

WILDLIFE CRIME

Education for Nature - Vietnam

env
ACTION AGAINST EXTINCTION

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On April 27, 2017, Nguyen Mau Chien was arrested in a joint operation by Unit 2 of the Central Anti-smuggling Police Department, Hoan Kiem District Police, and Ha Dong District Police. Chien is the suspected leader of a major criminal network trafficking rhino horn, ivory, tigers, and other high-value wildlife products into Vietnam. The arrest followed the seizure of 33 kilograms of rhino horn at the Hanoi Train Station earlier that morning, during which two of Chien's associates were arrested. Police then raided Chien's Hanoi home and confiscated raw ivory, more rhino horn, several frozen tiger cubs, an assortment of ivory products, as well as other wildlife.

SUSPECTED LEADER OF RHINO HORN NETWORK ARRESTED IN HANOI



One of the two associates of Nguyen Mau Chien, who was arrested at the Hanoi Train Station.

Case ref. 10872/ENV

Chien's activities have been linked to numerous cases involving illegally trading and smuggling of wildlife since 2007, when Chien was caught in Tanzania and fined for smuggling wildlife products. Chien has also long been suspected of laundering tigers through his farm in Thanh Hoa Province, and has been linked to a number of tiger seizures in recent years. Over the past five years, Chien's network has surfaced in Africa where he appeared to be expanding his operation considerably, focusing mainly on rhino horn, ivory, and pangolin scales.

Chien's arrest marks a major success for the country in efforts to tackle wildlife trafficking networks that operate from within Vietnam. The outstanding work of central and Hanoi police agencies in this case opens the door for law enforcement agencies and the courts to launch investigations and pursue prosecution of leading figures of other major criminal networks trafficking in wildlife, in accordance with the objectives of Directive 28/CT-TTg dated September 17, 2016 by the Prime Minister. This Directive calls on relevant agencies to pursue and dismantle criminal networks engaged in wildlife trafficking.

In this case, we can expect that every effort will be made by Chien's friends and supporters to circumvent the process with the aim of having Chien released. It is therefore important that the law is applied fully as it was designed, without the possibility of external parties influencing the outcome.

It is time for Vietnam's "kingpins" to be held accountable for their crimes against nature, from which they have amassed fortunes trafficking in endangered wildlife, at the expense of nature, the people, and our international image.



*Ivory products confiscated in Nguyen Mau Chien's home in Ha Dong District, Hanoi.
Case ref. 10872/ENV*

INEFFECTIVENESS OF TARGETING MULES AND MIDDLEMEN

To achieve success in tackling the illegal wildlife trade, we must go after the leadership of criminal enterprises that traffic wildlife, not just the mules and low-level middle men that work on the ground. Confiscating a major shipment of ivory or pangolin scales, for example, can only be considered a major success if the seizure is followed by an investigation aimed at identifying and building a case against key figures in the senior ranks of the trafficking network. Seizures on their own, have the net effect of "taxing" but not stopping the trade.

Lacking efforts to pursue the senior leadership of criminal enterprises behind a major shipment of ivory and other wildlife, criminal networks will remain free to continue their business, and the illegal trade will continue indefinitely as long as a market remains.



ESTABLISHING DETERRENCE: STOPPING CRIMINALS BEFORE THEY ACT

CSGT

Between 2014 and 2016, approximately 17.9% of all criminal cases resulted in jail time, according to a recent evaluation of 156 prosecutions for wildlife trafficking cases recorded in ENV's Wildlife Crime Incident Tracking System. The new figures are lower than those for the previous period, 2010-2013, during which 21.5% of the prosecutions for wildlife trafficking cases resulted in imprisonment of one or more offenders.

Convictions, with little to no jail time, likely reinforces the perception amongst criminals that their lucrative profession of trafficking in wildlife is a low risk and profitable business. This is the challenge that the courts face today in prosecuting wildlife crime cases. Punishment needs to both fit the crime, and serve as an effective means to deter similar criminal behavior by others.

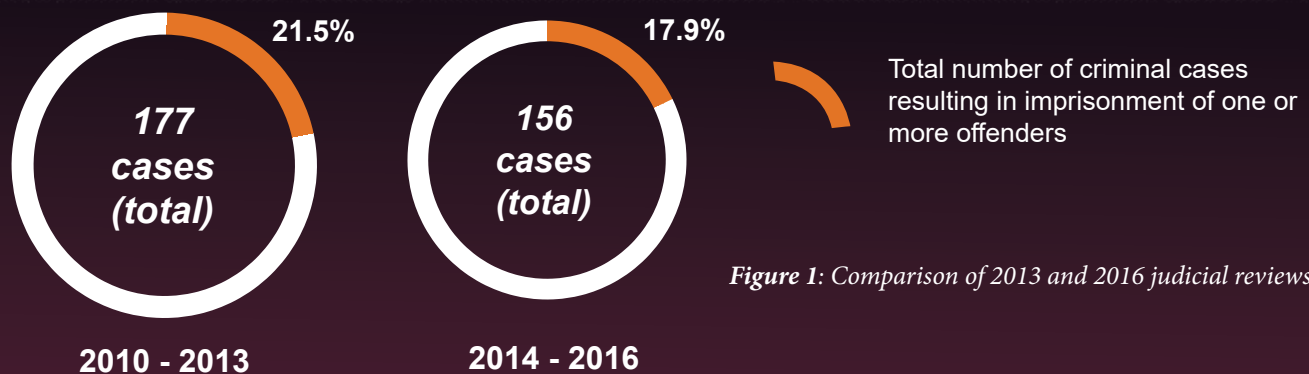


Figure 1: Comparison of 2013 and 2016 judicial reviews

* Total number of criminal cases include ONLY those cases involving trafficking for which prosecution outcomes are known. Cases where ENV was unable to confirm the prosecution outcome of the case prior to concluding this research were excluded.

Data source: ENV Wildlife Crime Incident Tracking System, established in 2005, with more than 11,000 cases documented to date. Criminal cases are verified and tracked through to conclusion, including outcomes and prosecution.

Between 2010 and the end of 2016 there were 36 known cases of trafficking whole tigers or their skeletons. A total of 28 of these cases were prosecuted and reached the court, however only seven convictions resulted in prison terms for one or more of the criminals that were apprehended. The ENV Incident Tracking System lists 67 cases over the last seven years involving rhino horn and/or ivory seizures, for which 23 cases are known to have resulted in prosecutions, 10 of these cases resulting in jail sentences for those that were caught.

Between January 2014 and the end of 2016, when both native species of pangolins received full protection under the law, ENV found that only nine of 65 cases involving the trafficking of pangolins resulted in prison terms for one or more defendants.

The relatively small proportion of defendants in tiger, ivory, rhino horn, and pangolin cases that are sentenced to prison terms suggests that criminals engaged in the most lucrative form of wildlife trafficking may not be receiving punishment that is sufficient to deter criminal behavior. In fact, ENV found that a majority of those prosecuted for these crimes received suspended sentences or non-custodial reform rather than jail time.

With the new Penal Code allowing the courts to issue substantially longer sentences combined with clear regulations on evaluating the severity of crimes and respective punishments, ENV expects to see higher prosecution rates and stricter punishments administered in order to aggressively tackle criminal networks and establish an effective deterrence within society.

In summary, strengthening punishment for criminals achieves the following:

- ▶ Increases the risks for criminals to engage in illegal activity and deters similar behavior by others
- ▶ Strengthens the rule of law in the eyes of the public
- ▶ Promotes a positive image for Vietnam at home and abroad as being active partners in global efforts to tackle wildlife trafficking
- ▶ Reduces wildlife poaching, which strengthens protection of species in the wild, both in Vietnam and globally, by permitting wild populations to recover and reducing the risk of extinction



*In May 2015, an important smuggling case in Nghe An involving the seizure of 31 rhino horns, resulted in a suspended sentence for the two traffickers, one of which was directly linked to a rhino trafficking network.
Case ref. 8380/ENV*

POSITIVE EXAMPLES OF PROGRESS FROM THE COURTS

The following are some great examples of how the courts around the country are taking a stricter position on wildlife crime cases, setting an example for others to follow, and demonstrating their understanding that the law cannot be applied effectively without consequences in the form of punishment, raising the risk for people engaging in illegal activities, and ultimately deterring criminal behavior.



Case ref. 8014/ENV

PANGOLINS

In 2014, both native species of pangolin (Chinese pangolin – *Manis pentadactyla* and Sunda pangolin – *Manis javanica*) received full protection under the law, making it a criminal offense to traffic either species. Initially, it took some time to apply the new law effectively, but by 2015, pangolin crimes were being treated universally as criminal offenses, and the common practice of auctioning off pangolins after seizures ended.

However, the first breakthrough came in the courts in late 2016 when the subject of a case in Ho Chi Minh City received a five year prison term for trafficking 239 kilograms of pangolins, in addition to bear paws and several golden cats (*Case ref. 7925/ENV*). In another case, a Ho Chi Minh City court issued prison terms of 5-18 months to four defendants that were caught smuggling 11 pangolins in 2015. (*Case ref. 8014/ENV*)

Likewise, in Hanoi and Nghe An Province, two pangolin traders caught by police with 13 and 11 pangolins respectively, each received nine months in prison. In Hai Phong, the courts issued prison sentences of 7-12 months to four defendants caught smuggling 52 pangolins. (*Case ref. 8206, 8763, 8204/ENV*)



Case ref. 8763/ENV

Each animal not purchased
is an animal alive in nature!

INTERNET TRADER JAILED

In the case of Phan Huynh Anh Khoa, a two-year investigation into Khoa's online trading activities resulted in his arrest and prosecution after he was caught with nine otters, a black shanked douc langur (*Pygathrix nigripes*), and other endangered wildlife in a sting operation carried out by Ho Chi Minh City Police in collaboration with ENV. Khoa was sentenced to five years in prison and fined 50 million VND (USD \$2,210). In September 2016, he lost an appeal and remains in custody. (Case ref. 5294/ENV)



TIGER

In 2016, a tiger trader in Nam Dinh Province was sentenced to 42 months in prison after he was caught with four frozen tiger cubs. (Case ref. 9606/ENV)



Nam Dinh set a positive example for other provinces in convicting a tiger trader and putting him behind bars. Case ref. 9606/ENV

RHINO HORNS

Tay Ninh Province secured the first known victory for rhino horn case prosecutions following the arrest of a smuggler trying to bring 9.4 kilograms of rhino horn into the country by land. In this case, the courts handed down a sentence of 1.5 years (Case ref. 8455/ENV). Although the prison term was not extensive, the process that started with the seizure of rhino horns at the border by border soldiers, and followed with the prosecution and sentencing by the courts, is conspicuously absent in other rhino horn cases prior to this case. Tay Ninh authorities set an example, beyond the seizure of goods, that should not only be applied universally throughout Vietnam, but should ultimately lead to arrests, prosecutions, and convictions in high value trafficking cases such as those involving rhino horn and ivory.

In a second case involving both rhino horn and ivory, a Hanoi court sentenced two defendants to nine and 12 months imprisonment for their role in the trafficking of 4.76 kilograms of rhino horn and 95.54 kilograms of ivory (Case ref. 8774/ENV). Again, the prison terms were not extensive, but the process through which the case ended with someone going to jail is reflective of a new direction that needs to be taken by the courts throughout Vietnam in order to achieve a meaningful impact in reducing and eliminating wildlife trafficking.

IVORY

At least four cases in 2016 resulted in prison sentences for ivory traffickers. In one case, a Hanoi court issued a prison term of 15 months for a subject smuggling 1.5 kilograms of ivory and 32.5 kilograms of ivory products (Case ref. 10139/ENV). In a second case, a subject received 15 months for smuggling 12.5 kilograms of ivory (Case ref. 9938/ENV). Further north in Bac Giang Province, the courts sentenced an ivory trafficker to 10 months in prison for smuggling half a ton of ivory (Case ref. 9811/ENV). In Quang Nam Province, a defendant got 5 months in prison after being caught with 112.3 kilograms of ivory (Case ref. 8477/ENV).



ENV Notation

ENV further notes that the courts and procuracies should maintain their integrity in the face of pressure from criminals and their supporters to ensure that those that face prosecution and imprisonment for their crimes, are not able to "buy their way" out of prison, either through the use of external pressure, their influence, or their financial resources.

For their contribution to the protection of wildlife, this section of the crime bulletin is reserved for outstanding efforts of law enforcement agencies, procuracies, and courts.

Lao Cai Province Sets Standard for Vietnam on Ivory Destruction

While the late 2016 destruction of ivory in Hanoi marked a very positive step forward for Vietnam in dealing with growing stockpiles of confiscated ivory and rhino horn, a much quieter and equally important event occurred in Lao Cai Province in February 2017. In the Lao Cai case, provincial authorities on their own volition destroyed 43 pieces of ivory that were confiscated in an August 2015 smuggling case. While this may be considered a small quantity of ivory when compared to the estimated 46 tons of ivory currently held in stockpiles, it is significant in that it reflects how some provinces are taking the initiative and moving forward in doing the right thing.



Lao Cai authorities took it upon their own volition to destroy confiscated ivory, a good example for other provinces to follow. Case ref. 8782/ENV

ENV hopes that the Lao Cai example will be replicated by other provinces that share similar values in their willingness to get tough on ivory trafficking, setting an example for the public to see, and for other provinces to follow (Case ref. 8782/ENV).

Sting operation by Hong Linh District Police in Ha Tinh Province yields results

On February 15, 2017, as a result of a joint sting operation with ENV, Hong Linh District Police successfully arrested an online wildlife trader, with a past history of selling high-value endangered wildlife products, while this subject was trying to sell two pangolin wine jars. The police later discovered other protected wildlife at the trader's home, as well as several weapons and a quantity of what was believed to be narcotics (Case ref. 8467/ENV).

Rhino horns seized by Unit 2 of Central Anti-smuggling Police

On April 27, 2017, Unit 2 of the Central Anti-smuggling Police Department, in cooperation with Ha Dong District Police and Hoan Kiem District Police, arrested Nguyen Mau Chien, the suspected leader of a major criminal network that traffics rhino horn, ivory, tigers, and other high-value wildlife products from Africa to Vietnam. This is the very first time that a suspected leader of a wildlife trafficking network has been arrested. This was a groundbreaking success of global importance for Vietnamese law enforcement agencies combating wildlife crime (Case ref. 10872/ENV).



MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN COMBATTING WILDLIFE CRIME

Pangolin wine, bear paws, wildlife products, weapons, and drugs were amongst the contraband seized in Ha Tinh as a result of a sting operation coordinated with police. Case ref. 8467/ENV





AN END TO BEAR BILE FARMING IS NEAR

Bear farming is coming to an end. Since 2005, the number of bears on farms in Vietnam has been reduced by about 70%, with 2015 figures from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development indicating that 1,245 bears remained on 423 bear farms in Vietnam. In 2014, a study carried out by ENV indicated a 61% drop in consumer use of bear bile over a five year period. With rising public opposition to bear farming and a declining market for bear bile, use of bear bile is quickly becoming a thing of the past.

In 2016, a coalition of non-governmental organizations including World Animal Protection, Four Paws International, and ENV was formed to support efforts by the Government to expedite an end to bear farming in Vietnam through implementation of a “road map”. The new initiative was preceded by a stakeholder workshop in November 2016 involving leaders of the Forest Protection Department (FPD) from provinces throughout the country with high concentrations of bears on farms. During this meeting, FPDs contributed their ideas to the road map. The first phase was initiated in January 2017.



In late 2016, forest Protection Department leaders from key bear farm provinces met in Hanoi to provide inputs to a new strategic roadmap aimed at expediting an end to bear farming in Vietnam.

Become a Bear Free Province

As part of this strategic movement led by the coalition working closely in cooperation with both central and provincial authorities, provincial authorities are urged to eliminate the presence of bear farms in their respective provinces and become “Bear Free Provinces”. The process, which began in 2009, has already resulted in bear bile farming being eradicated in 13 provinces that formerly had registered bear farms.

Provincial leaders and relevant agencies in each province hold the key to this success, by actively encouraging local bear farmers to give up their bears without compensation and immediately confiscating bears from any households when violations are detected. Violations include extracting bear bile or keeping bears in conditions that fail to meet the requirements of regulations. According to the law, all bears that were not registered under the 2005-2006 national registration process are considered illegal and must be confiscated in accordance with existing law.

The following timeline shows all provinces that have successfully transferred all bears that were privately kept on farms to rescue centers, based on information confirmed by the local FPDs of these provinces:



Are you ready to become the next bear-free province and help expedite an end to bear bile farming in Vietnam? Let us know and we will assist you in freeing your province of the bear bile industry once and for all.

FAQ

Are there enough rescue facilities to house captive bears?

At the current rate of transfers and confiscations, there are plenty of facilities available for both confiscated and transferred bears. In addition to the Animals Asia Foundation Bear Sanctuary at Tam Dao, which recently expanded its capacity to take new bears, there is a state of the art Four Paws International facility being completed in Ninh Binh. Additional space is available at several other state rescue centers throughout Vietnam. As bears are transferred from bear farms, the capacity of rescue centers is expected to expand to accommodate future needs.

Coalition: Expediting an End to Bear Farming in Vietnam

World Animal Protection (formerly The World Society for the Protection of Animals) initiated an end to bear farming through its partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, which started with the microchipping and registration of all captive bears. This effort was supplemented by a sustained ENV campaign to reduce consumer demand for bear bile, advocate effective policy and legislation regulating farms, and prohibit the commercial trade of bears and bear products like bile. In addition to ENV's demand reduction campaign, active enforcement measures were undertaken by ENV's Wildlife Crime Unit, in collaboration with law enforcement agencies and FPDs, to apply the law and ensure no new bears ended up on farms.

Four Paws International joins ENV and World Animal Protection as essential partners in the coalition to end bear farming in Vietnam. Four Paws International is establishing a new bear sanctuary in Ninh Binh.

Other organizations that are working independently on ending bear farming include Animals Asia Foundation and Free the Bears, each of which ENV recognizes as positively contributing to the broader effort to end bear farming in Vietnam.



One of many bears confiscated or transferred from bear farms as part of the phasing out of bear farming initiated in 2005.

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

IN THE “NO FLY ZONE”

When the Public Calls, Authorities Should Respond

Following a report to the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline, a district authority in a southern province was notified about some people hunting birds in early March in a field beside a specific lane (Case ref. 10665/ENV). According to the informant, the hunting occurred regularly and involved dozens of hunters catching hundreds of birds in a single day. However, in this case, the local authority refused to take action, stating incorrectly that the birds were not protected from being hunted. However, according to the law, hunting wild birds or other wildlife without proper permits is illegal regardless of species.

More importantly, when the public reports a violation, the authorities have an obligation to follow up, even if success is not always assured. Responding to public reports of crimes helps build respect for the authorities amongst the public, upholds the rule of law needed to ensure a healthy and functioning society, and contributes to the protection of Vietnam's biodiversity which serves the interests of everyone. Every publicly reported violation deserves a good effort response. We only hurt ourselves when we fail the public.

Correct Response: The appropriate response would have been to check the area, confiscate any nets that were observed, investigate, and advise local residents that hunting of birds is not permitted. Conduct several further visits to the site to ensure that your efforts have achieved the desired outcome of no hunting.

Animals Must Be of Legal Origin or Be Confiscated

During January 2017, ENV received a Wildlife Crime Hotline call from an anonymous informant reporting that a market in a southern province was selling various species of wildlife, including pangolins, macaques, cobras, turtles, and birds. ENV reported the market to district authorities, who then inspected the site in February.

According to local authorities, they found wildlife for sale but not any species which were protected under Decree 160, Group IB and Group IIB of Decree 32, or Circular 47. When pressed as to what species were found, authorities said storks, birds, and snakes. They stated that such animals were not protected under the law. In fact, this is not true. As with the bird case noted in the previous case, the law states that wild animals cannot be considered legal unless they are of legal origin. In this case, there was no indication that the animals came from a legal establishment (Case ref. 10579/ENV).

Correct Response: Local authorities should have inspected the site and confiscated any animals that did not have permits of legal origin, advising the sellers that future incidents would result in fines. Local authorities should then conduct further inspections of the market to ensure that the sellers are in compliance with the law. If further violations are found, appropriate sentences should be applied and animals confiscated again.

Another similar case occurred in a northern province. In this case, a member of the public reported to ENV that a raptor was being kept at a restaurant in the city. Local authorities responded to the case, but did not confiscate the bird. Instead, local authorities reportedly allowed the owner to keep it, which was a decision that is in conflict with the law. In addition to permitting the owner to keep a raptor that was most likely not of legal origin, the presence of the captive bird in the restaurant sends the wrong message to restaurant patrons, suggesting that it is acceptable to keep illegal wildlife, and potentially motivating others to purchase and keep wild animals. Such occurrences also undermine the respect of the people for local authorities. This is an example of openly violating the law without any recourse, which in turn undermines the rule of law (Case ref. 10577/ENV).



Case ref. 10577/ENV

Correct Response: Many raptors are listed under Appendix II of CITES. If the raptor was not of legal origin, it should have been confiscated and the owner warned or fined.

To understand the importance of these cases, one also only needs to think about why the law exists. Vietnam's wildlife protection laws exist to ensure that our biodiversity is protected. The law permits use of wildlife where such use is both sustainable and does not put wild populations at risk. Authorities are employed by the state to enforce regulations and laws that the government as a whole has determined are important to protect nature and ultimately, the interests of society and the country. Therefore, it is the duty of local authorities to understand the laws that relate to their job, and do their very best to enforce these laws in accordance with the expectations of the state. ENV hopes that relevant authorities will do their best to fulfill their responsibilities of protecting wildlife and ensure that future cases within their jurisdiction are handled in accordance with the law.



SPOTLIGHT ON WILDLIFE CRIME

Removing Pangolins from the Menu Protects Many More Pangolins in the Wild

Law enforcement agencies and ENV have been working to eliminate consumer wildlife crime across the country, and one group of species in particular, pangolins, are being driven to the edge of extinction as a result of trafficking to China and consumption of their meat and scales in Vietnam.

Pangolins are considered a delicacy by some, and a small number of wildlife restaurants across Vietnam offer pangolins on their menus. When violations are found, ENV has reported them to the authorities. For example, in August 2016, ENV discovered a restaurant advertising pangolin, porcupine, brush-tailed porcupine, civet, spot-billed duck, common coot, and monitor lizard on the menu in Hanoi.



Case ref. 10058/ENV

ENV reported the restaurant to Hanoi authorities and Hanoi FPD checked the restaurant and requested the owner to remove the violating menus. Later, ENV

monitored the restaurant and confirmed that the menus had been removed (Case ref. 10058/ENV).

On the surface, advertising pangolins on a menu might be perceived as a minor violation. However, efforts to tackle wildlife crime require a comprehensive approach to addressing crime that ranges from taking down trafficking networks and seizing animals to addressing violations at the consumer end of the trade, such as advertising pangolins and other wildlife.



Despite full protection under the law, sale of pangolins persist in some restaurants, particularly in major cities.
Case ref. 10505/ENV

When Hanoi authorities remove a menu offering pangolins, this directly reduces the number of pangolins purchased by consumers at the restaurant, ultimately protecting far greater numbers of pangolins in their native habitat before they are even hunted. From this perspective, the action by Hanoi authorities becomes clear, that not one, but many pangolins were protected by the simple removal of a menu by Hanoi FPD.

ENV hopes that the actions of Hanoi FPD in this case will be replicated by other FPDs who also recognize that addressing advertising of wildlife is critical to the protection of wildlife.

THE TRADE OF WILDLIFE WILL END WHEN THE PUBLIC REALIZES THAT THE TRADE BENEFITS ONLY A FEW, WHILE THE REST OF US ALL SHARE IN THE COST OF LOSING A PRECIOUS AND IRREPLACEABLE PART OF OUR NATURAL HERITAGE WHEN A SPECIES BECOMES EXTINCT.



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

*Macaques are often kept as pets. Greater public awareness is critical to reducing the macaque pet trade.
Case ref. 10607/ENV*

Macaques are Not Pets

Pet macaque cases continue to be a problem for authorities. During the first four months of 2017, a total of 68 cases involving possession of macaques were reported by the public to ENV through the Wildlife Crime Hotline. Of these cases, 42 macaques were confiscated and transferred to rescue centers or released.

As incomes rise in Vietnam, the pet trade has flourished, giving rise to an increasing number of people keeping wild animals, like macaques, as pets. Social values and awareness lag behind, requiring more energy invested in addressing increasing numbers of cases involving possession of wild animals as pets.

While ENV is working to address awareness and working closely with relevant authorities in response to violations, greater emphasis needs to be placed on educating the public. Likewise, authorities need to maintain a “zero tolerance” on violations involving wild animals being kept as pets. The path to changing the social norm involves a consistent level of pressure by authorities and coinciding public awareness efforts to gain support and compliance from the public.

When the public perception reaches a point where the average person understands that keeping a wild animal is both illegal and also socially unacceptable, the problem will cease to exist on any scale. ENV strongly urges authorities to work toward reaching this point by confiscating macaques and other wild animals in every case where they are discovered.



CRIME LOG

January 1, 2017 - April 30, 2017

AN GIANG

On January 9, 2017, Tri Ton District Forest Protection Department (FPD) caught a wildlife smuggler with 26 kilograms of snake, including three kilograms of Chinese cobra (*Naja atra*), altogether valued at VND 5,000,000 (USD \$221). The subject had purchased the snakes from a street vendor, and claimed to be intending to release them into the wild. He was fined VND 7,500,000 (USD \$332). The snakes were released into U Minh Thuong National Park by the FPD. (Case ref. 10557/ENV)



Snake wine is legal if the business has papers showing that the snakes were purchased legally from a farm. However, the presence of a banded krait (yellow with black stripes) in this jar indicates that at least some or all the snakes were wild caught and therefore illegal.

Case ref. 10608/ENV

BA RIA - VUNG TAU

On April 6, 2017, Con Dao National Park FPD and Con Dao District Police caught a man on Con Dao Island transporting 30 green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) eggs. The man reportedly provided police with the names of both the seller and buyer resulting in two more arrests. Three subjects were prosecuted and the case is under investigation. (Case ref. 10849/ENV)

BAC GIANG

On March 28, 2017, Bac Giang Traffic Police checked a van on National Road 1A in Lang Giang District and discovered three kilograms of Indochinese rat snakes (*Ptyas korros*), five giant Asian pond turtles (*Heosemys grandis*), two impressed tortoises (*Manouria impressa*), four big-headed turtles (*Platysternon megacephalum*), and 15 Chinese stripe-necked turtles (*Mauremys sinensis*). The subject transporting the wildlife was fined VND 22,000,000 (USD \$972) and the wildlife was transferred to Cuc Phuong Turtle Conservation Center. (Case ref. 10751/ENV)



A giant Asian pond turtle that was being kept by a resident in Da Nang was turned over to authorities.

Case ref. 10549/ENV

BAC KAN

On April 5, 2017, following a public report to the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline, Ba Be District FPD confiscated over one kilogram of deer meat from a street seller in Cho Ra town. The seller reportedly escaped. (Case ref. 10777/ENV)

BINH THUAN

On January 10, 2017, Phan Thiet City FPD responded to an informant's report to the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline by checking the establishment of a snake trader and confiscated three kilograms of common rat snakes (*Ptyas mucosa*). The snakes were released into Ta Cu National Reserve. The subject had been supplying snakes to restaurants for sale as food. The FPD decided to issue an administrative fine of VND 3,000,000 (USD \$133). (Case ref. 10553/ENV)



A sea turtle was captured by a local fisherman in Ky Anh Town of Ha Tinh Province. The fisherman voluntarily transferred the turtle to the authorities who released it back into the sea.

Case ref. 10867/ENV

CAO BANG

On March 20, 2017, Cao Bang Court sentenced a wildlife smuggler to a 24-month suspended sentence for the crime of smuggling 20 dried grey-shanked douc langurs (*Pygathrix cinerea*). On October 11, 2016, the subject was arrested with the langurs, which had been stored in three carton boxes. The subject had purchased the langurs for VND 20,000,000 (USD \$884), and intended to sell them. (Case ref. 10277/ENV)

Note: The grey-shanked douc langur is a critically endangered species that is endemic to central Vietnam, and found no place else in the world. The survival of this species depends on all of us to do our part. A portion of this responsibility lies with the courts, which must utilize their power to deter future crimes. This means sending people to prison for serious violations.

DA NANG

On January 2, 2017, Tan Chinh Ward Police with Central Anti-smuggling Police, Da Nang FPD, and Thanh Khe District Police seized four Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*) at a hotel in Da Nang. Hotel staff had become suspicious of a piece of luggage left in the hotel lobby. Upon inspecting the luggage, authorities found four live pangolins. Police determined that a subject had been paid to transport the pangolins to Da Nang from Kon Tum Province via bus. The subject was later apprehended when he appeared at the hotel to retrieve the luggage. The pangolins were transferred to the Carnivore and Pangolin Conservation Program (CPCP) in Cuc Phuong National Park. (Case ref. 10538/ENV)



Da Nang FPD inspects pangolins discovered in a suitcase left in a hotel lobby.

Case ref. 10538/ENV

DONG NAI

On January 16, 2017, following an ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline report, Long Khanh Town FPD confiscated 180 sparrows from a bird shop in Long Khanh Town. The bird shop owners did not have legal papers for the sparrows, and they were fined VND 3,000,000 (USD \$133). The sparrows were released at a nearby mountain. (Case ref. 10569/ENV)

Note: This case is a positive example highlighting the importance, as demonstrated by Dong Nai authorities, in enforcing the law, even for species that may not be

specifically listed as endangered under the law. The birds were not of legal origin. They were therefore illegal.

On February 9, 2017, following a report to the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline, Trang Bom - Thong Nhat District FPD confiscated a leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) and a python (*Python molurus*) from a wood artist's shop. The animals were released into the Dong Nai Natural and Cultural Reserve. (Case ref. 10612/ENV)

GIA LAI

On February 7, 2017, Gia Lai Environmental Police (EP) and Mang Yang District Police seized four grey-shanked douc langurs (*Pygathrix cinerea*), two leopard cats (*Prionailurus bengalensis*), five macaques, and seven squirrels from a wildlife trader. Altogether, the wildlife weighed 72 kilograms. The wildlife had been kept in the freezer of a grocery shop of the trader. The trader had reportedly sourced the animals from ethnic people. The case is under investigation. (Case ref. 10617/ENV)



Amongst the confiscated wildlife were four dead grey-shanked douc langurs, a critically endangered primate species endemic to the central provinces of Vietnam.

Case ref. 10617/ENV

On February 8, 2017, following a tip reported to the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline, Gia Lai EP inspected a suspected wildlife trade operation and confiscated three masked palm civets (*Paguma larvata*) and one common palm civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*). All four civets were frozen and the trader claimed that they were gifts for his family and friends. The trader was fined VND 3,000,000 (USD \$133) and the civets were incinerated. (Case ref. 10615/ENV)



Case ref. 10615/ENV

On April 11, 2017, thanks to a tip from the public through the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline, Gia Lai FPD received two Asiatic black bears (*Ursus thibetanus*) from a subject living in An Khe Town. In November 2015, the man had illegally purchased the bears from Cambodia for USD \$5,000 each. However, keeping the bears proved too costly, after which he contacted ENV to seek assistance in transferring the bears to the state. The bears were subsequently transferred to the Animals Asia Foundation bear sanctuary at Tam Dao National Park. (Case ref. 10519/ENV)



In Vietnam, there appears to be a growing consumer trade in raptors kept as pets and trained in falconry. Falconry is a hobby involving the taming and training of birds of prey to hunt. ENV has received dozens of cases over the past year involving the sale of raptors on the internet for this purpose. Given the lack of papers showing that the birds are of legal origin, much or most of this activity is illegal.

Case ref. 10510/ENV

On April 19, 2017, Central Anti-smuggling Police and Gia Lai Economic Police, along with National FPD arrested a wildlife trader with 1,633 carved ivory products, which the subject had purchased for hundreds of millions of VND with the intention of reselling. The subject had been under investigation by police as part of a wildlife trade network prior to his arrest in Pleiku. (Case ref. 10846/ENV)

HA GIANG

On April 25, 2017, following a report from a member of the public to ENV's Wildlife Crime Hotline, Xin Man District FPD confiscated a leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) cub from a residential property in Ha Giang. The leopard cat cub had reportedly been caught when its mother was hunting chickens on the subject's property. Later that night after confiscation the cub died and was destroyed by the FPD. (Case ref. 10855/ENV)



Leopard cats are frequently sold as pets in violation of the law. Like macaques, greater effort needs to be placed on raising public awareness about these and other animals that should not be purchased or sold as pets.

Case ref. 10865/ENV

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

HANOI

On December 29, 2016, 54 kilograms of rhino horn were confiscated by Central Anti-smuggling Police and Noi Bai Customs from a suitcase transported on a flight from Nairobi on the same day. No sender was listed with the luggage, nor was a receiver listed. ENV has shared information with law enforcement on connections between this case and one of the criminal syndicates. (Case ref. 10531/ENV)

On January 25, 2017, a total of 423 kilograms of ivory were confiscated from two cars passing through the Thuong Tin toll station in Hanoi. The ivory was suspected to have been in route from Thai Binh Province to Nhi Khe Village (an ivory trading hotspot). Three subjects were arrested, all residents of the same district in Hanoi, one of whom is suspected to be a large scale ivory trader. All three subjects were prosecuted. (Case ref. 10596/ENV)



Case ref. 10596/ENV

On February 14, 2017, Soc Son Rescue Center received a Malayan sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*) from a military dog training facility in the Ba Vi District of Hanoi. The bear had been hunted and taken from a forest years prior. Hanoi FPD confiscated the bear on the same day that it was transferred to Soc Son Rescue Center. (Case ref. 10633/ENV)



Case ref. 10633/ENV

On February 28, 2017, customs officers discovered 322 kilograms of pangolin scales at Noi Bai Airport. The pangolin scales had been contained within four packages that arrived on February 24, 2017, in a single shipment from Lagos, Nigeria, and declared as stationary. (Case ref. 10662/ENV)

On March 3, 2017, Noi Bai Customs opened a shipment of ivory that had been sent to Vietnam from Portugal. Three pieces of ivory weighing 20.4 kilograms were seized. The ivory had arrived in Vietnam in September 2016, however, it had not been collected by the receiver. The ivory has since been sealed and kept in storage. (Case ref. 10686/ENV)

Also on March 3, 2017, Noi Bai Customs opened a shipment of pangolin scales that had been sent to Vietnam from Cameroon. Twenty-five carton boxes containing 387.5 kilograms of pangolin scales were seized from a shipment which had been flown from Yaoundé in August 2015, but remained unclaimed until the March inspection. (Case ref. 10687/ENV)



Pangolin scales are used in traditional medicine in Vietnam and meat is sold at some restaurants. However a majority of the live pangolin and pangolin scale trade is destined for markets in China. (Case ref. 10659/ENV)

On March 14, 2017, a shipment of 46 rhino horns were seized by customs at Noi Bai Airport following a tip-off. The horns weighed 103.7 kilograms in total and were contained within two pieces of luggage that arrived in Vietnam onboard a flight from Kenya on the same day. The pieces of luggage contained no passenger name. (Case ref. 10706/ENV)

On March 29, 2017, Hanoi EP and ENV conducted a sting operation which resulted in the confiscation of a common slow loris (*Nycticebus bengalensis*), following a Wildlife Crime Hotline email from a member of the public. The subject had wished to sell the loris, as he claimed to be unable to look after the Decree 160 protected species. The price for the loris was VND 1,500,000 (USD \$67). The loris was transferred to Soc Son Rescue Center. (Case ref. 10737/ENV)

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



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

On April 4, 2017, National Anti-smuggling Customs Agency seized a total of 662.5 kilograms of pangolin scales from shipments that had been in customs storage since 2015-2016, and had not been picked up by their respective receivers. Both shipments reportedly arrived as cargo on Turkish Airlines flights. One shipment originated in Ghana and the other in Cameroon. (Case ref. 10687 and Case ref. 10774/ENV)

On April 12, 2017, in coordination with ENV, Hanoi EP conducted a sting operation against a wildlife trader and successfully confiscated a pygmy loris (*Nycticebus pygmaeus*). The 300-gram loris was transferred to Soc Son Rescue Center. The trader had advertised the loris for sale online. (Case ref. 10799/ENV).

On April 22, 2017, Customs seized eight pieces of rhino horn, weighing three kilograms, from a passenger's luggage at Noi Bai Airport. The subject had flown from Yangon, Myanmar to Hanoi, Vietnam, and was a resident of Hai Duong Province. (Case ref. 10854/ENV)

On April 27, 2017, following an extensive investigation, police arrested Nguyen Mau Chien, one of Vietnam's major wildlife trafficking kingpins alongside his wife, a nephew, and two associates. The arrest occurred following the seizure of two suitcases containing 33 kilograms of rhino horn from Hanoi Train Station earlier on the same day. The train station seizure led police to the home of Nguyen Mau Chien, where an additional three kilograms of rhino horn, two frozen tiger cubs, four lion skins, and ten kilograms of other wildlife products, ranging from ivory chopsticks to tiger bone glue were found. The two tiger cubs were reportedly sourced from a tiger farm owned by Chien. (Case ref. 10872/ENV)

HA TINH

On December 23, 2016, Ha Tinh EP and Huong Son District Police raided a house in Ha Tinh Province, and seized a frozen tiger (*Panthera tigris*) weighing 130 kilograms. In June 2016, a report to the police from ENV

concerning the tiger owner's son, who was advertising wildlife on Facebook, reportedly provided impetus for the continued investigation and subsequent tiger confiscation. The owner of the tiger claimed to have bought it for the production of tiger bone glue, for use in traditional Chinese medicine. The tiger was transferred to the Vietnam National Museum of Nature. (Case ref. 9631/ENV and 10495/ENV)



The subject in this case offered what he claimed to be tiger claws for sale on the internet. It is not uncommon for internet traders to offer lion claws as a substitute, claiming that the claws are from tigers. Claws are used to make jewelry, often imbedded in gold and ivory, or decorated with precious stones. Case ref. 10628/ENV

On December 28, 2016, Ha Tinh EP and Ha Tinh Traffic Police intercepted a sleeper bus traveling from Dong Hoi city to Hanoi while on Highway 1A in Ha Tinh Province. Onboard the bus, the authorities discovered 11 frozen Hatinh langurs (*Trachypithecus hatinhensis*) and a frozen yellow-cheeked gibbon (*Nomascus gabriellae*) weighing 71 kilograms in total. Four subjects were arrested following the seizure. The primates were stated to have been bought from hunters in Quang Binh. The Vietnam National Museum of Nature received the evidence. The subjects have been prosecuted. (Case ref. 10530/ENV)

On January 8, 2017, Huong Son District Police acted upon a tip-off and stopped a bus which was travelling from Laos to Nghe An Province. Police seized nine Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*), an elongated tortoise (*Indotestudo elongata*), and four Asian leaf turtles (*Cyclemys tchaponensis*) weighing 28 kilograms in total. The pangolins were transferred to the Carnivore and Pangolin Conservation Program and the turtles were transferred to the Turtle Conservation Center at Cuc Phuong National Park. The coach driver and his assistant claimed that they had been hired to transport the wildlife. Both subjects have been prosecuted. (Case ref. 10555/ENV)



Another tough internet case to crack. Juvenile three-striped box turtles, (*Cuora trifasciata*) offered for sale in Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) along with a dozen or more other turtle species. In this case, the trader was identified and the case is currently in the hands of HCMC authorities to address. Case ref. 10880/ENV

On January 11, 2017, Ha Tinh EP, following a tip-off, seized 22 live Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*) weighing 80.6 kilograms from a car travelling on Highway 8A in Ha Tinh Province. The pangolins were transferred to the Carnivore and Pangolin Conservation Program, while the subject driving the car escaped. (Case ref. 10560/ENV)

Also on January 11, 2017, Huong Son District Police and FPD acted upon a tip-off and seized 17 live brush-tailed porcupines (*Atherurus macrourus*), 26 dead stump-tailed macaques (*Macaca arctoides*), and 21 dead yellow-throated martens (*Martes flavigula*) from a wildlife trader's house. The porcupines were released into a protected forest, while the dead animals were incinerated. (Case ref. 10562/ENV)

On January 25, 2017, Ha Tinh EP and FPD seized 115 kilograms of frozen wildlife including common barking deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*) meat and bones, porcupine meat, wild pig meat, and bamboo rat meat from a restaurant in Ha Tinh City. The authorities acted upon a tip-off, and destroyed the wildlife after confiscation. The restaurant owner was fined VND 5,000,000 (USD \$221). (Case ref. 10594/ENV)

On February 15, 2017, Hong Linh District Police conducted a sting, in cooperation with ENV, targeting an

online wildlife trader in Ha Tinh. The subject was arrested with two wine jars containing pangolins. A further search of the subject's house revealed 15 pieces of suspected carved ivory, a rifle, nine swords, a machete, opium, marijuana, nine bear paws, and six wine jars containing wildlife (including pangolins, bear paws, and monitor lizards). The subject had been a member of the Brothers from Three Regions wildlife trading group. The subject was sentenced to 15 months in prison. (Case ref. 8467/ENV)



Bear paws in wine were amongst the wildlife products confiscated during the Ha Tinh raid. Case ref. 8467/ENV

On March 31, 2017, Cau Treo Border Customs checked a bus from Laos at the border gate and seized 20 kilograms of frozen wildlife contained within two foam boxes. The wildlife included 10 kilograms of deer, 1.5 kilograms of bamboo rat, and nine kilograms of civets. The wildlife was incinerated and the smuggler, who worked on the bus, was given a fine of VND 1,500,000 (USD \$67). (Case ref. 10761/ENV)

On April 26, 2017, following a report by a member of the public to the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline, Ky Anh District FPD confiscated hunting equipment from bird hunters in Ky Anh District and educated them on the protection of wild species and the illegality of bird hunting. The FPD also used local radio to inform the public not to hunt wildlife. (Case ref. 10840/ENV)

On April 31, 2017, Ha Tinh EP inspected a grocery store in Ha Tinh City and confiscated a stump-tailed macaque (*Macaca arctoides*) and two pig-tailed macaques (*Macaca leonina*) weighing nearly 50 kilograms collectively. The macaques were released into a protection forest. (Case ref. 10847/ENV)



A silver pheasant offered for sale on Facebook by a major bird trafficker in a northern province. A more effective approach is needed to address internet crime in Vietnam, which has grown substantially in recent years. Case ref. 10583/ENV

HO CHI MINH CITY

On February 13, 2017, following a hotline report to ENV, Hoc Mon District Police and ENV conducted a sting operation against a subject who had been attempting to sell oriental small-clawed otters (*Amblonyx cinerea*) online. The subject was apprehended at An Suong Bus Station in Ho Chi Minh City. The otters were transferred to Cu Chi Rescue Center. (Case ref. 10585/ENV)



All of Vietnam's otters are fully protected under the law. Sales of otters are mainly concentrated in the southern provinces where they are purchased as pets.

Case ref. 10801/ENV

On February 27, 2017, Ho Chi Minh City FPD confiscated an oriental pied hornbill (*Anthracoceros albirostris*) following an ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline report from a member of the public. The bird had been kept in a cage at a residential property in Hoc Mon District. The bird was transferred to Cu Chi Rescue Center. (Case ref. 10643/ENV)

On March 15, 2017, District 3 EP of Ho Chi Minh City conducted a sting operation, in cooperation with ENV, against a marine turtle trader, and successfully confiscated a green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*). Following an ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline email from a

member of the public, ENV had documented the trader live-streaming the sale of another green sea turtle on Facebook five days previously. The confiscated marine turtle weighed 8.1 kilograms. The sea turtle has been undergoing a period of rehabilitation before being returned to the sea. (Case ref. 10697/ENV)

On March 17, 2017, Tan Binh District Economic Police conducted a sting operation, in cooperation with ENV, against a wildlife trader operating from a shop in Ho Chi Minh City, following an ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline call from an informant. According to the informant, the trader was frequently exporting large quantities of primates to Russia. Two pygmy lorises (*Nycticebus pygmaeus*) were confiscated from the subject and transferred to Cat Tien National Park, while the case is being investigated. (Case ref. 10490/ENV)

On March 31, 2017, following a public report to ENV's Wildlife Crime Hotline, Ho Chi Minh City FPD confiscated an East Siberian merlin (*Falco columbarius insignis*) from a soft drink shop in Phu Nhuan District and transferred it to Cu Chi Rescue Center. The falcon had been reported by a member of ENV's National Volunteer Network. (Case ref. 10756/ENV)



Two lorises confiscated and transferred to Cat Tien National Park.
Case ref. 10490/ENV



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

On April 14, 2017, a total of 4.8 kilograms of rhino horn (*Diceros bicornis*) were confiscated from two Vietnamese passengers who had arrived at Tan Son Nhat Airport from Luanda, Angola via Dubai. In total, three rhino horns had been cut into seven separate pieces and wrapped in tinfoil and hidden within cardboard boxes inside checked luggage. (Case ref. 10820/ENV)



Case ref. 10820/ENV

On April 17, 2017, Tan Son Nhat Security Department and Central Anti-smuggling Police confiscated 16 lion canines, six elephant tail hairs, and 66 pieces of carved elephant ivory products from a Vietnamese subject's check-in luggage. The subject had arrived the previous day on a flight from Angola and had been travelling on an internal flight from Ho Chi Minh City to Hanoi. According to the subject, he had been supplied the wildlife products in Angola and was to deliver them to a subject in Hanoi. (Case ref. 10826/ENV)

HOA BINH

On April 6, 2017, Hoa Binh Traffic Police, acting on a tip-off, intercepted a car transporting pangolins from Cau Treo Border Gate to the north of Vietnam. In total, 556.5 kilograms of Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*) were confiscated, including 113 live pangolins and five dead ones. The police were forced to shoot the tires of the car following a high-speed pursuit, after which one subject was apprehended and the second escaped. One subject was prosecuted. (Case ref. 10788/ENV)

LAI CHAU

On January 19, 2017, while investigating local crimes involving firecrackers, Lai Chau Police became alerted to a 10-kilogram Malayan sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*) cub which had been caught from a local forest by a local

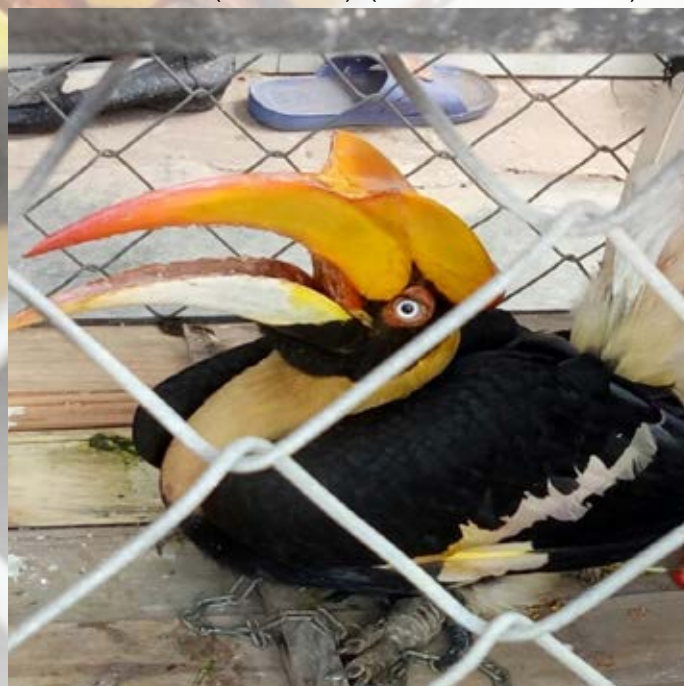
subject. The police confiscated the bear on the same day, and the bear was transferred to Hoang Lien Rescue Center. (Case ref. 10584/ENV)



Case ref. 10584/ENV

LAM DONG

On March 4, 2017, Lam Dong EP, in cooperation with ENV, confiscated a great hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*), following an ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline phone call. The hornbill had been advertised on Facebook with a price of VND 18,000,000 (USD \$798). (Case ref. 10673/ENV)



Case ref. 10673/ENV

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

On March 25, 2017, following a report from an informant to the Wildlife Crime Hotline, Dam Rong District FPD inspected three properties belonging to a husband and wife in Dam Rong District. In total, the FPD confiscated 34 kilograms of wildlife including 11 live bamboo rats, a frozen leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*), two frozen long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*), and 12 kilograms of sambar deer (*Cervus unicolor*) meat. (Case ref. 10309/ENV)

LANG SON

On December 22, 2016, Van Lang District Traffic Police intercepted a motorbike while on patrol. The driver of the motorbike was apprehended with 15 frozen Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*) weighing 36 kilograms and a common palm civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*) weighing four kilograms. The subject claimed that he had been hired to transport the wildlife to a restaurant. (Case ref. 10575/ENV)

On April 16, 2017, Lang Son Traffic Police seized 11 dead squirrels, 17 skinned civets, and three live common palm civets (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*) from a motorbike rider travelling from Lang Son Province to Bac Giang Province. The subject was fined VND 6,000,000 (USD \$266) and the dead wildlife incinerated. (Case ref. 10845/ENV)



A squirrel was advertised on Facebook. Squirrels are also commonly sold as pets without papers proving their legal origin. (Case ref. 10825/ENV)

NGHE AN

On January 13, 2017, Nghe An EP confiscated 305 kilograms from a house in Dien Chau District, including a full tiger (*Panthera tigris*) weighing 146 kilograms and several tiger parts adding up to a further 116 kilograms. An additional 43 kilograms of a serow (*Capricornis sumatraensis*) carcass were also seized. The house owner stated that a wildlife trader stored the wildlife in the freezers in the house, and that trader has since been linked to other ENV cases. (Case ref. 10567/ENV)

On March 20, 2017, Central Anti-smuggling Police and Dien Chau District Police inspected a residential house following an investigation into a suspected tiger trader. Within the house, the police found five frozen tigers, four of which had been disemboweled and partially stripped of their meat. The owner of the tigers was not present at the time of confiscation, and was reputedly in Laos. (Case ref. 10722/ENV)



(Case ref. 10722/ENV)

On April 11, 2017, Nghe An Traffic Police seized four dead macaques being smuggled in two sacks by a motorbike rider in Thanh Chuong District of Nghe An Province. (Case ref. 10805/ENV)

NINH THUAN

On February 13, 2017, Ninh Thuan EP and FPD confiscated eight live common barking deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*) and four live clouded monitor lizards (*Varanus bengalensis*). The owner of the restaurant was fined VND 40,000,000 (USD \$1,768) and the wildlife was transferred to Phuoc Binh National Park. (Case ref. 10625/ENV)

Note: This case represents an excellent example for other provinces to follow. The administrative punishment of 40,000,000 VND (USD \$1,768), combined with the confiscation of wildlife, represents a sufficient level of punishment to deter further violations. Further monitoring and inspections of the restaurant will determine if this is indeed true.



Monitor lizards being kept at a church. This is just one of a number of recent cases where wild animals, including gibbons and other fully protected species, have been reported at churches, mainly in the south of Vietnam.

(Case ref. 10610/ENV)



PHU YEN

On January 11, 2017, Phu Yen Market Surveillance and Dong Xuan District Traffic Police intercepted a car on Highway DT64, and discovered 35 kilograms of wildlife, including 24 kilograms of snakes, including a king cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*). Also included in the seizure were seven small Asian mongooses (*Herpestes javanicus*), three civets of different species, and 12 geckos. A subject was detained, and stated that he had bought everything from locals in Binh Dinh Province with the intention of reselling. All the wildlife survived and was released into Hon Nua Forest in Dong Hoa District. The subject was given an administrative fine of VND 10,000,000 (USD \$442). (Case ref. 10564/ENV)

QUANG BINH

On February 17, 2017, Dong Hoi City FPD transferred Hatinh langur (*Trachypithecus hatinhensis*) from a subject to Phong Nha – Ke Bang National Park. The langur had been captured in a local forest a few days previously and sold at a price of VND 2,000,000 (USD \$87). The subject said he had bought the langur with the intention of transferring it to the FPD. (Case ref. 10637/ENV)



Case ref. 10637/ENV

QUANG NAM

On January 1, 2017, Quang Nam EP confiscated a total of 51 kilograms of wildlife meat including four kilograms of civet, over five kilograms of porcupine, 24 kilograms of deer, and 17 kilograms of wild pig from a house in Nam Giang District. The subject was fined VND 7,500,000 (USD \$332) and the confiscated meat was destroyed. (Case ref. 10558/ENV)

On March 29, 2017, acting on a report by a member of the public via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline, Phu Ninh District FPD inspected the house of a suspected wildlife hunter and confiscated a civet which was subsequently released into the forest. (Case ref. 10748/ENV)

TAY NINH

On March 3, 2017, Tay Ninh City Police, following a tip-off, confiscated a great hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*) from a wildlife smuggler in Tay Ninh City. The subject had bought the bird from a Cambodian man at the Vietnamese border with Cambodia for VND 450,000 (USD \$20). The bird was transferred to Lo Go – Xa Mat National Park. The case was not prosecuted, although great hornbill is listed in Decree 160. (Case ref. 10715/ENV)

On March 28, 2017, Tan Bien District Police seized a dead king cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*) and a large quantity of parrots from a car. The subject driving the car stated that he had bought the wildlife in Cambodia to sell in Vietnam. The king cobra was destroyed and the parrots released into Lo Go – Xa Mat National Park. (Case ref. 10773/ENV)

THAI NGUYEN

On April 21, 2017, following a tip-off, Thai Nguyen EP confiscated 46 kilograms of tiger (*Panthera tigris*) and unidentified wildlife bones contained within two large pots from a subject at a residential property. Police caught the subject and her family members in the process of cooking the bone glue. According to the subject, the tiger bones had been removed from a 110-kilogram tiger that she bought from Thanh Hoa Province for VND 560,000,000 (USD \$24,746). The subject was prosecuted. (Case ref. 10848/ENV)



A black-shanked douc langur (*Pygathrix nigripes*) transferred to the district FPD. One local reportedly bought the langur from hunters and immediately transferred it to the FPD. Despite the good nature of the act, buying wildlife will promote hunting and consuming, leading to more animals being taken away from their natural habitat. Greater efforts should be made to encourage members of the public to report wildlife crimes to competent authorities upon encountering them.

Case ref. 10938/ENV

THANH HOA

On April 5, 2017, Thanh Hoa Traffic Police intercepted a suspicious looking ambulance driving along the Ho Chi Minh Highway in Thach Thanh District. After requesting that the ambulance pull over, the driver of the ambulance escaped into Cuc Phuong Forest. Inside the ambulance, police found a frozen tiger (*Panthera tigris*) weighing over 180 kilograms. (Case ref. 10789/ENV)

THUA THIEN HUE

On March 24, 2017, Thua Thien Hue EP confiscated a large quantity of animals including a stump-tailed macaque (*Macaca arctoides*), a pig-tailed macaque (*Macaca leonina*), a big-headed turtle (*Platysternon megacephalum*), a keeled box turtle (*Cuora mouhotii*), a radiated rat snake (*Elaphe radiata*), a king cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*), many small unidentified snakes, and three unidentified turtles from a wildlife trader in Huong Tra District. Although the macaques were dead, the other animals survived and were subsequently released back into a forest. The subject received a six-month non-custodial reform and an additional fine of VND 10,000,000 (USD \$442). (Case ref. 10843/ENV)

VINH LONG

On March 29, 2017, Vinh Long EP confiscated three otters from a man after the case was reported by a member of the public to the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline. The man was allegedly advertising otters and hornbills online. Three baby otters were released into a nearby river by the EP afterwards. (Case ref. 10659/ENV)



A macaque was released into the wild by local FPD. For wildlife confiscated from trade, either endangered or common species, releasing or transferring the animals to rescue centers should be preferred over auctioning.

Case ref. 10833/ENV

**MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF CRIMINALS TODAY
TO PREVENT CRIME TOMORROW.**

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:



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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