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WWF report informs transport sector about tools to combat illegal wildlife trafficking

The "Preventing and detecting wildlife trafficking on maritime, aerial and postal/courier transport chains: An analysis of innovative solutions with the potential to support law enforcement and compliance efforts" produced by WWF France and GOHA identifies five detection categories: ionising radiation, nuclear material, non-ionising radiation, trace and acoustic. These can be sub-divided into over 60 inspection tools ranging from the extraordinary noses of detection dogs to short-wave infrared imaging.

Methods, results and suitability for detecting contraband on containerised cargo as well as road and air shipment, on people, in luggage and parcels are explained. Means of deployment, portable, fixed or hand held as well as efficiency and key aspects such as safety and non-invasive vs invasive are also set out. The report also looks at additional tools such as environmental DNA, information sharing tools and training resources. There are case studies for detection dogs, computed tomography, artificial intelligence combined with 3D scanning, environmental DNA, smart containers, an electronic nose, mass spectrometry and the Europol innovation lab.



"illegal trade in wild animals and plants is still rampant and exploits legitimate transport operations. In the era of increased, faster and safer connectivity between territories across the globe, supported by data and the digitalisation of transport processes, innovative techniques are being explored, pilot-tested or made available to detect contraband. Some of these technologies and tools, such as canine units or specific scanning tools, are already providing successful results in disrupting wildlife trafficking efforts."



ionising radiation



nuclear material
detection



non-ionising
radiation



trace detection



acoustic

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LINK:

<https://tinyurl.com/5aw43r89>

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