



# U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations



## ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES PROGRAM

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Commercial Fraud Unit (CFU) manages the environmental crimes program. This program involves investigations of the importation and exportation of endangered and non-native detrimental species; unapproved or non-compliant automobiles, machinery and other equipment; environmentally hazardous materials and chemicals; and prohibited and contaminated animal or vegetable food products and seafood fraud.



African Grey Parrot

ICE HSI's **Wildlife Trafficking** initiative focuses on investigations regarding the illegal trade of protected, endangered and non-native species. The Endangered Species Act of 1973 makes it unlawful for any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to import or export certain species into or from the United States or to possess, sell, deliver, carry, transport, or ship any species in interstate or foreign commerce. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service share responsibility for administration of the Endangered Species Act. ICE HSI utilizes its customs authorities to pursue criminal prosecutions when wildlife is smuggled over the border.

ICE HSI is also an active participant in the Presidential Task Force on Combating Wildlife Trafficking. The Task Force was established by presidential executive order to develop a National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking and to develop recommendations to include Wildlife Trafficking in the Administration's Strategy to Combat Transnational Organized Crime.

### **Non-Compliant Automobiles, Machinery and other Equipment**

ICE HSI investigates the illegal importation of automobiles, farm equipment, and engines that are smuggled or imported into the United States contrary to law to avoid Department of Transportation (DOT) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) safety and/or emissions standards.



Illegal Importation

### **Environmentally Hazardous Materials and Chemicals**

ICE HSI enforces federal laws and regulations intended to preserve air, land, and water resources by targeting the illegal importation and exportation of hazardous waste and ozone depleting substances. ICE HSI conducts many of these investigations in conjunction with the EPA and the DOT.



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### **Prohibited and Contaminated Animal or Vegetable Food Products and Seafood Fraud**

ICE HSI investigates the illegal import or export of prohibited and contaminated animal or vegetable food products and seafood fraud. On June 17, 2014, the White House released a Presidential Memorandum entitled "Establishing a Comprehensive Framework to Combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and Seafood Fraud." The Memorandum set up a Presidential Task Force on Combating IUU Fishing and Seafood Fraud. Though IUU fishing falls under the purview of the United States Coast Guard and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service, ICE HSI investigates seafood fraud. ICE HSI utilizes its customs authorities and foreign footprint to facilitate the collection of foreign evidence in this program.

