

## news feed

11/08/2015

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### Sensor technology sniffs out cargo pests

31/07/2015

Source [Google Alerts](#)

Global

#### Summary

Researchers are working on a method to detect a notorious insect pest in food cargo, without ever opening the container. Smaller than a grain of rice, the khapra beetle is listed as a high-risk cargo pest in Australia, while in the US it is the only stored product pest with quarantine status. Able to survive nearly anywhere if protected from cold temperatures, detection of the khapra beetle is particularly challenging as the beetle is capable of living years without food and can be found in non-food commodities such as textiles or packaging materials. The beetle can destroy a significant proportion of unprotected grains stores due to its 'dirty eating' behaviour, which sees the beetle eat only a little of a single grain before moving on to others. Contamination in food products also presents a food safety concern as the hairs associated with larvae and cast skins are potential allergens and respiratory hazards, particularly for young children.

While the research is still in its infancy, researchers have been able to distinguish between the warehouse beetle-infested and non-infested grain based on the response of the CSAs to the VOCs present in the headspace above the grain. The group expects to complete its first round of testing during the second half of 2015.

<http://www.foodprocessing.com.au/content/food-design-research/article/sensor-technology-sniffs-out-cargo-pests-683897855>

### **PRESS RELEASE: CITES Secretariat welcomes UN General Assembly Resolution on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife**

31/07/2015

Source [Twitter](#)  
[CITES](#)

Global

#### Summary

Geneva/New York, 30 July 2015: Concerned over the serious nature and the increasing scale of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its adverse economic, social and environmental impacts, and expressing particular concern over the steady rise in the level of rhino poaching and alarmingly high levels of killings of elephants in Africa, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted today a resolution on 'Tackling Illicit Trafficking in Wildlife'.

The UNGA Resolution expresses concern that illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora is in some cases an increasingly sophisticated form of transnational organized crime that poses a threat to health and safety, security, good governance and the sustainable development of States.

In welcoming the Resolution, the Secretary-General of CITES, John E. Scanlon, said: "The adoption of this UNGA Resolution reflects the heightened level of political concern over the devastating impacts of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife. It is particularly important in strengthening the political resolve to combat these serious crimes."

"The 25-member UN Group of Friends on Poaching and Illicit Wildlife Trafficking established in New York in December 2013 and co-chaired by Gabon and Germany has been instrumental in the preparation of the draft resolution. The two high level side events on poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking co-organized by Gabon and Germany in September 2013 and September 2014 in the margins of the UN General Assembly helped pave the way for the adoption of this Resolution today" added Scanlon.

The UNGA Resolution calls for firm and strengthened national measures, and an enhanced regional and global response. It is aimed at both supply and demand, including by strengthening the legislation necessary for the prevention, investigation and prosecution of offences, treating certain wildlife offences as a serious crimes, providing for illegal trade in wildlife offences to be treated as predicate offences (for anti-money laundering offences), supporting the exchange of evidence between States and taking steps to prohibit, prevent and counter corruption.

[https://cites.org/eng/unga\\_resolution\\_wildlife\\_trafficking\\_150730](https://cites.org/eng/unga_resolution_wildlife_trafficking_150730)

11/08/2015

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### Scientists call for ban on live salamander imports to US to stop skin-eating disease

31/07/2015

Source Google Alerts  
*The Guardian*

Global

#### Summary

The import of hundreds of thousands of live salamanders to the US each year should be banned to save wild salamanders from a deadly disease, scientists say.

They say the move is needed to stop the skin-eating fungal disease, *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (Bsal), from spreading via the pet trade to wild populations, where there is currently no effective way to control it.

The pathogen was identified in the Netherlands where it has been blamed for the extinction of yellow and black fire salamanders, and causing rapid salamander declines across Europe by eroding their skin and often proving fatal. It is believed to have originated in Asia.

Dr Vance Vredenburg of the University of California, Berkeley, the author of a paper published on Thursday which calls on the US Fisheries and Wildlife Service to implement an immediate ban, said: "Our study provides striking evidence that the introduction of Bsal to the US, the world's salamander biodiversity hotspot, could be devastating.

"Because we have caught it early, the US has the opportunity to make a difference and lead the way in implementing conservation action and developing effective responses to wildlife emerging infectious diseases." The study, published in the journal *Science*, highlights serious risks to wild salamanders in North America, which is home to 48% of the world's 676 salamander species. Almost 2m of the lizard-like creatures have been imported to the US since 2005, with around 99% coming from Hong Kong, China, Singapore and Japan.

The spread of Bsal to North American wild salamanders could have wider environmental knock-on effects.

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/jul/31/scientists-call-ban-live-salamander-imports-us-stop-skin-eating-disease>

**Snake in the Grass! Huge Everglades Python Shows Invasive Issue**

1/08/2015

Source [Twitter](#)  
*Live Science*

Global

Summary

A giant python — about as long as a shipping container — that was captured in Everglades National Park in Florida earlier this month has now been euthanized, authorities say. The accidental finding of this snake shows how easily even huge pythons can remain hidden in Florida's swampy south, experts say.

The huge python was hanging out on the side of a walking trail when a scientist scooped the animal up. The creature weighed a whopping 133 lbs. (60 kilograms), and at 18-feet, 3-inches (5.6 meters), was almost as long as the largest python ever captured in the state of Florida, which was 18-feet, 8-inches long (5.7 meters). Just last year, another huge python, measuring 18-foot, 2-inches long (5.5 meters) was shot and killed in the Everglades.

"The population is established and invasive in Florida, and probably all the Burmese pythons we find today were born in the wild in Florida," said Bryan Falk, a biologist who studies invasive species with the United States Geological Survey(USGS) at Everglades National Park. But despite efforts to fight the growing population of invasive snakes, the reptiles are still thriving.

<http://www.livescience.com/51716-giant-burmese-python-florida-2015.html>

## news feed

11/08/2015

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### Growers push for power to approve their fruit for export, to save money and increase efficiencies

1/08/2015

Source Google Alerts  
ABC News

Australia

#### Summary

Fruit growers want to conduct their own biosecurity inspections on fruit headed for export markets this summer. The proposal has been on the table for five years, with growers saying they are frustrated it is taking so long to approve a measure that will save them money and make them more efficient.

Phil Pyke from Fruit Growers Tasmania said it cost fruit growers a lot of money to have biosecurity inspection officers on their property. "There is the cost to the growers of employing Biosecurity Tasmania officers," he said. "And there's not a lot of flexibility in the inspection times, which are required at the peak of harvest."

For fruit growers to get access to lucrative markets like China and Japan their product must be free of pests and diseases. Growers said they wanted to train employees as authorised inspection officers. They said it would allow fruit to be inspected when it was ready for market, and save money. Cherry grower Howard Hansen said he was confident of ensuring high-quality inspections.

"We've got more to lose than anyone in this process if we lost a market for any reason," he said. "We have staff that have had years worth of experience doing this sort of stuff, and it's audited; it still has to be audited by the government."

He said it had been almost five years since the concept was first presented to the Federal Government and growers were still waiting for approval. "We're disappointed it hasn't happened already, but we're very optimistic of having it in place for this season," he said.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-08-01/growers-push-for-power-to-approve-their-fruit-for-export/6665526>

11/08/2015

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### The government's most macabre collection

1/08/2015

Source **Twitter**  
**CNN**

Global

#### Summary

Not far from Denver's abandoned Stapleton International Airport sits what's probably the saddest, most macabre collection of property owned by the U.S. government. Officially, it's called the National Wildlife Property Repository.

In reality, it holds thousands of confiscated animal items that Americans and others have tried to illegally import into the United States. There's shelf after shelf of tiger heads, and even a stuffed tiger fetus. There are tons of crushed ivory, bizarre and worthless medicines made from illegally poached and imported animals. There are dozens of ivory horns from elephants. And there are horns from the endangered black rhino. There's even a baby rhino hoof, made into a pencil holder.

The repository stores the items for teaching and educational purposes, and it destroys anything beyond that. Most of what is confiscated is destroyed. All the items in the repository are no longer part of any investigation or prosecution.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/07/31/us/illegal-animal-trade/index.html>

## news feed

11/08/2015

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### Inside the complicated world of online wildlife trafficking

3/08/2015

Source Twitter

Global

*The Guardian*

#### Summary

You've heard of Cecil's dentist killer, but for many other lions, elephants, rhinos and tens of thousands of other exotic animals, internet marketplaces like eBay and Craigslist are the biggest threat

If you live in the continental US, have \$4,850 and an internet connection, this large, full-body, mounted African lion, with a shaggy red mane, can be yours.

"This is a fantastic buy for someone who wants a good Lion," the eBay ad reads. "This mount will make an awesome decoration in any home, office, hunting lodge, lake house, lodge homes, cabin, bar, etc."

The listing makes no mention of how the animal was procured, nor whether it was legally imported. So perhaps this stuffed, reclining lion for \$870 is better suited to the discerning trophy-buyer. Its seller, African Game Industries, assures you that this lion was imported with all of the necessary permits and was inspected by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). It does not offer to produce the paperwork.

On Thursday, in the wake of public outcry over the illegal killing of Zimbabwe's most recognizable lion, Cecil, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution to act on illegal hunting.

[http://www.theguardian.com/vital-signs/2015/aug/03/cecil-lion-ivory-online-wildlife-trafficking-ebay?CMP=share\\_btn\\_tw](http://www.theguardian.com/vital-signs/2015/aug/03/cecil-lion-ivory-online-wildlife-trafficking-ebay?CMP=share_btn_tw)

11/08/2015

### Media Release: Nominations for 2016 Australian Biosecurity Awards now open

3/08/2015

Source Twitter

DAFF

Australia

#### Summary

Minister for Agriculture, Barnaby Joyce, called on Australians to nominate individuals and businesses for the 2016 Australian Biosecurity Awards which recognise excellence in efforts to keep Australia's biosecurity system strong. Minister Joyce said a strong biosecurity system protects our human, animal and plant health against exotic pests and diseases such as Asian honey bees, rabies, foot-and-mouth disease and screw-worm fly among many others, which if introduced would be potentially devastating for our nation.

"The Australian Biosecurity Awards recognise individuals, groups and organisations that show a commitment to working with the Department of Agriculture to support and promote Australia's biosecurity, onshore, offshore and at the border, and the systems that underpin it," Minister Joyce said. There are three award categories, the Australian Biosecurity Award – Industry; the Australian Biosecurity Award – Government; and the David Banks Biosecurity Lifetime Achievement Award.

The awards recognise businesses, industry and government organisations, teams and individuals that:

- design, implement and/or lead biosecurity reform initiatives within their organisation and/or industry sector to support Australia's biosecurity integrity
- demonstrate significant biosecurity integrity and raise biosecurity awareness within their operations and/or industry sector
- collaboratively work with the department to manage biosecurity risk
- identify, report and/or lead the management of a disease outbreak or pest incursion
- report suspicious activities that may be of biosecurity concern
- make an outstanding contribution to protecting or maintaining animal or plant health
- raise awareness of Australia's biosecurity requirements offshore.

The David Banks Biosecurity Lifetime Achievement Award recognises individuals, teams or organisations who have made an outstanding contribution beyond their normal duties to Australian biosecurity over a sustained period of time. "The Australian Biosecurity Awards are a great way to recognise the efforts of people who go beyond the call of duty to help protect our nation's environment, human, animal and plant health," Minister Joyce said.

"Making sure Australia remains free of many of the exotic pests and diseases prevalent in other countries is an enormous job but it's one that can save farmers up to \$17,500 per farm per year. "It's a job that requires the help of the whole community to succeed and so it's very important to highlight the efforts individuals and businesses have made in maintaining Australia's clean, green trading status."

Nominations are open until 30 September 2015.

<http://www.agricultureminister.gov.au/pages/media-releases/nominations-for-2016-aba-now-open.aspx>

## news feed

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### The Dingo Debate: Origins, Behaviour and Conservation

3/08/2015

Source [Twitter](#)  
[CSIRO](#)

Australia

#### Summary

The Dingo Debate explores the intriguing and relatively unknown story of Australia's most controversial animal – the dingo. Throughout its existence, the dingo has been shaped by its interactions with human societies. With this as a central theme, the book traces the story of the dingo from its beginnings as a semi-domesticated wild dog in South-east Asia, to its current status as a wild Australian native animal under threat of extinction. It describes how dingoes made their way to Australia, their subsequent relationship with Indigenous Australians, their successful adaption to the Australian landscape and their constant battle against the agricultural industry. During these events, the dingo has demonstrated an unparalleled intelligence and adaptable nature seen in few species. The book concludes with a discussion of what the future of the dingo in Australia might look like, what we can learn from our past relationship with dingoes and how this can help to allow a peaceful co-existence.

The Dingo Debate reveals the real dingo beneath the popular stereotypes, providing an account of the dingo's behaviour, ecology, impacts and management according to scientific and scholarly evidence rather than hearsay. This book will appeal to anyone with an interest in Australian natural history, wild canids, and the relationship between humans and carnivores.

<http://www.publish.csiro.au/pid/7138.htm>

11/08/2015

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### UN puts wildlife crime on a par with drug and people trafficking

3/08/2015

Source Twitter  
*New Scientist*

Global

#### Summary

A new agreement between 193 countries is set to clamp down on wildlife crime.

Last week's UN resolution upgraded the seriousness of such crime, putting it on a par with trafficking people and arms – a development that campaigners hope will take the issue out of its environmental niche and make it a priority for every nation.

“Wildlife crime is not going to be a soft touch for criminals anymore,” says Sabri Zain, director of advocacy at TRAFFIC, an international organisation monitoring illegal trade in ivory, rhino horn and other wildlife parts. “From now on, it will be taken seriously by the organisations that currently deal with the trafficking of drugs, arms and people.”

The UN resolution has been three years in the making and builds on a declaration last year in London. It calls on governments to broaden the resources and legal tools they commit to tackling wildlife crime.

“For years now, wildlife crime has been viewed by criminal syndicates as a high-profit, low-risk activity, not least because penalties for those caught have been minuscule,” says Zain.

Often, adds Zain, the same gangs and syndicates smuggling drugs or arms are those engaged in wildlife crime, and governments have now recognised that tackling wildlife crime may help them crack down on the other illegal activities.

To that end, the resolution calls for additional resources to go to international organisations that fight global organised crime, such as Interpol, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Customs Organization.

The involvement of the syndicates has dramatically increased the scale of elephant and rhino poaching, and associated violence towards the conservation rangers. Fewer than 20 rhinos were poached in South Africa in 2007, but last year saw a record 1215 poached.

“In calling for wildlife crime to be treated as a serious crime, both nationally and across borders, the resolution sends a clear signal to organised criminal networks involved in this illicit trafficking that their time will soon be up,” says Achim Steiner, director of the UN Environment Programme.

[https://www.newscientist.com/article/dn27995-un-puts-wildlife-crime-on-a-par-with-drug-and-people-trafficking/?utm\\_source=twitter&utm\\_medium=post&utm\\_term=wildlife%20crime.UN&utm\\_campaign=For](https://www.newscientist.com/article/dn27995-un-puts-wildlife-crime-on-a-par-with-drug-and-people-trafficking/?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=post&utm_term=wildlife%20crime.UN&utm_campaign=For%20ests&_surl_=lgtYs&_ots_=1439163941602&_step_=1)

## news feed

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### In praise of invasive species

3/08/2015

Source Twitter  
ABC News

Global

#### Summary

Respected British science journalist and author Fred Pearce says too much time and money are spent trying to fight an unwinnable war against foreign environmental invaders, when the evidence suggests they often bring more good than harm. His latest book is called 'The New Wild: Why Invasive Species Will Be Nature's Salvation'.

Listen online

[http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/futuretense/in-praise-of-invasive-species/6668836?utm\\_content=buffer00c&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter.com&utm\\_campaign=buffer](http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/futuretense/in-praise-of-invasive-species/6668836?utm_content=buffer00c&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer)

11/08/2015

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### Christchurch company fined for container breach

3/08/2015

Source Google Alerts

Global

#### Summary

A Christchurch business has been fined more than \$16,000 after dumping contaminated soil from an imported shipping container into a city council bin.

The business was convicted in the Christchurch District Court last Wednesday for breaching the Biosecurity Act.

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) said the company failed to allow a container of imported goods to be opened and checked by an accredited person in a specified biosecurity area.

An MPI spokesman would not name the company because it was in the process of being sold but said it specialised in the biosecurity clearance of sea containers and was a "transitional facility" that had a designated area for the inspection of sea containers.

The shipping container involved in the breach carried kitchen appliances with wooden packaging material, and was destined for a Christchurch importer.

The company inspected and opened the container at the importer's nearby premises instead of at its own designated biosecurity area.

It also removed contaminated soil from the shipping container and dumped it into a Christchurch City Council bin.

MPI later secured and destroyed the contaminated soil.

Southern investigation manager John Gibson said organisms brought into New Zealand accidentally or illegally could have major consequences for the country's agriculture and environment sectors.

"Actions such as this where procedures are not followed and operators do not comply with their duties are irresponsible, and a breach of the trust that MPI places on approved operators in the biosecurity sector," he said.

The company was fined \$16,750 for the breach.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/better-business/70790292/christchurch-company-fined-for-container-breach>

## news feed

11/08/2015

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### Man fined for smuggling birds' nests

3/08/2015

Source Google Alerts  
*Radio New Zealand*

Global

#### Summary

Tian Chi Lee pleaded guilty in the Manukau District Court to a Biosecurity Act charge of knowingly attempting to possess unauthorised goods - 68 dried birds' nests. Bird's nests are a Chinese delicacy made from the saliva secretions of the swiftlet bird. Swiftlets can carry avian diseases not found in this country. The Ministry for Primary Industries said the birds' nests were found in a package sent from Malaysia in January marked as biscuits. Mr Lee admitted his brother in Malaysia had sent the birds' nests to a fictitious person because both men knew they were not allowed in New Zealand.

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/280371/man-fined-for-smuggling-birds'-nests>

### Surge in pests in past year prompts tighter biosecurity for island visitors

4/08/2015

Source Google Alerts

Global

#### Summary

New Zealand's island sanctuaries have been invaded by pests a record number of times in the past year.

The breaches, involving mice, a stoat and a cat, have sparked tighter biosecurity measures to ensure the protection of the many endangered species sheltering on the islands.

Pests had managed to reach island sanctuaries about 20 times in the past year, which was about 20 per cent more than in the worst year to date, Department of Conservation threat manager Andy Cox told Fairfax Media on Monday.

There were many reasons for the increase, he said, including a rise in visitor numbers as DOC pushed for greater links with the community and sponsors.

Cox will present a report about the issue to the New Zealand Conservation Authority at a two-day meeting starting on Tuesday in Wellington.

A stoat was found in a trap on Rangitoto Island, and a cat on an island sanctuary in the Bay of Islands. And earlier this year, mice populations were detected on Adele and Tonga islands in Abel Tasman National Park, which had become pest-free several years earlier.

A targeted mice eradication programme was planned for both islands next winter.

"It's a hell of a lot of work," Cox said. "It's akin to a fire. When the flames start burning – you've got a pest on an island – you've got to roll out the big guns."

The rodents' arrival was probably a result of last year's tree mast or fruiting, which had caused a spike in mice numbers on the mainland, he said.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/70781254/surge-in-pests-in-past-year-prompts-tighter-biosecurity-for-island-visitors>

11/08/2015

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### Density-impact functions for terrestrial vertebrate pests and indigenous biota: Guidelines for conservation managers

4/08/2015

Source Google Citation Alerts  
*Biological Conservation*

Global

Summary

Abstract

The relationship between the density of a pest and its impact on a valued resource is critical for cost-effective management. Despite their simplistic representation of dynamic and often complex systems, density-impact functions (DIFs) are appealing because they provide managers with tangible goals for pest control. Historically, these relationships have focused on agricultural resources: relatively few have been quantified for conservation assets. We provide empirical evidence for six theoretical forms of DIF. Linear functions are the default condition based on the notion that some conservation benefit will result from any level of pest control, but they comprised less than one fifth of DIFs reviewed. More than half were strongly non-linear, with substantial benefits for indigenous species when pests were suppressed to low levels. Recovery of species, however, is usually a function of multiple processes, not just removal of pests, and recovery tends to be place- and time-specific. Thus, guidelines to help conservation managers derive and use DIFs in ways that maximise their value without overextending their utility are: 1) minimise influences of factors other than pests; 2) where necessary, undertake site-specific experiments, rather than generalising from other studies; 3) use time scales that recognise delays for biota to adjust to pest control; 4) measure instantaneous responses (e.g. demographic rates) as early indicators; and 5) use DIFs to guide short-term pest management, and trophic-interactive modelling for longer-term management. DIFs derived and used in this way are a significant improvement over unguided biodiversity management, and provide managers with an evidence base for decision-making.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0006320715300380>

11/08/2015

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### Exotic birds and tortoises seized from wildlife smugglers off Johor coast

5/08/2015

Source [Twitter](#)

Global

#### Summary

Marine police rescued 77 exotic birds and 255 tortoises during a raid in the waters off Teluk Ramunia in Sungai Rengit here yesterday.

The Region Two (southern region) police also detained two suspects, aged 41 and 56, for smuggling wildlife.

The raiding team also seized a boat and its engine. The seizures were estimated to be worth about RM94,000.

Region Two marine police commander Assistant Commissioner Paul Khiu Khon Chiang said a team on routine patrol in Teluk Ramunia stumbled upon a suspicious boat that was going towards the open sea about 6.30pm.

“Upon noticing the patrol vessel, the suspect’s boat abruptly made a turn back to the coast and the two men fled on land.”

Khiu said the patrol craft immediately alerted a marine police team on land to intercept the suspects, one of whom was identified as an Indonesian national.

At the same time, he said the patrol vessel entered the suspect’s boat and found the exotic wildlife packed in 15 plastic boxes and two fabric carriers.

Khiu said police had initiated investigations under the Wildlife Conservation Act 2010, the Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants Act (Atipsom) 2007 and the Immigration Act 1959.

<http://www.therakyatpost.com/news/2015/08/05/exotic-birds-and-tortoises-seized-from-wildlife-smugglers-off-johor-coast/>

## news feed

11/08/2015

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### Review of government fox policy in South Australia

5/08/2015

Source Twitter  
DEWNR

Australia

#### Summary

South Australian land owners and community and industry organisations are being invited to have their say on a draft South Australian Government fox policy.

The fox is a highly mobile pest and its effective management requires participation by both private and public landholders. Fox management directly benefits the whole community.

Scientific studies have shown that the most effective approach to fox management is coordinated baiting across multiple properties, tenures and land uses, with a focus on a shared outcome (e.g. increase lambing percentages, recovery of threatened species).

The draft policy seeks to maintain high levels of voluntary fox management by ensuring government, industry and the community recognise their shared roles and responsibilities for fox management and collaborate where required at state, regional and local levels.

To ensure your views are considered, please make a submission using the online form below, or by posting, emailing or faxing the printable feedback form to:

Mark Williams  
Senior Biosecurity Advisor, Pest Animals  
NRM Biosecurity, PIRSA  
GPO Box 1671  
Adelaide SA 5001  
Email: mark.williams9@sa.gov.au  
Fax: 08 8303 9555

If you have any questions about how to make a submission, please call the PIRSA NRM Biosecurity unit on 08 8303 9620.

Community consultation closes:  
Friday 25 September 2015

<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/haveyoursay/fox-strategy-review-.VcLjE7O3JVY.twitter>

### Man selling baby orangutans on Facebook arrested in Sumatra

6/08/2015

Source [Twitter](#)

Global

#### Summary

A wildlife trafficker was arrested in a sting in Indonesia's Aceh province after trying to sell three baby Sumatran orangutans through Facebook.

Authorities apprehended the 29-year-old man, a student at a local state-run university, after conservationists from the Centre for Orangutan Protection engaged him on the social media platform and learned where the critically endangered animals were being stored.

Besides the orangutans, the suspect was found with two red-backed sea eagles (*Haliastur indus*); a great argus (*Argusianus argus*), which is a type of pheasant; and a taxidermied Sunda clouded leopard (*Neofelis diardi*).

Trafficked Sumatran orangutans (*Pongo abelii*) usually come from Aceh, according to Daniek Hendarto, manager of the COP's wildlife crime unit.

The creatures, he said, are usually bought locally for 1 million rupiah (\$74) and then resold in Medan, the capital of neighboring North Sumatra province, for from 5 million to 10 million rupiah. "In Java they can fetch from 40 million to 100 million rupiah," he added. "If they're sold outside the country, like in Singapore or Malaysia, they can go for 400 million rupiah."

Mirwazi, spokesman for the Aceh Police, said that the trafficker had confessed to selling two orangutans in July for 7.5 million rupiah each and that the man would be prosecuted under the 1990 Conservation Law.

According to the Facebook page of the Sumatran Orangutan Society, a U.K.-based organization that assisted in the sting, the orangutans' mothers would have likely been killed to capture the babies, "a terrible reality of the illegal pet trade."

<http://jakarta.coconuts.co/2015/08/06/man-selling-baby-orangutans-facebook-arrested-sumatra>

## news feed

11/08/2015

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### Global invasion history of the tropical fire ant: a stowaway on the first global trade routes

6/08/2015

Source Twitter

Global

*Molecular Ecology*

Summary

Abstract

Biological invasions are largely thought to be contemporary, having recently increased sharply in the wake of globalization. However, human commerce had already become global by the mid-16th century when the Spanish connected the New World with Europe and Asia via their Manila galleon and West Indies trade routes. We use genetic data to trace the global invasion of one of the world's most widespread and invasive pest ants, the tropical fire ant, *Solenopsis geminata*. Our results reveal a pattern of introduction of Old World populations that is highly consistent with historical trading routes suggesting that Spanish trade introduced the tropical fire ant to Asia in the 16th century. We identify southwestern Mexico as the most likely source for the invasive populations, which is consistent with the use of Acapulco as the major Spanish port on the Pacific Ocean. From there, the Spanish galleons brought silver to Manila, which served as a hub for trade with China. The genetic data document a corresponding spread of *S. geminata* from Mexico via Manila to Taiwan and from there, throughout the Old World. Our descriptions of the worldwide spread of *S. geminata* represent a rare documented case of a biological invasion of a highly invasive and globally distributed pest species due to the earliest stages of global commerce.

<http://www.scoop.int/invasive-plants-by-robert-tanner-1>

### PestSmart Feral Flyer

6/08/2015

Source Invasive Animals CRC

Australia

*The Feral Flyer*

Summary

Inside this edition:

- Review of government fox policy in South Australia
- Would you eat feral cats, cane toads, or wild horses?
- Reclaiming our rivers from the stronghold of feral fish
- What's the latest in biocontrol for rabbits?
- Examination of the Import Risk Analysis (IRA) process

<http://us5.campaign-archive1.com/?u=6cfe22da6ed670c7a15d28b44&id=5a63cf6731>

## news feed

11/08/2015

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### Exotic ant-eating ant found browsing Darwin's Port

7/08/2015

Source [Twitter](#)  
*ABC Rural*

Australia

#### Summary

Biosecurity officers at the Darwin Port in the Northern Territory have discovered an illegal arrival, albeit a very small one. Browsing Ants were found near a shipping container within the port's quarantine area. The NT Department of Primary Industry is investigating how the foreign species travelled to Australia and where from. Chief plant health officer Stephen West said a response team is on the ground to prevent further spread.

"On our initial look, and it's only day two, we've got a very, very small area where we've been able to identify the ant," he said. "It's about two kilometres, the quarantine area in length, so we're starting the process of working through systematically, looking at that."

Mr West said the Browsing Ant is black in colour, about three millimetres in length and will eat and displace native ant species. Browsing Ants were first detected in Australia at the Perth Airport in 2013.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-08-07/exotic-ant-eating-ant-found-browsing-darwins-port/6681486>

11/08/2015

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### Q&A: Ecologists fear new Suez Canal plays 'Russian roulette' with the Mediterranean

7/08/2015

Source Google Alerts  
*Science Insider*

Global

#### Summary

At a lavish ceremony, Egypt yesterday unveiled what the government is calling its “gift to the world.” A new \$8.5 billion expansion of the Suez Canal will allow more ships to make the passage through the 193-kilometer-long waterway, and cut up to 8 hours off each voyage between the Red Sea and the Mediterranean. Suez Canal authorities hope the canal will increase annual revenue from \$5.3 billion in 2015 to \$13.2 billion by 2023.

Some marine biologists, however, aren't applauding the expansion. They note the Egyptian government pushed ahead with the project despite the lack of a thorough environmental risk assessment. And the increased ship traffic and 35 kilometers of new, deeper channels could make it easier for invasive species to move between the two water bodies, a group of 18 scientists warned last year in the journal *Biological Invasions*.

Already, researchers estimate that some half of the 700 nonindigenous organisms found in the Mediterranean Sea got there via the canal. Some have created extensive problems. Less desirable goldband goatfish have replaced economically valuable native red mullet, for example, while invasive jellyfish have clogged water intake pipes.

“I am not aware of any marine biologist who thinks opening the canal without implementing [measures to prevent the spread of invasive species] is a good idea,” Yoni Belmaker, an ecologist at Tel Aviv University in Israel, tells *ScienceInsider*. For example, scientists say engineers could have created one kind of barrier by creating areas with very salty water, which is inhospitable to many species.

Another researcher watching with concern is biologist James Carlton, a specialist in marine bioinvasions with Williams College's Williams-Mystic program in Mystic, Connecticut. He recently spoke with *ScienceInsider* about the expansion's potential impacts—and possible solutions. The interview has been edited for clarity and brevity.

<http://news.sciencemag.org/people-events/2015/08/qa-ecologists-fear-new-suez-canal-plays-russian-roulette-mediterranean>

## news feed

11/08/2015

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### AgriBio pest surveillance study blows back windborne pests

7/08/2015

Source Google Alerts

Australia

#### Summary

HORTICULTURAL pests and diseases are hitching a ride to Australia on transcontinental winds.

Victorian scientists are working to help protect Australia's horticulture industry by developing better surveillance strategies to prevent the establishment and spread of foreign windborne pests.

Department of Economic Development, Jobs Transport and Resources entomologists at the AgriBio centre in Bundoora, Melbourne, recently finished a review of the dangers of long distance wind dispersal of bugs and pathogens.

Invertebrate research leader Alan Yen said the research focused on identifying the location and timing of the major wind channels that transported high-risk pests and diseases.

"Wind channels flowing from New Zealand, Indonesia, PNG, South Africa and the Pacific can all carry high-risk pests, depending on the time of year," Dr Yen said. "And bugs can live for between two and six days on wind currents.

"The project involves gathering and using information regarding the timing and location of the first recorded arrivals of selected foreign pests and pathogens into Australia."

Dr Yen said better knowledge of the timing and location of winds could help biosecurity staff and farmers know when and how to monitor their crops for signs of foreign pests and diseases.

Past incursions from New Zealand include the currant lettuce aphid in 2004 and the giant pine aphid in 2014, which arrived during prolonged periods of easterly winds.

The tomato potato psyllid, which carries the devastating zebra chip pathogen, is one the highest risk foreign pest threats to the Australian horticultural industry.

<http://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/agribusiness/horticulture/agribio-pest-surveillance-study-blows-back-windborne-pests/story-fnker6g8-1227472229068>

11/08/2015

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### US Customs in Philadelphia intercepts three first in port pests

9/08/2015

Source [Twitter](#)

Global

#### Summary

A U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) entomologist confirmed Monday that U. S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Office of Field Operations (OFO) agriculture specialists recently discovered three new pests in the Philadelphia area.

The first two discoveries came on June 23 at the Pier 82 Warehouse in the Philadelphia Seaport when CBP agriculture specialists found *Synchlora* sp. (Geometridae), a type of moth, while inspecting a shipment of pineapples from Costa Rica and *Rhyssomatus strangulatus* (Curculionidae), a type of weevil, while inspecting another shipment of pineapples that came from Columbia. The third discovery came on July 10 at the Packer Avenue Marine Terminal when CBP agriculture specialists found *Brachypnoea* sp. (Chrysomelidae), a type of beetle, while inspecting a shipment of avocados from Peru.

The Lepidoptera family Geometridae contains over 35,000 species of moths and butterflies that can cause significant damage to leafy crops, perennials, trees and shrubs. Weevils belonging to the genus *Rhyssomatus* are known as agricultural pests of grape vines, sweet potatoes, and other plants. Beetles of the family Chrysomelidae, or Leaf Beetles, are considered agricultural pests with the potential to cause significant damage to native and cultivated plants.

“Intercepting destructive insect pests at our nation’s borders is of paramount concern to U.S. Customs and Border Protection,” said Susan Stranieri, CBP Area Port Director for Philadelphia. “CBP agriculture specialists are very serious about protecting America’s agriculture industry. They remain vigilant at intercepting invasive insect and plant species at our ports of entry.”

After discovery of the pests, CBP safeguarded each shipment and forwarded the specimens to USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) - Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) for identification. The local USDA entomologist identified the moth and weevil on June 25 as first in port pests and the beetle on July 14 also as a first in port pest. The USDA national entomologist confirmed the identifications Monday. Following local entomologist identification, each shipment of produce was fumigated, determined to be free of additional pests, and released.

CBP agriculture specialists work closely with USDA to protect our nation’s agriculture resources against the introduction of foreign plant pests and animal diseases.

For more information, visit the USDA’s APHIS-PPQ program webpage.

<http://www.ajot.com/news/us-customs-in-philadelphia-intercepts-three-first-in-port-pests>

## news feed

11/08/2015

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### Biosecurity Information Sessions 2015

10/08/2015

Source Google Alerts

*DAFF*

Australia

#### Summary

The Department of Agriculture will host a series of Biosecurity Information Sessions across Australia throughout September 2015.

The free sessions will be presented by senior representatives and subject matter experts from the department's Legislation, Approved Arrangements, BICON, Forestry and Pathway Compliance areas. Individual sessions will deliver detailed information on issues that will be of interest to Customs Brokers, non-commercial importers and vessel shipping agents and operators.

<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/australia/public-awareness/biosecuritysessions2015>