

June 24, 2014

Summary of tiger seizures 2006-2013

The following summary of tiger seizures for the period January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2013 was compiled by Education for Nature – Vietnam (ENV), in order to ensure that accurate data for Vietnam is made available for use in addressing tiger trade enforcement issues regionally.

Information source and accuracy

ENV's Wildlife Crime Unit was established in 2005 to facilitate public reporting of wildlife crimes in Vietnam. Each case is logged on ENV's Wildlife Crime Incident Database and tracked through to conclusion. Case outcomes are documented and sources are informed of the results. Since the crime unit was established in 2005, over 6,700 cases have been reported and logged.

In addition to crimes reported by members of the public, ENV's database incorporates cases sourced from law enforcement agencies and intelligence from a growing network of informants, as well as documents major smuggling and trade cases, including tiger seizures.

All of the information contained on the database relating to tiger seizures is based on accounts from law enforcement agencies and related investigations; news sources are only utilized as a means of notification about a specific case, as ENV recognizes through experience that information in the media is often inaccurate.

Tiger seizure summary

ENV has documented a total of 280 violations involving tigers and tiger products since 2006. These include 120 incidents of advertising and selling tiger bone TCM, teeth, claws, and products, 55 possession cases including both live tigers and trophy tigers, and 107 violations involving smuggling and trade of tigers, which includes keeping, transporting, and processing tigers and their parts.

A total of 28 cases involved seizures of tiger carcasses with a total of 38 tigers seized, most frozen. Twelve additional cases involved seizures of 21 skeletons (partial or whole). 4 cases involved seizures of a total of 9 live tigers. Additionally, 16 tiger skins and 3 tiger trophies were recovered during enforcement operations.

The incident data for seizure of tiger carcasses, parts, skeletons, bones, and trophies is included in Appendix 1.

Limitations on the data provided

The following cases were not included in the seizure data:

- Cases involving registered tiger farms, or past cases which involved tigers being kept at private establishments which were transferred to registered farms and subsequently registered.
- Intelligence cases from informants and other reports of tigers and tiger trade operations that did not result in a successful enforcement outcome.
- The data does not reflect all tiger seizures during this period if we assume that some seizures were not reported to ENV by enforcement agencies, nor made public in any way. This assumption is based upon the fact that some seizures were reported to ENV by law enforcement agencies in order to ensure transparency by concerned police and Forest Protection Department officers who feared that the confiscated goods would “disappear” following the seizure.

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Appendix 1: Tiger seizure data 2006-2013

ENV Case ref.	Incident date	Location	Description of evidence	Live tigers	Carcass /frozen	Skeleton /bones	Tiger skins	Trophy tigers
158	1/12/2006	Binh Duong	Carcass, n=1		1			
811	7/24/2006	Quang Ninh	Tiger skin, n=1				1	
735	9/4/2007	Ha Noi	Carcass n=2, skin, stuffed tiger		2			
952	9/7/2007	Ha Noi	Tiger skin, n=1				1	
912	11/30/2007	Ho Chi Minh	Carcass (cub) n=1		1			
994	1/7/2008	Ha Noi	Live tigers n=2, frozen tigers n=4, trophy tiger n=1	2	4			1
1104	3/5/2008	Tuyen Quang	Frozen carcass, n=1		1			
1188	4/8/2008	Ninh Binh	Tiger carcass n=1		1			
1190	4/8/2008	Ninh Binh	Tiger carcass n=1		1			
1386	9/16/2008	Quang Ninh	Partial tiger bone and meat n=1		1			
1390	9/25/2008	Ha Noi	Tiger skeleton n=1			1		
1429	10/7/2008	Ha Noi	Tiger bone, n=1			1		
1550	1/10/2009	Ha Noi	Tiger skeleton, n=2. Tiger skins, n=6.			2	6	
1583	2/18/2009	Ha Noi	Partial frozen tiger, n=1		1			
1663	3/20/2009	Ho Chi Minh	Tiger skin				1	
1905	7/16/2009	Ha Noi	Frozen tiger, n=1 and tiger bones belonging to 2 tigers		1			
2039	10/11/2009	Quang Ninh	Tiger skin, n=1				1	
2050	10/16/2009	Ha Noi	Tiger skin, n=1				1	
2331	3/7/2010	Quang Tri	Tiger carcass n=1		1			
2343	3/17/2010	Ninh Binh	Tiger trophy					1
2565	6/22/2010	Nghe An	Frozen tiger, n=1. Tiger bones, n=1		1	1		
3019	8/13/2010	Thanh Hoa	Tiger carcass n=1		1			
3158	8/18/2010	Ha Noi	Tiger carcass n=1		1			
ENV Case ref.	Incident date	Location	Description of evidence	Live tigers	Carcass /frozen	Skeleton /bones	Tiger skins	Trophy tigers
2797	9/15/2010	Ha Noi	Tiger skeleton, n=8 and assorted bones			8		
2984	11/14/2010	Ha Noi	Frozen tiger, n=1		1			
3258	12/11/2010	Ninh Binh	Tiger carcass, n=2		2			

3590	7/16/2011	Quang Ninh	Tiger carcass, n=3		3			
3876	12/13/2011	Ho Chi Minh	Tiger bones, n=1		1			
3877	12/13/2011	Ho Chi Minh	Tiger cubs, n=2 (in wine), skull, and trophy head		2	1		1
3920	12/26/2011	Bac Ninh	Tiger skeleton, n=1. Tiger skin and parts			1	1	
3928	1/9/2012	Ha Noi	Tiger skeleton, n=1 and parts			1		
3965	2/14/2012	Quang Ninh	Tiger carcass, n=1		1			
4200	5/27/2012	Ha Noi	Frozen tiger carcass, n=1		1			
4170	5/28/2012	Nghe An	Frozen tiger carcass, n=3		3			
4328	7/27/2012	Ha Noi	Tiger skeleton, n=1. Tiger skins, n=2			1	2	
4329	7/30/2012	Quang Binh	Frozen tiger carcass, n=1. Tiger skeleton, n=1		1	1		
4391	9/4/2012	Ha Tinh	Live tigers, n=4	4				
4431	9/22/2012	Phu Tho	Tiger carcass, n=1		1			
4478	10/12/2012	Ha Noi	Tiger carcass, n=1		1			
4484	10/13/2012	Thanh Hoa	Frozen tiger, n=1		1			
4487	10/15/2012	Thanh Hoa	Tiger skull			1		
4507	11/1/2012	Dak Lak	Tiger skin, n=1, and tiger parts and products				1	
4513	11/5/2012	Ha Noi	Carcass, n=1, w=210kg		1			
4527	11/6/2012	Nghe An	Live tiger, n=2, w=70kg	2				
4642	1/1/2013	Nghe An	Live tiger, n=1, w=200kg	1				
4969	5/17/2013	Ha Tinh	Partial remains (meat and skin) w=20 kg			2		
5191	7/10/2013	Ho Chi Minh	Stuffed tiger, n=1				1	
5536	11/10/2013	Ha Noi	Frozen carcass, n=1 w=~150kg		1			
			Number of individuals	9	38	21	16	3
			Number of specific tiger crimes	4	28	12	10	3