory was smuggled into Ho Chi Minh City by sea, in late March.

Road • CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

- Many roadblocks and increased security at check points on land borders (such as between Malaysia and Thailand).
- Some brokers and couriers are continuing to offer delivery ‘by road’, albeit at a reduced rate.
- Products can still successfully make it over the borders (recent pangolin scale seizures in China were smuggled by land from Vietnam).
- From mid-April traffickers begin to state: “the road will be opening up soon”.