

WILDLIFE CRIME

BULLETIN

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JUDGES AND PROSECUTORS

MAKING HEADWAY IN THE WAR ON WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

The end of 2018 marked a potential new beginning in efforts to combat wildlife trafficking. A number of landmark cases illustrated how the criminal justice system recognizes the need to be tough on wildlife traffickers and treat wildlife crime in a more serious and effective manner.

Two important cases are well known. The first ever prosecution and conviction of a wildlife trafficking kingpin, Nguyen Mau Chien, who spent 13 months in jail in 2018 and was sentenced to a further three months imprisonment following a 2019 appeal court ruling. The second was the sentencing of convicted marine turtle trafficker Hoang Tuan Hai to four and a half years in prison for his role in trafficking marine turtles in partnership with his brother.

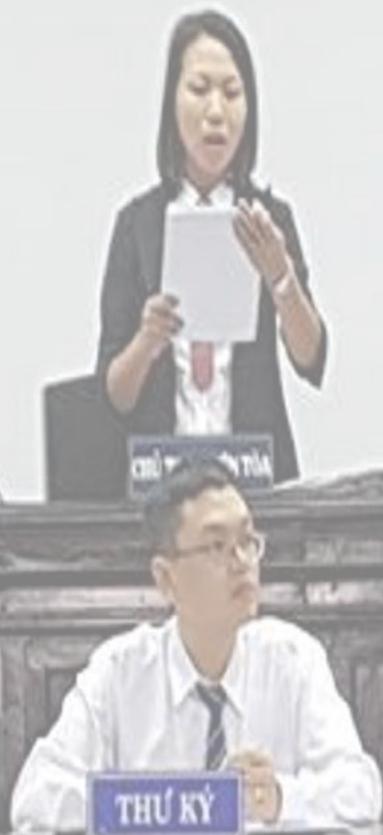
However, of equal importance were a number of other less publicized cases whereupon the criminal justice system prevailed, handing down stiff sentences or “breaking the norm” and setting new precedence in dealing with wildlife traffickers.

The outcome of two 2018 tiger trafficking cases are of particular importance in that they were amongst the first tiger trafficking cases prosecuted under the new Penal Code and two of only a handful on record that have resulted in prison sentences for one or more subjects.

One incident involved a trafficker caught in Quang Ninh province in January 2018 in possession of five frozen tiger cubs, 4 kg of tiger meat and parts, 30 kg of African pangolin scales, and other assorted wildlife. In September 2018, a Ha Long court sentenced the subject to ten years in prison for tiger trafficking.

A second case occurred in May 2018 in Hanoi’s Long Bien district. In this case, police seized a 180 kg tiger and apprehended three suspects. All three suspects were convicted and sentenced to between 10 and 15 months in prison.

Additionally, both cases linked back to traffickers in Nghe An, a hotspot for tiger trafficking, where residents in three districts are reported to be raising as many as 100 or more tigers in captivity to supply the illegal tiger trade. Enforcement efforts and prosecutions that target the Nghe An networks are critical to addressing weaknesses in Vietnam’s counter wildlife trafficking operations, particularly in relation to tiger trafficking.





Wildlife trafficking networks are sourcing tigers in Nghe An, where it is estimated that more than 100 are being kept illegally.

In another important case in Dien Bien province, a subject was caught near the Tay Chang border crossing with Laos with four bear paws and 27 big-headed turtles (*Platysternon megacephalum*) and was convicted and sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Likewise, a man transporting bear paws and eight frozen pangolins in the Nam Tu Liem district of Hanoi was convicted and sentenced to 10 years and nine months in prison for trafficking protected wildlife.

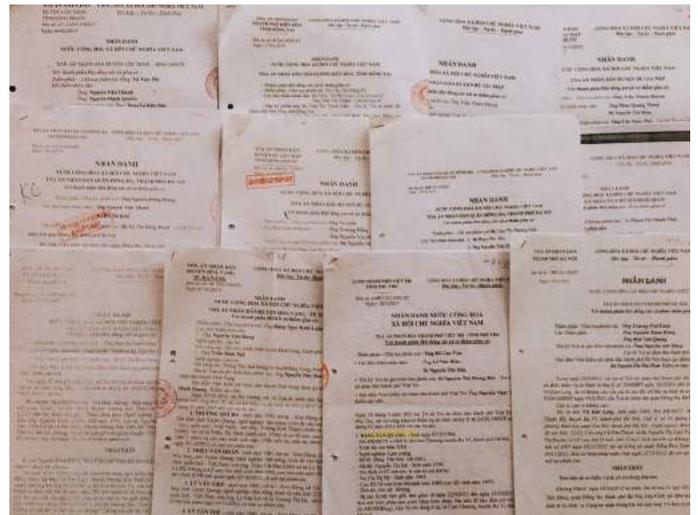
Other recent notable examples of successes include:

- A man caught smuggling wildlife across the border from Laos, including ivory products; clouded leopard and tiger bones, skin, and claws; as well as woolly mammoth ivory and other wildlife parts and products, was sentenced by a Quang Binh court to five years in prison.
- In November 2018, a Ho Chi Minh City court handed down a seven-year prison sentence to a man caught at Tan Son Nhat International Airport with 7.2 kg of rhino horn in his luggage while returning to Vietnam from Angola.

“ **EVERY ANIMAL COUNTS! YOUR DECISION MAY SAVE A SPECIES FROM EXTINCTION.** ”

“We are beginning to see a change all over Vietnam,” says ENV’s policy and legislative director Bui Thi Ha, who is working with courts throughout Vietnam to implement changes in how authorities perceive and respond to wildlife crime cases. “Harsh punishment may not be necessary in all cases, but in order to effect change, serious cases involving traffickers must be responded to harshly,” says Ha. “It is the only way to deter others from engaging in similar criminal behavior.”

Vietnam is changing how it deals with wildlife trafficking. Law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and the courts play a vital role in upholding the law and utilizing the revised Penal Code in a way that deters criminal activity. Deterrence is effective and avoids the necessity of locking up all violators by changing the behavior of those that consider the risks too high, but the threat of enforcement, conviction, and imprisonment must be credible to have an impact.



Recent heavy sentences have underscored the judiciary’s determination to get tough with wildlife crime. (ENV-R)

Some courts clearly recognize this critical detail and are working to ensure that criminals operating within their jurisdictions do not find safe haven in their communities. ENV urges police, prosecutors, and judges nationwide to follow suit and help bring about the transformation we need to ensure that wildlife trafficking is reduced and eliminated in Vietnam.

“ **EACH ANIMAL NOT PURCHASED IS AN ANIMAL ALIVE IN NATURE!** ”



“Tigers, gibbons, langurs, elephants, and many more species are following rhinos down the path of extinction. It’s up to you to stop this before it’s TOO LATE.”

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY THE LEGAL SYSTEM

- Treat wildlife trafficking as a serious crime
- Identify criminal enterprises and their leaders
- Conduct targeted investigations to focus on the leadership and compromise the criminal enterprise that the traffickers use to conduct illegal business
- Turn drivers and mules into assets with an expectation of their cooperation in return for a reduced sentence. No leniency for those that fail to cooperate
- Utilize seizures to collect valuable intelligence from phones and computers of banking information and transactions that can lead the investigation to the larger enterprise and the people behind the crime
- Build cases that stick, and work with prosecutors to ensure that cases go to trial
- Report any evidence of corruption by any party in the chain, from arrest to prosecution and conviction, to prevent wildlife traffickers from using their wealth to circumvent the law. If they want to spend their money, let them hire a good lawyer
- Put criminals that are part of or lead trafficking networks in prison. Set an example for other courts to follow.



KHANH HOA COURTS & QUANG NGAI AUTHORITIES

SET DETERRENCE THAT WORKS



Hoang Tuan Hai (pictured) was sentenced to four and a half years in prison for his involvement in trafficking approximately 10 tonnes of marine turtles – the world's largest seizure of marine turtles confiscated to date.

An investigation by ENV shows that the successful prosecution and conviction of Hoang Tuan Hai for marine turtle trafficking in June 2018 significantly impacted marine turtle trafficking operations, possibly throughout the entire country. Former middlemen, lower level traffickers, and fishermen that previously targeted marine turtles appear to have greatly reduced in number or ceased operations as a result of the Khanh Hoa trial. Many individuals cite the trial as the reason for ceasing activities or laying low. Fishermen, in turn, cite increased risk of being caught by much more vigilant authorities, as was the case in one key Quang Ngai port.

While no one truly believes that marine turtle trafficking has stopped altogether as a result of the trial and increased enforcement in some ports, we can accept the fact that application of the law has proven to be an effective deterrence. Now, the job is to maintain the current pressure to prevent resurgence and eliminate other operations from getting started.

WALKING AWAY FROM A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CRIME

On May 30, 2018, Noi Bai Customs discovered two pieces of rhino horn and 20 lion teeth in the luggage of a Vietnamese woman arriving on a flight originating in Mozambique. The subject claimed that she had offered to carry a package for an unknown person she met in Mozambique and thus was not responsible for the contents, nor could she assist police in identifying the supplier.

It was not the first time that the subject was approached and asked to bring a package home with her from Mozambique. Previously, she had been approached and offered a free return ticket home in exchange for helping deliver a package.

Regardless of the circumstances, the fact remains that the subject chose to carry a package, and whether the contents were wildlife, drugs, or firearms, she was responsible and should be held accountable for her actions. Failing to cooperate fully with police should have landed her a jail sentence.

RESOLUTION NO.05/2018/NQ-HDTP: GIVES CLEARER GUIDANCE ON IMPLEMENTING THE NEW PENAL CODE

To assist with the implementation of the new Penal Code in relation to dealing with wildlife-related crimes, in September 2018, the Supreme Court introduced Resolution No. 05/2018/NQ-HDTP guiding the application of Article 234 concerning violations of regulations on wild animal protection and Article 244 concerning violations of regulations on endangered or rare animal protection (“Resolution 05”).

The new resolution came into effect on December 1, 2018 and includes definitions of some important terms used in the Penal Code, such as “inseparable parts required for life” to distinguish between parts of animals that are vital to life versus products derived from animals that may not necessarily result in the animal’s immediate death.



Resolution No. 05 defined hawkbill turtle trophies as “products” of hawkbill turtles.

The Resolution also provides clear guidance on handling wildlife crimes in some specific circumstances, such as possession of wild animals that were obtained before January 2018; wildlife crimes that coincide with other appropriation crimes; crimes involving multiple species from different protected lists, and appropriate disposal of confiscated wildlife, parts, and products.

IMPORTANT NOTES ON RESOLUTION NO.05/2018/NQ-HDTP

• Definitions:

- ◆ “Inseparable parts required for life” is defined as parts of an animal that have specialized functions in which the animal depends on for life. Upon separation of these parts from a living body, the animal would immediately die. For example, the head, heart, whole skin, skeleton, and whole liver are considered “inseparable parts required for life”.
- ◆ “Products of wild animals” are defined as parts or products that originate from animals, for example tusks, horns, meat, fur, bones, skin, claws, teeth, eggs, blood, internal organs, as well as aquatic animals that have been preliminarily processed or processed in whole forms such as marine turtle specimens and items with ingredients from processed parts of wild animals, including endangered, precious and rare wildlife.

From the definitions, it should be noted that crimes relating to Decree 160-listed species, including either the animal itself or products and inseparable parts of these animals, are all subject to criminal

penalties under Article 244 of the Penal Code.

However, crimes involving products of Decree 160 species can only be punished under the first punishment bracket with a maximum penalty of five years’ imprisonment or two billion VND. In contrast, crimes involving the animal itself or its inseparable parts will be punished with up to 15 years imprisonment.

These definitions are particularly important for handling crimes relating to Appendix I CITES and Group IB species because for those species, only crimes relating to the animal itself or its inseparable parts can be prosecuted under Article 244 of the new Penal Code.

Other products of Appendix I CITES or Group IB species will be prosecuted under either Article 190 or 191 of the Penal Code or administratively sanctioned depending on the monetary value of the animal. The definitions can be found in Article 2 of Resolution 05.

• **Possession of wildlife obtained before January 2018:** Possession of dead animals, inseparable parts for life, or products of wild animals (including endangered, precious, and rare animals) that were obtained before January 1, 2018 shall not be prosecuted unless the act is conducted for the purpose of trading and gaining illicit profits. This provision can be found in Article 4 of Resolution 05.

• **Illegal appropriation of wildlife:** Criminals who illegally appropriate wildlife animals or their inseparable parts for life or products (such as through robbery or theft), in addition to being punished for appropriation crimes, can also be prosecuted for wildlife-related crimes under Article 234 and Article 244 of the Penal Code.

For example, a subject steals 10 kg of elephant ivory, which costs 130 million VND, and sells it to another person and gets caught; the subject shall bear criminal responsibility for the act of stealing the ivory in addition to facing punishment under Article 244 for illegally selling elephant ivory. This provision can be found in Article 5 of Resolution 05.



Ivory seizures like this, which weigh in excess of 2 kg, are now subject to prosecution under Resolution No. 05 if the ivory was obtained after January 1st, 2018. (Bac Giang traffic police-R)

• **Cases involving multiple wild, endangered, or rare animals from different protection species classes:** In cases where multiple species of different species classes (e.g. reptile versus mammal) are seized, the subject will only be prosecuted if the number of confiscated wildlife/products/inseparable parts for life of at least one class meets the minimum standard for criminal charges as described in Article 244 of the Penal Code.

For example, if a subject transports two giant pangolins (Appendix I CITES species of mammalia class) and six big-headed turtles (Appendix I CITES species of reptilia class), the subject will not bear

any criminal responsibility because although the overall number of animals is high (eight animals in total), the number of animals in each class doesn't meet the minimum requirement under Article 244 for prosecution (either three mammals of Appendix I CITES or seven reptiles of Appendix I CITES). However, if the same subject transports three giant pangolins (three mammals of Appendix I CITES), the subject will be prosecuted under Point (d) Clause 1 of Article 244 of the Penal Code because the subject's offense meets the minimum requirement for prosecution. This provision can be found in Article 6 of Resolution 05.



ENV strongly encourages enforcement agencies to routinely incinerate dead endangered wildlife animals, their products, or body parts. (Bac Kan FPD-R)

• **Disposal of confiscated wildlife (including the animals, inseparable parts for life or products):** Parts (specimens) of animals listed in Group IB will be transferred to the State Reserve Agency under the Ministry of Finance according to Decree 29/2018/ND-CP and Circular 57/2018/TT-BTC.

Other animals and parts of animals that are listed as endangered, precious, and rare, such as species under Decree 160; Appendix I CITES and Group IIB; and endangered aquatic species, must be transferred to a specialized management agency or destroyed.

Specialized management agencies are defined as Forest Protection Departments, State zoos, scientific research institutes, and the Vietnam Nature Museum under Circular 57/2018/TT-BTC.

For example, African elephant ivory or rhino horn, which belong to Appendix I CITES species, may not be transferred to the State Reserve Agency. Instead, it should be destroyed or transferred to specialized management agencies. This provision can be found in Article 7 of Resolution 05.



CORRECTLY HANDLING CRIMES INVOLVING PANGOLIN SCALES

Since the beginning of 2018, tonnes of pangolin scales have been seized in Vietnam from both native and non-native pangolin species. However, authorities in some provinces still struggle to handle crimes involving pangolin scales and ensure punishment is applied both in accordance with the law and with the aim of deterring future criminal behavior.

Pangolins are considered the most illegally trafficked mammals in the world, which explains why all eight pangolin species are listed under Appendix I CITES, receiving the highest international protection. The Javan pangolin and Chinese pangolin, which are native to Vietnam, are both listed under Decree 160 as species prioritized for protection in Vietnam.

As a result, crimes involving pangolin scales from native species (being construed as a “product” of pangolins, according to Resolution 05) are handled differently under the law than cases involving the scales of non-native pangolin species.

More specifically, crimes involving pangolin scales from Vietnam’s two native species (under Decree 160) will be prosecuted under Point (b) Clause (1) Article 244 of the Penal Code regardless of the weight or value of the scales, and are subject to a penalty of up to five years’ imprisonment or two billion VND in fines.

Meanwhile, crimes involving pangolin scales belonging to any of the other six non-native pangolin species are only considered criminal offenses subject to criminal penalties under either Article 190 or 191 of the Penal Code if the scales are valued at over 100 million VND. In cases where the total value of the scales is less than 100 million VND, the case is to be handled as an administrative offense, unless other charges apply.

In order to determine the correct punishment on cases involving non-native pangolin species, the value of the scales seized must be known. Article 15 of Decree 30/2018/ND-CP includes clear guidance on how to determine the monetary value of “prohibited goods” like pangolin scales. According to the Article, one of the references should be the unofficial market price of the prohibited goods in the province where the seizure happens, or a market price that is internationally accepted.

TABLE 1: QUICK REFERENCE ON HANDLING PANGOLIN SCALE CRIMES

Pangolin species	Protection level	Punishment for pangolin scale-related crimes (for an individual's first offense)
Native pangolin species: 1. Chinese pangolin <i>(Manis pentadactyla)</i> 2. Sunda pangolin <i>(Manis javanica)</i>	Decree 160 Appendix I CITES	Criminal offense with penalty of up to five years' imprisonment or two billion VND in fines under Point (b) Clause (1) Article 244 of the Penal Code
Non-native pangolin species 1. Philippine pangolin <i>(Manis culionensis)</i> 2. Indian pangolin <i>(Manis crassicaudata)</i> 3. Long-tailed pangolin <i>(Manis tetradactyla)</i> 4. African white-bellied pangolin <i>(Manis tricuspis)</i> 5. Giant ground pangolin <i>(Manis gigantea)</i> 6. Temminck's ground pangolin <i>(Manis temminckii)</i>	Appendix I CITES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monetary value less than 100 million VND and illicit profits less than 50 million VND: Administrative offense • Monetary value of 100 million VND upward or illicit profits of 50 million VND upward: Criminal offense with penalty up to 15 years; imprisonment under Article 190 or 191 of the Penal Code

JOIN THE ENV CRIMINAL JUSTICE NETWORK

Over 110 members have joined the criminal justice network to:

- Receive the latest updates on legislation and important wildlife trafficking cases
- Share success stories to help encourage and motivate others
- Speak directly with wildlife protection law specialists that can answer questions and to receive guidance on what aspect of the law to apply to different circumstances.

Criminal Justice Network was created to support YOU!

If you are part of the law enforcement, procuracy, or judicial community: Contact our Policy and Legislative Team at cgteam.env@gmail.com or call +842462815427 for help!

Quick reference on wildlife protection laws: <http://bit.ly/wildlifelawguidance>

We are here to support you!

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

NO COMMERCIAL FARMING OF BIG-HEADED TURTLES

Big-headed turtles (*Platysternon megacephalum*) are native to Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, China, Myanmar, and Cambodia. The turtles' natural habitat is unpolluted, clear, cool, rocky mountain streams within forested areas. The species is listed under Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

However, there were a number of incidents during 2018 involving big-headed turtles that were reportedly raised on registered commercial farms in Vietnam. In these cases, the farms were able to show papers of legal origin, suggesting that the turtles had been born and raised at these farms.

ENV contends that any turtle of this species that reportedly originates on a farm is an illegal laundered animal that was taken from the wild. ENV's assertion is supported by scientific evidence and experts testifying to the fact that this species, in particular, is very difficult to keep alive in captivity, let alone breed and raise young. It is not commercially viable as a farmed species because of its difficult ecology.

Despite this, licenses have been granted in some provinces to farm this species, and inspections of these farms were clearly not sufficient or careful enough to detect the fact that alleged farmers are not breeding and rearing this species, but rather purchasing them illegally and selling them as products of the farm.

This type of overt laundering of wildlife needs to stop immediately, especially given the critically endangered status of this species.

LEGAL BASIS

Recently, the Government issued Decree 06/2019/ND-CP on the management of endangered, precious and rare forest plants and animals and implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. The Decree replaced several decrees relating to management of endangered wildlife including Decree 82/2006/ND-CP.

According to Article 15, organizations or individuals CAN ONLY farm species that (1) are recognized by the CITES Scientific Authority of Vietnam as being capable of continuous reproduction in a controlled environment, and (2) are certified that commercial farming of the species will not have a detrimental impact upon wild populations of the species.

None of the four CITES Scientific Authorities in Vietnam have certified that big-headed turtles are able to reproduce continuously for generations in a controlled environment or suggested that rearing of this species would not have a detrimental impact on wild populations of big-headed turtles.

Moreover, Article 17 of Decree 06/2019/ND-CP stipulates that the CITES Management Authority of Vietnam has sole authority to grant licenses for farms that breed or rear species belonging to CITES Appendix I. This includes big-headed turtles. Local FPDs, therefore, cannot license breeding of big-headed turtles or any other Appendix I species.



ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN:

1. Revoke licenses granted to farm big-headed turtles, and punish farm owners if violations are found.
2. Strengthen management of commercial farms. No new licenses should be granted for farming big-headed turtles and other endangered species.
3. Provide training on identification and crime detection for local authorities so that commercial farm inspections will be more effective in distinguishing between obvious signs of illegal activities and acceptable practices of a legitimate closed farming operation.

ATTENTION

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR WILDLIFE PROTECTION

Education for Nature – Vietnam is pleased to announce the 2019 **Outstanding Achievement Awards for Wildlife Protection**.

The Outstanding Achievement Awards are an opportunity to recognize those individuals, members of law enforcement, the courts, and procuracies that are making important contributions to the protection of Vietnam's wildlife.



Nominations may be submitted by anyone, including the nominees themselves. The judging panel will include representatives of relevant government agencies, embassies, and the conservation community.

The nomination process began on **February 15, 2019** and ends on **April 29, 2019**.

Detailed information on the award categories, the nomination form, and the nomination process will be available at <https://bit.ly/2TyQJD0> and will also be distributed widely to law enforcement agencies, courts, and procuracies.

For any further information relating to this ceremony or the award categories, please do not hesitate to contact ENV's Law and Policy team at +84 246281 5427, Email: cgteam.env@gmail.com.

APPLY NOW!

CRIME UNIT OPERATIONS: 2018 AT A GLANCE

Between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018, collaboration between ENV's Wildlife Crime Unit, national and provincial law enforcement agencies, and the Forest Protection Departments resulted in the successful confiscation of more than 450 live animals, as well as the seizure of numerous parts or products from endangered wildlife, such as rhino horn, ivory, pangolin scales in wine, tiger skin, bear paws and bladders, and marine turtle trophies.

An additional 67 live animals were transferred to the authorities after their owners contacted ENV expressing their desire to give up the animals, or in some cases, following warnings issued by ENV.

The ENV Wildlife Crime Unit receives an average of three public reports each day through ENV's Wildlife Crime Hotline. Experienced case officers then 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 advertising or sale of critically endangered species, ENV will work directly with law enforcement to set up and execute "sting" operations aimed at both apprehending the seller and the seizure of wildlife.

In 2018, a total of 1,666 cases were logged, including 120 trafficking cases, 1,071 retail selling and advertising cases, and 461 cases involving illegal possession of wildlife, usually live animals.

Publicly reported cases accounted for 819 new cases during the reporting period, of which 66% resulted in successful outcomes, ranging from seizures of wildlife, arrests, and prosecutions, to

administrative penalties or voluntary compliance following warnings issued by authorities or ENV.

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 STATISTICS: 2018

Crime classification	Dec 2018	Total 2018	Total (2005-present)
Selling and advertising	45	1,071	7,641
Possession	34	461	3,830
Trafficking	9	120	1,862
Hunting/other	1	24	345
Total cases *	89	1,666	13,542
Total number of violations	223	4,781	34,849
Success rate (overall**)	108%***	59%	43% **** (2014-present)

- * Some cases logged do not end up as violations and thus the total cases may differ slightly from the total of each category (possession, trafficking, etc.)
- ** Overall success includes both publicly reported cases AND cases derived from ENV enforcement campaigns
- *** Successes would include any successes that occurred during the month, including successes achieved on older cases
- **** Tracking of successful cases did not begin at ENV until 2014





Tortoises and freshwater turtles are commonly advertised for sale or traded as pets in Vietnam.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

Statistics for 2018 from ENV collaboration with law enforcement resulting in confiscation of live animals:

Some notable numbers include:

- 87 macaques were confiscated resulting from 67 separate incidents. Most were long-tailed macaques, and most were being kept as pets, though one case involved a subject who intended to kill them and make traditional medicine from their bones for Tet.
- There were 20 marine turtles confiscated in 18 separate cases during 2018. Most were green turtles and hawksbills.
- Six gibbons, two langurs, two Owston civets, 19 pythons, 10 lorises, 10 leopard cats, 15 other civets or small carnivores, 10 monitor lizards, and 191 tortoises and freshwater turtles of about 12 species were amongst the roughly 454 live animals confiscated in 2018.
- ENV sting operations conducted in cooperation with law enforcement resulted in the seizure of rhino horn, ivory and ivory products, tiger skins, pangolin wine, bear paws and bladders, tiger and bear claws and canine teeth, five live lorises, and a number of live marine turtles during 2018.
- Three separate raids in Vung Tau and Kien Giang netted 119 marine turtle trophies, mostly hawksbills.



Law enforcement agencies have recently detected a spike in ivory and rhino horn being smuggled by air into Vietnam. However, arrests and prosecutions are lagging behind.

CRIME LOG

The crime log includes highlights of successful cases from around the country during December 2018. Due to the large number of cases being tracked each month by the crime unit, ENV is unable to include all these cases in the crime log. In light of this, ENV has chosen examples that we believe reflect the outstanding efforts of our law enforcement and Forest Protection Department (FPD) partners from throughout the country.

BAC GIANG

On December 16, 2018, during patrolling, Luc Ngan District FPD cooperated with Luc Ngan District Police and seized wildlife that included an Indochinese rat snake (*Ptyas korros*), two Chinese cobras (*Naja atra*), a red junglefowl (*Gallus gallus*), and two Small Asian mongooses (*Herpestes javanicus auropunctatus*), which were being transported by a resident on a motorbike. The subject claimed that she bought the animals from a stranger on the street and was administratively fined six million VND (Case ref. 13763/ENV).

BEN TRE

On December 6, 2018, Ben Tre Fisheries cooperated with Ben Tre FPD to receive a hawksbill marine turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) from a resident in Mo Cay Nam district. The man stated that he had caught the marine turtle the previous day and had called ENV to facilitate its transfer to the authorities. As a result of his action, the turtle was released back into the ocean (Case ref. 13681/ENV).



Captured Hawksbill turtles are often kept as pets.

BINH THUAN



Eighty-seven macaques kept illegally as pets were seized in 2018.

On December 24, 2018, La Gi District FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated one stump-tailed macaque (*Macaca arctoides*). The macaque was released into the Ta Cu Nature Reserve the following day (Case ref. 13736/ENV).

HAI PHONG

On December 20, 2018, Hai Phong City Customs and Hai Phong City Police discovered about 3 kg of elephant tail hairs in two sacks in a container that originated in Cameroon. The consignee of the shipment was also involved in a separate seizure of more than 500 kg of pangolin scales at Hai Phong port in October. In the pangolin case, the shipment, which also included a small quantity of canine teeth and claws (probably lion), was also from Cameroon. (Case ref. 13755/ENV).



Four marine turtles being illegally kept as pets were returned to the sea in Kien Giang. The owner agreed to surrender the marine turtles after being approached by the authorities.

HA NOI

On December 12, 2018, Ha Noi Environment Police (EP) and Hoang Mai District Police seized a quantity of frozen wildlife, including six leopard cats (*Prionailurus bengalensis*), one marbled cat (*Pardofelis marmorata*), and one yellow-cheeked gibbon (*Nomascus gabriellae*). The wildlife was seized after arriving in Hanoi by bus. Police were able to link the source of the wildlife back to a supplier in Nghe An province, who was subsequently arrested. Both subjects are pending prosecution (Case ref. 13702/ENV).

On December 26, 2018, team 3 of Ha Noi EP seized six grey peacock pheasants (*Polyplectron bicalcaratum*) from a subject from Hung Yen province who was transporting the pheasants at the time of the seizure. All the peacock pheasants were placed at the Me Linh Biodiversity Station. According to the EP, the subject will be prosecuted (Case ref. 13756/ENV).

DAK LAK

On December 15, 2018, Buon Ma Thuot Economic Police seized two civets from a local man, who later confessed that he bought the civets from a local restaurant. Later the same day, Buon Ma Thuot Economic Police cooperated with Buon Ma Thuot FPD and checked the restaurant and seized 50 live animals including two Small Indian civets (*Viverricula indica*), four Chinese cobras (*Naja atra*), one elongated tortoise (*Indotestudo elongata*), one Asian box turtle (*Cuora amboinensis*), 26 bamboo rats, nine large-toothed ferret badgers (*Melogale personata*), one common palm civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*), one banded krait (*Bungarus fasciatus*), one Malayan snail-eating

turtle (*Malayemys subtrijuga*), four common rat snakes (*Ptyas mucosus*), as well as three dead animals without legal papers. All the live animals were released into Chu Yang Sin National Park, and the dead animals were destroyed (Case ref 13734/ENV).

HA TINH

On December 14, 2018, Ha Tinh EP stopped a Laotian 45-seater sleeper bus and seized four live Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*). The four Sunda pangolins were subsequently transferred to the Cuc Phuong pangolin rescue center (Case ref. 13724/ENV).

On December 19, 2018, Thach Ha district People's Committee cooperated with district authorities and released a green marine turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) into the sea. Previously that day, a man called the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and asked to voluntarily transfer the marine turtle which he said had been caught by his sister's family. ENV immediately reported it to Ha Tinh Fisheries, and the marine turtle was back in the sea within a few hours (Case ref. 13735/ENV).

LAM DONG

On December 26, 2018, Lam Dong provincial FPD responded to a member of the public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated one leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*). The leopard cat was being kept at a homestay in Lam Dong (Case ref.13744/ENV).



Up to 15 years in prison is the potential sentence for subjects illegally keeping three or more leopard cats.



“ACCEPT MONEY FROM CRIMINALS, AND YOU BECOME ONE YOURSELF.”

NAM DINH

On December 19, 2018, Vu Ban district FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated two pig-tailed macaques (*Macaca leonina*). The macaques were being kept by their owner to make traditional medicine from their bones which he intended to give as a gift during the Tet holiday. The macaques were subsequently transferred to the Ha Noi Rescue Center (Case ref. 13671/ENV).



A lucky escape for this macaque who was destined to become TCM bone glue but for a report to ENV's wildlife crime hotline.

NINH BINH

On December 6, 2018, Hoa Lu district FPD in Ninh Binh province responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*) being kept at a local photocopy shop (Case ref. 13621/ENV).

On December 14, 2018, Ninh Binh Environment Police and Traffic Police stopped a public service bus and seized 41 Sunda pangolins (*Manis Javanica*). Two subjects on the bus were identified by police as the owners of the shipment and were subsequently arrested. The shipment appears to have originated from Nghe An province, a known center for wildlife trafficking operations. The pangolins were later transferred to the pangolin rescue center at Cuc Phuong National Park (Case ref. 13720/ENV).

QUANG TRI

On December 26, 2018, during patrolling, a border security patrol team at the Lao Bao International Border Gate seized four civets, one porcupine, and two Indochinese rat snakes (*Ptyas korros*) from a man that they encountered while on patrol. When the man saw the patrol team, he abandoned a bag carrying the wildlife and fled. The animals were released into the forest in Huong Hoa district the following day (Case ref. 13759/ENV).¹

QUANG NGAI

On December 7, 2018, Quang Ngai FPD received one grey-shanked douc langur (*Pygathrix cinerea*) after it was reportedly found by a citizen on the highway. The langur was later turned over to the Dau Tieng Wildlife Rescue Center operated by Wildlife at Risk (Case ref. 13682/ENV).



An administrative fine of 70-100 million VND is prescribed by Decree no. 158/2013/ND-CP for online sales of endangered animals or parts such as bear claws.

TAY NINH

On December 10, 2018, a Malayan sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*) that was being kept at a military unit near the border with Cambodia was voluntarily transferred to Animals Asia Foundation's Tam Dao bear sanctuary. The sun bear had been kept as a pet for 15 years (Case ref. 13693/ENV).

On December 24, 2018, Tay Ninh FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a reticulated python (*Python reticulatus*). The python was being kept at a carpenter's shop in Tay Ninh Province. The python was later released into a local forest (Case ref. 13733/ENV).

THAI BINH

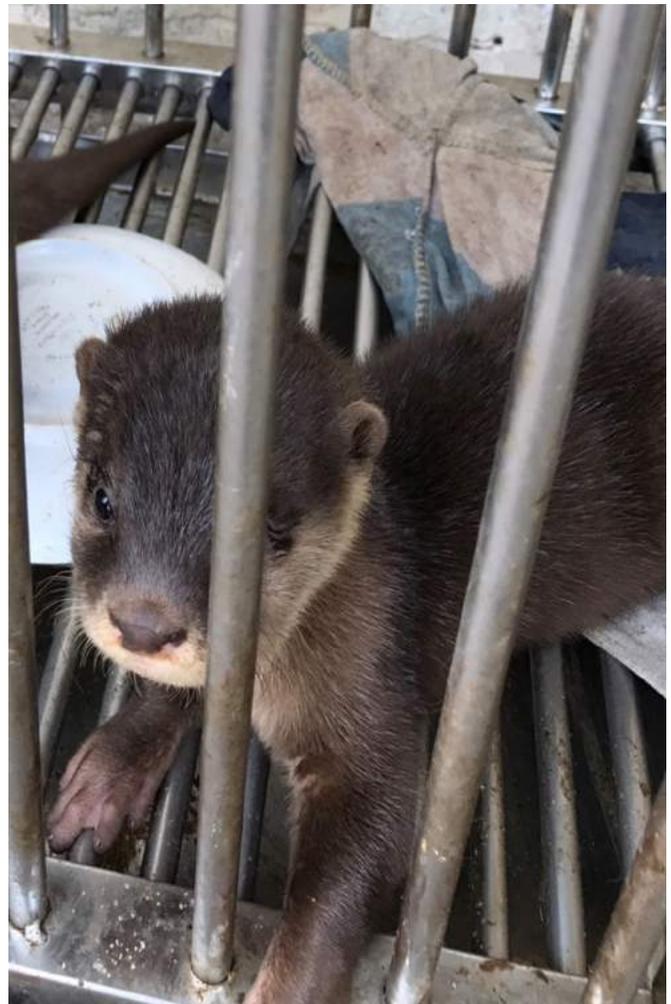
On December 3, 2018, Thai Binh Environment Police confiscated one green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) during a sting operation undertaken with ENV. The marine turtle was advertised for sale on YouTube for 25 million VND. ENV coordinated with Thai Binh Police and arranged for the subject to meet police officers, posing as buyers, at the subject's home, resulting in the successful confiscation. The marine turtle was later released

into the sea (Case ref. 13351/ENV).

THUA THIEN HUE

On December 12, 2018, Phu Loc District FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a stump-tailed macaque (*Macaca arctoides*) and released it into Nam Hai Van forest. The macaque previously was kept at a coffee shop to entertain customers (Case ref. 13278/ENV).

On December 18, 2018, Phu Loc District FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a second stump-tailed macaque (*Macaca arctoides*) being kept at a refreshment shop (Case ref. 13672/ENV).



"THE BEST PLACE TO PROTECT WILDLIFE IS IN ITS HABITAT WHERE IT BELONGS!"

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



Additional support provided by:



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.

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