



AIRCOP

AIRPORT COMMUNICATION PROJECT

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AIRCOP and trafficking during the COVID-19

The current pandemic has given rise to increased trafficking in falsified medical products (gloves, facemasks, hand sanitizers or antiviral medication). Indeed, organized criminal groups seek to make profits out of urgent needs and to “fly under the radar” while law enforcement agencies focus on more pressing issues. In the past weeks, illicit commodities have been found in shipments of medical products destined to the fight against COVID-19 and seizures made on repatriation flights for tourists stranded abroad. To contribute to the fight against such trafficking, AIRCOP Joint Airport Interdiction Task Forces (JAITFs) are part of the specific CENcomm established by the World Customs Organization for the collection and dissemination of information and intelligence on falsified medical products and other material. The JAITFs also build on previous trainings received as well as on their involvement in joint operations INTERPOL Lionfish (2018) or WCO CRIMPHAR (2019).

AIRCOP and trafficking in wildlife and natural resources

On April 22nd, for Earth Day, UNODC launched the *Wildlife Crime - Pangolin scales* report. The pangolin is the most trafficked mammal around the globe and is currently the most accredited intermediary for transmission of the new COVID-19 coronavirus from bats to humans (however the debate is still ongoing). In the past years, AIRCOP JAITFs have seized 1.8 tons of pangolin scales, including 600 kg of pangolin scales destined to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and seized in October 2019 in Niamey, Niger. [Read more about the report: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/wildlife.html>].

AIRCOP also contributes to fighting trafficking in natural resources, in particular since the discovery of a gold vein in the Sahel, crossing Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali, had led to an increased number of attacks on gold mining sites by armed groups using gold as a source of funding criminal or terrorist activities. AIRCOP task forces recorded different seizures amounting to up to 269 kg of gold in Niamey, Niger; Bamako, Mali and Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

AIRCOP and E-Learning



AIRCOP adapts to these unprecedented times by complementing its capacity building activities with E-learning. In coordination with UNODC Global E-learning programme, AIRCOP is developing a blend of self-pace learning modules and thematic webinars that will enable JAITFs around the globe to continue reinforcing their capacities in spite of current travel restrictions. In cooperation with external partners and UNODC colleagues, experts from the AIRCOP network across the globe will moderate sessions covering intelligence collection, risk analysis and sharing of assessments for the implementation of appropriate targeting measures, using data sources such as passenger manifests, Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR); behavioural detection, the use of WCO’s CENcomm platform as well as trafficking by air cargo.

WHO considerations for managing COVID-19 cases in aviation



For airports still operating or planning to reopen in the coming weeks and months, the World Health Organization (WHO) has prepared a document summarizing the operational considerations for managing COVID-19 cases for outbreak in aviation. This document includes advice for staff operating in airports or aircrafts on the management of a suspected case along with the identification and management of contacts of suspected cases. In the coming weeks, the personnel of the Joint Airport Interdiction Task Forces will be sensitized on the respect of these standards in order to prevent contamination, especially while performing inspections and seizures.

Find out more: <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/331488/WHO-2019-nCoV-Aviation-2020.1-eng.pdf>