

WILDLIFE CRIME

BULLETIN

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**ENV'S OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT
AWARDS FOR WILDLIFE PROTECTION 02**



Award-winning agencies and individuals at the Outstanding Achievement Award 2019



Outstanding Enforcement Officer Award
 Nguyen Minh Tien - Kien Giang Environment Police



Outstanding Enforcement Officer Award
 Luu Phuoc Nguyen - Quang Nam Environment Police



Outstanding Judge Award
 Ngo Duc Thu – Tan Binh District Court



On Dec. 2nd, 2019 ENV hosted the third Outstanding Achievement Awards for Wildlife Protection to recognize the class-setting work of Vietnam's law enforcement agencies and legal system in curtailing wildlife crime and protecting Vietnam's precious biodiversity. Among those honored at the event were law enforcement agencies and officers, courts, judges, prosecutors, and procuracies. The awards ceremony recognized the crucial role these agencies and individuals play, not only in applying the law, but in creating proper deterrents for potential wildlife criminals.

The categories and winners:

Outstanding Enforcement Officer Award for professionals in law enforcement agencies that directly handled cases involving the enforcement of wildlife protection laws and regulations.

Winners (two awards): Nguyen Minh Tien - Kien Giang Environment Police and Luu Phuoc Nguyen - Quang Nam Environment Police

Outstanding Judge Award for a judge who issued verdict(s) shown to positively impact the judiciary system and strengthen the protection of wildlife.

Winner: Ngo Duc Thu - Tan Binh District Court

**“Tigers, gibbons, langurs,
 species are following rhinos
 It's up to you to stop**

Outstanding Prosecutor Award for a prosecutor who has made a significant contribution to efforts to prosecute wildlife traffickers, resulting in verdict(s) that positively impact the judiciary system and strengthen the protection of wildlife.

Winner: Hua Ngoc Thong - Dien Bien Town Procuracy

Outstanding Agency Award for government agencies (including courts, procuracies, police departments, Forest Protection Departments, Customs or Fisheries Departments) whose efforts have substantially contributed to the strengthening of wildlife protection in Vietnam.

Winners (two awards): Forest Protection Department Mobility and Forest Fire Prevention (Team 1) - Thanh Hoa FPD, and Team 2 - Ha Tinh Environment Police

The Kingpin Award is presented to an individual or group of individuals (from multiple agencies) who, through combined efforts, had the greatest impact on efforts to target, investigate, arrest, prosecute, and imprison the leadership of a criminal network, and in doing so, had the greatest impact overall on the protection of critically endangered wildlife globally.

Winner: People’s Court of Khanh Hoa Province

The seven award recipients are reflective of thousands of law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges across Vietnam working every day to protect Vietnam’s wildlife. ENV knows that the diligence and hard work these award recipients put into protecting wildlife will have tremendous positive impact on the future of Vietnam’s biodiversity and contribute to the protection of endangered species globally.



Outstanding Prosecutor Award
Hua Ngoc Thong – Dien Bien Town Procuracy



Outstanding Agency Award
Forest Protection Department Mobility and Forest Fire Prevention (Team 1) - Thanh Hoa FPD



Outstanding Agency Award
Team 2 - Ha Tinh Environment Police



Kingpin Award
People’s Court of Khanh Hoa Province

elephants, and many more
down the path of extinction.
this before it’s too late.”



FOR WILDLIFE CRIMES IN VIETNAM

The Outstanding Achievement Awards ceremony took place two years after the enactment of Vietnam’s revised Penal Code which applied longer prison sentences for wildlife crimes (up to 15 years). With this new law in effect, an increasing number of wildlife criminals have been put behind bars for substantial periods of time, in excess of five years.

For cases prosecuted in 2019, the average prison sentence for wildlife crime was approximately 4.8 years, in contrast with an average of 1.2 years in 2017 (prior to implementation of the new Penal Code). This change marks a substantial improvement reflective of Vietnam’s unwavering commitment to combat the illegal wildlife trafficking.

Listed below are offenders and their respective prison sentences for wildlife crimes, as imposed by local People’s Courts in cases prosecuted under the new Penal Code between 2018 and 2019.

Quang Ninh	Pham Ba Kim	13 years	Illegally possessing 145 pangolins, 7 kg pangolin scales, and 71.4 kg elephant skin
Nam Dinh	Tran Tuan Anh	11 years, six months	Illegally transporting 10 Asian small-clawed otters
Ha Nam	Tran Van Nghi	11 years	Illegally transporting 32 king cobras
Hanoi	Do Van Thanh	10 years, nine months	Illegally trafficking and transporting eight Sunda pangolins and four sun bears paws
Hanoi	Melvin Van Zyl	10 years	Illegally transporting 14.6 kg rhino horn via Noi Bai Airport
Hanoi	Nguyen Xuan The	10 years	Illegally possessing and trafficking 181 kg ivory
Hanoi	Nguyen Van Cuong	10 years	Illegally transporting and trafficking 14 marine turtle trophies
Hanoi	Le Chi Thuan	10 years	Illegally possessing and trafficking 119.9 kg ivory products
Dien Bien	Cao Xuan Lai	10 years	Illegally trafficking 27 big-headed turtles and four moon bear paws from Laos to Vietnam
Hanoi	Leu Xuan Lam	10 years	Illegally possessing and trafficking 114 ivory pieces weighing 688.5 kg and 282.5 kg ivory products
Quang Ninh	Hoang Dinh Quan	10 years	Illegally transporting five frozen tiger cubs, 42 kg tiger parts and products, 50 kg pangolin scales, three pig-tailed macaques, and a large number of other wildlife products
Hanoi	Nguyen Tien Duong	Eight years, six months	Illegally transporting and trafficking 14 marine turtle trophies
Quang Ninh	Nguyen Ngoc Manh	Eight years, two months, and 24 days	Illegally possessing 145 pangolins, 7 kg pangolin cales, and 71.4 kg elephant skin

Thanh Hoa	Pham Ngoc Hoa	Eight years	Illegally transporting and trafficking 24 pangolins and 6 big-headed turtles
Thanh Hoa	Nguyen Van Manh	Seven years, six months	Illegally transporting 74 pangolins
Ha Nam	Tran Thi Tuyen	Seven years, six months	Illegally transporting 32 king cobras
Quang Ninh	Hoang Van Hung	Seven years	Illegally possessing 145 pangolins, 7 kg pangolin scales, and 71.4 kg elephant skin
Hochiminh City	Vo Xuan Duc	Seven years	Illegally transporting 12 rhino horns weighing 26 kg to Tan Son Nhat Airport via Dubai
Quang Ninh	Nguyen Van Quy	Six years	Illegally possessing 145 pangolins, 7 kg pangolin scales, and 71.4 kg elephant skin
Quang Ninh	Nguyen Duc Khanh	Six years	Illegally possessing 145 pangolins, 7 kg pangolin scales, and 71.4 kg elephant skin
Hanoi	Dinh Thi Nhung	Six years	Illegally possessing and trafficking 114 ivory pieces weighing 688.5 kg and 282.5 kg ivory products
Cao Bang	Nong Van Ky	Six years	Illegally transporting 51 kg ivory from Vietnam to China
Hanoi	Lo Van Duc	Six years	Illegally transporting five frozen tiger cubs
Ninh Binh	Nguyen Van Sau (Nguyen Van Sy)	Six years	Illegally transporting 41 Java pangolins
Hanoi	Nguyen Huu Tien	Six years	Illegally trafficking 92 kg ivory products
Nghe An	Bui Duc Hung	Five years, six months	Illegally transporting and trafficking seven Java pangolins
Cao Bang	Nong Van Thanh	Five years, six months	Illegally transporting 51 kg ivory from Vietnam to China
Hanoi	Nguyen Van Hop	Five years, six months	Illegally transporting 39 king cobras
Quang Ninh	Le Trung Kien	Five years, six months	Illegally possessing 145 pangolins, 7 kg pangolin scales, and 71.4 kg elephant skin
Kien Giang	Pham Van Tuan	Five years, three months	Illegally transporting and trafficking 12 green marine turtles
Ninh Binh	Vo Sy Ha	Five years	Illegally transporting 41 Java pangolins
Nghe An	Ho Minh Duc	Five years	Illegally transporting 7 Java pangolins
Ha Tinh	Nguyen Thi Thuy	Five years	Illegally trafficking 11 Java pangolins

Hanoi	Le Thi Phuong Hoa	Five years	Illegally transporting and trafficking five frozen tiger cubs
Kien Giang	Vo Thi Xuan	Five years	Illegally possessing 16 marine turtles
Dong Nai	Ma Van Tay	Five years	Illegally hunting, trafficking, and transporting a black-shanked ouc langur, a mouse deer, a pig-tailed macaque, and a civet in Cat Tien National Park
Kien Giang	Tran Xuan Mau	Five years	Illegally trafficking 12 marine turtles
Thanh Hoa	Nguyen Ba Thin	Five years	Illegally transporting a large number of wildlife products, including ivory, leopard cat, tiger, hornbill, and other endangered species through the Cha Lo - Quang Binh border gate
Quang Ninh	Nguyen Dinh Thien	Five years	Illegally possessing 145 pangolins, 7 kg pangolin scales, and 71.4 kg elephant skin
Quang Ninh	Nguyen Van Nam	Five years	Illegally possessing 145 pangolins, 7 kg pangolin scales, and 71.4 kg elephant skin
Quang Ninh	Dinh Cong Son	Five years	Illegally possessing 145 pangolins, 7 kg pangolin scales, and 71.4 kg elephant skin
Quang Ninh	Tran Van Dan	Five years	Illegally possessing 145 pangolins, 7 kg pangolin scales and 71.4 kg elephant skin
Quang Ninh	Le Van Yeu	Five years	Illegally possessing 145 pangolins, 7 kg pangolin scales, and 71.4 kg elephant skin
Hanoi	Zhang Lin Rong (Truong Lam Vinh)	Four years	Illegally transporting 100 kg Sunda pangolin scales through the Tan Thanh border gate
Hoa Binh	Bui Van Mien	Four years	Illegally trafficking and transporting three Asian golden cats
Ha Tinh	Nguyen Duc Hop	Three years	Illegally transporting a Sunda pangolin, seven Indochinese box turtles, five keeled box turtles, four big-headed turtles, and an Asiatic softshell turtle from Laos into Vietnam through the Cau Treo border gate.
Quang Binh	Phan Van Son	Three years	Illegally transporting 1,280 kg cobras, 675 kg oriental rat snakes, and 379 kg elongated tortoises
Dong Nai	Nong Van Hoan	Three years	Illegally hunting, trafficking, and transporting a black-shanked langur, a mouse deer, a pig-tailed macaque, and a civet
Hanoi	Le Duy Dung	Three years	Illegally possessing and trafficking 82 kg ivory products
Quang Ninh	Pham Van Hiep	Two years, six months	Illegally transporting a tiger skin and six pieces of sun bear bones from Vietnam to China via the Luc Ngam border

Hanoi	Le The Cuong	Two years	Illegally trafficking six ivory statues weighing 4.44 kg
Kien Giang	Tran Thi Cuc	Two years	Illegally possessing and trafficking parts and products of two marine turtles
Hanoi	Nguyen Van Hien	One year, six months	Illegally trafficking and transporting 9.94 kg ivory
Lang Son	Khuat Van Lieu	One year, six months	Illegally transporting a Sunda pangolin
Bac Ninh	Nguyen Gia Chinh	One year, six months	Illegally trafficking two frozen tiger cubs
Buon Ma Thuot	Nguyen Thanh Loi	One year, six months	Illegally possessing and trafficking 10.8 kg ivory products
Hanoi	Huynh Van Thang	One year, six months	Illegally trafficking six ivory statues weighing 4.44 kg
Quang Ninh	Duong Thi Mai Sinh	One year, six months	Illegally trafficking and transporting 31.8 kg pangolin scales
Hanoi	Pham Duc Hoa	One year, six months	Illegally trafficking and transporting a live tiger
Hanoi	Dam Ich Binh	One year, six months	Illegally possessing a wine jar containing a Sunda pangolin and a king cobra
Hanoi	Nguyen Duc Tinh	One year	Illegally transporting 334 grams of rhino horn
Hanoi	Pham Thi Vy	One year	Illegally trafficking a wine jar containing an Asian black bear
Quang Ninh	Kim Van Hao	One year	Illegally trafficking and transporting 31.8 kg pangolin scales
Tay Ninh	Nguyen Van Thao	One year	Illegally trafficking a Chinese pangolin, an Asian palm civet, and an Asiatic softshell turtle
Hanoi	Nguyen Van Ky	Nine months	Illegally trafficking a live tiger
Hanoi	Phan Van Dan	Nine months	Illegally trafficking a live tiger
Hanoi	Nguyen Xuan Hung	Seven months	Illegally trafficking a live tiger
Kien Giang	Huynh Thanh Long	Six months	Illegally transporting a marine turtle

Note: This list represents information recorded in ENV's national wildlife crime database and includes only cases that were documented by ENV.

**“Make an example of criminals today
to prevent crime tomorrow.”**



ENDING BEAR FARMING:

Phuc Tho district of Hanoi - a hotspot for bear bile farming in Vietnam

Bear bile farming has been shrinking across the country over the past ten years, from more than 4,300 bears in captivity in 2005 to only 432 by the end of 2019. However, hotspot areas like Vietnam's most notorious bear bile farming location, Phuc Tho district in Hanoi, do not seem to be on the same page as the rest of the country.

Since 2009, a total of 20 provinces have ended bear bile farming, transferring all remaining captive bears from bile farms to rescue centers and sanctuaries. This brings the total number of bear-free provinces in Vietnam to 34. However, the nation's capital, Hanoi, and Phuc Tho district specifically, cannot be counted among other provinces that have taken active measures to end bear bile farming.

Phuc Tho remains the district with the highest concentration of bear bile farms in Vietnam, with more than 150 bears remaining at 27 farms. One bear farmer in Phuc Tho district alone owns a total of 21 bears - far more than any other single person in the country. Bear farmers in the area are claiming to keep bears for conservation or pets, but are known throughout the area for defying laws prohibiting the extraction and sale of bear bile.

While the Phuc Tho district People's Committee has been cooperative in activities such as removing bear bile signs and putting up anti-bear bile billboards, there have been no active measures undertaken by enforcement agencies in the district to eliminate bear bile farming in their area. To compound matters, one member of the Phuc Tho district People's Committee is himself a bear owner, while another is the owner of a school that educates children.

ENV questions the validity of district employees or educators keeping bears that were purchased illegally a decade ago, for

any purpose, as they are seen as leaders and role models within the community.

ENV strongly encourages the Hanoi People's Committee to take action to end bear bile farming in the city, and especially in Phuc Tho, as it has become clear that bear bile farming in Phuc Tho will not be eradicated without pressure applied from the city.

Specifically, the Hanoi People's Committee should take the following actions to help expedite the end of bear farming in Phuc Tho:

- Encourage the Phuc Tho district People's Committee to require the PC member in question to give up his bear and set an example for his community.
- Take an active role in efforts aimed at convincing Phuc Tho and other Hanoi bear owners to put an end to the bear bile business by transferring their bears to rescue centers and making our nation's capital the next bear free province, setting a sterling example for the rest of the country to follow.

SOME OF 2019'S NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS AROUND THE COUNTRY

- 🐾 **Two new bear free provinces:** Phu Yen and Cao Bang became the latest bear-bile farm free provinces in Vietnam.
- 🐾 **97,000 letters to bear farmers:** Over 97,000 letters were received from Vietnamese school students in 44 provinces as part of ENV's "Give Bears a Better Life" letter writing challenge. The student letters to bear farmers called on bear owners to give up their bears and end the cruel practice of bear bile farming.
- 🐾 **34 bears transferred or confiscated:** 23 bears were transferred to rescue centers and 11 illegal bears were confiscated.
- 🐾 **Confiscation of Nghe An bears:** On May 30, Nghe An authorities confiscated three Asiatic black bears (*Selenarctos thibetanus*) from the home of a bear bile trafficker in Quynh Luu district of Nghe An province. The seizure came as the result of nearly nine months' continuous efforts by ENV and Nghe An authorities to ensure that the law is applied to criminals operating from within the close-knit community known as a hotspot for criminal activity. The three confiscated bears were transferred to Four Paws' Bear Sanctuary in Ninh Binh (Case ref. 13187/ENV).
- 🐾 **First ever prison sentence for a bear cub in wine crime:** On Mar. 5, Hai Ba Trung district Economic Police confiscated a wine jar containing a bear cub during a sting operation undertaken in cooperation with ENV. ENV initially sought to set up a sting involving several tiger cubs that the subject had advertised for sale, but when the cubs were not available, the sting team opted to buy bear cub wine instead, leading to the successful outcome. On Jul. 31, the subject was sentenced to 12 months in prison by the Hai Ba Trung District Court.

[FOCUS] TACKLING WILDLIFE CRIME ON THE INTERNET

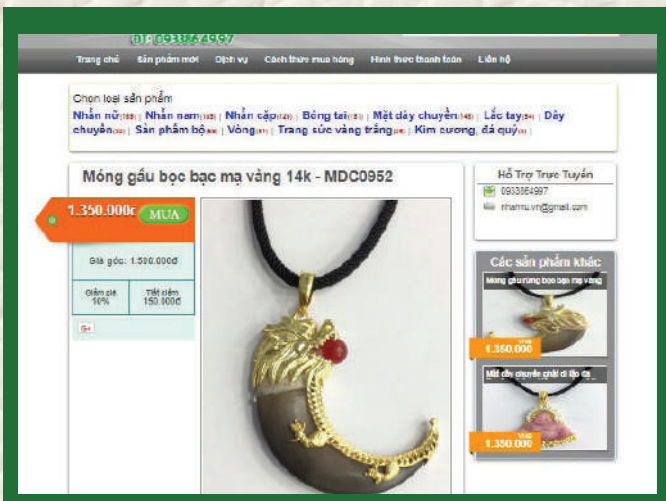
Internet crime has been increasing at an alarming rate in recent years. Wildlife criminals advertise and sell ivory, rhino horn, bear claws, tiger skins, and other illegal products online, as it's easier for them to reach customers and sell their products while hiding their identities.

In 2019 alone, ENV's National Wildlife Crime Database recorded more than 2,400 advertisements in violation of wildlife protection laws on Facebook, YouTube, Zalo, and other online platforms. As we move into the new year, the rate of internet crime shows no sign of declining any time soon.

Vietnam has put legislation in place to detect, deter, and investigate internet crime, placing particular importance on the detection of internet crime. As markets for illegal wildlife and wildlife products develop online, law enforcement agencies have begun to adapt to this new type of crime, making it riskier for online sellers to engage in this type of business.

For example, an online seller recently received a one year prison sentence after being found guilty of illegally selling a bear cub online. Another online supplier was sentenced to more than one year in prison for attempting to sell 10 kg of ivory, while yet another online ivory supplier was fined VND 170 mil (~US \$ 8,000) for advertising ivory for sale on Facebook and possession of ivory.

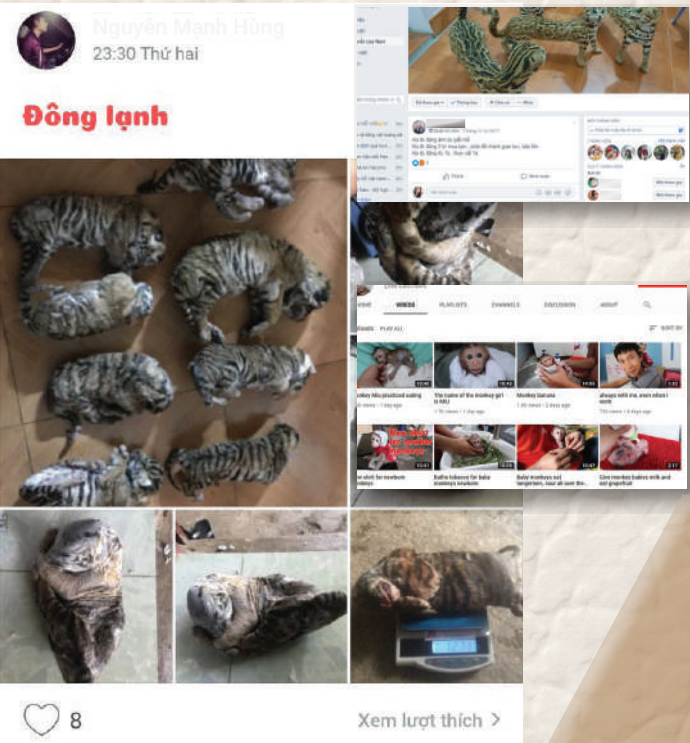
Police in many provinces are taking this new form of criminal activity seriously, inspecting homes of online wildlife advertisers, issuing hefty fines for illegally advertising wildlife, and confiscating illegal products when found.



These cases exemplify the risk online wildlife traders face when discovered by law enforcement.

ENV congratulates law enforcement agencies on their many achievements in handling internet crimes, and we encourage the continuation of proactive activities as follows:

- Respond to public reports of violations found on the internet
- Actively launch campaigns to detect violations on the internet
- Deter online advertising and sale of wildlife by treating these crimes seriously, issuing fines for advertising, making arrests where appropriate, and prosecuting cases to secure convictions and jail terms for serious offenders.



DID YOU KNOW?

According to Article 50 of Decree 158/2013/ND-CP, advertising prohibited wildlife products such as ivory, rhino horn, tiger claws, etc. is subject to an administrative fine of VND 70-100 million. According to Article 16 of Decree 35/2019/ND-CP, advertisement of other wildlife products is punishable by a fine of VND 1-1.5 million.

An online trader advertising the sale of wildlife and found to be in possession of wildlife can be punished for both crimes simultaneously.

ALERT ENV

IF YOU SEE LARGE-VOLUME SHIPMENTS OF WILDLIFE WITH “LEGAL” PAPERS

In recent months, ENV has received reports from different police agencies regarding the discovery of huge numbers of wild animals being “legally” transported to Mong Cai. While the transporters may have had the “legal” documentation for their cargo on hand to prevent police from confiscating the wildlife, ENV contends that a careful investigation of the source farms should be carried out by police and wildlife experts. Diligent inspection would reveal that most, if not all, of the wildlife in these massive seizures are more than likely sourced from the wild and laundered through farms.

Unfortunately, authorities from provinces where these farms operate may lack the skills or capacity to effectively oversee the commercial farming operations that they have licensed. Based on accounts from farmers and people familiar with the permitting process in the region, in some cases, there may be collusion between local authorities and the commercial farmers, particularly in relation to issuance of permits.

Below are some recent examples of major seizures that were returned to the owners after the owners were able to produce “legal papers”. The species composition of these seizures includes animals that do not breed successfully in captivity or are not economically viable to reproduce and raise to selling size, further proving that a portion of these shipments, if not all, were laundered wildlife.

Six tonnes of wildlife with legal papers likely laundered through commercial farms in An Giang, Dong Thap, and Quang Tri

On Aug. 6, 2019, Ha Tinh Environment Police stopped a truck and discovered 6,250 kg of wildlife on the way to Mong Cai city of Quang Ninh, including common rat snakes (*Ptyas mucosus*), Indochinese rat snakes (*Ptyas korros*), Bocourt’s water snakes (*Enhydris bocourti*), radiated rat snakes (*Elaphe radiata*), water monitors (*Varanus salvator*), elongated tortoises (*Indotestudo elongata*), Linne’s water snakes (*Homalopsis buccata*), four-eyed turtles (*Sacalia quadriocellata*), Indochinese box turtles (*Cuora bourreti*), Asian leaf turtles (*Cyclomys tcheponensis*), keeled box turtles (*Cuora mouhotii*), impressed tortoises (*Manouria impressa*), Asian stripe-necked leaf turtles (*Cyclomys pulchrirostrata*), black marsh turtles (*Siebenrockiella crassicolis*), tockays (*Gekko gecko*), Asian box turtles (*Cuora amboinensis*), and 5,500 birds of common species, including red collared doves (*Streptopelia tranquebarica*), spotted doves (*Streptopelia chinensis*), spot-billed ducks (*Anas poecilorhyncha*), sparrows, and purple swamphens (*Porphyrio porphyrio*).

According to their legal papers, the wildlife was sourced from five farms in An Giang, Dong Thap, and Quang Tri provinces, therefore no seizure was made (Case ref. 15606/ENV).

Another five tonnes of wildlife with legal papers from An Giang, Dong Thap and Quang Tri

On Dec. 25, 2019, Ha Tinh Environment Police stopped a passenger bus and found 5,081 kg of wildlife, including common rat snakes (*Ptyas mucosus*), Indochinese rat snakes (*Ptyas korros*), tockays (*Gekko gecko*), Bocourt’s water snakes (*Enhydris bocourti*), Chinese cobras (*Naja atra*), water monitors (*Varanus salvator*), yellow-headed temple turtles (*Heosemys annandalii*), and radiated rat snakes (*Elaphe radiata*).

The shipment’s legal papers indicated that all wildlife was sourced from four farms in An Giang, Dong Thap, and Quang Tri provinces, so no seizure was made in this case (Case ref. 15660/ENV).

Commercial wildlife farm raided in Ho Chi Minh City – owner implicated in major wildlife trafficking operation

On Nov. 20, 2019, National Environment Police, in cooperation with Ho Chi Minh City FPD, checked a wildlife farm and temporarily seized 57 animals, including a clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*), three Asian golden cats (*Catopuma temminckii*), a binturong (*Arctictis binturong*), two fishing cats (*Prionailurus viverrinus*), seven Owston’s civets (*Chrotogale owstoni*), six oriental small-clawed otters (*Amblonyx cinerea*), a Pileated gibbon (*Hylobates pileatus*), two yellow-cheeked gibbons (*Nomascus Hylobates gabriellae*), three green peafowl (*Pavo muticus*), three brahmyn kites (*Haliastur indus*), two greater spotted eagles (*Clanga clanga*), a red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), a grey-headed parakeet (*Psittacula finschii*), two oriental pied hornbills (*Anthracoceros albirostris*), three black-headed ibises (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*), a spot-billed pelican (*Pelecanus philippensis*), three blossom-headed parakeets (*Psittacula roseatta*), two peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*), six common butterfly lizards, three adjutants, and four owls. The wildlife was housed at Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station after the seizure. According to the police, the case is under investigation (Case ref. 15454/ENV).

The farm owner in this case was in possession of more than 10 species that are fully protected under the law, meaning possession of the species is a criminal offence, subject to prosecution and penalties of up to 15 years in prison. This owner has been linked to a number of other illegal wildlife trafficking cases, in addition to corruption allegations implicating authorities for falsifying permits.

ENOUGH *IS* ENOUGH

In any case, these multi-tonne shipments of wildlife being transported north to the Chinese border **MUST STOP** until transparency in the process proves beyond a reasonable doubt that the animals in these shipments are being born and raised legitimately on farms. Vietnam's biodiversity is not infinite and cannot sustain the level of poaching and laundering passing through many of these licensed farms.

Expert evaluation at any commercial wildlife farm would quickly and easily show whether the farm was operating within the law. However, these large commercial farmers have nothing to gain by being transparent in how they operate their businesses. In all likelihood, both commercial farmers and local authorities alike would oppose such transparency for fear of exposing criminal activity.

The solution is to bring transparency to the system. Licenses of these farmers should come at a price: If they are truly legitimate, they must open their doors to third-party experts and be certified as legitimate commercial breeding operations, as they claim to be. If not, it is our responsibility and duty to revoke their licenses and prohibit any further commercial trade from these farms.

All of us on the side that supports enforcement of the law and protection of Vietnam's wildlife must agree that Vietnam cannot sustain this continued plundering of our native wildlife under the banner of commercial wildlife farming.

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN

1. Provincial FPDs should cease further issuance of transportation permits for large quantities of wildlife unless there is clear confirmation that the wildlife in question was legally born and bred in captivity.
2. Questionable shipments should be investigated by FPDs with the participation of police and scientific experts to determine if there is any evidence of crime.
3. If there is evidence of crime, licenses of farms must be revoked immediately and the owner should be prosecuted in accordance with the Penal Code for trafficking wildlife in large quantities (criminal penalties of up to 15 years in prison).
4. Additionally, fines should be administered to commercial farmers for minor violations such as inaccurate or out of date record keeping, etc.
5. Police should also investigate cases where suspected corruption is linked to commercial farm licensing and the permitting process. When corruption is detected, those responsible should be relieved of their position and criminally prosecuted.
6. Report major shipments of "legal" wildlife to ENV. Species composition, volume, and age class of animals in these shipments can almost always determine whether laundering was involved or provide evidence that a farm inspection should ensue.

ENV asks that Forest Protection Departments, local authorities, and police agencies alert ENV immediately after the discovery of shipments containing large volumes of wildlife from "legal" farms on their way to Mong Cai or other border districts. Please provide ENV with copies of papers showing legal origin from farms, and ENV will follow up by closely by investigating the farms and making inquiries with the authorities that issued the permits.

ENV is actively working with policy makers, law enforcement agencies, courts, and procuracies around the country to tackle criminal activity associated with commercial wildlife farming operations. We intend to end the illegal trafficking of wildlife through farms and the corrupt practices associated with commercial farming operations where found, but we need your help!

ACCEPTING ID RESULTS FROM SCIENTIFIC AUTHORITIES

There have been recent cases where the wildlife prosecution process was delayed due to the judicial system's refusal of wildlife identification made by scientific authorities. The reason for this discrepancy is due to the fact that the Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources (IEBR), the Institute of Tropical Biology (ITB), and the Southern Institute of Ecology (SIE) are not listed as judicial assessment organizations under the Law on Judicial Assessment 2012, amended and supplemented in 2018 ("Judicial Assessment Law"). However, these prestigious scientific agencies are unique in their technological resources and among the few institutions able to adequately identify wildlife species.

According to Clause 2, Article 20 of the Law on Judicial Expertise: "In special cases, competent authorities may solicit professionally qualified persons or institutions to provide expertise that are not listed on the Judicial Assessment, clearly stating the reason for the solicitation." This means that identifications made by these institutions, though not listed under the Law on Judicial Assessment, are acceptable as long as the request for their participation is justified.

Therefore, ENV encourages law enforcement agencies, courts, and procuracies to continue using identification results from scientific agencies to accelerate the process, ensuring the accuracy of the result to guarantee that criminals are held accountable for wildlife trafficking violations. To avoid any potential legal problems, please justify the reason for using these scientific institutions in your paperwork.

NEW CIRCULAR PROVIDING GUIDANCE ON HANDLING CONFISCATED WILD ANIMALS



These methods are listed in order of priority, and thus the latter method(s) can only be applied if the previous method(s) are not applicable. It should be noted that selling animals can only be applied to species for which trade is allowed in Vietnam and in the circumstance that preceding methods have been exhausted.

There is one new development in the Circular in terms of managing wildlife. According to the Circular, if rescued animals cannot be released back to their habitat, it is permissible to relocate them to zoos, research/environmental education centers, or specialized museums.

On the last day of 2019, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development issued a new Circular which gave guidance on handling confiscated animals. This Circular replaces Circular 90/2008/TT-BNN and came into force on February 20, 2020.

While inheriting positive components from Circular 90/2008/TT-BNN, the new Circular also enhances the scope of application to include the handling of confiscated animals after administrative fines are issued, the handling of confiscated animals after prosecution, and the handling of animals that were voluntarily transferred.

According to the Circular, there are five methods for managing wild animals: (1) release animals back to their habitats; (2) rescue animals; (3) transfer animals to zoos, research/environmental education centers, or specialized museums; (4) sell animals; and (5) incinerate animals.

Rhino horns incinerated following court order from 2017 case: A great example that should be applied across the country

On May 26, 2017, National Environment Police together with local police confiscated nearly 14 kg of white rhino (*Ceratotherium simum simum*) horn from a nail salon in Hoang Mai District. The police arrested the husband of the salon owner who was found in possession of two boxes containing the horns when police arrived. The subject claimed that he had received the rhino horns from two anonymous men and was paid to hold them. However, the investigation showed that he had tried to sell the horns to a Chinese buyer. On Nov. 21, 2017, the subject was convicted by Hanoi city Court and sentenced to a prison term of 18 months. On Oct. 30, 2019, the rhino horns were incinerated (Case ref. 10972/ENV).



ENV WILDLIFE CRIME

OPERATIONS 2019

Ending the illegal wildlife trade in Vietnam

In 2019, ENV’s Wildlife Crime Hotline received more violation reports from the public than any previous year, with 4.7 new cases reported each day and a total of 1,777 cases reported during the course of the entire year.

Following a public report of a crime, experienced case officers contact the appropriate authorities to address the violation and track each case through to conclusion, documenting the outcome on ENV’s Wildlife Crime Incident Tracking Database. In cases involving advertisement or sale of critically endangered species, ENV will work directly with law enforcement to set up and execute “sting” operations with the aim to apprehend the seller and seize the wildlife.

The commitment to end illegal wildlife trafficking in Vietnam was stronger than ever in ENV’s 19th year of operation. ENV’s record 1,777 cases were comprised of 4,334 violations. Of the 1,777 cases, 979 cases involved selling and advertising, a category that totalled 2,980 individual violations. Additionally, there were 610 possession cases and 146 cases involving trafficking of wildlife.

In 2019, collaboration between ENV’s Wildlife Crime Unit, national and provincial law enforcement agencies, and Forest Protection Departments resulted in the successful confiscation or transfer of 321 live animals. Furthermore, this teamwork led to the seizure of numerous parts and products from endangered wildlife such as frozen tigers, ivory, pangolin scales and wine, bear paws and gallbladders, and marine turtle trophies.

Among the live animals seized in collaborative operations with authorities were bears, pangolins, gibbons, douc langurs, marine turtles, and many other species.

Successful outcomes on cases increased from 46% in 2018 to 51.8% in 2019.

Crime Statistics: January 1, 2019 through Dec. 31, 2019

Crime classification	Total 2019	Total (2005-2018)
Advertising and selling violations	979	7,641
Possession violations	610	3,830
Wildlife trafficking violations	146	1,862
Hunting and other violations	34	345
Total cases [1]	1,777	13,542
Total number of violations	4,334	34,849
Success rate (overall) [2]	51.8	44% (2014-2018) [3]

[1] Some cases logged are not ultimately classified as violations, and thus the total number of cases may differ slightly from the total number in each classification (possession, trafficking, etc.).

[2] Overall success includes both publicly reported cases AND cases resulting from ENV enforcement campaigns. Successes include any successes that occurred during the month, including successes achieved on older cases.

[3] Flagging of successful cases did not begin at ENV until 2014.

ENV wishes to thank our collaborating partners in law enforcement, provincial Forest Protection Departments, and most importantly, the public, for working together to strengthen protection for wildlife and help Vietnam meet its national and international responsibility to protect global biodiversity.

CRIME LOG

The crime log includes highlights of cases during the period of Jul. 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019. Due to the large number of cases being logged each month by the crime unit, ENV is unable to include all of the cases in the crime log. ENV has subsequently chosen examples from around the country that we believe reflect the outstanding efforts of our law enforcement and Forest Protection Department (FPD) partners.

MAJOR SEIZURE HIGHLIGHTS

Tiger trafficker with ties to Laos arrested in Hanoi

On Jul. 23, 2019, Hanoi Anti-Smuggling Police arrested three subjects and confiscated seven frozen tiger cubs (*Panthera tigris*). The tigers were recovered from a bag inside a car in the basement of a building in Hanoi. One of the three subjects was the owner of the tigers and reported to be an investor in a tiger farm in Laos. The seven frozen tiger cubs were transferred to the Vietnam Natural History Museum (Case ref. 14721/ENV).



Major rhino horn seizure at Noi Bai Airport

On Jul. 25, 2019, Hanoi Anti-Smuggling Police, Noi Bai customs, and Hanoi Customs discovered 126.5 kg of rhino horn on a flight from Dubai. The cargo arrived at Noi Bai airport on Jul 14, 2019 in two shipments with the same consignee. However, it remained unclaimed and was subsequently inspected. The rhino horns were hidden in gypsum in an effort to prevent detection from airport scanners (Case ref. 14737/ENV).

Major shark skin and fin seizure in Hai Phong

On Aug. 15, 2019, Hai Phong Customs discovered nearly 1.8 tonnes of frozen shark skins from two species of shark and more than 3.6 tonnes of frozen fins from seven shark species in Hai Phong city port. The container originated from Oman and first passed to Cai Mep port in Vung Tau city before heading to Hai Phong port (Case ref. 15271/ENV).

Major ivory and rhino horn trafficker busted

On Sept. 30, 2019, Hanoi Investigation Police, in cooperation with Hanoi Environment Police, discovered 204 kg of ivory packed in sacks near parked vehicles at a lake in Gia Lam district. The subjects tried to flee, however, one was apprehended and arrested at the scene. The arrested suspect identified a second individual who reportedly owned the ivory. After a month of further investigation, police identified Nguyen Van Nam, a high priority kingpin and trafficker of ivory and rhino horn, as the primary suspect in the case. Nam, the cousin of the first arrested suspect, turned himself in to police. Nam is credited with supplying most of the ivory and rhino horns to traders in Nhi Khe village, previously a hotspot for ivory and rhino horn trade in Hanoi (Case ref. 15273/ENV).

Another major pangolin scale seizure from Nigeria

On Dec. 9, 2019, Hai Phong Port Customs seized 1,547 kg of African tree pangolin (*Manis tricuspis*) scales and 523.5 kg of African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) ivory, all hidden in a container originating from Nigeria (Case ref. 15640/ENV).

PROVINCIAL CRIME LOG

Ba Ria - Vung Tau

Wild animals are not pets

Rangers from district and city Forest Protection Departments confiscated 10 macaques, a python, turtles, and squirrels in nine separate cases from Jul. to Dec. 2019. Each case was reported to the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline by public informants. The seizures occurred at restaurants, coffee shops, a pagoda, a church, a vegetable farm, and a bird shop in districts across the province. All of the 10 macaque cases involved long-tailed or pig-tailed macaques being kept as pets (Case ref. 14715/14742/14714/14741/14789/14816/14978/14996/15351).



On Sept. 18, 2019, Xuyen Moc District FPD responded to a public report made to the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated two elongated tortoises (*Indotestudo elongata*) and three Malayan snail-eating turtles (*Malayemys subtrijuga*) from an aquarium shop. The turtles were later released at Binh Chau Nature Reserve (Case ref. 14979/ENV).

On Nov. 15, 2019, Chau Duc-Ba Ria District FPD, in cooperation with the Mobile Team of Ba Ria Vung Tau FPD and Long Huong Ward Police, checked a resident's house and seized four elongated tortoises (*Indotestudo elongata*) and 13 protected trees (Case ref. 15602/ENV).



Wildlife trophies without papers are illegal

On Oct. 29, 2019, Ba Ria Vung Tau Environment Police responded to a public report to the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*) trophy from a furniture shop in Vung Tau city (Case ref. 15019/ENV).

Bac Giang

On Dec. 15, 2019, Luc Ngan District Police stopped a motorbike and seized a king cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*), two Chinese cobras (*Naja atra*), a banded krait (*Bungarus fasciatus*) and seven red junglefowl (*Gallus gallus*) (Case ref. 15609/ENV).

Bac Kan

On Jul. 24, 2019, Bac Kan Environment Police seized 10 king cobras (*Ophiophagus Hannah*), 17 kg of Chinese cobras (*Naja atra*), 27 kg of Indochinese rat snakes (*Ptyas korros*), 8 kg of banded kraits (*Bungarus fasciatus*), seven keeled box turtles (*Cuora mouhotii*), one black-breasted leaf turtle (*Geoemyda spengleri*), and three tokay geckos (*Gekko gecko*) from a wildlife trader's house in Ba Be district. All the animals were later transferred to Hanoi Rescue Center (Case ref. 14733/ENV).

On Jul. 21, 2019, Bac Kan Environment Police stopped a bus in Bac Kan city and seized 10 kg of tokay geckos (*Gekko gecko*) and 40 kg of sambar deer meat (*Cervus unicolor*). The driver of the bus and the owner of the wildlife were administratively fined VND 20 million each. The sambar deer meat was destroyed and the tokay geckos were later released into a local forest (Case ref. 14734/ENV).

Arrest of pangolin trader points to wildlife crime hotspot in Nghe An

On Dec. 17, 2019, Bac Kan FPD, in cooperation with Bac Kan Traffic Police, searched a passenger bus and consequently seized six frozen pangolins. The owner of the shipment originated from Quynh Luu District in Nghe An province, a hotspot for wildlife trafficking (Case ref. 15616/ENV).

Ben Tre

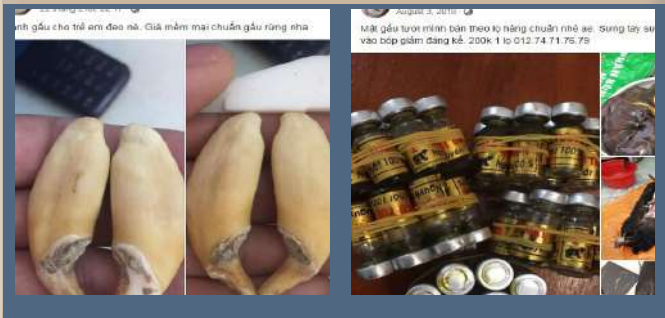
On Dec. 25, 2019, Ben Tre Provincial Fisheries responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and received a green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) which was voluntarily transferred by a local man who claimed it had been found in a desalinization facility. The turtle was later released back into the ocean (Case ref. 15652/ENV).



Binh Dinh

Binh Dinh police set positive example in efforts to tackle online sale of ivory

On Sept. 12, 2019, Binh Dinh Environment Police confiscated four ivory pendants, roughly 30 ivory rings, one ivory bracelet, four ivory pieces, three wild pig tusks, and nearly 15 tiger claws. The subject was identified by ENV in Mar. 2019 while advertising hundreds of wildlife products on social media. An ENV Law Enforcement Evidence Profile was sent to police, prompting police to inspect the subject's home and resulting in an arrest and seizure of wildlife products (Case ref. 14045/ENV).

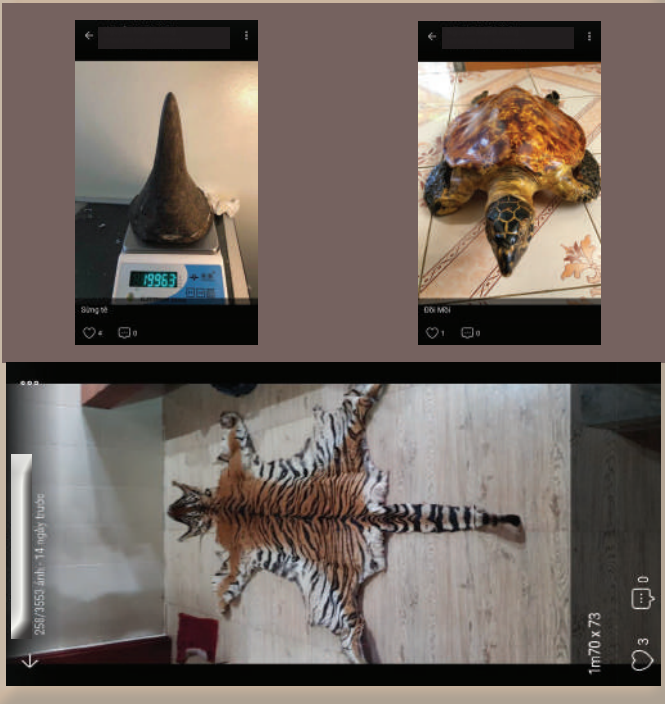


On Oct. 16, 2019, Binh Dinh Market Management Department cooperated with Economic Police and seized eight elephant tusks weighing 17.6 kg during their transport in a container truck in Quy Nhon city (Case ref. 15173/ENV).

Binh Duong

Binh Duong Police arrest online seller

On Jul. 5, 2019, Binh Duong Police confiscated two tiger (*Panthera tigris*) claws and an ivory bracelet from a man who was advertising wildlife for sale on social media. The arrest followed ENV submission of a Law Enforcement Evidence Profile to police that documented evidence of specific crimes and profiled the subject (Case ref. 13564/ENV).



One step closer to ending bear farming in Binh Duong

On Sept. 20, 2019, six Asiatic black bears (*Ursus thibetanus*) were voluntarily transferred to Four Paws' Bear Sanctuary Ninh Binh. The transfer occurred following a monitor mission conducted by local FPD and World Animal Protection in Apr. 2019 during which the owner was convinced to give up six of his registered bears. In 2017, six other Asiatic black bears (*Ursus thibetanus*) were transferred from the same farm to the AAF's Tam Dao Bear sanctuary. Twelve bears remain at the farm (Case ref. 2746/ENV).

Endemic grey-shanked douc langur seized after purchase

On Dec. 20, 2019, Phu Loi Ward Police stopped a motorbike and seized a live grey-shanked douc langur (*Pygathrix cinerea*), arresting the driver and his accomplice who claimed to have just purchased the langur from an online seller. The langur was subsequently transferred to the Dau Tieng Wildlife Conservation Station (Case ref. 15627/ENV).

On Dec. 23, 2019, Binh Duong FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated two leopard cats (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) from a home. The leopard cats were later placed at Dau Tieng Wildlife Conservation Station (Case ref. 15629/ENV).



On Dec. 28, 2019, Binh Duong FPD worked in cooperation with Di An Town Police to confiscate a yellow-cheeked gibbon (*Hylobates gabriellae*) being kept at a coffee shop in the city. This case was reported to the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline from a public informant (Case ref. 15675/ENV).

Da Nang

On Jun. 26, 2019, Da Nang city FPD inspected a restaurant in Cam Le district and seized 32 wild birds including 13 spotted doves (*Spilopelia chinensis*), five white-breasted waterhens (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*), 12 red-collared doves (*Streptopelia tranquebarica*) and two green pigeons (*Treron spp.*). The owner was administratively fined VND 10 million and all the wild birds were later released into nature (Case ref. 14646/ENV).

On Sept. 10, 2019, Da Nang city Environment Police confiscated a large jar of rice wine containing a highly endangered pangolin. It was discovered at a TCM shop during an ENV consumer crime enforcement campaign in the city and the pangolin wine was later destroyed (Case ref. 14952/ENV).



On Oct. 31, 2019, Da Nang city Environment Police responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a jar of bear paw wine with four paws inside as well as a jar of snake wine, both being kept at a karaoke shop. The karaoke owner claimed that the wine jars were for display only, more than likely a lie intended to trick police, and that they were a gift from his grandfather (Case ref. 15221/ENV).

Dak Lak

On Jun. 11, 2019, Dak Lak Environment Police checked Ea Sup District Market and seized 13 clouded monitors (*Varanus bengalensis*) from a wildlife trader. The clouded monitors were subsequently placed at Chu Mom Ray Rescue Centre (Case ref. 14618/ENV)

On Oct. 26, 2019, Krong Buk District Traffic Police stopped a passenger bus which was travelling from Kon Tum province to Ho Chi Minh City and seized a box containing 10 dead common palm civets (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*) and 100 live Chinese bamboo rats (*Rhizomys sinensis*). The dead animals were destroyed and the live animals were auctioned off (Case ref. 15222/ENV).

On Oct. 26, 2019, Krong Buk District Traffic Police stopped a passenger bus and seized eight dead stump-tailed macaques (*Macaca arctoides*). The dead macaques were subsequently destroyed (Case ref. 15223/ENV).

On Oct. 28, 2019, Dak Lak Traffic Police seized a dead binturong (*Arctictis binturong*), a dead common palm civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*), three dead lesser Malay mouse-deer (*Tragulus javanicus*), 64 live Chinese bamboo rats (*Rhizomys sinensis*) and other unidentified wildlife. The contraband was hidden in many styrofoam boxes kept in the luggage compartment of a passenger bus heading for Ho Chi Minh City (Case ref. 15236/ENV).

On Nov. 4, 2019, Dak Lak Traffic Police and Ea Hleo District Police seized eight dead small Indian civets (*Viverricula indica*) from a passenger bus. The civets were subsequently destroyed and the subject was administratively fined VND 10,750,000 (Case ref. 15280/ENV).

On Nov. 8, 2019, Krong Buk District Traffic Police stopped a bus and discovered 34 kg of sambar deer (*Cervus unicolor*) meat. All of the meat was destroyed and the subject was administratively fined VND 10 million (Case ref. 15310/ENV).

Once again, good intentions fuel hunting and trade of endangered wildlife

On Jul. 23, 2019, a black-shanked douc langur (*Pygathrix nigripes*) was turned over to the Cat Tien Rescue Center from a man who contacted ENV's Wildlife Crime Hotline asking to transfer the animal after he purchased it from an unknown person (Case ref. 14706/ENV).

Note: ENV strongly encourages the public to report crimes to local authorities or contact the Wildlife Crime Hotline when live wildlife is observed in markets. The seemingly innocent act of purchasing a wild animal to "rescue" it is not only illegal, but it also contributes to the further exploitation of wildlife as the money paid to the seller directly finances the activities of hunters and criminal enterprises that supply wildlife to consumers like you. Don't do it. Call authorities or the ENV hotline - 18001522!



On Dec. 2, 2019, Dak Lak Traffic Police worked with Buon Ma Thuot city Police to stop a passenger bus and seize 20 kg of pangolins scales. The owner of the pangolin scales tried to escape but was caught and arrested (Case ref. 15496/ENV).

On Dec. 24, 2019, Dak Lak Traffic Police stopped a passenger bus heading from Ea Sup district to Ho Chi Minh City and seized 24 kg of live Indochinese rat snakes (*Ptyas korros*), 12 live and two dead small-toothed ferret badgers (*Melogale moschata*), and seven dead civets (Case ref. 15662/ENV).

Dak Nong

On Aug. 23, 2019, after receiving information from the public via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline, Dak Mil District Police set up a sting and confiscated four civets from a Internet trader (Case ref. 14862/ENV).

Dien Bien

On Nov. 7, 2019, Dien Bien Environment Police seized 33 dead masked palm civets (*Paguma larvata*), two dead stump-tailed macaques (*Macaca arctoides*), two dead common barking deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*), nine live brush-tailed porcupines (*Atherurus macrourus*), and a live masked palm civet (*Paguma larvata*) from a car and a passenger bus. Two subjects were arrested (Case ref. 15298/ENV).



On Nov. 20, 2019, after receiving a tip from the public, Dien Bien FPD stopped a truck driven by a Dien Bien man and seized a live Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*), eight live big-headed turtles (*Platysternon megacephalum*), 35 kg of serow meat, and 23 kg of wildlife bone. The driver was arrested and is currently facing prosecution (Case ref. 15486/ENV).

Dong Nai

On Jul. 18, 2019, in response to public reports via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline, Xuan Loc District FPD confiscated three pig-tailed macaques (*Macaca leonina*) and an oriental-pied hornbill (*Anthracoceros albirostris*) from churches in four separate incidents. The animals were reportedly given to the churches by patrons. In all four cases, the animals were released back into nature (Case ref. 14588/14589/14614/14620/ENV).

On Jul. 26, 2019, thanks to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline, Trang Bom-Thong Nhat District FPD confiscated two raptors from a rest area. The raptors were subsequently released back into nature (Case ref. 14716/ENV).

On Sept. 7, 2019, Xuan Loc District Police conducted a sting operation in cooperation with ENV and confiscated two juvenile oriental small-clawed otters (*Amblonyx cinerea*). The otters had been advertised for sale on Facebook for VND 9 million pair. ENV arranged a meeting with the seller, posing as buyers, but the police met the seller instead and confiscated the animals. The otters were later transferred to Cat Tien National Park (Case ref. 14841/ENV).

On Sept. 20, 2019, an Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) being kept by a local residence in Long Thanh district was voluntarily transferred to the Four Paws' Bear Sanctuary Ninh Binh (Case ref. 14529/ENV).



On Sept. 19, 2019, Vinh Cuu District Police confiscated a dead Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*) from a local woman who was transporting it on a motorbike. The pangolin was subsequently destroyed (Case ref. 15015/ENV).

On Oct. 5, 2019, Cat Tien National Park FPD arrested four hunters in possession of a king cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*), a large-toothed ferret badger (*Melogale personata*), a crab-eating mongoose (*Herpestes urva*), a small Asian mongoose (*Herpestes javanicus auro-punctatus*), and 16 lesser Malay mouse-deer (*Tragulus javanicus*). One of the hunters had previously been fined VND eight million for illegal forest exploitation (Case ref. 15255/ENV).

On Nov. 3, 2019, Long Thanh District Police responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated two bamboo rats (*Atherurus macrourus*) and a common snake at a restaurant. The owner was fined VND 20 million and the animals were released in Vinh Cuu Nature Reserve. The initial report to ENV which prompted action was about a chef at the restaurant who took a selfie with a dead pangolin in the kitchen and posted it on his Facebook. The chef later removed the post and quit his job (Case ref. 14982/ENV).

On Dec. 19, 2019, Bien Hoa city FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated seven macaques being kept at a swimming pool. The macaques were later released in Dong Nai Culture and Nature Reserve (Case ref. 15527/ENV).

Gia Lai

On Dec. 4, 2019, Gia Lai Market Surveillance in cooperation with Dak Doa District Police and Dak Doa District FPD checked a local restaurant and seized two live Chinese cobras (*Naja atra*), a live common palm civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*) and 126 kg of wild animal meat. The live animals were released back into nature and the meat was destroyed. The restaurant owner was administratively fined VND 10.4 million (Case ref. 15525/ENV).

On Dec. 21, 2019, Gia Lai Environment Police inspected a truck at a bus station in Pleiku city and discovered 95.5 kg of Asian leaf turtles (*Cyclemys tcheponensis*), 155.5 kg of common rat snakes (*Ptyas mucosus*) and Indochinese rat snake (*Ptyas korros*) (Case ref. 15648/ENV).

Hanoi

Nhi Khe seizure keeps pressure on ivory hotspot
On Jul. 30, 2019, Hanoi Environment Police and Investigation Police seized 17.6 kg ivory from a grocery store in Nhi Khe village of Thuong Tin district. This village is considered a hotspot for ivory and rhino horn trade in Vietnam (Case ref. 14774/ENV).

Legal permit for rhino horn not valid in Hanoi seizure
On Aug. 20, 2019, Hanoi Environment Police and Hanoi Investigation Police arrested a man with 261 grams of rhino horn found in the consignee store area of a bus company. After the initial seizure, police inspected the man's house and discovered another 351 grams of rhino horn and 28 kg of ivory. The subject's wife was also arrested alongside three other accomplices. One of subjects submitted CITES import documentation for the horns, although it did not correspond with the confiscated rhino horn (Case ref. 14889/ENV).



Bear gall bladder sting results in arrest
On Aug. 7, 2019, four suspected bear gallbladders were confiscated by Nam Tu Liem EP following a sting operation set up with police and ENV targeting an online seller. The subject stated online that the gallbladders had come from Russia and he was selling them for VND 9 million per 100 grams (Case ref. 14549/ENV).



On Aug. 15, 2019, Nam Tu Liem Economic and Environment Police seized eight grey peacock pheasants (*Polyplectron bicalcaratum*) from a bus at My Dinh bus station arriving from Dien Bien. The driver's assistant confessed that he was hired to transport the wildlife. The owner of the shipment was later identified and currently faces prosecution (Case ref. 14840/ENV).

Tiger cub from Laos seized by Hanoi police
On Sept. 20, 2019, Hoan Kiem Economic Police seized 6 kg of frozen tiger cub from a man who claimed that he had been hired to transport the tiger to an undisclosed location. According to the police, the tiger was sourced from Laos. The tiger was subsequently transferred to the Natural History Museum of Vietnam (Case ref. 15011/ENV).



On Oct. 3, 2019, Hanoi city FPD in cooperation with Dong Xuan Ward Police seized a live Asian golden cat (*Catopuma temminckii*) at a resident's house in Hoan Kiem District. The golden cat was subsequently transferred to the Hanoi Rescue Center (Case ref. 15233/ENV).

On Nov. 6, 2019, an Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) caged at a circus school was transferred to the AAF's Tam Dao Bear Sanctuary. According to AAF, the bear was kept at the school for about ten years without notifying FPD and was unchipped. Four rhesus macaques (*Macaca mulatta*) were also reportedly transferred by authorities from the school to the Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center on Nov. 4 (Case ref. 15267/ENV).

Rhino horn from Angola seized at Noi Bai

On Nov. 7, 2019, Noi Bai Airport Customs in cooperation with Hanoi Anti-Smuggling Police seized 1.86 kg of rhino horn in the carry-on luggage of a passenger on a flight which originated from Angola (Case ref. 15293/ENV).



Ivory products seized from passenger arriving from Japan

On Nov. 9, 2019, Hanoi Anti-smuggling Police in cooperation with Noi Bai Airport Customs discovered seven ivory statues which were hidden in the carry-on luggage of a male passenger who was on a flight from Japan to Hanoi (Case ref. 15299/ENV).

On Dec. 9, 2019, Hanoi city FPD in cooperation with the Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center responded to several reports via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline about a pig-tailed macaque (*Macaca leonina*) running loose near the German Embassy. The macaque was soon captured and placed at the Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center on the same day (Case ref. 15543/ENV).

Hanoi pangolin seizure nabs another member of pangolin trafficking family

On Dec. 16, 2019, National Environment Police in cooperation with Hai Ba Trung District Police responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and seized a total of 13 live Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*) weighing 52.5 kg. Nine of the pangolins were found as they were being moved to a vehicle for transport, and four more were discovered when police raided the home of the owner. Two subjects were arrested (Case ref. 15597/ENV).

More busts in Nhi Khe ivory hotspot in December

On Dec. 16, 2019, Hanoi Environmental Police raided three homes in Nhi Khe Village, seizing a total of 251kg of ivory. Nhi Khe is well known as a hotspot for ivory trade in Vietnam and has been the focus of considerable law enforcement attention in recent years targeting local traders (Case ref. 15622/15677/15678/ENV).

Ha Tinh

Seizure nets 47 pangolins from Laos

On Jul. 29, 2019, Ha Tinh Economic Police in cooperation with Huong Son District Police seized 30 live Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*) from a bus that had come through the Cau Treo Border Gate from Laos and was headed to Tay Son town. Two days later, 17 additional frozen pangolins were discovered hidden in the same bus in the impound area (Case ref. 14756/ENV).

Spoonbill released at Xuan Thuy National Park

On Nov. 10, 2019, Ha Tinh FPD received a black-faced spoonbill (*Platalea minor*) from a local man and transferred it to Vu Quang National Park. On Nov. 25, 2019, ENV helped coordinate the transfer of the spoonbill to Xuan Thuy National Park, where the bird was released to join a flock of about 30 black-faced spoonbills residing at the wetland park (Case ref. 15312/ENV).

Tiger cubs seized in Ha Tinh

On Nov. 18, 2019, Ha Tinh Mobile Police in cooperation with Ha Tinh Economic Police discovered two live tiger cubs which were being transported by two men on a motorbike without a registration plate. Upon seeing the police, the men dropped the live cubs and fled. The tiger cubs were later transferred to Pu Mat National Park (Case ref. 15359/ENV).

Asiatic black bear seized during taxi transport

On Dec. 10, 2019, Ha Tinh Environment Police, in cooperation with Ha Tinh FPD and Can Loc District Police, seized an illegal Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) weighing 140 kg during transport by taxi from Ha Tinh to Nghe An province. Police arrested one subject in the case and the bear was subsequently turned over to the Four Paws' Bear Sanctuary in Ninh Binh (Case ref. 15570/ENV).

Hai Phong

On Nov. 18, 2019, Hai Phong city Environment Police responded to a report from ENV and confiscated a bear paw wine jar at a restaurant. The owner stated that she received the wine jar from a friend more than 10 years ago (Case ref. 15319/ENV).



Ho Chi Minh City

Narrow miss for online supplier

On Jun. 7, 2019, District 8 Police in Ho Chi Minh City confiscated seven suspected wild pig tusks and three suspected bear claws from the jewellery shop of an online seller. The seizure followed submission of an ENV Law Enforcement Evidence Profile to police that documented evidence of specific crimes and profiled the subject. However, in this case, the products were later determined to be fake. The subject was previously advertising numerous tiger claws, bear claws, and ivory products online. A check of the subject's social media showed all violating links had been removed (Case ref. 13799/ENV).

On Aug. 20, 2019, the mobile team of Ho Chi Minh City FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated one spot-bellied eagle-owl (*Bubo nipalensis*) from a coffee shop. The eagle-owl was later placed at the Cu Chi Rescue Center (Case ref. 11353/ENV).



Gibbons seized from coffee shop in HCM

On Aug. 27, 2019, Ho Chi Minh City EP responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated two yellow-cheeked gibbons (*Nomascus gabriellae*) from a coffee shop in Binh Chanh District (Case ref. 14907/ENV).

On Nov. 1, 2019, Ho Chi Minh City FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated two live lesser Malay mouse-deer (*Tragulus javanicus*) from a restaurant in Go Vap District. The owner of the restaurant was administratively fined VND 10 million and the animals were transferred to Cu Chi Rescue Center (Case ref. 15239/ENV).



On Nov. 2, 2019, Tan Son Nhat Airport Customs seized 1.8 kg of Asian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*) tusks and 22.5 kg of agarwood hidden in the luggage of a Vietnamese passenger who was returning to Vietnam on a flight from Bangkok (Case ref. 15268/ENV).

On Nov. 18, 2019, Ho Chi Minh City FPD confiscated one black kite (*Milvus migrans*) that was kept in front of a restaurant. The initial information was reported to the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline by many different people, both Vietnamese and foreign. The owner of the bird was a member of an online group of people who love falconry. After the confiscation, he was warned others about his violation of keeping wildlife and the bird was transferred to Cu Chi Rescue Center (Case ref. 14211/ENV).

Kon Tum

On Dec. 4, 2019, Bo Y Border Gate Security checked a pick-up truck and seized a live pangolin, a live civet, two dead mouse-deer, a dead civet, a dead macaque and a dead wild pig (*Sus scrofa*). The live animals were subsequently transferred to Cuc Phuong National Park (Case ref. 15509/ENV).

BUYING AND SELLING
WILD ANIMALS
AND
THEIR PARTS IS
A CRIME

Lam Dong

On Jun. 13, 2019, after receiving a tip-off from the public, Di Linh District Economic Police seized a live Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*), a live king cobra (*Ophiophagus Hannah*), and a dead porcupine from two subject, while they were transporting the wildlife. The pangolin and the king cobra were later released in a forest and the dead porcupine was destroyed (Case ref. 14616/ENV).

On Jul. 23, 2019, Bao Loc city Police responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated six suspected ivory bracelets, 13 suspected ivory rings, a wild pig tusk, two bear claws, and five silver-decorated claws at a jewellery shop. Police temporarily held the shop's business permit pending positive identification of the products (Case ref. 14639/ENV).



On Jul. 24, 2019, Bao Loc city Police responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated two suspected bear claws from a local jewelry shop (Case ref. 14638/ENV).

On Aug. 19, 2019, Lam Dong FPD received a Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*) from a soldier who contacted the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline claiming that a pangolin had been found in the garden of his military barrack. The pangolin was subsequently transferred to Cat Tien National Park (Case ref. 14850/ENV).



On Sept. 17, 2019, Lam Ha District Environment Police in cooperation with ENV conducted a sting operation and confiscated a wine jar with two langur hand, in addition to 200 grams of suspected langur TCM bone. The langur wine and TCM products were advertised for sale on Facebook for VND 1.5 million. ENV worked with Environment Police, posing as buyers, and arranged a meeting which resulted in the successful confiscation (Case ref. 14914/ENV).



On Oct. 4, 2019, Duc Trong District Police checked a business establishment and found two live black-shanked douc langurs in the backyard. Two subjects who had reportedly delivered the langurs fled upon sight of the police. Police then checked a freezer and discovered the bodies of one black-shanked douc langur (*Pygathrix nigripes*) and four pig-tailed macaques (*Macaca leonine*). The business owner claimed she did not know the two suspects who fled and she was subsequently arrested (Case ref. 15649/ENV).

On Dec. 20, 2019, Duc Trong District Police checked a resident's home and seized two dead black-shanked douc langurs (*Pygathrix nigripes*) kept in a freezer. According to the police, the owner was arrested (Case ref. 15650/ENV).

Lang Son

On Oct. 29, 2019, Lang Son Traffic Police stopped a car heading from Cao Bang province to Thai Nguyen province and seized a live slow loris (*Nycticebus bengalensis*). The loris was subsequently transferred to Endangered Primate Rescue Center (Case ref. 15281/ENV).

On Dec. 21, 2019, after a 10 kilometer chase, Lang Son Traffic Police stopped a car and seized 300 nightingales and 75 laughing thrushes. Of the 375 birds, 260 nightingales and 45 laughing thrushes were dead and subsequently destroyed. The subject was administratively fined VND 20 million (Case ref. 15633/ENV).

Nghe An

On Sept. 6, 2019, Dien Chau District Police checked a local resident's home and seized a red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) and a leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*). The animals were later transferred to Pu Mat National Park (Case ref. 14959/ENV).

Gibbon seizures in Nghe An

On Jul. 30, 2019, Nghe An Environment Police confiscated Northern white-cheeked gibbons (*Nomascus (Hylobates) leucogenys*) from two different homes after both cases were called in to the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline by a member of the public. Both gibbons were later transferred to the rescue center at Pu Mat National Park (Case ref. 14405/14407/ENV).



On Nov. 11, 2019, Nghe An Traffic Police in cooperation with Dien Chau District Police seized a live loris, while it was being transported. The subject confessed that he had bought the loris for VND 200,000 and had planned to sell it for VND 1 million (Case ref. 15453/ENV).

On Nov. 21, 2019, Nghe An Traffic Police in cooperation with Dien Chau District Police seized 19 new-born otters from a suspicious vehicle. The driver of the vehicle was from Huong Son district in Ha Tinh and suggested the otters might have been smuggled into Vietnam from Laos. Fifteen live otters were subsequently transferred to Pu Mat National Park Rescue Center (Case ref. 15415/ENV).

On Dec. 18, 2019, Thanh Chuong District Police checked a resident's home and seized a live macaque, three dead macaques, three dead civets, two dead pythons, and 20 live bamboo rats. The live macaque was subsequently transferred to Pu Mat National Park. The dead animals were kept at Thanh Chuong District Police office pending positive identification. One subject was arrested (Case ref. 15641/ENV).

On Dec. 20, 2019, Dien Chau District Police stopped a passenger bus and seized eight live pangolins held in cardboard boxes. The pangolins were later transferred to Pu Mat National Park Rescue Center, and according to the police, two subjects were arrested (Case ref. 15624/ENV).

Ninh Binh

On Jul. 11, 2019, Ninh Binh Economic Police seized 0.83 kg of rhino horn from a taxi outside a hotel in Gia Vien district. The rhino horn was brought to the hotel by a passenger in the taxi who reported intentions to sell to an unknown buyer at the hotel. After confiscating the rhino horn, the police checked the subjects house and found suspected animal bone TCM (Case ref. 14672/ENV).

On Aug. 30, 2019, Yen Mo District Economic Police seized a pygmy loris (*Nycticebus pygmaeus*) at a resident's house in Ninh Binh. The loris was later transferred to the Endangered Primate Rescue Center at Cuc Phuong National Park. According to police, the subject will be prosecuted, but following the seizure, the subject fled and is currently wanted by police (Case ref. 14924/ENV).



Quang Binh

On Sept. 17, 2019, Phong Nha Ke Bang National Park FPD seized a dead serow (*Naemorhedus sumatraensis*), a live masked palm civet (*Paguma larvata*), a dead common palm civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*), four knives, and 162 bicycle brake wires used to make snare traps. One subject was arrested and currently faces prosecution, while three others escaped (Case ref. 15008/ENV).

On Nov. 17, 2019, Minh Hoa District Police confiscated 12 boxes of fireworks as they were being transported in the district. A subsequent check of the subject's home resulted in the discovery of another 15 kg of fireworks as well as a large quantity of dead unidentified wildlife. Authorities confiscated the fireworks and dead animals, in addition to a live king cobra (*Ophiophagus Hannah*), a keeled box turtle (*Cuora mouhotii*) and a macaque (*Macaca sp.*). The live animals were transferred to Phong Nha Ke Bang National Park (Case ref. 15388/ENV).

Quang Nam

On Oct. 18, 2019, Quang Nam Police seized three live and two dead Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*) and an Indochinese box turtle (*Cuora galbinifrons*) from a local trader in Dai Loc district. The three live pangolins were subsequently transferred to the Pangolin and Small Carnivore Rescue Center, and the turtle was transferred to the Turtle Conservation Center at Cuc Phuong National Park respectively (Case ref. 15203/ENV).

On Oct. 23, 2019, Quang Nam Police seized 15 live Bourrets box turtles (*Cuora bourreti*), four live keeled-boxed turtles (*Cuora mouhotii*), 12 dead civets, and three dead lesser Malay mouse-deer (*Tragulus javanicus*) from a local trader's home in Dai Loc District. All the live turtles were later transferred to the Turtle Conservation Center at Cuc Phuong National Park (Case ref. 15213/ENV).

On Oct. 30, 2019, Quang Nam Environment Police responded to an ENV Law Enforcement Evidence Package comprised of a profile and evidence of violations by an online supplier of wildlife. Authorities searched the home of the subject and discovered wild pig tusks. The supplier had been advertising ivory products, tiger claws and skin, and bear claws online. Police proposed to administratively fine the subject VND 70 million for illegally advertising wildlife, though the fine is currently pending (Case ref. 13970/ENV).

Quang Ninh

Live tiger seized in Quang Ninh

On Sept. 14, 2019, Quang Ninh Drug Criminal Investigation Police and Quang Ninh Environment Police checked a pickup truck displaying a fake registration number and discovered a live tiger (*Panthera tigris*) as it was being delivered to a buyer. At the time of the seizure, the tiger had been anaesthetized but was beginning to wake up. After police secured the tiger, they checked the buyer's home in Ha Long city and confiscated more evidence, including three tiger skins and two suspected tiger skeletons, 12 skulls, and some TCM bone cooking tools. The tiger was reportedly sourced from a known trafficker in Nghe An. The tiger was subsequently transferred to the Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center (Case ref. 14977/ENV).

On Nov. 2, 2019, Quang Ninh Traffic Police seized 398.5 kg of snakes, an Indochinese box turtle, and a four-eyed turtle (*Sacalia quadriocellata*) from a vehicle heading from Uong Bi city to Ha Long city. The turtles were subsequently transferred to Hanoi Rescue Center. However, the snakes were given back to the owner, as they had legal papers (Case ref. 15279/ENV).

On Dec. 2, 2019, Quang Ninh Traffic Police Patrol Team No. 2 checked a passenger bus and seized six live foxes, including three red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) and three arctic foxes (*Vulpes lagopus*). The three red foxes were transferred to Hanoi Rescue Center, while the three arctic foxes died and were destroyed. The subject was administratively fined VND 10 million (Case ref. 15631/ENV).



On Dec. 22, 2019, Ha Long City Economic Police stopped a passenger bus and seized 18 turtles including three big-headed turtles (*Platysternon megacephalum*), two Indochinese box turtles (*Cuora galbinifrons*), and 13 four-eyed turtles (*Sacalia quadriocellata*). The turtles were subsequently transferred to Hanoi Rescue Center (Case ref. 15668/ENV).

On Dec. 22, 2019, Quang Ninh Traffic Police stopped a motorbike without a registration plate heading from Ha Long city to Mong Cai city. Upon seeing the police, the driver threw a jute bag containing 36 keeled box turtles (*Cuora mouhotii*) on the side of the road and fled immediately. The turtles were subsequently transferred to Hanoi Rescue Center (Case ref. 15689/ENV).

On Dec. 27, 2019, Quang Ninh Traffic Police stopped a passenger bus heading from Ha Long city to Mong Cai city and seized 19 live turtles, including two Malayan box turtles (*Cuora amboinensis*), two Eastern black-bridged leaf turtles (*Cyclemys pulchrestriata*), eight Asian leaf turtles (*Cyclemys oldhamii*), six keeled box turtles (*Cuora mouhoutii*), and a black marsh turtle (*Siebenrockiella crassicollis*). The turtles were subsequently transferred to Hanoi Rescue Center (Case ref. 15688/ENV).

Quang Tri

On Sept. 21, 2019, Huong Hoa FPD seized four clouded monitors (*Varanus bengalensis*) from a local woman. The woman was subsequently fined VND 10 million and the animals were released back into nature (Case ref. 15007/ENV).

On Oct. 2, 2019, Sop Cop District Police stopped a passenger bus on the way from Sop Cop district to Hai Duong province and seized a live Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*) and a dead fox. The pangolin was subsequently transferred to the Pangolin and Small Carnivore Rescue Center at Cuc Phuong National Park (Case ref. 15087/ENV).

On Oct. 7, 2019, Huong Hoa District Police stopped a motorbike and seized five Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*). The motorbike driver claimed that he was only hired to transport the pangolins. The pangolins were subsequently transferred to the Pangolin and Small Carnivore Rescue Center at Cuc Phuong National Park (Case ref. 15101/ENV).

“THE BEST PLACE TO PROTECT WILDLIFE IS IN THEIR HABITAT WHERE THEY BELONG, BEFORE THEY FALL INTO THE HANDS OF HUNTERS AND TRADERS.”



On Dec. 3, 2019, Vietnam Border Security in cooperation with Quang Tri Customs checked a passenger bus and seized 20 live brush-tailed porcupines (*Atherurus macrourus*), 26 live bamboo rats, two live common palm civets (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*), three dead muntjacs, six dead porcupines, five dead wild pigs, 30 kg of wildlife meat and 210 kg of rosewood. Two common palm civets, 17 brush-tailed porcupines, and 18 bamboo rats were later released into nature. The dead animals were destroyed. The subject was administratively fined VND 80 million (Case ref. 15526/ENV).

On Dec. 17, 2019, Dakrong District Police in cooperation with Cam Lo District Police checked a car and seized nine live Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*). The pangolins were subsequently transferred to the pangolin rescue center at Cuc Phuong National Park (Case ref. 15619/ENV).

Son La

On Dec. 4, 2019, an Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) being kept by a resident's house was voluntarily transferred to Four Paws' Bear Sanctuary Ninh Binh (Case ref. 15317/ENV).

Tay Ninh

On Jul. 1, 2019, Tay Ninh FPD confiscated eight long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*) from a church after receiving a public report. The eight macaques were released back into nature (Case ref. 14596/ENV).

Thanh Hoa

On Jul. 5, 2019, Cam Thuy Traffic Police stopped a motorbike and seized 10 keeled box turtles (*Cuora mouhotii*), three tokay geckos (*Gekko gecko*), and two radiated rat snakes (*Elaphe radiata*) from a subject who intended to use the animals to make wildlife wine. The subject received a fine of VND 20 million (Case ref. 14794/ENV).

Thanh Hoa FPD takes initiative tackling wild bird hunting in province

On Sept. 11, 2019, Thanh Hoa FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline about a bird hunting operation in Quang Xuong district. Rangers immediately inspected the site and confiscated 214 square meters of bird nets. The perpetrators in this case were reportedly a group of local teenagers (Case ref. 14962/ENV).

On Oct. 22, 2019, Thanh Hoa FPD in Nong Cong district responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated 80 square meters of mist nets that were spread out in front of the subject's farm and intended to catch wild birds. According to Thanh Hoa FPD, in the third quarter of 2019, Thanh Hoa FPD initiated a major campaign targeting wild bird hunting and confiscated 6,450 square meters of bird nets and 117 wild birds (Case ref. 15198/ENV).

On Oct. 29, 2019, Quang Xuong Traffic Police stopped a car with Laotian registration plates and seized two bags containing 19.7 kg of pangolin scales. The scales were later identified as belonging to an African species, the giant pangolin (*Manis gigantea*). The driver of the vehicle was from Dien Chau district in Nghe An, a well-known center of activity for wildlife trafficking in Vietnam (Case ref. 15256/ENV).

On Nov. 26, 2019, Thanh Hoa Fisheries in cooperation with Hai Thanh District authorities responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) from a fisherman. The turtle was released back to the sea on the same day (Case ref. 15460/ENV).



Thua Thien Hue

On Dec. 7, 2019, Hue city FPD in cooperation with Hue city Economic Police checked a restaurant and seized 12 common butterfly lizards (*Leiolepis belliana*). The lizards were later released into nature and the restaurant owner was fined VND 10 million (Case ref. 15643/ENV).

Tuyen Quang

On Dec. 20, 2019, Na Hang District Traffic Police in cooperation with Na Hang FPD stopped a passenger bus and seized 23 live bamboo rats. The bamboo rats were subsequently released into nature. The subject was administratively fined VND 10 million (Case ref. 15710/ENV).

Vinh Phuc

Illegal unregistered bear confiscated

On Oct. 15, 2019, National Environment Police responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated one Asiatic black bear (*Selenarctos thibetanus*) from a resident's house. The bear had been kept at a pig farm for roughly eight years and was later transferred to the AAF's Tam Dao Bear sanctuary (Case ref. 14999/ENV).

Vinh Long

On Dec. 3, 2019, Vinh Long Provincial FPD in cooperation with local authorities responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) from a resident's home. The leopard cat was released into the local forest on the same day (Case ref. 15491/ENV).



Research shows that more than 70 percent of new infectious diseases come from wildlife. The capture, transportation, trade, slaughter, and consumption of wild animals all constitute activities that may contribute to the occurrence and spread of communicable diseases such as SARS, MERS, ebola, and the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

The solution is clear: Stop wildlife trade and consumption!

PROSECUTION

Three years for Nhi Khe ivory trader

On Jun. 28, 2019, the Hanoi High Court issued a three year prison term to a Hanoi man after 88 kg of ivory was discovered by police in his home in Nhi Khe village, a hotspot for ivory trafficking. The seizure took place in Jul. 2018, and the subject's conviction took place in Dec. 2018. He was initially sentenced to six years in prison and given a VND 50 million fine. However, he appealed the verdict and successfully received a three year reduction (*Case ref. 12947/ENV*).

Nhi Khe ivory trafficker gets 10 years

On Aug. 17, 2018, Hanoi Environment Police and Hanoi Investigation Police searched the house of a subject in Nhi Khe Village of Thuong Tin District and discovered 119.9 kg of ivory products. On Jun. 7, 2019, the subject was convicted by a Hanoi city Court and sentenced to 10 years in prison (*Case ref. 13119/ENV*).

On Apr. 12, 2019, Hanoi Anti-smuggling Police at Noi Bai International Airport discovered 14.6 kg of rhino horn in the checked baggage of a South African passenger. The subject reportedly smuggled the rhino horns from South Africa, transiting in Singapore before arriving in Vietnam. The man confessed that he was hired to transport rhino horn by a man in South Africa and intended to deliver the horns to a Vietnamese person. On Oct. 22, 2019, the subject was convicted and sentenced to a prison term of 10 years (*Case ref. 14175/ENV*).



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Hanoi

On Jun. 6, 2019, Nam Tu Liem District Police confiscated six ivory statues weighing 4.44 kg during a sting operation undertaken in cooperation with ENV. The carved statues were advertised for sale on Facebook for VND 178 million. ENV worked with police to set up a buy during which the ivory was seized and two subjects were arrested.

The case first developed in Dec. 2018 following the seizure of 32 kg of rhino horns at Ankara International Airport in Turkey. In that case, the horns were discovered in the unclaimed luggage of the subject. Thanks to assistance from an international law enforcement agency, ENV was able to work with Vietnamese law enforcement to positively identify the subject, after which the sting operation was planned and executed following the subject's posted advertisements for ivory on social media. The second subject arrested in the sting was the supplier.

On Oct. 17, 2019, both subjects were sentenced by the Nam Tu Liem District Court to 24 months imprisonment and 18 months imprisonment. The confiscated ivory was destroyed (*Case ref. 14294/13696/ENV*).



On Nov. 20, 2018, Hanoi Environment Police, in cooperation with Hanoi Criminal Police, and National Environment Police raided a rental house in Thanh Oai district and found 181 kg of raw ivory in 13 sacks stored in the house. In Nov. 2019, ENV was notified that the subject had been convicted and sentenced to 10 years in prison (*Case ref. 13604/ENV*).

Bac Lieu

On Sept. 17, 2017, Bac Lieu Investigation Police discovered a truck loading suspected wildlife from fishing boats in Bac Lieu city and found 49 sacks containing 1.422 tonnes of African elephant tusks (*Loxodonta africana*). Five subjects were arrested, one of them the former vice-leader of the Bac Lieu Border Police. On Oct. 21, 2019, the five subjects were convicted by the Region 9 Military Court and sentenced to prison terms ranging from one to two years (Case ref. 11426/ENV).

Cao Bang

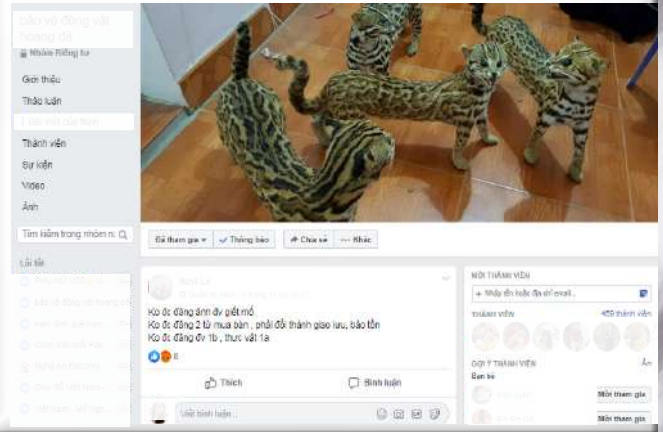
On Jan. 13, 2019, Dam Thuy Border Security and Trung Khanh District FPD stopped a motorbike in Trung Khanh District that was operating without a registration number and discovered 51 kg of ivory. Following a confession by the driver, authorities then arrested the driver's uncle, who had hired him to transport the ivory, in addition to a woman who had reportedly stored the ivory before it was to be transported to China.

On Oct. 8, 2019, the driver was convicted by the Trung Khanh District Court and sentenced to a prison term of six years, while his uncle was sentenced to five years and six months (Case ref. 13830/ENV).

“IF YOU **ARE NOT**
PART OF THE
SOLUTION,
YOU **MAY BE**
PART OF THE
PROBLEM.”

Online wildlife supplier gets one year in prison

On Mar. 5, 2019, Hai Ba Trung District Economic Police confiscated a wine jar containing an Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) cub during a sting operation undertaken in cooperation with ENV. The wine jar was advertised for sale on Facebook for VND 11.5 million. The subject was an online seller who advertised tiger cubs and other wildlife. ENV initially sought to set up a sting involving several tiger cubs that she had advertised for sale, but when the cubs were not available, the sting team opted to buy the bear cub wine instead, leading to the successful outcome. On Jul 28, 2019, the subject was sentenced to one year in prison by Hai Ba Trung District Court (Case ref. 13835/ENV).



Quang Ninh

On Apr. 10, 2019, Hai Hoa Border Police stopped a man who was transporting a tiger skin and six Asiatic black bear (*Selenarctos thibetanus*) bones on his motorbike from Mong Cai city with the intention of crossing the border into China. The subject stated that he was hired to transport the contraband to China by an unknown man for about VND 1 million. On Aug. 20, 2019, the subject was convicted and sentenced to prison for 30 months (Case ref. 14159/ENV).

Frozen tiger cubs result in six-year prison sentence

On Jan. 8, 2019, Nam Tu Liem Economic Police and Hanoi Environment Police seized five frozen tiger cubs at a guest house near the bus station. Two subjects were arrested, including a man from Thanh Hoa with ties to Thailand. On Aug. 6, 2019, Nam Tu Liem District Court convicted both subjects and sentenced them to six and five years in prison respectively (Case ref. 13815/ENV).

15 month sentence for tiger trader

On Apr. 23, 2019, Bac Ninh Environment Police undertook a sting operation in cooperation with ENV and confiscated two frozen tiger cubs in Tu Son town. The subject was targeted by ENV after he advertised the tigers for sale on Facebook for VND 18 million each.

On Sept. 5, 2019, the subject was convicted by Tu Son District Court and sentenced to 15 months in prison (Case ref. 13069/ENV).

Nghe An

On Jun. 2, 2019, Nghe An Environment Police arrested two subjects from Kon Tum province on Highway 1A in possession of seven dead pangolins. On Oct. 11, 2019, both subjects were convicted by the Hung Nguyen District Court and sentenced to prison terms of five years and five years and six months respectively (Case ref. 14387/ENV).

Pangolin trafficker gets five years

On Mar. 30, 2019, Nghe An Environment Police stopped a bus and discovered 11 Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*). The wildlife was being transported on the bus from Ha Tinh to Nghe An.

On Sept. 24, 2019, the pangolin trafficker was convicted by a Nghe An Court and sentenced to a prison term of five years (Case ref. 14109/ENV).

Quang Ninh

On Sept. 17, 2018, National Criminal Police arrested nine subjects and confiscated 145 live and frozen pangolins, 7 kg of pangolin scales, and 72 kg of elephant skins at a warehouse in Mong Cai city located along the Chinese border in Quang Ninh province. A total of 59 live pangolins were transferred to the pangolin rescue center at Cuc Phuong National Park. The remaining 86 dead pangolins, 7 kg of pangolin scales and the elephant skins were destroyed. Two other suspects were later arrested in connection with the case.

On Nov. 20, 2019, 11 subjects were convicted by a Quang Ninh Provincial Court. The leader of the group was sentenced to 13 years in prison. The other 10 subjects were sentenced between five and eight years 2 months 24 days in prison (Case ref. 13240/ENV).

On Jul. 23, 2019, the patrol team from KM15 - Dan Tien wharf in Quang Ninh stopped a bus and seized 10 live Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*). All the pangolins were transferred to the pangolin rescue center at Cuc Phuong National Park.

On Nov. 30, 2019, the subject was convicted by a Mong Cai city Court and sentenced to 9 years in prison (Case ref. 14725/ENV).

Marine turtle trader gets five years for possession of turtles

On Nov. 12, 2018, An Thoi Border Security in cooperation with Phu Quoc District Police and Phu Quoc Marine Protected Area checked a floating house in Phu Quoc District and discovered 12 green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) and four hawksbill sea turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) weighing a total of 187.5 kg. Previously, the owner was found keeping four other marine turtles at her floating house in Jan. 2018.

On Sept. 10, 2019, the subject was convicted by Phu Quoc District Court and sentenced to a prison term of five years (Case ref. 13583/ENV).

Ba Ria Vung Tau

On Apr. 16, 2019, Con Dao National Park FPD and Con Dao District Police seized 60 green sea turtle eggs (*Chelonia mydas*) and body parts which included flippers, organs, and meat at a resident's house in Con Dao District. The total weight of the eggs and parts was 85.4 kg. On Oct. 14, 2019, one of two subjects was convicted by a Con Dao District Court and sentenced to a prison term of two years. The second subject was sentenced to three years and six months in prison (Case ref. 14187/ENV).

Two subjects get harsh prison time for selling marine turtle trophies in Hanoi

On Jul. 24, 2019, two Hanoi men were sentenced by a Long Bien Court to 10 years in prison and eight years and six months respectively for selling marine turtle trophies. The case stemmed from an Oct. 2018 seizure involving both brothers during which Long Bien District Police seized 12 green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) trophies and two Hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) trophies from the subjects as they were transporting the trophies to a buyer. (Case ref. 14736/ENV).

Note: Please take note. Selling marine turtles live, as trophies, or their parts are all serious offenses for which the subjects face strict penalties, as in this Hanoi case. ENV applauds the outstanding results from Long Bien Court and recognizes that the court has sent a clear zero-tolerance message to traffickers of marine turtle parts and product which will undoubtedly deter similar criminal activities throughout Vietnam.

Dong Nai

On Nov. 8, 2018, Cat Tien National Park FPD seized more than 3 kg of wildlife, including a black-shanked douc langur (*Pygathrix nigripes*), a pig-tailed macaque (*Macaca leonina*), a lesser Malay mouse-deer (*Tragulus javanicus*) and a civet from two poachers.

On May 28, 2019, both poachers were convicted by the Tan Phu District Court and sentenced to prison terms of three years and five years respectively (Case ref. 15183/ENV).

Ho Chi Minh City

On Feb. 1, 2018, District No. 3 Police seized a pygmy loris (*Nycticebus pygmaeus*) in a sting operation undertaken with ENV. The authorities then searched the suspect's house and found four other pygmy lorises. All the lorises were transferred to Dao Tien Primate Rescue Center in Cat Tien National park on the following day. On Oct. 28, 2019, the subject was convicted by the District No.3 Court and sentenced to a prison term of three years (Case ref. 11870 /ENV).

Quang Binh

On Nov. 27, 2018, Quang Binh Economic Police in cooperation with Traffic Police stopped a truck and seized a large quantity of wildlife, including 1,280 kg of cobras, 675 kg of common rat snakes (*Ptyas mucosus*) and 379 yellow-headed temple turtles (*Heosemys annandalii*). On Oct. 21, 2019, the subject was convicted by Quang Trach District Court and sentenced to a prison term of three years (Case ref. 13660/ENV).

Nghe An

On Aug. 2, 2019, Quy Chau Police seized 62 turtles, including 13 live Indochinese box turtles (*Cuora galbinifrons*), 25 live big-headed turtles (*Platysternon megacephalum*), 10 dead big-headed turtles (*Platysternon megacephalum*), two live black-breasted leaf turtles (*Geoemyda spengleri*), 11 live four-eyed turtles (*Sacalia quadriocellata*), and an Asian leaf turtle (*Cyclemys tchaponensis*). The subject claimed that he had transported the wildlife from Que Phong district to Yen Thanh district. All live turtles were transferred to Cuc Phuong Rescue Center, and the dead turtles were transferred to IEBR.

On Dec. 26, 2019, the subject was convicted by the Quy Chau District Court and sentenced to a prison term of five years (Case ref. 14807/ENV).

Quang Ninh

On Jun. 26, 2019, Mong Cai Police in Quang Ninh province seized three gibbons (*Hylobates lar*), nine Eurasian otters (*Lutra lutra*), and three Woolly-necked storks (*Ciconia episcopus*) at a rented house in Ninh Duong commune when a subject was feeding the wildlife. The police had been watching the house for a long time. The wildlife was later transferred to Hanoi Rescue Center. The subject was reportedly only hired to take care of the animals, so he did not know the source of the wildlife.

On Nov. 28, 2019, the subject was convicted by a Mong Cai city Court in Quang Ninh and sentenced to 10 years in prison, with an additional 24 months added due to the fact that the subject was on probation at the time of the incident (Case ref. 14852/ENV).



EDUCATION FOR NATURE – VIETNAM

Education for Nature – Vietnam (ENV) was established in 2000 as Vietnam's first non-governmental organization focused on the conservation of nature and the protection of the environment. ENV combats the illegal wildlife trade and aims to foster greater understanding amongst the Vietnamese public about the need to protect nature and wildlife. ENV employs creative and innovative strategies to influence public attitudes and reduce demand for wildlife trade products. ENV works closely with government partners to strengthen policy and legislation, and directly supports enforcement efforts in the protection of endangered species of regional, national, and global significance.

ENV STRATEGIC PROGRAMS

Since 2007, ENV has focused its activities on three major program areas that comprise ENV's integrated strategic approach for addressing illegal wildlife trade in Vietnam. These include:


Reducing consumer demand for wildlife products through investment in a long-term and sustained effort to influence public attitudes and behavior.


Strengthening enforcement through direct support and assistance to law enforcement agencies, and mobilizing active public participation in helping combat wildlife crime.


Working with policy-makers to strengthen legislation, close loopholes in the law, and promote sound policy and decision-making relevant to wildlife protection.

ENV would also like to thank our individual supporters from all over the world, who have contributed to our efforts by providing financial support, giving critical technical assistance, or volunteering their time.

Finally, ENV would like to thank the authorities for providing information and images used in this Wildlife Crime Bulletin.

 **Education for Nature – Vietnam**

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ENV's efforts to combat illegal hunting and trade of wildlife are made possible thanks to the generous support of the following partners:



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