

WILDLIFE CRIME

Education for Nature - Vietnam

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ACTION AGAINST EXTINCTION

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PROGRESS TACKLING WILDLIFE CRIME ILLUMINATES CHALLENGES AHEAD

Vietnam has made significant progress in combating the illegal wildlife trade over the past ten years. Wildlife protection laws have been strengthened, loopholes in the law closed, and punishment for offenders increased. Likewise, the responsiveness and capacity of enforcement agencies has improved remarkably when compared to that in the early 2000s. There is greater transparency and accountability in enforcement efforts overall. Consumer wildlife crime has been reduced in major cities by nearly a third based on ENV monitoring in six cities, and the number of illegal captive bears on bear farms has decreased by 72%. Meanwhile, public reporting of wildlife crime has more than doubled in the past three years alone, based on reporting to ENV's Wildlife Crime Hotline. Customs and police at our ports and borders have succeeded in interdicting major shipments of ivory and pangolin scales, while domestic law enforcement agencies have conducted countless raids and arrests in other high profile trafficking cases.

However, despite these gains, major obstacles lie ahead that challenge us collectively if we are to successfully secure the future of species like tigers, rhinos, pangolins, and other endangered wildlife. Hence, ENV has identified TEN important interventions that we, as a country, should take to profoundly and positively impact the future of our endangered wildlife. Although these interventions may not be obtainable overnight, we must commit ourselves to overcoming these challenges and move forward.

10

IMPORTANT INTERVENTIONS

that we should take to profoundly and positively impact the future of our endangered wildlife

1 TAKE DOWN THE LEADERS OF CRIMINAL NETWORKS

Aggressively pursue and prosecute the leadership of known criminal networks involved in the trafficking of rhino horn, tigers, ivory, marine turtles, and other endangered wildlife. Actively follow through with the Prime Minister's instruction No. 28/CT-TTg of September 12, 2016 calling upon relevant agencies to pursue "kingpins" and aggressively dismantle major criminal networks.



3 BAN RHINO HORN TRADE IN ANY FORM



Permanently ban any form of trade of rhino horns, including the trade in trophies, to reduce and eliminate Vietnam's role as both consumer and transit state in the present rhino poaching crisis.

2 ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE DETERRENCE



Utilize existing laws and the courts to effectively deter wildlife crime. Ensure that convicted criminals do not receive light sentences and that punishment is effective in deterring future criminal behavior both for the subject and other would-be criminals. Both the current and revised penal code allows the courts to issue substantial prison sentences and fines.

However, a review of criminal prosecutions for serious wildlife crimes over the past six years shows that most convicted criminals received suspended sentences or probation, which only further bolsters the idea that wildlife crime is a safe form of profitable criminal activity that is not taken seriously by the courts, and thus a low risk investment.



4 DESTROY ALL STOCKPILES OF CONFISCATED IVORY AND RHINO HORN

- The recent destruction of 2.1 tonnes of ivory is a good start. However, Vietnam should make destruction of ivory AND rhino horn a routine outcome following the conclusion of cases involving confiscations. Small samples of confiscated ivory and rhino horn should only be maintained by state authorities for the purpose of DNA analysis and mapping, education and training, and scientific research.
- ENV urges authorities to destroy all of the estimated 46 plus tonnes of confiscated ivory and hundreds of kilograms of rhino horn currently held by functional agencies.



5 CLOSE TIGER FARMS AND STOP UNCONTROLLED BREEDING OF TIGERS AT ZOOS AND RESCUE CENTERS

Close private tiger farms and prohibit further breeding of tigers at zoos and other establishments where breeding serves no purpose or value to conservation, education, or scientific research.

Since 2007, captive tiger populations have increased from 55 to more than 189 on private farms and at zoos as a result of uncontrolled breeding that has no value to conservation of the species. Some of the 14 private establishments have been engaged in both the selling and laundering of tiger cubs into the illegal wildlife trade. The wife of a convicted tiger trader was recently issued a license by provincial authorities to keep tigers. Stopping the development of tiger farms is critical in addressing the illegal trade of tigers and preventing another crisis similar to the 2005 bear farm crisis during which local authorities permitted thousands of illegally sourced bears to accumulate on farms.

Vietnam should follow the commitment demonstrated by the Lao Government during the September 2016 CITES Conference of Parties to close down tiger farms in the Lao PDR.



- ENV Case No. 3258
- Two frozen tigers and 35kg of leopard bones were confiscated whilst being transported in Ninh Binh. The subject was prosecuted, but only received a three-year suspended sentence with five years of probation and a VND 10,000,000 criminal fine.
- Photo courtesy of Ninh Binh Forest Protection Department (FPD)

6 FINISH THE JOB: END BEAR FARMING IN VIETNAM



After more than ten years of progress, the number of bears on farms has decreased from 4,300 in 2005 to about 1,200 animals today. Bear bile consumption in Vietnam has dropped by about 61% since 2010. It is time to bring an end to this industry that started with thousands of bears being caught in the wild and illegally kept on farms. Given that all of these bears were not of legal origin and therefore acquired in violation of criminal law, bear farm owners should be encouraged to voluntarily transfer their bears without compensation or face punishment.

7 FREEZE LICENSING OF COMMERCIAL WILDLIFE FARMS NATIONWIDE



Prohibit further licensing of commercial wildlife farms throughout Vietnam until such time that an effective management system is in place and authorities have the capacity to effectively monitor and manage farms, and prevent laundering of wild caught animals through these farms.

Actively enforce regulations over existing commercial wildlife farming operations, including (1) withdrawal of license from any commercial wildlife enterprise where owners are unable to provide proof of legal origin for animals they possess or sell from their farm, (2) prosecution of farm owners where criminal activity is detected and (3) termination and punishment of local authorities that collude, falsify, or engage in any form of corrupt practices in association with management and oversight of commercial farming operations.

Permanently ban any form of commercial farming of tigers, bears, and any other species listed as fully protected under Vietnamese law. Restrict permits for possession of these species to legitimate and licensed zoos, conservation and rescue centers, and scientific institutions that are not engaged in any form of commercial trade in wildlife or wildlife products.

8 HOLD LOCAL AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR ERADICATING CONSUMER WILDLIFE CRIME IN THEIR JURISDICTIONS

Issue clear instructions to People's Committees at commune, district, and municipal levels to engage in efforts, supported by subordinate functional agencies, to effectively eradicate consumer wildlife crime in their jurisdictions, including addressing advertising, selling, and possession of wildlife in violation of the law. Local government can be most effective if they are held accountable for ensuring that businesses within their respective communities are in compliance with the law.



ENV Case No. 8383

Wine jars containing serow, monitor lizard, pangolin, and king cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*) advertised on Facebook



ENV Case No. 5549

Bear bile signboard removal in 2014

Photo courtesy of Hung Yen FPD



ENV Case No. 8716

A civet with snare wound at a farm in Hanoi

PULL THE PLUG ON INTERNET CRIME

Utilize existing laws to address and eliminate the growing use of the internet to advertise and sell endangered wildlife in Vietnam through active measures to shut down websites that support the advertising and sale of protected species, and develop a mechanism to pursue and shut down the social media channels of individuals that advertise wildlife.



ENV Case No. 9713

Advertisement selling a hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) on Facebook on May 13, 2016



AMPLIFY THE VOICE OF GOVERNMENT

Amplify the voice of government at all levels in efforts to raise awareness amongst the public and reduce consumer demand for wildlife. While non-government organizations are a critical part of awareness-raising efforts, government partners could play a much more active role in contributing to the reduction of consumer demand through government communication channels and access to public media.

10



EXPEDITING AN END TO BEAR FARMING IN VIETNAM

Bear farming has persisted for more than 15 years in Vietnam. However, the number of captive bears at farms has been reduced from approximately 4,300 in 2005 to about 1,200 in 2015 thanks to the hard work of the government, law enforcement authorities, NGOs, and members of the public.

While this great progress should be celebrated, we must turn our attention to finishing off what remains of the bear bile industry, closing remaining farms, and transferring all of the remaining bears that were originally acquired illegally to rescue centers and sanctuaries. Success in ending this industry is critical to the survival and recovery of wild bear populations in Vietnam. ENV urges provincial Forest Protection Departments (FPD) where bear farms still exist to urgently take the following steps to expedite an end to bear farming in their respective provinces:

Carrying out regular inspections of bear farms

Inspections should be both scheduled and unexpected, and include:

- ▶ Verification of the number of bears present versus those registered at the farm. The number should be equal.
- ▶ Verification of bear micro-chips against the registered list of bears.
- ▶ Addressing any differences between FPD registration records and actual number of bears present, clearly accounting for any differences. All registered bears must be accounted for!
- ▶ Inspecting for indications of bile extraction violations including bear bile bottles, anesthesia or syringes (new or used disposed of in waste bins), transport carts, or other tools or materials relating to bile extraction.
- ▶ Inspecting for, and removal of, any signs advertising bear bile or aimed at luring visitors to the bear farm.

Confiscating unregistered bears

In the event that an unregistered bear is discovered, the FPD must confiscate the bear and transfer it to a legitimate rescue center or sanctuary. The owner must also be criminally charged in accordance with the current Penal Code for possession of an unregistered illegal bear.

Investigating undocumented transfers

Bear farm owners are required to obtain permits from the FPD when a bear is transferred to another location. These permits must be maintained on file. In the event that a bear is found missing and has been moved or transferred



without a permit, the bear farmer must account for the bear, return it to the farm, and be punished for an undocumented transfer in accordance with regulations.

Eliminating undocumented deaths

Bear farm owners are required to notify the FPD immediately of any deaths of bears on the farm after which the bear must be disposed of in accordance with regulations, the disposal witnessed and verified by the FPD. Bear farmers may not dispose of or destroy dead bears and report it afterwards to the FPD. This constitutes a serious violation as it is likely that in some cases where bears are later reported dead without FPD verification, the bear farmers have, in truth, slaughtered the bears for parts or have sold them. In the event that a bear death is not reported as required by the law, the owner must be punished in accordance with regulations.

In any case where the owner is unable to produce evidence of a death for which they failed to notify the FPD and destroy the body in accordance with regulations, the FPD should consider removal of all the owner's remaining bears. The basis for this being that the owner has violated the terms and conditions of trust agreed with the government when the bear was registered, which required the owner to keep the bear on behalf of the government and follow regulations in relation to its management.

Administering strict punishment for violations

Violations identified during inspections should be strictly punished by the FPD under the current law. Serious violations such as bear bile extraction or possession of an unregistered illegal bear should result in confiscation and criminal charges.

Encourage transfers of captive bears

Provincial FPDs should actively encourage local bear farmers to give up their bears without compensation. Each provincial FPD should focus their efforts on establishing a 'bear free province' as this will avoid potential problems and pressure on the province by the central government, the general public, and the NGO community to phase out bear farming in their province.

Cooperate with local residents

FPDs should work toward establishing a cooperative relationship with local authorities and residents in order to phase out bear farming in their area. Local residents should be encouraged to report violations immediately to the FPD, and local authorities need to be kept informed and held accountable for ensuring that bear farmers in their jurisdiction are in compliance with regulations and the law.



PUTTING THE BEAR BILE BUSINESS TO REST

In the 1990s, bear farming started booming in Vietnam. Bears were captured in the wild and sold to farms where bile was extracted to meet the market demand. Many Vietnamese, especially the older generation, believe that bear bile is a magic medicine and can cure a range of health problems, ranging from bruises to cancer.



ENV Case No. 2838


Bear bile extraction at a bear farm in Phuc Tho district, Hanoi

In 2005, the Administration of Forestry under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), in collaboration with the World Society for the Protection of Animals (currently known as World Animal Protection), initiated a registration campaign as the first step in phasing out bear farming in Vietnam. The registration of captive bears was designed to phase out bear farming in Vietnam by arresting the growth of the bear farming industry and preventing new bears entering farms. Approximately 4,300 bears were registered, each inserted with a microchip for identification. Since then, the number of captive bears has been declining. By 2015, according to MARD, only about 1,200 captive bears remained at farms.

BEAR HEROES

Some positive achievements over the last few months

The bear bile industry continues to decline in the face of reduced demand for bear bile, growing public opposition, and increased pressure from the authorities. ENV wishes to recognize the excellent efforts and recent achievements of the authorities in the following provinces:



Hanoi FPD confiscated illegal bears in two separate cases. In September 2016, an unchipped bear was discovered in Phuc Tho district during an inspection of a farm. In November 2016, a second bear was confiscated from another owner after ten years of captivity. Both examples demonstrate how authorities in Hanoi are actively working to prevent new illegal bears from ending up on farms, and sending a message to bear farmers that illegal bears, when discovered, will be confiscated by authorities immediately.



Hanoi Rescue Center in Soc Son : An illegal bear was confiscated in early December 2016 in Hai Duong following notification to the authorities by ENV. Soc Son Rescue Center is recognized for their active and immediate response in organizing the transfer of this bear to their rescue center.

Gia Lai FPD is credited with working over a long period of time with the owners of four bears resulting in the successful transfer of the bears to the AAF bear sanctuary at Tam Dao. The case is another example of how hard work and consistent efforts by the FPD can result in successful progress towards an end to bear farming in Vietnam.

Dak Lak FPD actively worked to facilitate the voluntary transfer in early December 2016 of six bears from two locations (one location in Dak Nong province). Dak Lak FPD worked promptly to ensure that the bears were transferred to a suitable rescue center in accordance with the law.

Buon Ma Thuot City FPD in Dak Lak confiscated a Malayan sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*) weighing 60kg in September 2016, demonstrating a swift and effective enforcement response to a publicly reported crime.



An Giang FPD joined the ranks of other 'Bear Free Provinces' in September 2016 following the confiscation by the FPD of two illegal bears being kept at a farm in the province since 2005.

**BUYING AND SELLING
WILD ANIMALS
AND THEIR PARTS
IS A CRIME**

WHAT IS YOUR VIEWPOINT?

Responses on common questions and discussion points by Forest Protection Officers on bear farming:

During the November meeting of FPDs in Hanoi, we talked about aggressive monitoring of bear bile farms as a means to help expedite an end to bear farming. How will monitoring help? It is rare to witness bile extraction so there is little chance that we can catch any violations during such monitoring.

Aggressive monitoring is not in itself the sole solution. Improved monitoring will put more pressure on bear bile businesses, making it more difficult for them to conduct business. This pressure, combined with other measures, will help owners come to the correct conclusion that the bile industry is not worth the trouble with authorities watching them closely, bear bile prices falling, and costs increasing.



Moreover, these inspections will enable authorities to confirm the presence of the bears the owner is expected to have at their farm, enforce regulations prohibiting transfers of bears to other locations without permits and reporting deaths and disposing of dead bears in accordance with the law. Simple application of existing regulations by FPDs would succeed in expediting an end to bear bile farming in Vietnam, and free provincial authorities to worry about other problems.

In discussions with some bear owners, they seem willing to give up their bears if the government compensates them for the costs of keeping them for so many years. However, the bear farmers in our province obtained their bears illegally, so is compensation a good way to get owners to transfer their bears?

No, ENV believes strongly that bear owners who initially obtained bears illegally, have no right to ownership or compensation for the bears they have been keeping. They should consider themselves lucky that the government had dealt so leniently with them given the fact that they committed a criminal offense in purchasing protected wildlife, then used these bears for many years committing further offenses by extracting and selling bear bile in violation of the law. Let's remember that these people are not innocent. They exploited wildlife protected under the law for profit. Now that their illegal business is not profitable, they want the government to pay them to get out of the business. If you look at the facts, their argument is ridiculous.

If drug dealers were to be found with a kilo of heroin, could they expect the government to compensate them for their loss when it is confiscated? The fact is that dozens of bears are being turned over to authorities throughout Vietnam without compensation as many bear owners have realized that bear bile farming is coming to an end very soon.



The law does not state clearly how we are to handle bear cubs born on bear farms. If bear cubs are allowed to be kept by bear farmers, doesn't this prolong efforts to phase out bear farming?

Current regulations are not clear about bear cubs born on farms. The previous version required owners to turn over the cubs to the government within a year, but this requirement was removed in the most recent version of the law, Decision 95/2008/QĐ-BNN, creating a loophole in the law that indeed threatens to perpetuate bear farming if older bears are then replaced by new bears born on farms. However, current law still prohibits bear farm owners from transferring or selling cubs born at their farms.

Relating to this point, ENV has documented two new cases in 2016 whereby bear farm owners have sold cubs born at their farm to other farms or traders in violation of the law. We believe that these examples are evidence that monitoring by the FPD in these specific areas has been ineffective. If effective monitoring were carried out, the bear farmers would not have been able to sell the cubs. In one location, 15 cubs were reportedly born and 12 of them reportedly sold by the farmer, and the FPD was routinely told that bears born on their farm had died and been buried. At the second location, the bear farmer stated that he did not report births to FPD to avoid paperwork and problems, and sold both bear cubs that were born at this farm.

If there are about 1,200 bears remaining in captivity in Vietnam and you intend to work with government to bring an end to bear bile farming, where can you put all 1,200 bears? Rescue centers cannot possibly accommodate such numbers, right?

It is true that there are not enough places to put 1,200 bears if they were all to be transferred at one time. However, ENV expects the number to continue to drop from older animals dying in captivity; and rescue centers and sanctuaries have more than enough room to accommodate additional transfers at current rates over the next few years.

In the event that there was a large influx of confiscated bears at one time, the government would work with international NGOs and other institutions to find a solution that addresses the deficit. Look at the last ten years as an example. Captive bear numbers have dropped from about 4,300 to about 1,200 and there have been no issues or concerns about too many bears coming into rescue centers. The “lack of space” excuse is used by people that are looking for reasons to fail rather than focusing their energy on solutions. It is always easier to do nothing.



ENV Case No. 0572

Bear in Dalat city, Lam Dong

During discussions, ENV made the point that enforcement must be rigorous in order to deter illegal behavior. However, a small financial punishment will not be a deterrent and convince bear farmers to follow regulations.

Using punishment as an instrument to deter criminal behavior is essential to achieving compliance with the law. It is true that small fines may not deter behavior, but if behavior is not deterred by the first punishment, then punishment should be gradually escalated until such time that the subject feels that his illegal actions are not worth the cost or trouble that results from his actions. When the authorities do their job with the intent to stop or deter criminal behavior, they also earn the respect of citizens and help create a just and secure society. Bear farmers will stop abusing regulations and will comply with the authorities or give up their bears if authorities simply do their job consistently, which in part means holding bear farmers accountable for their actions. The worst thing local authorities can do is to do nothing. Doing nothing sends a message to bear farmers suggesting that the authorities are weak and ineffective, and inaction undermines respect for authorities and fails to achieve the intent and purpose of regulations. Think big.

**If you want to bring change,
more attention should be paid to raising awareness amongst
higher officials and making changes in the law that will promote
better wildlife protection.**

ENFORCEMENT ALERTS

Go after criminal networks and their leaders

Directive 28/CT-TTg of the Prime Minister: another emphasis on tracking down kingpins

The newly promulgated Directive of the Prime Minister urged both ministerial-level and grass-root enforcement authorities across the country to tackle widespread manufacture and trade of wildlife products, especially ivory and rhino horn. Specifically, these agencies are tasked with conducting in-depth investigations in order to dismantle and eliminate major wildlife trafficking networks.

Based on the data from ENV's National Wildlife Crime Incident Tracking System, about 276 wildlife criminals have been prosecuted for wildlife crimes over the past six years (from 2010 to 2016). However, none of these criminals were senior figures in any of the major criminal networks trafficking wildlife. Whilst efforts to pursue kingpins are seemingly inadequate, this new Directive is expected to generate a commitment from law enforcement agencies to extend investigations beyond seizure of goods and focus on arrests and prosecutions higher up the command chain within these networks.

While this task may be far more difficult to achieve than simply seizing goods being transported by road and at ports, success is critical to achieving wildlife protection, and unless efforts target the networks while reducing consumer demand for wildlife products, the illegal trade will continue indefinitely.



ENV Case No. 10246
Ivory confiscated in October 2016
Photo courtesy of Noi Bai Customs, Hanoi

Decision to prosecute formerly suspended rhino horn and ivory cases

New interdisciplinary instruction from the Supreme Procuracy, the Supreme Court, and the Ministry of Public Security

The Supreme Procuracy, after consultation with the Supreme Court and Ministry of Public Security, has recently instructed in Correspondence 2140/VKSTC-V3 dated June 8, 2016 all procuracies to restore suspended cases relating to possession and transportation of ivory and rhino horn, and prosecute subjects under Clause 1, Article 155 of Penal Code 2009.

Pursuant to this regulation, the convicted criminals may be imprisoned for up to five years. Moreover, the instruction is applicable for all crimes prior to the effective date of Penal Code 2015. When the new penal code comes into effect, this loophole has been addressed within the context of the law.

Since 2005, ENV has documented 160 seizures in Vietnam, comprising of more than 560kg of rhino horns and over 46 tonnes of ivory. Many rhino horn and ivory cases were suspended following lack of clear guidance over how to assess the value of confiscated goods given the lack of legal references, which in turn restricted the ability of prosecutors to charge defendants for specific crimes under the penal code.



ENV Case No. 8455
Rhino horn confiscated on May 29, 2015
Photo courtesy of IEBR

Crimes involving products of endangered species must be prosecuted

All acts of illegally trading or transporting parts and/or products of endangered species must be prosecuted under current laws and regulations. Pursuant to Article 190 of Penal Code 2009, **prosecution for trade or transportation of parts and/or products of endangered species must always be carried out, regardless of the weight, volume, or value of the confiscated products.**

Moreover, based on legal documents defining animal products, such products include, but are not limited to, meat, eggs, blood, fur, and horns. This provision implies that any persons engaging in trading or transporting any of the listed products of endangered species will face criminal liability.



ENV Case No. 9914
Green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) eggs
confiscated in Con Dao on June 30, 2016
Photo courtesy of Con Dao National Park FPD

Example: In Ba Ria – Vung Tau, a subject was caught in June 2016 transporting 116 green turtle eggs illegally harvested from nesting beaches on Con Dao Island. Under current law provisions, the subject must be prosecuted for this serious violation of endangered species protection law. Ba Ria – Vung Tau courts should recognize that effective application of the law requires authorities to use the

law to deter criminal behavior. A stiff sentence on the subject in this case will send a message to other marine turtle egg traders that if they are caught, they will be punished in full accordance with the law. As a result of local courts following the existing law to the letter, the number of incidents will decrease as potential offenders would be deterred from criminal behavior. Moreover, more marine turtle eggs will survive to hatch and increase wild populations. Indeed, the law, which was aimed at protecting marine turtles, will achieve its stated purpose. However, this is only true if the courts are effective at deterring future criminal behavior.



ENV Case No. 2797
Wildlife bone glue confiscated on September 16, 2010

CORRUPTION

Corruption is a sensitive issue and a big problem. How do we address corruption effectively so wildlife receives the protection it needs under the law?

Corruption is indeed a sensitive issue. In the wildlife protection sector, corrupt practices can range from authorities responsible for regulating wildlife farms accepting payoffs by farm owners to look the other way to criminals paying to avoid prosecution or punishment. ENV believes that corruption undermines wildlife protection efforts, puts species at risk, and compromises the role of authorities in which the public places its trust to safeguard our biodiversity. Moreover, corruption also undermines the rule of law, impedes development, adversely impacts the economy, and in some cases, could pose a threat to national security.

If you are genuinely concerned about corruption, focus on raising your children to earn an honest living. Refuse to “play the game” and send your message to society that corruption is unacceptable and that you will not participate in any way. Find others that share your views and work together to overcome systematic corruption within your workplace and within society.

ENV intends to initiate a hotline through which the public can report corruption amongst wildlife protection authorities, permitting ENV to bring greater transparency to the issue in the wildlife protection sector, and actively work with provincial People’s Committees to expose illegal and corrupt practices by authorities under their management. This is the start of a long battle to strengthen protection of wildlife.

**ACCEPT MONEY FROM CRIMINALS,
AND YOU BECOME ONE YOURSELF.**

SPOTLIGHT ON WILDLIFE CRIME

Finally! Khanh Hoa marine turtle trafficker indicted

In late 2014, law enforcement authorities and ENV discovered nearly ten tonnes of dead marine turtles at a processing plant and warehouses in Nha Trang city, Khanh Hoa province. The seizure of over 7,000 dead marine turtles followed nearly two years of investigation targeting Vietnam's most notorious marine turtle traffickers, Hoang Manh Cuong and his brother, Hoang Tuan Hai. They had been slaughtering and smuggling an estimated tens of thousands of marine turtles to China for use as ornaments or to make products from their shells.

However, it was not until two years after the raids that one of the traders finally saw the inside of a courtroom. On October 17, 2016, Khanh Hoa Investigation Police Department officially indicted Hoang Tuan Hai for criminal exploitation and trade of endangered wildlife under Clause 1 of Article 190, Penal Code 2009, with penalties of up to three years in prison. The trial date has not yet been confirmed.

While this long-awaited indictment only targets one of the brothers, Mr. Hai, both of whom the investigation showed were involved in trafficking of marine turtles, it is a positive step forward in demonstrating our commitment to pursue and tackle major criminal networks trafficking wildlife.

However, the crucial question remains: will the courts issue a strict punishment in accordance with the law, reinforcing Vietnam's strong commitment to tackle criminal networks? Or will the subject receive a suspended sentence or probation for his serious and substantial criminal behavior, the killing of about 7,000 endangered species that are fully protected by law?



Ivory bust in Cambodia linked to recent seizures in Vietnam

Information provided by ENV to relevant authorities resulted in the seizure in Cambodia of over 1.3 tonnes of ivory, in addition to pangolin scales, tiger/lion bone, and elephant hair on December 21, 2016. The seizure in Cambodia was linked to several other cases in Vietnam, and an additional case in Kenya. The suspect behind these shipments is a Vietnamese national. (Case ref. 10485/ENV)

'Bastard of the Internet' loses appeal... goes to jail

A major Facebook vendor of illegal wildlife was sentenced to five years in prison and given an additional criminal fine of 50 million VND following his conviction for wildlife trafficking and subsequent rejection of his appeal. The prison sentence imposed on September 22, 2016 was the culmination of lengthy efforts by ENV in coordination with Ho Chi Minh Environmental Police, and a sting operation that resulted in the seizure of nine otters, a dead black-shanked douc langur (*Pygathrix nigripes*) and numerous other wildlife species. (Case ref. 5294/ENV)



NOTE: The prison sentence in this case is an example of what is needed in order to turn the tide on wildlife traffickers. It should be considered a word of warning to those that use the internet to advertise and sell wildlife, to cease and desist or face the possibility of spending time in prison.

Chasing Ambulances

On November 30, 2016, a man and a woman were sentenced in a Ho Chi Minh City court to five years in jail and a three year suspended sentence respectively for smuggling wildlife in an ambulance bearing false registration plates. Their vehicle was stopped by Ho Chi Minh police in January 2015 as it was transporting pangolins and Asian golden cats (*Catopuma temminckii*) from Ha Tinh province. Fourteen dead pangolins, along with two dead Asian golden cats and eight bear paws were later incinerated and six surviving pangolins were transferred to Cu Chi Rescue Center.



The network first came to light in early 2013 through information that ENV shared with authorities in Ho Chi Minh and other provinces about an ambulance network being used to smuggle tigers, pangolins, and other wildlife.

Following a 'near miss' in Dong Nai in 2013 involving one of the ambulances that had just dumped its wildlife cargo, ENV was able to work with authorities in Phu Yen resulting in a successful seizure of pangolins in October 2013. The company was also linked to a tiger seizure on Quang Ninh during the previous year through ENV's National Wildlife Crime Incident Tracking System.

In January 2016, Ho Chi Minh City Environmental Police succeeded in arresting one of the leaders of the trade transportation network. (Case ref. 7925/ENV)



Photo courtesy of Ho Chi Minh City Environmental Police

NOTE: This successful case demonstrates how a combination of efforts by many parties starting with information from the public, alerts issued to authorities, intelligence resulting from being able to link cases through vehicle registration and subject involvement, investigative efforts by police, responsive enforcement (in multiple provinces), and support from prosecutors and the courts can make a difference.

China issues stiff penalties for wildlife crime

When people are arrested for smuggling tigers, rhino horn, or ivory in Vietnam, rarely do they see the inside of a prison cell. In cases where prosecution has followed, most criminals receive suspended sentences, according to an analysis by ENV of criminal prosecutions on major wildlife crime cases since 2010.

In contrast, a recent case in China demonstrates how the courts, see the value of utilizing the law as an effective deterrence, issuing stiff penalties for wildlife crimes.

In July 2016, a Vietnamese national was convicted of smuggling endangered species including tiger skins, ivory and rhino horn into China, and was sentenced to eight years in prison. The woman was arrested as a consequence of 'Operation Sword', carried out by the Xinjiang Forest Police during late 2014. Police confiscated 100 ivory pendants, 6.3kg of elephant tusks, three bangles, 1.12kg of ivory beads and a 481g block of ivory. The source of the ivory was reported to be Vietnam, and the Vietnamese national had acted as the middleman

to a web of Chinese traders. This case provides an example of strong enforcement action and successful prosecution of wildlife traders, as well as highlighting the trade links between Vietnam and China which make wildlife crime an international concern. (Case ref. 10274/ENV)



ENV Case No. 10246

Ivory confiscated on October 1, 2016

Photo courtesy of Noi Bai Customs

Macaque cases, a never-ending strain on authorities

Between September 2016 and the end of December 2016, a total of 40 live macaques were confiscated by authorities following reports to the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and subsequent cooperation between ENV and the authorities in 19 provinces. Macaques are commonly kept as pets, or used for the production of bone glue.



ENV Case No. 8086

A pig-tailed macaque (*Macaca leonina*) kept in the cage at a coffee shop in Quang Binh

Turning over wildlife to authorities: Break the Chain!

Following public reports to ENV's Wildlife Crime Hotline, a total of 27 animals were voluntarily transferred to authorities in 13 provinces during the reporting period. Voluntary transfers included a Northern yellow-cheeked gibbon (*Nomascus gabriellae*) and a big-headed turtle (*Platysternon megacephalum*) in Kon Tum (both are Decree 160-listed), a leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) in Quang Tri, a pygmy loris (*Nycticebus pygmaeus*) in Thanh Hoa, and a Bengal slow loris (*Nycticebus bengalensis*) in Tuyen Quang, as well as ten registered bears. Also included were two marine turtles and an assortment of freshwater turtles and tortoises, and macaques.

Aside from the bears, most of these animals were purchased as pets. ENV encourages the public not to purchase wild animals as pets. Doing so violates the law, and purchasing wild animals supports hunting and trade of wildlife. Your money goes to sellers, who pay traders, who pay hunters to hunt more animals in the wild to sell to people like you. Don't do it! If you see wildlife being advertised or sold, report it to local authorities or call us free on 1800-1522. We will work hard to have the animals confiscated and the seller punished, breaking the chain that is contributing to the loss of our biodiversity.



ENV Case No. 10260

A big-headed turtle (*Platysternon megacephalum*) released in October 2016

Photo courtesy of Dak Ha FPD, Kon Tum

IN THE “NO FLY ZONE”

Pending proper disposal of dead tigers

In a recent case in Long An province, authorities faced difficulties in properly addressing the disposal of a tiger that had died at the My Quynh Zoo. The zoo wished to preserve the tiger as a trophy. ENV, while not opposed to utilizing the dead tiger for educational purposes at the zoo, advised FPD that parts of the tiger such as the bones and organs, excluding the skin used in the trophy must be disposed of in accordance with the law. FPD appeared confused by their responsibility in this matter and left the zoo to deal with the dead tiger as they saw fit. If the bones were indeed used in any way, this would constitute a criminal violation enabled by the passive response of local authorities involved in the case. ENV intends to pursue this issue rigorously to ensure that the bones were destroyed and that parties

responsible for any violation of laws governing disposition of animals or parts of protected species are held fully accountable.



ENV Case No. 2136

A stuffed tiger at a farm in Nghe An on April 1, 2016

Options for other cases of similar nature:

1. Incinerate or destroy dead animals, parts, or products, and fully document under the witness of authorities.
2. Transfer dead animals, parts, or products to the National Natural History Museum or another legitimate scientific institution in accordance with the recommendations of the Prime Minister, according to Correspondence 611/TTg-NN dated May 15, 2007 issued by the Prime Minister.

Compliance with wildlife protection law is not optional, but a requirement for which ENV expects authorities in Long An and other provinces to comply with fully.

Keeping the public trust

Public trust in the performance of authorities is critical to addressing wildlife crime. The public are our allies. When they make the effort to assist authorities by reporting crimes, local authorities need to respond professionally and efficiently to address the report in accordance with the law. Loss of confidence by the public undermines the rule of law by allowing criminal activity to persist in society, while at the same time supporting the perception by the public that local authorities are not effective or interested in doing their job.

***Make an example of criminals today
to prevent crime tomorrow!***

CRIME LOG

September 1, 2016 - December 31, 2016

AN GIANG

An Giang FPD confiscated two illegal Asiatic black bears (*Ursus thibetanus*) from An Giang's last remaining bear farm on September 28, 2016. The bears had been kept by the owner since 2005, and he had contacted the FPD to offer to hand over his bears on the condition that they be given to an entertainment establishment. FPD refused to do so, and instead transferred the bears to Hon Me Rescue Center. An Giang can now be considered a 'bear free province'. (Case ref. 7736/ENV)

BA RIA - VUNG TAU

On December 18, 2015, Ba Ria - Vung Tau FPD, working in conjunction with ENV, conducted a sting operation against a wildlife trade operation in Xuyen Moc district. The subject running the trade operation had been selling wildlife to Chinese traders. FPD went to his house with a cover story and seized 57.3kg of wildlife from ten different species including three leopard cats, ferret badgers, cobras, jungle fowl, and an assortment of other reptiles. The subject was fined VND 11,000,000 (USD \$500) and the wildlife was released into Binh Chau National Reserve. (Case ref. 9082/ENV)

On September 5, 2016, Vung Tau City FPD acted on an ENV volunteer report and confiscated a Burmese python (*Python bivittatus*) weighing over two kilograms from a cage outside a residential property in Vung Tau city. The python had been kept as a pet by the owner. (Case ref. 10157/ENV)

Following a report to ENV's hotline, on September 7, 2016, Vung Tau FPD confiscated a stump-tailed macaque

(*Macaca arctoides*), two Chinese cobras (*Naja atra*), eight bamboo rats, two monitor lizards, a common palm civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*) and a brush-tailed porcupine (*Atherurus macrourus*) from a restaurant in Vung Tau. (Case ref. 10158/ENV)

Ba Ria - Vung Tau Fishery Department confiscated a hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) from a restaurant in Vung Tau City on September 14, 2016. Following a report from the public about a marine turtle being kept at a restaurant, ENV notified the Fishery Department which resulted in the confiscation of the turtle. (Case ref. 10191/ENV)



On October 24, 2016, Tan Thanh District FPD inspected a restaurant serving wildlife following an ENV report and as a consequence the FPD confiscated 4.5kg of snakes. The restaurant, located in Bau Phuong village, had been offering customers squirrels, snakes, and civets. The FPD discovered that the restaurant did not have legal permission to serve snakes to customers. The subject



ENV Case No. 10340
Ivory confiscated at Cat Lai Port in Ho Chi Minh City
Photo courtesy of Ho Chi Minh City Customs - Area 1

was fined VND 3,000,000 (USD \$136). The snakes were released into Dinh Mountain in Ba Ria - Vung Tau province. (Case ref. 9915/ENV)

Following a report to the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline, Ba Ria - Vung Tau Market Management confiscated five hawksbill sea turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and two large green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) trophies from a handicrafts shop in Vung Tau City on November 14, 2016. The trophies were kept by Market Management and a fine of VND 2,000,000 (USD \$91) was given to the subject. (Case ref. 10348/ENV)

On November 15, 2016, ENV received a report about three long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*) being kept at a resort in Vung Tau City. ENV immediately transferred the reported information to the Ba Ria - Vung Tau FPD who then confiscated the macaques. (Case ref. 10380/ENV)



On November 24, 2016, acting on information provided to ENV through the Wildlife Crime Hotline, Ba Ria - Vung Tau FPD and Environmental Police (EP) confiscated a hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) trophy and another unidentified turtle trophy from a motel in Vung Tau City. The trophies were transferred to Vung Tau City FPD. (Case ref. 10362/ENV)

On November 25, 2016, Ba Ria - Vung Tau FPD and Ba Ria - Vung Tau EP confiscated a leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) from a café in Vung Tau City following a report to ENV from the public. The leopard cat was kept by the FPD for release into Binh Chau - Phuoc Bui National Reserve. (Case ref. 10170/ENV)

BAC KAN

On November 11, 2016, Cho Don District FPD and local police confiscated 13 dead Small Indian civets (*Viverricula indica*) from a house in Bac Kan province which were being prepared for sale at the subject's restaurant. The FPD fined the subject VND 15,000,000 for illegal possession of wildlife, and the civets were buried in a landfill by the FPD and Bang Lung People's Committee. (Case ref. 10384/ENV)

BAC NINH

On November 15, 2016, Bac Ninh Criminal Police confiscated 4kg of rhino horn from a relative of a woman who had stolen a rhino horn from wildlife traders. The case came to the attention of the police on November 3, 2016, when they received a letter from a traditional

Chinese medicine doctor who alleged that someone had cheated him out of VND 1.7 billion for which he was owed for selling a house. Upon investigating the case, the police came to understand that the house was actually 4kg of rhino horn, and they identified six subjects involved in a failed deal to sell rhino horn. The buyer of the rhino horn had met some middlemen, collected the rhino horn and then fled the meeting place without paying. The middleman's letter to the police led to the exposure of the crime. Four subjects were put into custody, one was immediately jailed for violating parole, and one subject escaped. The case was prosecuted. (Case ref. 10416/ENV)

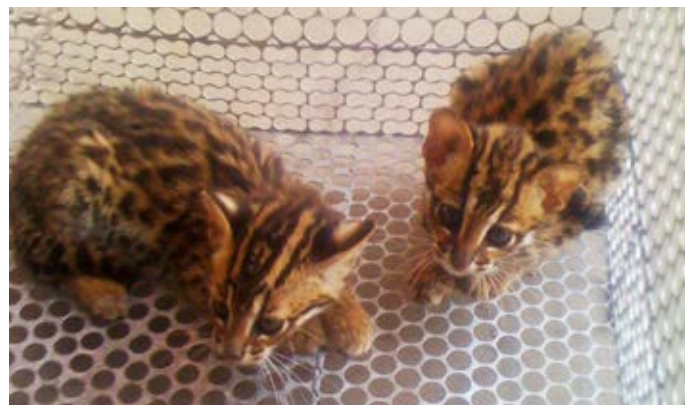
BEN TRE

On December 13, 2016, Ben Tre EP, together with An Phu Trung Communal Police, confiscated two leopard cats (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) that were being advertised for sale on Facebook. The confiscation followed a report to the ENV hotline and a "sting" operation that was set up with ENV's support. Unfortunately, the subject was not given any punishment. (Case ref. 10459/ENV)

NOTE: While the efforts of Ben Tre police are recognized, it is critical that law enforcement utilize punishment as a means to deter criminal behavior. Letting the subject go does not satisfy the intent or spirit of wildlife protection law, enacted to protect our biodiversity.

BINH THUAN

On November 23, 2016, following an ENV Hotline report from a member of the public, Binh Thuan EP confiscated a pair of leopard cats (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) from a subject's house. The cats were reportedly transferred to Cu Chi Rescue Center. (Case ref. 10412/ENV)



CAO BANG

On October 11, 2016, Cao Bang EP stopped a bus travelling from Lam Dong province to Cao Bang province and found 20 dried grey-shanked douc langurs (*Pygathrix cinerea*) following an investigation. One subject was detained and the case placed under investigation. (Case ref. 10277/ENV)

NOTE: Grey-shanked douc langurs are a critically endangered species that are endemic to Vietnam. The trade of dried langurs is for traditional medicine, with northern provinces like Cao Bang playing a pivotal role in the langur trade network.

DA NANG

On March 30, 2015, a hunter was arrested with assorted hunting equipment, 3kg of wildlife bones and parts from unidentified animals, civets, common barking deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*) and parts from several red-shanked douc langur (*Pygathrix nemaeus*). Da Nang FPD had discovered the hunter in Son Tra National Reserve, and he implicated a further four subjects responsible for building a shack in the National Reserve from which to hunt wildlife. In September 2016, two of the subjects were sentenced to 30 months and 24 months in prison respectively. (Case ref. 8153/ENV)

On November 13, 2016, Da Nang EP confiscated a green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) from a restaurant in Da Nang, thanks to an ENV report. The restaurant owner had been intending to sell the turtle, and as a result, the EP in cooperation with the Da Nang Department of Fisheries moved quickly to confiscate the turtle at lunch time that same day. The turtle was later released into the sea, and the owner was not given any punishment. (Case ref. 10369/ENV)

DAK LAK

In response to an ENV report, on September 12, 2016, Buon Ma Thuot City FPD confiscated a Malayan sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*) weighing 60kg from a property in Dak Lak province. Alongside the bear, the FPD also confiscated a 5kg Assamese macaque (*Macaca assamensis*) and a 4kg stump-tailed macaque (*Macaca arctoides*). The bear was transferred to a rescue center, while the macaques were released into nature. (Case ref. 9987/ENV)

DAK NONG

On August 24, 2016, a smuggler was transporting six dried black-shanked douc langur (*Pygathrix nigripes*) when he was apprehended by the Tuy Duc District Police in Dak Nong province. The smuggler had been delivering the langur to a buyer in a small hamlet at the time of arrest. The langurs were incinerated, and the case was prosecuted. (Case ref. 10305/ENV)

On August 24, 2016, Tuy Duc District Police confiscated four pig-tailed macaques (*Macaca leonine*) from a subject on the street in Dak Ngo commune. The four macaques had been dried and gutted. The police incinerated the macaques and provided an administrative punishment to the subject. (Case ref. 10311/ENV)



ENV Case No. 10014

Macaques advertised for sale on Facebook on September 28, 2016

On October 28, 2016, following an ENV report, Cu Jut District FPD confiscated a Burmese python (*Python bivittatus*) from a street vendor in Dak Nong province. The python was released into Dray Sap forest. (Case ref. 10302/ENV)

Six registered Asiatic black bears (*Ursus thibetanus*) were transferred voluntarily on December 5, 2016, in the provinces of Dak Lak and Dak Nong, from a single owner to the bear sanctuary at Tam Dao thanks to the efforts of Dak Lak FPD. The bear's owner lived in Dak Nong province, though he was keeping three of his bears in Buon Ma Thuot under the care of an associate. Dak Lak FPD worked promptly to ensure that the bears were transferred to suitable rescue centers in accordance with the law, and the FPD has helped bring Vietnam closer to ending bear farming. (Case ref. 6523/ENV and 8965/ENV)

DONG NAI

On October 27, 2016, Dong Nai FPD confiscated an owl from a snack shop in Dong Nai province, following a report to ENV's Wildlife Crime Hotline. The owl was transferred to the Forestry Center of Bien Hoa city to be kept until it recovered sufficiently from its captivity to be released into the wild. The owner was not punished. (Case ref. 10318/ENV)



Photo courtesy of Bien Hoa FPD, Dong Nai

GIA LAI

On November 11, 2016, Gia Lai FPD transferred four bears from three farms to Animals Asia Foundation (AAF). The FPD has been working with the owners of the bears for a long time to secure a voluntary transfer of the bears. The bears were moved to the bear sanctuary at Tam Dao. (Case ref. 10371/ENV)

HA NAM

On October 20, 2016, Duy Tien District Police apprehended a wildlife smuggler in Ha Nam who had been travelling from Ha Tinh city via bus. The smuggler was caught with four Chinese box turtles (*Cuora flavomarginata*), two Chinese stripe-necked turtles (*Mauremys sinensis*), seven Asian leaf turtles (*Cyclemys tchaponensis*), one keeled box turtle (*Cuora mouhotii*), one king cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*), one Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*), and three tokay lizards (*Gekko gecko*). The police intercepted the smuggler after she disembarked from the bus. The turtles were

all transferred to rescue centers at Cuc Phuong National Park and the tokay lizards were sent to Soc Son Rescue Center. The subject was held in custody and the case was prosecuted. (Case ref. 10297/ENV)

On December 19, 2016, Duy Tien District Police caught a man transporting two dead Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*) on his motorbike. Police subsequently checked the man's home and found eight more pangolins in a freezer. The case was prosecuted and the subject is being held in custody. The dead pangolins were transferred to Vietnam National Museum of Nature. (Case ref. 10480/ENV)



Photo courtesy of Duy Tien District Police, Ha Nam

HA NOI

On July 18, 2016, Ha Noi EP and Department Three of the National EP caught two subjects in possession of 33.8kg of ivory and ivory products in Ha Noi, following information provided by ENV earlier in the year. One of the subjects had been caught transporting a small quantity of ivory by motorbike, and following his confession the police raided a second subject's house in the Nhi Khe village area where the remaining ivory was confiscated. (Case ref. 10139/ENV)

On August 12, 2015, while checking luggage belonging to passengers arriving from Angola at Ha Noi's airport, Airport Customs and Anti-smuggling Police in cooperation with the Anti-smuggling Department of General Customs confiscated 4.76kg of rhino horn and 95.5kg of ivory from two Vietnamese passengers. One of the passengers was successfully apprehended after the seizure, and he confessed to being paid \$1,300 to smuggle the goods from Angola by another Vietnamese man. In October 2016, the apprehended passenger was sentenced to nine months in prison. The other passenger escaped. (Case ref. 8774/ENV)

On September 15, 2016, Thuy Khue Ward Police caught two street vendors selling birds red-handed opposite the

entrance to the botanical gardens. The vendors and their birds were taken to the police station, and the vendors were fined VND 3,000,000. The police confiscated five Asian koels (*Eudynamys scolopaceus*) and 19 black crown night herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*). The police's swift action took place on the same day that ENV reported the crime to them. (Case ref. 4489/ENV)

On September 15, 2016, the National EP, in coordination with the Thanh Xuan District Police, raided a house in Ha Noi and seized a frozen tiger skeleton and 6kg of tiger meat. The owner of the tiger carcass was arrested. The remains of the tiger were sent to the Vietnamese National Museum of Nature. (Case ref. 10205/ENV)

Following an ENV report, Hoan Kiem District EP confiscated a white-bellied sea eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) from a small noodle restaurant in Ha Noi on September 22, 2016. The eagle was transferred to Soc Son Rescue Center. (Case ref. 10181/ENV)

While conducting an inspection of bear microchips in Ha Noi, the FPD discovered an unchipped illegal bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) being kept on a bear farm. Within a week, on September 22, 2016, the bear was confiscated by the FPD and transferred to Soc Son Rescue Center in the presence of ENV staff. (Case ref. 0657/ENV)

During the evening of September 26, 2016, Thuong Tin District Economic Police and National Traffic Police conducted a search of a taxi driving in Ha Noi and discovered 12.5kg of processed ivory products, including bracelets, necklaces and beads. The driver of the taxi was arrested and is undergoing prosecution. (Case ref. 9938/ENV)

On September 30, 2016, Ha Noi Economic Police seized over 400kg of ivory being smuggled out of Noi Bai airport. The next day, Noi Bai Customs confiscated 309kg of ivory concealed in cargo from a Lagos flight via Abu Dhabi. The subject, who had been transporting the ivory, escaped from the airport without being detained. The luggage had been declared as decorative stones on the bill of lading. Both seizures of ivory were related in that they belonged to the same company in Vietnam. (Case ref. 10246/ENV)

On the days of October 14 and 15, 2016, Hai Ba Trung District Economic Police and Ha Noi EP confiscated seven turtles from two different turtle traders in Hai Ba Trung and Hoan Kiem districts. Arrest of the first subject on October 14, 2016, led to information of the second turtle trader, who was arrested on October 15, 2016. The species of turtle included three Indochinese Box

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

Turtle (*Cuora galbinifrons*). The turtles were transferred to Soc Son Rescue Center. The subjects were prosecuted. (Case ref. 10312/ENV)

On November 7, 2016, Ha Noi FPD confiscated an illegal Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) being kept at a resident's house in Ha Noi, following a report to the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline. The owners claimed to have kept the bear for approximately ten years and to extract bear bile for personal use. The bear was taken by Soc Son Rescue Center. No punishment was imposed on the bear owner. (Case ref. 9457/ENV)

On November 11, 2016, Ha Noi Anti-smuggling Police conducted a sting operation in coordination with ENV against an ivory trader in the Nhi Khe village area of Ha Noi. Two employees of the trader were intercepted leaving her house with ivory. Their arrest led to a further seizure of ivory at the trader's house, as well as machines used for carving ivory. Some of the subjects resisted arrest, and brandished weapons including a sword at the police. In total four subjects were arrested and 195kg of ivory confiscated. The trader had been identified by ENV as one of the most active in the area. However, the successful operation resulted from timely information provided by the Wildlife Justice Commission, permitting law enforcement agents to initiate the successful operation. The subjects in this case are being prosecuted. (Case ref. 8990/ENV)



Photo courtesy of Ha Noi Anti-smuggling Police

On November 22, 2016, Ha Noi EP and Hai Ba Trung District Police confiscated one Indochinese box turtle (*Cuora galbinifrons*) and two alligator snapping turtles (*Macrochelys temminckii*) from a subject riding a motorbike in Hai Ba Trung district. The subject had been under extensive investigation, and police waited until he was transporting wildlife before apprehending him. The turtles were transported to Soc Son Rescue Center, and the case was prosecuted. (Case ref. 10443/ENV)

On December 2, 2016, Ha Noi Market Surveillance and Bac Tu Liem District EP intercepted a bus in Ha Noi and discovered 20 dried douc langurs of three different species (*Pygathrix nemaeus*, *P. cinerea* and *P. nigripes*) on board, along with 600 boxes of black-market cigarettes. The douc langurs were sent to the Vietnam National Museum of Nature. (Case ref. 10436/ENV)

On December 5, 2016, following a report to ENV by the Asian Turtle Program (ATP) about an Asian giant soft shelled turtle (*Pelochelys cantorii*) advertised for sale

on Facebook in Hanoi, ENV identified the owner and worked with Hanoi EP and Hai Ba Trung District Police resulting in the confiscation and transfer of the giant turtle to the Soc Son Rescue Center. The trader claimed to have caught the 21kg turtle in Hanoi's Red River. (Case ref. 10449/ENV)

NOTE: Asian giant soft shelled turtle (*Pelochelys cantorii*) is a large river-dwelling soft-shell turtle that is listed as endangered and fully protected under Decree 160.

On December 6, 2016, two king cobras (*Ophiophagus hannah*) and two leopard cats (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) were confiscated by Thanh Xuan and Hanoi EP after they investigated a suspicious parked car in Nhan Chinh ward of Thanh Xuan district. The owner of the animals is being prosecuted. (Case ref. 10460/ENV)



ENV Case No. 10430

Python skin advertised for sale on Facebook

On December 20, 2016, confirmation was received that a subject had been imprisoned for four months following the confiscation of two Indochinese box turtles (*Cuora galbinifrons*) and one elongated tortoise (*Indotestudo elongata*) that were found in his possession on June 22, 2016. The Indochinese box turtle is listed as fully protected under Decree 160. (Case ref. 10486/ENV)

NOTE: The case is an important example of how even with a small quantity of animals, enforcement of the law and subsequent punishment are critical to wildlife protection efforts. If similar efforts were applied throughout Vietnam by law enforcement, within a year, there would be far less work to do, and far better protection for these species in the wild.

HA TINH

Ha Tinh FPD checked a car travelling on National Road 15A on November 8, 2016, and discovered 55 Asian leaf turtles (*Cyclemys tchaponensis*) weighing 30kg inside. The driver of the car was fined VND 15,000,000 (USD \$681) and the turtles were released on the same day into Ngan Pho forest in Ha Tinh province. (Case ref. 10377/ENV)

On December 23, 2016, Ha Tinh EP confirmed they had confiscated a 130kg tiger from a residence in Son Quang commune of Huong Son district. The owner was keeping the tiger in his freezer and claimed that he intended to make tiger bone TCM. The case is presently under investigation. (Case ref. 10495/ENV)

On December 28, 2016, 200kg of wildlife was confiscated from the freezer of a resident's house in Ha Tinh. The wildlife included six civets, four monitor lizards, a python, seven macaques, two wild pigs (*Sus scrofa*) and wild pig meat, and four brush-tailed porcupines (*Atherurus macrourus*). The subject stated that he bought the wildlife in Laos. All of the frozen wildlife was subsequently incinerated. (Case ref. 10528/ENV)

HAI DUONG

In 2011, Hai Duong FPD confiscated 15kg of raw elephant ivory in Hai Duong province from a truck parked on the side of a road. On November 25, 2016, the Vietnam National Museum of Nature received the ivory from Hai Duong FPD. ENV congratulates Hai Duong FPD on setting an excellent example of responsibly disposing of seized animal products. (Case ref. 3570/ENV)

Hai Duong Economic Police and Hai Duong FPD intercepted a pick-up truck with false registration plates on a highway on November 16, 2016, and discovered 31 live and 59 dead Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*). The shipment was suspected to have come from Nghe An or Ha Tinh province. The pangolins were transferred to Soc Son Rescue Center. (Case ref. 10390/ENV)



On December 7, 2016, following an ENV Hotline report, Hai Duong authorities confiscated an illegal Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) being kept at a resident's house in Hai Duong. The bear was transferred to Soc Son Rescue Center. No punishment was given to the bear's owner. (Case ref. 10323/ENV)

HO CHI MINH CITY

Ho Chi Minh City EP arrested a smuggler on January 11, 2015 who was in possession of two Asian golden cats (*Catopuma temminckii*) which had been painted to look like tigers, a leopard (*Panthera pardus*), 30 live pangolins and eight Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) paws. The subject had been reported by ENV to the police previously for transporting wildlife inside an ambulance. The subject was prosecuted for transporting the bear paws and the Asian golden cats, and sentenced to five years in prison in November 2016. (Case ref. 7925/ENV)

Ho Chi Minh City EP confiscated two hawksbill sea turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) on July 5, 2016, from a restaurant in Thu Duc District. The turtles were released into a protected marine area in Khanh Hoa province. The restaurant had previously been fined VND 6,000,000 for owning sea turtles in a case reported by ENV in 2014. (Case ref. 6236/ENV)

On July 15, 2016, Tan Son Nhat Airport Customs seized 15kg of ivory hidden within imported goods from the Czech Republic. The bill of lading showed a Vietnamese subject as the owner of the goods. The ivory was cut into 31 small pieces. (Case ref. 10003/ENV)

On September 24, 2016, Tan Son Nhat Customs and Ho Chi Minh City Customs seized 1,000 pieces of dried python skins weighing 321kg, with no paper to show the skins' legal origins. The exporter was a Malaysian

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



supplier of python skin and organs, and the importer was a Vietnamese subject in Dong Thap. (Case ref. 10232/ENV)

On September 27, 2016, following a report to ENV's Wildlife Crime Hotline, Ho Chi Minh City EP confiscated 32 turtles from a pet shop in District 3 on September 27. The confiscated turtles included the critically endangered radiated tortoise (*Astrochelys radiata*). (Case ref. 10065/ENV)

On September 27, 2016, Ho Chi Minh City FPD inspected a restaurant following a report from ENV. The FPD found civets, monitor lizards, water dragons, and other species were advertised on the menu, and as a response the FPD imposed an administrative fine of VND 1,500,000 (USD \$70) on the restaurant owner for advertising wildlife in violation of the law and confiscated the menus. (Case ref. 5663/ENV)



Photo courtesy of District 3 EP, Ho Chi Minh City

On October 10, 2016, following a tip off to ENV's Wildlife Crime Hotline, two traders selling wildlife in front of a Ho Chi Minh pagoda were fined a total of 26 million VND after they were found in possession of 23 protected turtles and 108 sparrows. The turtles and birds were subsequently transferred to a rescue center. (Case ref. 8919/ENV)

On November 10, 2016, Ho Chi Minh City EP in cooperation with ENV conducted a sting operation against a wildlife trader. The trader had been advertising a baby black-shanked douc langur (*Pygathrix nigripes*) for sale on Facebook. Posing as a potential buyer, undercover officers of ENV's Wildlife Crime Unit arranged a meeting along with Environmental Police. The langur was transferred to Dao Tien Rescue Center. (Case ref. 10359/ENV)



Photo courtesy of Cat Tien National Park

On November 18, 2016, National Anti-smuggling Police and Tan Binh District Police seized 3.65 kilograms of rhino horn from carry-on luggage at Tan Son Nhat airport.

The seizure occurred while the luggage was being inspected, and consisted of a whole rhino horn and two smaller separate pieces. A small quantity of suspected macaque bone glue was also confiscated. The luggage had been brought by a Vietnamese passenger from Nghe An to Tan Son Nhat on a domestic flight. The owner of the luggage was detained. (Case ref. 10393/ENV)



Photo courtesy of National Anti-smuggling Police

On December 20, 2016, District 2 Police in cooperation with Ho Chi Minh City FPD, confiscated one owl and two South American parrots at a coffee shop in Ho Chi Minh City following a report to the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline. The animals were subsequently transferred to Cu Chi Rescue Center. Notably, one loris was confiscated at the same location in April 2015 by Ho Chi Minh EP. The owner of the shop has not received any punishment yet. (Case ref. 8142/ENV)

On December 27, 2016, following a call to ENV about wildlife being sold in the vicinity of Ben Soi ferry terminal, Cu Chi FPD checked the area and confiscated six Rhesus macaque (*Macaca mulatta*) and one Asiatic rock python (*Python molurus*). The subject evaded arrest. The animals were subsequently transferred to Cu Chi Rescue Center. (Case ref. 10453/ENV)

CAT LAI PORT SEIZURES

On October 6, 2016, Cat Lai Port Customs and the Anti-smuggling Police Agency discovered 569 pieces of ivory totaling two tonnes hidden in a shipment from Mozambique to a consignee in Ho Chi Minh City. Also found in the two containers were elephant tail hair and 32 pairs of ivory chopsticks. Customs suspect common ownership of the ivory in this case and the ivory in cases 10321 and 10306. (Case ref. 10262/ENV)



Photo courtesy of Ho Chi Minh City Customs - Area 1

On October 21, 2016, Cat Lai Port Customs in Ho Chi Minh City opened a container belonging to a company and discovered 594kg of ivory and 227kg of pangolin scales. The shipment had come from Kenya, and the consigner was a Ugandan company. The ivory and scales were hidden within wooden logs in a sophisticated manner. The consignee refused to collect the container, and is involved in a similar ivory case (10262). (Case ref. 10306/ENV)

On October 26, 2016, Cat Lai Port Customs opened two containers and found a tonne of ivory hidden in wooden logs. The shipment had come from Kenya, and was headed to Cambodia following a transit in Cat Lai. The consigner was the same as that in case 10306. The consignee was based in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. (Case ref. 10321/ENV)

On November 1, 2016, Cat Lai Customs confiscated 487kg of unprocessed ivory from a container containing wooden logs, which had been shipped from Lagos in Nigeria. The ivory had been hidden within the logs. The shipment bore similarities to another shipment of ivory from a previous case, which made Customs suspicious. (Case ref. 10340/ENV)



Photo courtesy of Cat Lai Port Customs, Ho Chi Minh City

On November 24, 2016, Ho Chi Minh Customs and National Anti-smuggling Police confiscated 619kg of ivory from a pair of containers at Cat Lai port. The containers had arrived onboard a ship from Lagos, Nigeria and were destined for a company in Ho Chi Minh City. The ivory had been hidden among wooden logs. (Case ref. 10417/ENV)

On November 28, 2016, Ho Chi Minh City Customs and National Anti-smuggling Police seized 537kg of ivory from within two containers destined for Phnom Penh, Cambodia while they were in transit at Cat Lai port. The shipment had been loaded onto a vessel in the Ivory Coast, and transshipped at Sri Lanka and Singapore before arriving in Vietnam. (Case ref. 10426/ENV)

Cat Lai Port Customs, while scanning on December 1 a container recently arrived from Africa, discovered ivory hidden within wooden logs which they immediately seized. The ivory totaled 529kg. The ivory had been transported on board a vessel from Luanda in Angola, and was being sent to a consigner company based in Ho Chi Minh City. (Case ref. 10433/ENV)

HOA BINH

On December 11, 2016, Hoa Binh Police arrested two men while they were transporting five pieces of rhino horn. The arrests followed reportedly a long investigation by Hoa Binh authorities targeting one of the residents. (Case ref. 10133/ENV)

KHANH HOA

On November 22, 2016, Khanh Hoa Border Police discovered a large quantity of wildlife in a man's home including a common barking deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*), snakes of several species, water dragons, turtles, monitor lizards, and pythons. Two subjects were reportedly arrested in connection with the case. (Case ref. 10413/ENV)

On November 25, 2016, Khanh Hoa FPD, in collaboration with ENV, conducted a sting against a pet shop owner in Nha Trang, successfully confiscating a hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*). The pet shop owner had been planning to sell the sea turtle and had advertised it online. The vendor had also been advertising wildlife on her shop's Facebook page. No punishment was given to the subject. The turtle was released into Nha Trang bay. (Case ref. 10193/ENV)

**THE ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE IS MAINLY RUN BY
ORGANIZED CRIMINAL NETWORKS, SOME OF WHICH ALSO
ARE INVOLVED IN DRUGS, PROSTITUTION,
AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING.**



KIEN GIANG

On September 25, 2016, Region 4 Coast Guard of Kien Giang working with Kien Giang Economic Police intercepted a ship at sea and seized twenty turtles of assorted species, including 12 Asian box turtles (*Cuora amboinensis*), one painted terrapin (*Batagur borneoensis*), three Giant Asian pond turtles (*Heosemys grandis*), two Asian stripe-necked leaf turtles (*Cyclemys pulchristiata*) and two Yellow-headed temple turtles (*Heosemys annandalii*). The captain, a Vietnamese man, confessed to buying four of the turtles but claimed that he was unaware of the other 16 turtles onboard. Of the turtles, 18 survived to be transferred to a rescue center; two of the Asian box turtles died and were incinerated. The captain was fined VND 6,000,000 (USD \$272). (Case ref. 10251/ENV)



Photo courtesy of Region 4 Coast Guard, Kien Giang

KON TUM

Following an ENV report, Kon Tum FPD confiscated a baby yellow-cheeked gibbon (*Nomascus annemensis*) from a pagoda in Kon Plong district on November 9. A monk from the pagoda had claimed that the gibbon's mother had been killed by hunters, and that a local Buddhist was caring for the gibbon at the pagoda. The gibbon was transferred to the Dao Tien Rescue Center. No punishment was given to the owner. (Case ref. 10337/ENV)

On November 23, 2016, following an ENV Hotline report, Kon Tum FPD and EP confiscated a frozen Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) and a frozen grey-shanked douc langur (*Pygathrix cinerea*) from a teacher in Kon Plong

district. The subject had bought the bear from a hunter, who had previously been recorded in other ENV cases. The case was placed under investigation. (Case ref. 10391/ENV)



Photo courtesy of Kon Tum EP

On November 29, 2016, Ngoc Hoi FPD and police confiscated five live Asiatic soft-shell turtles (*Amyda cartilaginea*), seven live water monitor lizards (*Varanus salvator*) and two live small Indian civets (*Viverricula indica*) from a subject's residence in Kon Tum province. The animals were transferred to Chu Mom Ray Rescue Center and the subject was fined VND 30,000,000 (USD \$1,363). (Case ref. 10447/ENV)

LAM DONG

On the afternoon of September 7, 2016, Lam Dong FPD and Di Linh District FPD seized 21 pig-tailed macaques (*Macaca leonina*) in netted sacks being smuggled by motorbike from a forest in Lam Dong province where they had been caught previously. The smuggler was transporting the macaques to Phan Thiet city to sell. The smuggler was fined VND 25,000,000 (USD \$1,136) and the macaques were released back into the forest. (Case ref. 10182/ENV)

LANG SON

On the 6th, 15th and 16th October, 2016, Lang Son EP and Criminal Police in Lang Son confiscated a total of 199kg of ivory in nine bags, initially finding two bags in a truck with a false registration number on October 6, 2016. The driver managed to escape from the vehicle and was not apprehended. Following that seizure, Criminal Police responded to a report on the 15th where they found three more sacks of ivory. Finally, on the 16th, the Criminal Police found four sacks of ivory hidden in a sewer. The police suspected a single owner for all the ivory. (Case ref. 10303/ENV)

LAO CAI

On August 15, 2015, Lao Cai City Economic Police arrested a smuggler carrying 103kg of ivory by motorbike, destined for China through the Ha Khau border gate. The subject was smuggling unwittingly on the behalf of an ivory trader from Hai Duong province.

The trader fled to China upon hearing about the seizure, but was arrested on his return. He was sentenced to two years suspended sentence and a fine of VND 10,000,000 (USD \$454). The ivory was confiscated and destroyed. (Case ref. 8752/ENV)

NGHE AN

Nam Can Border Gate Customs and Nam Can Border Defence Force confiscated 10 live big-headed turtles (*Platysternon megacephalum*) and two Chinese pangolins (*Manis pentadactyla*) on May 16, 2016, following a tip off from the public. The animals were being smuggled in luggage on board a bus from Laos, and were reportedly purchased for USD \$122. The subject was given a six months suspended sentence, and the animals were transferred to rescue centers. (Case ref. 9805/ENV)



ENV Case No. 10477
Water monitor lizard (*Varanus salvator*) wine advertised for sale on Facebook

On September 30, 2016, Dien Chau Traffic Police checked a passenger bus travelling to Ha Noi City from Ho Chi Minh City. Inside the bus they found eight live macaques kept in two boxes under the trunk of the bus, which were then confiscated and transferred to the rescue center at Pu Mat National Park. (Case ref. 10263/ENV)

On October 4, 2016, Nghe An EP confiscated a red-shanked douc langur (*Pygathrix nemaeus*) and a Northern white-cheeked gibbon (*Nomascus leucogenys*) from a house in Nghe An thanks to a report to ENV from the public. The owner of the animals had bought the langur from a hunter who reportedly had shot its mother. The animals were transferred to the Endangered Primate Research Center in Cuc Phuong National Park. The subject received no punishment. (Case ref. 10159/ENV)

Report wildlife crime to
1800-1522
hotline@fpt.vn

On October 13, 2016, Nghi Loc District Police searched a passenger bus and found 18 turtles in a bag in the cargo section including 13 keeled box turtles (*Cuora mouhotii*), three Indochinese box turtles (*Cuora galbinifrons*) and two Bourret's box turtles (*Cuora bourreti*). The subject stated that he was transporting the endangered turtles from Hue to Hanoi. (Case ref. 10283/ENV)

On October 19, 2016, Con Cuong District Police confiscated a Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*) weighing 4.2kg from a subject driving a motorbike in Nghe An province. The subject confessed to having hunted the pangolin. The pangolin was transferred to Pu Mat Rescue Center. The case was prosecuted. (Case ref. 10316/ENV)

On October 27, 2016, Nghe An EP and Dien Chau District Police searched a pair of houses in Dien Chau district, and discovered a full frozen tiger weighing 37kg, half of a frozen tiger with its bones removed (weighing 21kg) and a tiger head. The seizure was the result of several months' investigation by the Environmental Police, and one subject was arrested for possession of the tigers. (Case ref. 10328/ENV)



Photo courtesy of Nghe An EP

NINH BINH

On November 23, 2016, Ninh Binh Economic Police seized seven live pangolins weighing 33.5kg. The police followed a suspected smuggler who had disembarked from a train at Ninh Binh city and intercepted him in a taxi while crossing a bridge. Police discovered four live pangolins in a suitcase and three live pangolins in a carton. The pangolins were transferred to the Small Carnivore and Pangolin Conservation Program, and the subject was put into custody. (Case ref. 10414/ENV)

Thanks to a tip off from a member of the public, on December 11, 2016, Ninh Binh Economic Police together with Yen Mo district traffic police stopped a car and

discovered 70 live Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*) weighing 400.5kg. Two subjects were arrested and held in custody. All the pangolins were transferred to the Small Carnivore and Pangolin Center at Cuc Phuong National Park. (Case ref. 10451/ENV)

QUANG BINH

On December 10, 2016, nine brush tailed porcupines (*Atherurus macrourus*) were confiscated in Quang Binh by Cha Lo Border Customs. The porcupines, weighing a total of 30kg, were being transported in a car entering Vietnam from Laos. (Case ref. 10493/ENV)

QUANG NAM

On September 4, 2015, an ivory smuggler turned himself into the police having been on the run following a traffic accident several months previously. The smuggler had been driving a car containing five sacks of ivory weighing 112kg when he crashed into a bus, after which he abandoned the car and hid the sacks in a copse of small trees. The subject then fled to Laos. After turning himself in to the police, he was sentenced to four months and 28 days in prison for smuggling prohibited goods. The ivory was transferred to the State Reserve Warehouses. (Case ref. 8477/ENV)

QUANG NINH

On October 12, 2016, Complex Station KM15 Customs inspected a sleeping bus travelling from Mong Cai to Ha Noi and discovered a rhino horn weighing 660 grams. Two subjects were caught with the rhino horn in a brown paper bag. They had been hired to transport the rhino horn by a Chinese man at a fee of VND three million (USD \$136). The subjects and rhino horn were transferred to Mong Cai City Police for further investigation. (Case ref. 10280/ENV)

Quang Ninh Border Guards and Customs Control intercepted two subjects smuggling rhino horn, ivory and elephant skin in Mong Cai city on November 27, 2016. The subjects had driven a motorbike to a location in Mong Cai city to collect the wildlife products, shortly after which they were caught. They were carrying over a kilogram of rhino horn in 29 pieces, over a kilogram of processed ivory in the form of bracelets, necklaces and pendants, and over a kilogram of elephant skin. (Case ref. 10425/ENV)



Photo courtesy of IEBC

On November 5, 2016, Quang Ninh Economic Police seized 105 live big-headed turtles (*Platysternon megacephalum*) and 149 live pangolins (*Manis javanica*) from a refrigerated truck heading from Quang Nam province to the Mong Cai border gate. Most of the pangolin quickly died, though 12 live pangolins were transferred to Soc Son Rescue Center along with 89 surviving big-headed turtles. The dead animals were incinerated, the subjects were held in custody. (Case ref. 10353/ENV)

TAY NINH

On October 21, 2016, Customs officers from Moc Bai border gate confiscated 66 turtles including giant Asian pond turtles (*Heosemys grandis*), elongated tortoises (*Indotestudo elongata*) and Asian stripe-necked leaf turtles (*Cyclemys pulchristiata*) from a passenger bus travelling from Cambodia to Vietnam. The turtles were released into Lo Go – Xa Mat National Reserve. The driver of the bus was given an administrative punishment. (Case ref. 10308/ENV)

THAI BINH

On October 4, 2016, the National EP in cooperation with the Thai Binh Economic Police stopped a truck following intelligence. The police confiscated 61 Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*) and 37 big-headed turtles (*Platysternon megacephalum*) and held two subjects in custody. (Case ref. 10254/ENV)

THAI NGUYEN

On November 25, 2016, National EP raided a home in Thai Nguyen city and confiscated a 309kg Indochinese tiger (*Panthera tigris corbetti*) that had just been delivered to the home and killed 30 minutes earlier. The successful operation was a result of an ongoing investigation and information provided by ENV to police. ENV was able to link the tiger to a tiger trafficking network operating in central Vietnam. Four men were arrested in the raid, one of whom reportedly threatened police with a knife. The tiger was transferred to the Vietnam National Museum of Nature on the same day. (Case ref. 7929/ENV)



Photo courtesy of IEBC

THANH HOA

On September 8, 2016, the Traffic Police Department of Thanh Hoa Police confiscated three Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*) from a sleeper bus travelling from Buon Ma Thuot city in Dak Lak to My Dinh bus station in Ha

Noi. The pangolins were transferred to the Carnivore and Pangolin Conservation Program. The case was prosecuted. (Case ref. 10268/ENV)

On October 2, 2016, the Traffic Police Department of Thanh Hoa Police intercepted a bus travelling from Dong Hoi city to Ha Noi and discovered four frozen Hatinh langurs (*Trachypithecus hatinhensis*) being smuggled within the bus. The owner of the goods was not identified. (Case ref. 10247/ENV)

During a sting operation in conjunction with ENV on December 5, 2016, Thanh Hoa City EP confiscated a pygmy loris (*Nycticebus pygmaeus*) from a subject who had advertised it for sale on Facebook. The loris was to be transferred to Ben En National Park, and no punishment was imposed on the subject. (Case ref. 10438/ENV)



On December 26, 2016, ENV received a report about a man in Thach Thanh district keeping a large quantity of frozen wildlife. ENV immediately transferred the information to Thanh Hoa EP which led to the successful confiscation the following day of 581kg of frozen wildlife. The seizure included one clouded leopard, four binturongs, one golden cat, 62 masked civets, a macaque, two wild pigs and meat, five muntjacs and meat, and a tiger skin. The owner of the home was arrested and will be prosecuted. (Case ref. 10498/ENV)



Photo courtesy of Thach Thanh District Police, Thanh Hoa

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



THUA THIEN HUE

During the month of October 2016, Thua Thien Hue Fisheries Department assisted in the release of sea turtles into the sea on two separate occasions. On October 24, 2016, the staff from the Fisheries Department convinced a fisherman to release a hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) into the sea under the supervision of the Department, while on October 27, 2016, the Department witnessed the release of a green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) into the sea under supervision of provincial FPD. In both cases, the fishermen had caught the turtles and then informed the Department. The timely action of the authorities ensured the survival of the turtles and their protection from becoming products in the wildlife trade. (Case ref. 10322/ENV)



ENV Case No. 10381

Dried langur and weapon confiscated in Binh Phuoc Province

Photo courtesy of Bu Gia Map National Park FPD

Number of cases documented by the Wildlife Crime Unit by classification during the period of September to December 2016

Classification	September	October	November	December	Total
Smuggling and trade	9	23	18	25	75
Selling and advertising	40	24	39	41	144
Possession	40	41	42	39	162
Hunting	1	2	2	3	8
Other	1	1	2	0	4
Total*	91	91	103	108	393

*ENV wildlife crime cases are composed of individual violations.




**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.**

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:

*Berlin Zoo
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
Columbus Zoo and Aquarium
Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)
Four Paws
Freeland Foundation (ARREST Program)
Houston Zoo
Humane Society International (HSI) of Australia
International Rhino Foundation (IRF)
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
Oak Foundation
Save the Rhinos International (SRI)
Six Senses Con Dao
The Body Shop Foundation
The Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
World Animal 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.

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