Argentina

Another one bites the dust!

A rally car and its drivers participating in the Dakar rally are checked by a Customs officer and his dog as they arrive in Jujuy, a town located in the middle of the Argentine Puna region, close to the border with Bolivia.
Australia

Illegal fishing

Australian Border Force (ABF) officers intercept a Vietnamese-flagged vessel fishing illegally inside the Conservation Park Zone of the Coral Sea, located within Australia’s Exclusive Economic Zone, one of the largest in the world, exceeding a staggering 10 million square kilometres.

The officers found more than three tonnes of bêche-de-mer (sea cucumbers) on board as well as diving equipment. The vessel was impounded and its crew apprehended, and both were escorted to the nearest port for further investigation. The crew were later convicted of illegal fishing offences, and the vessel was destroyed.

ABF officers patrol a marine environment ranging from tropical conditions in the north, to the intense cold of the Southern Ocean. They combat various threats, including drug smuggling, illegal fishing, piracy, the dumping of waste, and marine pollution.
Austria

Dedication and focus

The Customs dogs of the Austrian Customs administration are highly trained in a variety of fields that include the recognition of drugs, cash, tobacco and CITES-protected species. Apart from that, they have all been trained to protect people too. Real canine colleagues, they are an essential and valued Customs resource. (Photo: BMF/citronenrot)
Azerbaijan

Even the most attractive offer is overshadowed by the oath of office.

Nothing can distract a Customs officer from performing his duties.
Belarus

The power of technology

The application of modern information technologies can significantly reduce the time needed to undertake Customs operations and controls.
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Come and see us in Bihać

Members of the team working at the Customs office in Bihać, in the North-West of the country, are proud of their professionalism and working culture. They are fully aware of the importance of their role in terms of collecting Customs duties, excise duties and VAT on imported products, as well as preventing the entry of prohibited goods and the illegal movement of people.
The Canada Border Services Agency will soon introduce a technology that enables mobile visualization of a variety of data elements related to traveller and commercial processing.
In the port of Iquique, the ship “Santa Rita” is checked from top to bottom. The operation, which lasted 32 hours, was initiated following information received from Peru and required dog/handler teams, police and Customs officers who inspected the entire vessel as well as 76 containers considered a risk by the targeting team.
China

Smart robots bring passengers closer to Customs

A 6-year old boy is very excited after seeing how the Smart Customs Robot named Xiaohai can recognize people before starting to interact with them. At the land port of Zhu Hai, on the border with Macau, smart robots have been deployed to recognize pre-targeted passengers by collecting and analysing their data. This initiative, which was launched on 1 October 2016, has enabled China Customs to make tangible progress in achieving efficient and effective border management at one of its busiest land ports, which welcomes over 300,000 passengers a day.
Colombia

“A life not lived for others is not a life” - Mother Teresa

This photo was taken on 24 November 2016, harvest day in the high plateaus near Bogota called the Sabana de Bogota. By participating in the harvest and helping the peasants, a volunteer from Colombian Customs demonstrates his commitment to help others, not only in his work, but also in his daily life, thus becoming a better public servant and a better human being – an attitude that the administration is promoting among its staff.
Denmark

The eyes of Customs look through anything, anywhere

Customs works 24/7/365 in “here and now” situations in places where access to travellers, cargo and means of transport may be difficult at times. This is why inspection equipment, such as mobile scanners, is essential to facilitate the checking of means of transport, travellers’ suitcases and hand luggage, or the travellers themselves, thereby ensuring swift and efficient work by Customs.
Dominican Republic

The “eyes” of Customs

An officer checks goods in a port in the Dominican Republic. Attentive to his work and concentrating on the details, he is the administration’s first line of defence. In essence, he is the “eyes” of Customs.
Finland

Lexi races at full speed

Drug detector dog Lexi exercises on the frozen sea in Sundom on the West Coast of Finland. (Photo: Customs officer Johan Hagström)
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Training on Lake Ohrid

Lake Ohrid straddles the mountainous border between the southwestern part of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and eastern Albania. Patrol boats have been used since 2009 to prevent people from attempting to smuggle contraband and illicit goods across the border via the lake. In May 2017, eight Customs officers attended a training session in order to join the patrol boat team.
Ghana

Document verification at the Port of Tema

An officer compares the information registered in the Ghana Community Management System with the information contained in the hard copy document submitted by a Customs broker. If the information reconciles, the officer forwards the information electronically to an examination officer, randomly chosen by the system.
Guatemala

Puerto Barrios under the moon
Hong Kong, China

Deep dedication

A diving team participates in the rummaging of a ship.
Hungary
Searching for Drugs
A dog/handler team searches a car for drugs.
Dog/handler teams are very important units in Customs when it comes to protecting the public, and especially in preventing the entry of dangerous goods, such as narcotics, through the flow of inbound international passengers and imported goods.
Iran

Advantages of the digital revolution

A Customs officer connects to the Customs clearance system while controlling air cargo at Imam Khomeini Airport in Tehran.
Ireland

Customs officers at dawn

Catriona Kenny and Casey ready for work.
Italy

High operational efficiency

The use of non-intrusive inspection equipment to carry out more effective controls is crucial to facilitate legitimate trade and ensure the protection of society.
Kazakhstan

**Experts conduct research on counterfeit goods**

Customs officers analyse goods to assess whether they are counterfeit. Such examinations are of critical importance in ensuring national security and in guaranteeing that only products of quality reach the end consumer.
Korea

Never miss a thing

Border protection requires real-time control over data and resources. The Customs Border Control Centre enables the Korea Customs Service (KCS) to do so. Equipped with cutting-edge technology, officers working at the Centre do not miss a thing as their IT system captures the flows of data related to passengers and cargo going through airports and seaports across the nation. The state-of-the-art IT system facilitates centralized analysis of information that was previously being kept in isolation by each regional Customs House. It is linked to UNI-PASS, KCS' e-clearance system, providing officers with visibility over a ship's voyage as it enters Korean ports. Additional features include real-time tracking of Korean-flagged vessels' location and information on all ships in the country's coastal waters. The latest version of UNI-PASS also enables bonded cargo to be controlled by means of real-time location tracking based on e-seal and GPS technologies. It also allows comprehensive risk management through the use of analytics tools to review all the data elements of a transaction.
Kyrgyzstan

No matter the weather, Customs still do their job

A Customs officer checks the shipping documents of a truck at Torugart, the Kyrgyz-Chinese road border crossing point. Although the photo was taken in May, the climatic conditions at 3,550 metres above sea level are still rough at this time. The winter lasts about 9 months in this region with temperature going below 40 degrees Celsius, and with frequent blizzards and snowstorms.
Lithuania
Daily multitasking

What kind of analysis methods do you need to handle four alpha males at the same time?
Malaysia

Looking beyond the visible

Drugs were discovered inside stuffed toys thanks to the data analysis activity performed by Customs enforcement officers.
Maldives

Inspection of a newly imported seaplane

All imported vessels, including seaplanes, must be inspected by Customs before being put into use. The seaplane fleet in the Maldives is the largest in the world, enabling tourists to be transferred from the airport to the hundreds of resorts scattered across the country.
Malta

The watchful eye of Customs

We are there to protect and serve by any means possible.
Mauritius

Using technology to strike the right balance between border protection and facilitation

Customs officers peruse scanned images of luggage at the airport. The luggage scanner is yet another non-intrusive tool used to detect drugs and illicit trafficking, which is of paramount importance in ensuring proper border protection.
Mexico

Customs in the 21st Century

From the Customs Electronic Data Processing Center located in Querétaro, the officers of SAT inspect foreign trade goods. Based on risk models and robust databases, consignments crossing Mexican borders hundreds of kilometres away are analysed in real time.
New Zealand

Protecting New Zealand

A traveller under the watchful eyes of New Zealand Customs officers during a baggage search at Auckland International Airport. It is not only travellers' luggage that comes under scrutiny, officers also assess their behaviour, demeanour and the credibility of their story.
Niger

Customs in action

Two officers discover truck tyres and batches of blankets concealed under mattresses.
Nigeria

Interception of 661 pump-action shotguns

The Comptroller General of Customs briefs the media on the seizure of 661 riffles, which were found in a container declared as containing steel doors.
Norway

A Customs officer at Svinesund on an autumn evening

Svinesund is the border crossing between Norway and Sweden with the most traffic. More than 15,000 vehicles cross the border every day. There are Customs officers on duty at Svinesund around the clock, ensuring the protection of society. But when this picture was taken on an autumn evening, no vehicles were crossing the border. (Photo: Thomas Haugersveen)
Peru

The diving team in action

Divers from the Customs service (SUNAT) climb a ship's rudder to inspect its upper cavity. SUNAT's Divers and Aquatic Actions Programme has been in existence since October 2012. The team is currently composed of nine officers. Their job requires commitment and courage, as well as specialized and thorough training, given the conditions under which they operate.
Russian Federation
Special Operations Forces

A member of the Special Operations Forces in action.
Saudi Arabia

Always on the move

A canine team discovered 876,421 kg of Captagon concealed in the front wheel of a road roller at Dhuba Seaport.
Serbian Customs officers are more successful than ever in combating cigarette smuggling. In 2016, they seized five times more cigarettes than in 2015. No matter where they are hidden, Customs will find them... even in the ceiling of a train compartment!
Singapore

Vigilance

Customs officers working at the Export Inspection Station exercise vigilance round-the-clock to ensure that cargo match the description declared in the export permits. To do this, they assess the legitimacy of the cargo to determine if it should be released or detained for further checks, such as scanning to detect anomalies as well as physical inspections.
Slovakia

Guardian angels in service

A dog and his handler check a suspicious truck in a parking lot at the border with the Czech Republic.
South Africa

Stopped in its tracks

In February 2017, Customs officials intercepted a Ferrari, worth over 1 million US dollars, which was being smuggled back into the country. The car had been stored in a bonded warehouse since 2014 because its owner had failed to follow correct import procedures, including paying the necessary Customs duties and VAT, until, in February 2017, the owner submitted an export declaration to take the car to the Democratic Republic of Congo through the Beitbridge border post between South Africa and Zimbabwe. A day later, he tried to reintroduce the car back into the country through the same border post. However, vigilant Customs officials picked this up and detained the vehicle until the owner makes representations to the South African Revenue Service.
Sudan

Human trafficking
Thailand

Elephant tusk trafficking

Customs officers set tusks in rows on the floor following their discovery. The tusks, which weighed approximately four tonnes, were concealed in bean sacks. Although trade in ivory has been banned since 1989 under the CITES, it continues illegally due to a strong demand.
United Arab Emirates

When the fight against smugglers goes amphibious

Customs inspectors on board an amphibious vehicle patrol the wooden ships docked in Dubai Creek. The solar-powered vehicle doubles as a mobile laboratory and is fitted with a range of equipment that allows the locating of potentially hazardous, prohibited or restricted substances being illicitly imported through the Creek. Its sensors can scan the perimeter and inside of a suspect vessel, which are often difficult to access. The vehicle can be used on both land and water, and provides for faster, safer, less intrusive and more efficient control.
Modernization is opening new opportunities for women

A female Customs officer explains the functionalities of the Regional Electronic Cargo Tracking System (RECTS) to journalists. Like many of her female colleagues, she was involved in the successful implementation of the transit monitoring system that will improve the sharing of information, strengthen Customs cooperation regionally, and reduce the clearance time for goods in transit. It is exciting to see women in Customs actively participating and playing leading roles in trade facilitation initiatives.
A beagle prepares for baggage duty

A beagle of the US Customs and Border Protection’s Office of Field Operations sits among training aids as it poses for a portrait at Philadelphia International Airport in Pennsylvania on 26 October 2016. Beagles are trained and used to search travellers’ luggage for agricultural contraband.
Vietnam

Anti-smuggling activities

Customs officers, in collaboration with officials from the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology, take samples from 105 elephant ivory pieces for verification purposes. The tusks, which weighed 97 kg in total, were seized on 22 April 2016 at Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi.
Zimbabwe

Electronic cargo tracking system: curbing smuggling and transit fraud

The Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA) introduced an electronic cargo tracking system in December 2016 to curb transit fraud. In the picture, a Customs officer installs an electronic seal on a fuel tanker at the point of entry into Zimbabwe to facilitate tracking up to its point of exit.