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# **TRANSPORT TASKFORCE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN**

**01 December 2018**

Serial: TIB004

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## **LATEST TASKFORCE ALERTS**

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

**New Taskforce Alert** (1 Dec 2018 – Maritime & Air Cargo)

### **Stone (Rough Stone, Quartz, and Jade) a Concealment Method for Illicit Ivory and Rhino Horn**

The use of stone (especially rough stone, stone quartz, and/or rough jade) is a common tactic in current use as a concealment for illegal ivory and rhino horn in maritime and air cargo shipments, especially from ports in eastern and southern Africa.

In many cases, traffickers attempt to conceal illicit ivory in fake quartz, jade, or other 'stones' constructed out of silicon, plaster, or other composite materials, often reportedly using molds imported into Africa for explicitly this purpose. These fake stones are made to look similar to real stones in shape and color, although in most cases they are distinguishable from one another upon visual inspection. Fake stones concealing illicit wildlife contraband are typically then crated alongside real pieces of stone and packaged into shipping container units for export.

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

- Country of Origin: MOZAMBIQUE, MALAWI, SOUTH AFRICA
- Description of Goods: STONE, STONE QUARTZ, ROUGH STONE, ROUGH JADE, or similar
- Other Factors: Shipments of stone between Africa and Asia with an illogical or unclear business purpose, or anomalies in shipping documentation. Stone pieces that appear to be fake or modified.

View/Download Alert:

<https://www.taskforcewildlife.org/alert/stone-rough-stone-quartz-and-jade-a-concealment-method-for-illicit-ivory>

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INTELLIGENCE-LED COLLECTIVE ACTION

*Taskforce success stories and best practice case studies*

**Law Enforcement Investigation Aided by Taskforce Member Organization:** In late November 2018, a taskforce member organization provided useful and valuable information to a law enforcement investigation into a wildlife trafficking network in West Africa.

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RECENT NEWS

**Eel trafficking in the EU, the world's 'biggest wildlife crime'** Phys.org

<https://phys.org/news/2018-11-eel-trafficking-eu-world-biggest.html>

**Study: Companies Are Taking Unstructured Approach to Corruption in Global Supply Chains**

Material Handling & Logistics (MH&L)

<https://www.mhlnews.com/global-supply-chain/companies-are-taking-unstructured-approach-corruption>

**Parts of Asia are slipping into the hands of organized crime** CNN

<https://edition.cnn.com/2018/11/14/opinions/asia-organized-crime-intl/index.html>

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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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