

Think smart: Putting confiscated wildlife legally back into the trade compromises the efforts of law enforcement and puts wildlife at risk

Authorities in Hanoi recently considered the transfer of 263 kilograms of pangolin scales belonging to two African pangolin species to the National Hospital of Traditional Medicine after they were seized from a bus that originated in Vientiane, Laos.

Background

The pangolin scales were seized by police along with other contraband from the cargo hold of a bus with Laotian registration in January when the bus broke down along Highway One in Hanoi. The driver, a Vietnamese national living in Vientiane, claimed that he was not the owner of the shipment and was subsequently released with a warning. Local law enforcement was unhappy with this decision and urged the city agency to have the pangolin scales disposed of properly. The scales were identified by the Institute of Ecological and Biological Studies (IEBR) as belonging to the tree pangolin (*Manis tricuspis*) and the giant pangolin (*Manis gigantea*).

Discussion

In allowing the National Hospital for Traditional Medicine to receive the scales for use with patients, we are directly contributing to further illegal trade and stimulating consumer demand by making banned products available. The opposing argument is that the pangolin scales should not be wasted. Some proponents of the sale of confiscated wildlife claim that incinerating the scales is akin to burning money. Viewed in strictly economic terms, this is certainly true; the scales were valued at more than VND 100 million. However, decisions regarding the disposal of wildlife cannot be made based on economic considerations alone.

Other factors must also be considered in the decision-making process beyond the value of the shipment. For example, how does



A shipment of 91 pangolins confiscated by police in Quang Ninh province in July that was heading for Mong Cai City and the China border. Auctioning off seizures like this one only contributes to the continued trade of endangered wildlife.

Photo: Tuan Huong

the decision impact overall efforts to protect endangered wildlife? Does the decision strengthen enforcement, or undermine it? Does it stimulate consumer demand by making banned products available? Does it impact Vietnam's image internationally, or compromise Vietnam's responsibility in working with other countries to address global issues like the illegal wildlife trade?

Disposing of 263 kilograms of African pangolin scales may see like a waste to some, but it was the right thing to do. It was a good result for:

- Law enforcement;
- National efforts to address the illegal trade of wildlife;
- Vietnam's reputation as an international partner in combating global illegal wildlife trade; and
- The protection of pangolins.

To achieve this effective and positive outcome in the effort to protect wildlife, we do not waste pangolin scales, but instead sacrifice them in order to achieve something better.

Results: On June 5, 2013, the City of Hanoi made the decision to destroy the pangolin scales.

Learn from the failure

Confiscate marine turtles when they are discovered

A number of recent live marine turtle cases in Hanoi have concluded unsuccessfully as a result of slow or inadequate responses from local authorities. In two recent cases involving restaurants selling live marine turtles, authorities were too slow to act and both turtles disappeared before they could be confiscated. In each of these cases, the restaurant owner was suspected to have been tipped off. In the second case, restaurant staff told ENV's undercover investigators that they were informed 24 hours in advance of the impending confiscation, and moved the turtle accordingly.

Marine turtles are fully protected under the law, including under Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and on the list of marine species prohibited from exploitation under Circular 02/2006/TT-BTS (amended by Circular 62/2008/TT-BNN).

A third case in Phu Quoc also resulted in disaster after it took several days for the confiscation team to be assembled. When the team finally arrived at the business that was keeping four live marine turtles, the turtles had already disappeared. The owner claimed to have released them prior to the inspection, but this is probably false; it is more likely the animals were moved to another location after someone tipped off the owner of the impending inspection.

These cases highlight two important lessons:

1. Slow response by authorities almost always results in failure.
2. Corruption directly conflicts with the efforts of honest and hard-working law enforcement officers to successfully enforce the law.

Solutions

Law enforcement agencies must assume that restaurants and other businesses with ties to the community are connected to local authorities that



Despite the problems in Hanoi, Da Nang authorities demonstrated how decisive action and a timely response can yield success. Following a report to the ENV hotline, Da Nang Environmental Police and Fisheries Department officers immediately confiscated a hawksbill marine turtle being kept at a restaurant. The animal was subsequently released back into the sea.

Photo: Da Nang Fisheries Department

serve to protect them from exactly this type of law enforcement action. In order to circumvent the corruption factor, operations must be carried out quickly and efficiently before owners can be tipped off by friends. When a case is reported, an effective law enforcement response would be to go to the site immediately, verify the violation, and remain on site until action has been taken. Don't let corruption undermine your work.

If we are to successfully enforce laws that were put into place to protect endangered wildlife, we must change the way we work and devise methods that ensure successful enforcement outcomes and punishment.

Action required to reduce consumer marine turtle trade:

Confiscate marine turtles, live or dead, immediately upon discovery. Release live animals and incinerate or transfer trophies and specimens to the Museum of Natural History.

Note: Case references: 5204 (Hanoi), 5055 (Hanoi), 5147 (Kien Giang)

Enforcement alert

CITES adopts stricter controls on freshwater turtle and tortoise trade

During the CITES Conference of the Parties meeting in Bangkok in March 2013, a series of tighter controls was adopted regulating the trade of native tortoises and freshwater turtles in Vietnam. These changes took effect in June.

The changes and what they mean for frontline law enforcement officers are as follows:

Up-listed to Appendix I

The big-headed turtle (*Platysternon megacephalum*) was up-listed to Appendix I. CITES permits are required from both the source and recipient country for any cross-border trade of this species. For Appendix I-listed species, criminal charges apply for violations that occur in Vietnam.

Up-listed to Appendix II

The four-eyed turtle (*Sacalia quadriocellata*), black-breasted leaf turtle (*Geoemyda spengleri*), Asian leaf turtle (*Cyclemys oldhami*), striped-neck leaf turtle (*Cyclemys pulchristriata*), Swinhoe's soft-shell turtle (*Rafetus swinhoei*), and wattle-necked soft-shell turtle (*Palea steindachneri*) were up-listed to Appendix II. CITES permits are required from the source country to transport across international borders (into Vietnam, or from Vietnam to China).

Zero quotas set for wild-caught animals

Zero quotas were set for the Vietnamese pond turtle (*Mauremys annamensis*), yellow-headed temple turtle (*Heosemys annandalii*), keeled box turtle (*Cuora mouhotii*), Bourret's box turtle (*Cuora bourreti*), Indochinese box turtle (*Cuora galbinifrons*), lesser Indochinese box turtle (*Cuora picturata*), and three striped box turtle (*Cuora trifaciata*). Zero quotas prohibit any trade of all wild caught animals of these species across international borders.

More information about each species can be found on ENV's online Guide to Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles of Vietnam [here](#).



In May, police seized nearly 100 big headed turtles in Quang Ninh that were being smuggled to China

This species was up-listed to Appendix 1 under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), effective in June 2013. Violations relating to smuggling and trade of this species are now considered criminal offenses subject to punishment under the criminal code.

Photo: Quang Ninh Traffic Police

Buying and selling wild animals and their parts is a CRIME

Quick reference on CITES changes

English name	Scientific name	IUCN Status	CITES Listing	Decree 32	Action
Big-headed turtle	<i>Platysternon megacephalum</i>	Critically endangered	App. I	Group 2B	Confiscate Criminal violation Not farmed Do not auction or sell
Indochinese box turtle	<i>Cuora galbinifrons</i>	Critically endangered	App. II Zero quota		Confiscate Not farmed Do not auction or sell
Bourret's box turtle	<i>Cuora bourreti</i>	Critically endangered	App. II Zero quota		Confiscate Endemic to Vietnam Not farmed Do not auction or sell
Lesser Indochinese box turtle	<i>Cuora picturata</i>	Critically endangered	App. II Zero quota		Confiscate Not farmed Do not auction or sell
Keeled box turtle	<i>Cuora mouhotii</i>	Endangered	App. II Zero quota		Confiscate Not farmed
Vietnamese pond turtle	<i>Mauremys annamensis</i>	Critically endangered	App. II Zero quota	Group 2B	Caution on origin Require CITES permit if farmed No trade permitted if not farmed
Yellow-headed temple turtle	<i>Heosemys annandalii</i>	Endangered	App. II Zero quota	Group 2B	Confiscate Not farmed Do not auction or sell Caution on origin of large adults as most likely illegal Require CITES permit if farmed No trade permitted if not from legal farm
Three-striped box turtle	<i>Cuora trifasciata</i>	Critically endangered	App. II Zero quota	Group 1B	Confiscate Listed Group 1B No commercial trade permitted
Swinhoe's soft-shell turtle	<i>Rafetus swinhoei</i>	Critically endangered	App. II		Not present in trade
Wattle-necked soft-shell	<i>Palea steindachneri</i>	Endangered	App. II		Limited farming Require CITES permit for export
Four-eyed turtle	<i>Sacalia quadriocellata</i>	Endangered	App. II		Not common in trade Require CITES permit for export
Black-breasted leaf turtle	<i>Geoemyda spengleri</i>	Endangered	App. II		Not common in trade Require CITES permit for export
Asian leaf turtle	<i>Cyclemys oldhami</i>	Lower risk	App. II		Common trade species Require CITES permit for export
Stripe-necked Asian leaf turtle	<i>Cyclemys pulchristriata</i>	Lower risk	App. II		Common trade species Require CITES permit for export

Case review

Provincial decision conflicts with protection of rare and endemic species

Case reference: 4748

On February 6, 2013, Environmental Police in Quang Ngai confiscated 11 critically endangered and endemic Bourret's box turtles (*Cuora bourreti*) from a farmer in Duc Pho district of the province. The local farmer was not permitted to raise this species under licensing from the province.

From there, the case unraveled. Claims emerged that the turtles were sourced from a legal farm in Dong Thap that was licensed to raise a range of wildlife, including Indochinese box turtles (*Cuora galbinifrons*), a similar species of box turtle. The argument was that the turtles were legally sourced from the Dong Thap farm and should therefore be returned. However, the Bourret's box turtle (though similar to Indochine box turtle, the species the Dong Thap farm was licensed to have) was in reality a very rare species of box turtle endemic to central Vietnam, including Quang Ngai and surrounding provinces.

This species (and its similar sister species, Indochine box turtle) does not breed well in captivity. Scientists and a handful of experts have successfully produced offspring, but these offspring grow slowly into adults over many years. *"Any farmers that claim that they are breeding and producing adults of this species in numbers to sell are not being truthful, simple as that,"* says Tim McCormack, coordinator for Cleveland Metroparks Zoo's Asian Turtle Program. *"These animals were wild caught. No question about it."*

The rarity of this species made this case incredibly important as it brought into question how the authorities respond in cases where critically endangered species are confiscated and farmers make false claims that the species are being "farmed".



A small number of endemic Bourret's box turtles (*Cuora bourreti*) seized in Quang Ngai province. These animals allegedly came from a farm in the south, but in reality, were collected from the wild in central Vietnam. If efforts are not improved to protect this species, the Bourret's box turtle will follow the path of the Javan rhino in Vietnam.

Once it was known that these turtles were of native origin in central Vietnam and not the species that the Dong Thap farmer was permitted to raise, decisions in Quang Ngai should have reflected the interests of conservation and protection of wildlife, and the turtles should not have been returned as they were in April.

The facts should have been clear enough for common sense and the interests of biodiversity protection to prevail.

The trade of wildlife will end when the public realizes that the trade benefits only a few, while the rest of us all share in the cost of losing a precious and irreplaceable part of our natural heritage when a species becomes extinct.

- The turtles were a critically endangered species, endemic to Quang Ngai and neighboring provinces in central Vietnam (and found nowhere else on earth).
- The species was similar to but different from the species the Dong Thap farmer was licensed to keep.
- The turtles were wild caught, as no breeding nor successful rearing to adulthood is occurring anywhere on farms in Vietnam for this species or its sister species, *Cuora galbinifrons* and *Cuora picturata*. Therefore, authorities could assume that the turtles were of illegal origin in Dong Thap.
- Dong Thap authorities erred in their judgment in issuing a permit to the Dong Thap farmer to keep species that are ecologically ill-suited to raise in captivity and are rare or endemic species. Such licensing is in conflict with the interests of wildlife protection.

Let us hope that lessons are learned. If wildlife farming is to be permitted for some economically viable species, then care and caution needs to be exercised in the decisions that are made

about which species are licensed and which are not. The interests of profits should never be allowed to supersede the interests of Vietnam, and Quang Ngai authorities should not permit their own rare and endemic biodiversity to be returned to farms or traded in any other manner just because the law permits them to do so. Decisions should be based on careful consideration of what is the “right thing to do”, not just what is possible.

Dong Thap provincial authorities need to remove licensing for *Cuora galbinifrons* from the local farmers, as legal animals are not available. Furthermore, the farmer’s business would be better off if he had not wasted time, energy, and resources trying to raise animals that do not do well in captivity. If he has tried to raise this species, he knows this already.

Quang Ngai provincial authorities need to think about endemism in the province and get tough on protecting their own native wildlife. They have a great opportunity to do so with several species, including another endemic native, the Vietnamese pond turtle (*Mauremys annamensis*).

Enforcement advisor

Why bear farmers should not be compensated Enforcement alert for giving up their bears

Q: Why doesn't the government pay bear farm owners compensation to completely stop farming bears and give up their bears?

A: This is a good question we hear from bear farmers quite frequently. The simple truth is that the bear farmers took a risk and committed a criminal violation when they bought their bears years ago. All but a few of these bears originated from the wild. Why should they be rewarded for violating the law?

Bear farmers can claim no legal right of ownership to the bears they are keeping. The fact that they are registered with the government and have been “micro chipped” does not constitute government recognition of ownership. All captive bears are owned by the state and only under the care of the bear farmers until the animals die of natural causes or are transferred by the state to a legitimate rescue center or zoo.



During a recent meeting in Phuc Tho district of Hanoi, where the country’s highest concentration of bear farms is located, local leaders spoke out against compensating bear farmers, suggesting that such compensation was a form of banned commercial trade of endangered species that would reward bear farmers for violating the law.

Photo: ENV

In the spotlight

National Awards honor outstanding achievements in wildlife protection law enforcement



Mr. Nguyen The Dong, Deputy Director General of the Vietnam Environment Administration (VEA) Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (third from left) gives an award to Mr. Nguyen Van Duong, Deputy Head of Environmental Crime Prevention for the Quang Ninh Police (pictured at right) in April 2013. Mr. Nguyen Van Duong was one of three law enforcement officers to receive national recognition this year for contributions to wildlife protection.

Photo: ENV

In April 2013, three law enforcement officers were recognized nationally for their contribution to wildlife protection. Winners were chosen from more than 60 qualified candidates from across the country by a selection committee that included representatives of both national and international organizations working in the field of wildlife protection and representatives from the US Embassy.

The winners were as follows (view the videos [here](#)):

- Mr. Tran Thanh Binh, Head of Lam Dong Forest Protection Department;
- Mr. Nguyen Van Duong, Deputy Head of Environmental Crime Prevention, Quang Ninh Police; and
- Mr. Lam Hieu Nghia, Team Leader of Team Two, Division of Environmental Police, Ho Chi Minh City Police.

ENV hopes to host a second awards event for wildlife protection law enforcement in 2014.

Crime log

BAC KAN

On July 23, Bac Kan Economic Police arrested a suspect and seized 40 kilograms of dried black-shanked douc langurs (*Pygathrix nigripes*). The subject originated from Cao Bang and was living in a southern province of Vietnam. Black-shanked douc langurs are commonly hunted and exported to China where they are sold to be used as traditional Chinese medicine (Case ref. 5247/ENV).

LAI CHAU

On March 29, Environmental Police and rangers from the Forest Protection Department arrested two suspects in possession of two Asiatic bear cubs, ending a long-term investigation of the suspects. The bears, weighing 3.5 and 3.3 kilograms respectively, were later transferred to the Animals Asia Foundation bear sanctuary at Tam Dao National Park (Case ref. 4779/ENV).

THAI NGUYEN

Traffic police stopped a vehicle on National Road 3 and discovered 58 kilograms of pangolins. The two occupants claimed that they had been hired to transport the pangolins to Lang Son, where they were presumably to be sent to China.



Rhino horns confiscated by Customs at Ho Chi Minh City's Tan Son Nhat International Airport – one of five recent cases involving rhino horn seizures at airports in Vietnam since May. Customs inspections at airports have successfully resulted in a number of seizures since September 2012 compared to previous years (Case ref. 4915, 4920, 4972, 5003, 5084).

Photo: Ho Chi Minh City Customs

Authorities said that the pangolins had been fed “stone powder” to increase body weight, as is commonly the case for pangolins observed in the illegal trade. The driver was subsequently fined VND 250 million (USD 11,860) (Case ref. 4998/ENV).

VINH PHUC

On June 28, a local resident voluntarily turned in a loris that was reportedly found near her home. The animal was transferred to the Cuc Phuong Endangered Primate Rescue Center. Vietnam is home to two species of loris: the pigmy loris (*Nycticebus pygmaeus*) and the slow loris (*Nycticebus bengalensis*). Both species are strictly protected under group IB of Decree 32/2006/2013 (Case ref. 5145/ENV).

HANOI

On April 4, Customs officers at Noi Bai International Airport confiscated 26 kilograms of ivory products, including 238 bracelets and 100 pairs of chopsticks. The ivory products were hidden in checked luggage on a flight originating in Qatar, via Bangkok. The 27-year-old subject is currently awaiting prosecution (Case ref. 4780/ENV).

On May 4, authorities at Noi Bai International Airport seized 19 pieces of rhino horn from three subjects on a flight from Qatar, transiting in Bangkok. Later, in early June, authorities confiscated three pieces of rhino horn from another subject whose flight route was also from Qatar through Bangkok (Case ref. 4920 and 5003/ENV).

On April 18, Chuong My district police stopped a car and confiscated a frozen leopard that had been painted to look like a tiger. According to authorities, the subject, residing in Son La province, admitted he bought the “tiger” for VND 115 million (USD 5,450) and planned to sell it to a buyer in Hanoi for VND 120 million (USD 5,690). The subject will be prosecuted (Case ref. 4830/ENV).

The illegal wildlife trade is mainly run by organized criminal networks some of which also are involved in drugs, prostitution, and human trafficking.

On April 9, a man in Thanh Hoa province was caught transporting two Asian golden cats by taxi to a buyer in Hanoi. According to authorities, the subject claimed to have bought the animals from a hunter in Thanh Hoa for VND 27 million (USD 1,280) and planned to sell them for VND 30 million (USD 1,420) (Case ref. 4784/ENV).

On April 10, a bear farmer in Hanoi voluntarily transferred one bear to local authorities. The animal was later transported to the Animals Asia Foundation bear sanctuary at Tam Dao National Park (Case ref. 4801/ENV).

HOA BINH

On April 19, a resident of Cao Phong district voluntarily transferred two lorises to the Cuc Phuong Endangered Primate Rescue Center, claiming he had bought the animals to protect them several days earlier. Despite the good intention, buying animals is never an effective or recommended method of protecting wildlife, as it promotes and increases the demand for illegal hunting and wildlife trade (Case ref. 4881/ENV).

HAI DUONG

On May 24, Hai Duong city FPD and Economic Police confiscated 178 kilograms of pangolins from a vehicle in Kinh Mon district. The driver was subsequently fined VND 450 million (USD 21,350) (Case ref. 4983/ENV).

NGHE AN

On May 8, the Nam Can Border Police stopped a bus coming in from Laos and confiscated two dead Asian golden cats (*Catopuma temminckii*). The bus driver insisted that he was not aware of the illegal wildlife on board. The owner of the bus admitted he had bought the animals in Laos but was not aware that he was violating the law. The Asian golden cat is fully protected under group IB of Decree 32/2006ND-CP. Violation of this wildlife law can result in up to seven years in prison (Case ref. 4951/ENV).



A case involving photos of a leopard cat being slaughtered and skinned posted on Facebook is just one example of many cases ENV receives monthly illustrating how the internet is being used to promote and sell wildlife in Vietnam.

Source: Facebook

On May 30, Nam Can Border Police inspected a Laotian registered bus and confiscated 15 deceased big headed turtles (*Platysternon megacephalum*). The owner abandoned the turtles at the border crossing, when all passengers had to vacate the bus in order to pass through immigration. The driver claimed that he was not aware of the illegal wildlife in the bus. Consequently, no one was punished and the animals were later incinerated (Case ref. 5000/ENV).

QUANG TRI

Customs agents and border guards discovered a shipment of wildlife concealed on a bus with Laos registration plates at the Lao Bao border crossing on March 30. The shipment included cobras, monitor lizards,

Tigers, gibbons, langurs, elephants, and many more species are all following the path of the rhino. It's up to you to stop this before it's too late.

Crime log

rat snakes, and Asiatic softshell turtles. All of the wildlife was later released in Bac Huong Hoa Nature Reserve. The driver of the bus was fined VND 20 million (USD 949) for transporting wildlife (Case ref. 4775/ENV).

DA NANG

On June 25, Da Nang authorities confiscated a hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) from a restaurant and released it back to the Son Tra Island area. The case was reported by an informant (Case ref. 5133/ENV).

On July 8, a spotted seal (*Phoca largha*) was voluntarily turned in to authorities by a local fisherman who claimed that that he had caught it in his fishing net earlier that day. The animal was immediately released back into the sea (Case ref. 5183/ENV).



Binh Duong police conducted a raid on July 3 of a private farm and confiscated six gibbons and other wildlife. Gibbons are listed as fully protected under group 1B of Decree 32 and may not be kept as pets or in private zoos (Case ref. 5170).

Photo: ENV

On August 2, Da Nang Environmental Police confiscated a northern white-cheeked gibbon (*Nomascus leucogenys*) from a man that was keeping the animal illegally at his home in Cam Le district. The case was initially reported to ENV by a member of the public. The gibbon was subsequently transferred to the Endangered Primate Rescue Center at Cuc Phuong National Park (Case ref. 5221/ENV).

GIA LAI

On April 23, Environmental Police stopped a vehicle heading from Duc Co district to Pleiku City and confiscated wildlife, cigarettes, and illegal timber. The animals included a small number of pangolins and civets, as well as larger numbers of monitor lizards and snakes. The animals were later released at Kon Ka Kinh National Park, Mang Yang district (Case ref. 4894/ENV).

KHANH HOA

On April 16, Environmental Police raided the home of a Khanh Hoa man and confiscated a number of turtles, civets, cobras, and bamboo rats. Included in the seizure were four endemic Vietnamese pond turtles



One of more than 18 signs advertising bear bile in Quynh Luu district of Nghe An during an inspection in May. Quynh Luu FPD embarked on a campaign to remove illegal advertisements, resulting in successful removal of the illegal advertisements in all but a few locations.

Photo: ENV

Punish criminals today to prevent crime tomorrow.



The dried remains of black-shanked douc langurs confiscated in Gia Lai. Vietnam's langurs are being heavily exploited for export to China where the animals' remains are used in traditional medicine (Case ref. 4974).

Photo: Chu Pah police

(*Mauremys annamensis*), two of which died and were incinerated. The remaining two turtles were transferred to the Turtle Conservation Center of Cuc Phuong National Park. The subject claimed to be supplying local restaurants and was fined VND 23 million (USD 1,090) (Case ref. 4826/ENV).

HO CHI MINH CITY

On June 7, Fisheries Department officers confiscated a green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) from a coffee shop after the live turtle was discovered in a tank toward the rear of the shop by a survey team conducting comprehensive inspections of business establishments within the district. Fisheries officers transferred the turtle to the Cu Chi Rescue Center where it will undergo recovery prior to release (Case ref. 5053/ENV).

On July 25, a restaurant owner voluntarily transferred a leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) to Cu Chi Rescue Center. Reportedly, a group of customers brought

the animal to his restaurant, asking the owner to kill it and serve it to them. After the owner explained that the leopard cat is an endangered species and offering them a free meal as an alternative, the customers were persuaded to hand over the animal which was then transferred to the rescue center by local authorities (Case ref. 5244/ENV).

BA RIA VUNG TAU

Alert Con Dao Forest Rangers conducting a patrol during the early hours of June 9 caught two local men collecting green turtle eggs (*Chelonia mydas*) from nests upon the protected beach. A total of 498 eggs were confiscated from the men, each of whom was fined VND 23 million (USD 1,090) for illegal hunting and exploitation of a protected marine species (Case ref. 5080/ENV).

BEN TRE

On May 14, a hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) was voluntarily turned in to local authorities by a resident who claimed he had caught the turtle whilst fishing a few days earlier. Some local residents wanted to buy the turtle from him but he refused their offers, handing in the animal which was then immediately released back into the sea (Case ref. 4946/ENV).

KIEN GIANG

On July 5, U Minh Thuong National Park rangers arrested two local hunters, confiscating two Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*). The animals were released back into the forest and the subjects await prosecution (Case ref. 5180/ENV).

On July 30, two men were arrested by Phu Quoc rangers, charged with hunting and killing two silvered langurs (*Trachypithecus villosus*) from a local forest. Silvered langurs are strictly protected by law and hunting of the animal is punishable by prison sentences of up to seven years (Case ref. 5257/ENV).

Report corruption

If you are aware of authorities accepting money or gifts from individuals involved in wildlife trade or wildlife farming, please report the incident to the National Anti-corruption Department at

080 48 228

The ENV Wildlife Crime Unit

ENV's Wildlife Crime Unit (WCU) was established in 2005 to encourage greater public involvement in efforts to combat illegal wildlife trade, and to strengthen the effectiveness of front line law enforcement agencies through support and cooperation, and facilitating public reporting of crimes.

The WCU administers a national toll-free hotline for reporting wildlife crimes. Information reported through the hotline is passed on to the appropriate authorities. ENV then works closely with law enforcement agencies, tracking each case through to conclusion, and documenting the results on ENV's Wildlife Crime Database. The WCU has documented more than 5,200 wildlife crime cases as of July 2013.

The main aims of ENV's Wildlife Crime Unit are to:

- Encourage public participation in efforts to stop the illegal trade of wildlife
- Provide support to law enforcement agencies tasked with combating wildlife crime
- Document crimes and work with authorities to identify and address factors that contribute to wildlife crime

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

World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)
Humane Society International (HSI)
Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund
Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Freeland Foundation (ARREST Program)
RhiNOremedy

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
Save the Rhino International
The Lush Foundation
Houston Zoo
Auckland Zoo
Columbus Zoo
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
Die Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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ENV Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/EducationforNatureVietnam>



Stop Wildlife Crime!

If you observe wildlife being kept, sold, transported, traded, consumed, or advertised, contact your local authorities or call the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline:

Hotline: **1800 1522** Email: **hotline@fpt.vn**