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DATE: 1 November 2017  
SERIAL: AM-01112017  
COUNTRIES: Mozambique, Asia, Global

**ALERT ---- MARITIME**

SUBJECT: **Port of Pemba, Mozambique Vulnerable to Illicit Wildlife Trafficking**

DATA: The port at Pemba, Mozambique (UN/LOCODE: MZPMA) is highly vulnerable to illicit wildlife trafficking activity, in particular related to the illegal export of elephant ivory, timber, and rhino horn. Numerous cases of wildlife trafficking originating from Pemba have been documented in recent years and open source and confidential reporting indicates that this activity continues as of publication of this alert.

**Modus Operandi:**

According to open and confidential sources, wildlife trafficking networks are able to consistently export large and small quantities of illegal ivory, timber, and rhino horn out of the Port at Pemba, Mozambique, often allegedly in collusion with corrupt port personnel.

The following current critical trends related to illicit wildlife trafficking out of the port of Pemba, Mozambique are evident in open source, NGO, and law enforcement reporting:



- **TRAFFICKERS SHIFTING TO MOZAMBIQUE:** Ivory traffickers appear to be shifting illicit ivory export activities to Mozambique as a result of improved enforcement efforts in neighboring Tanzania. In particular, reports cite that Chinese expatriates, businessmen and companies who were previously involved in the trade in sea-cucumbers in Tanzania are now increasingly involved in ivory smuggling in Pemba.
- **TIMBER EXPORTS KEY RISK:** Illegal export of timber is reportedly a particular problem out of Pemba port, both as an illicit activity itself and as a concealment method for shipments of illegal elephant ivory. Multiple seizures have occurred in which timber

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originating in Pemba have also concealed illegal ivory, rhino horn, and other wildlife products.

- **ALLEGED CORRUPTION / LOW CAPACITY:** According to published NGO reports, the port of Pemba lacks relevant capacity and is vulnerable to corruption among port and customs personnel. Numerous allegations of corruption against port and customs officials working at Pemba port have been published in open source media and NGO reports, often citing extensive collusion between port officials and export companies connected to the Chinese market. In addition, the port of Pemba reportedly lacks scanners or other equipment to facilitate the detection of illegal shipments.
- **CONVERGENCE WITH OTHER ILLICIT TRADE:** The port of Pemba is reportedly also a site of other illicit activities, in particular the importation of heroin originating from Afghanistan and Pakistan and the illegal exportation of gems, primarily rubies.



*Seizure in Cambodia of 640 elephant tusks and tusk pieces, 10 cheetah skulls, 82 kg of cheetah bones, and 137 kg of pangolin scales concealed in timber which originated in the port of Pemba, Mozambique. The shipment had a declared recipient of Cam Transit Import Co. Ltd., and was destined for China. (December 2016. Photo: Phnom Penh Forestry Administration)*

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**Geography:**

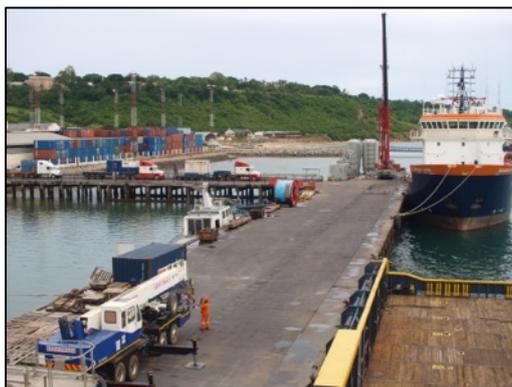
The Port of Pemba (Porto de Pemba) is located in the northern Mozambican province of Cabo del Gado at coordinates 12°57'59.39"S 40°29'13.90"E. Based on available evidence, shipments containing illegal wildlife shipments originating from Pemba port are generally destined for ports in Asia, sometimes via other ports in East Africa, the Middle East, or Asia. Illicit wildlife trafficking shipments originating from Pemba have been documented along the following specific routes:

- Pemba >> Phnom Penh, Cambodia >> China (no further information)
- Pemba >> Mombasa, Kenya >> Singapore >> Busan, South Korea >> Hong Kong >> Shanghai

**Red Flags:**

Although traffickers regularly modify their tactics and routings to avoid detection, the following, especially in combination with one another, may indicate a higher risk of wildlife trafficking activity related to shipments originating in Pemba Port, Mozambique:

- Declared shippers or recipients that have been implicated in previous wildlife trafficking activity.
- Shipments declared as timber.
- Shipments with declared destinations in Cambodia or China.
- Shipments with an illogical or unclear business purpose.



*Port of Pemba*

(Photos: Left: 2013, Tim Wittig; Right: 2017, GoogleEarth)

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**ACTIONS:** This alert is assessed as most relevant to the general categories of action checked below.  
\*\*All decisions and actions informed by this alert are the sole responsibility of the receiving organization\*\*

- Conduct reasonable checks on shipments fitting a similar profile
- Execute / enhance internal controls or procedures relevant to this information
- Report / share information to customs / law enforcement
- Information has potential security implications for company employees

**SOURCE:** This advisory is based on UfW Transport Taskforce analysis of recent enforcement actions as well as open source and confidential reporting from partners. We have *high* confidence in the reliability and validity of this information, with the following caveat: the data upon which this analysis is based is exclusively anecdotal and is therefore inherently limited to available information and likely incomplete.

**PRIORITIES:** This alert is related to the following Transport Taskforce information sharing priorities (checked):

- Wildlife trafficker networks, behavior, intentions, and operational tactics and strategy
- Indicators of suspicious or higher risk activity ('red flags') related to wildlife trafficking
- Data potentially reportable to or shareable with law enforcement
- Security/physical risks and vulnerabilities to transport company operations, facilities, or staff
- Unintentional facilitation of illegal wildlife demand or retail trade

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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 contact the UfW Transport Taskforce:  
[transport@unitedforwildlife.org](mailto:transport@unitedforwildlife.org)

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