

# V. CUSTOMS CONTROLS AGAINST SMUGGLING OF OTHER ITEMS

There are other items prohibited from import and export under the Customs Act, in addition to illicit drugs, firearms, and goods infringing intellectual property rights. There are also items whose import and export are regulated under other domestic laws and regulations.

## 1. Smuggling Cases Involving CITES-listed Species

In 1973, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was adopted in Washington D.C. for the purpose of regulating international trade of endangered species and protecting them from extinction. This Convention is called the Washington Convention. The Convention covers not only live animals and plants as pets or for appreciation, but also processed products, such as stuffed animals, and coats and other clothes, handbags, belts, shoes, pieces of work, and Chinese medicines, etc. using animals and plants.

During the one-year period from January to December of 2019, Customs made accusations of 7 smuggling cases involving CITES-listed species.

### < Major smuggling cases involving CITES-listed species >

#### Smuggling of apes

Customs accused a Japanese man, who attempted to smuggle 10 baby apes, including Senegal bushbabies (galago family), from Thailand by air, of violating the Customs Act. (June 2019, Tokyo Customs)



Senegal bushbabies (galago family)

\*This is a rare species.



Common marmoset

### Smuggling of otters

Customs accused a Japanese man, who attempted to smuggle 2 Asian small-clawed otters from Thailand by air, of violating the Customs Act. (December 2019, Osaka Customs)



## 2. Cases of Illicit Export

There are specific cargo items whose export requires permission or approval under laws and regulations other than the Customs Act. The effectiveness of regulations under these laws and regulations is to be secured by linking them with the export permission system under the Customs Act. Customs made accusations of a total of 7 cases of illicit export during the one-year period from January to December of 2019.

### < Major cases of illicit export >

#### Illicit export of bovine embryos, etc.

Customs accused 3 Japanese men, who illicitly exported 130 straws containing bovine semen and 235 straws containing bovine embryos to China by a foreign trading vessel, of violating the Customs Act. (March and April 2019, Osaka Customs)

#### Illicit export to North Korea

Customs accused a Japanese man, who illicitly exported 620 packages of furniture, stove burners, washing machines, etc. to North Korea by pretending they were exports to Hong Kong, of violating the Customs Act. (August 2019, Osaka Customs)

## 3. Meat

The Act on Domestic Animal Infectious Diseases Control specifies imported cargo that must undergo quarantine and items prohibited from import for the purpose of preventing the entry and spread of domestic animal infectious diseases. A person who intends to import any regulated item must submit a certificate of import quarantine that was issued based on the inspection results of an animal quarantine service to Customs and obtain its confirmation regarding the fact that the item has passed an inspection as prescribed in the Act on Domestic Animal Infectious Diseases Control and that the person has obtained permission, etc. In August 2019, Customs made an accusation of a case of meat smuggling.

### Smuggling of meat

Customs accused 2 Japanese men, who attempted to smuggle approx. 83.7 kg of sausages made of meat from animals including cloven-hoofed animals and approx. 8.2 kg of cloven-hoofed animal meat from the Philippines by air, of violating of the Customs Act. (August 2019, Moji Customs)



## 4. Counterfeit Credit Cards, etc.

Under the Customs Act, counterfeits, forgeries, and imitations of coins, bills, bank notes, stamps, postal stamps, and securities, and counterfeit cards are specified as cargo that must not be imported. In June 2009, cards that would be made into counterfeit credit cards (blank cards) were added to articles prohibited from import. Customs made accusations of cases of counterfeit credit cards and blank cards.

### < Major smuggling cases of counterfeit credit cards, etc. >

#### Smuggling of counterfeit credit cards

Customs accused 2 Malaysian men, who attempted to smuggle 456 counterfeit credit cards from Malaysia by air, of violating the Customs Act. (January 2019, Hakodate Customs)



#### Smuggling of blank cards

Customs accused a Taiwanese man, who attempted to smuggle 750 cards that would be raw materials for counterfeit credit cards from Malaysia via Thailand by air, of violating the Customs Act. (February 2019, Moji Customs)

