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COVID-19:

STOP THE WILDLIFE TRADE NOW TO AVOID ANOTHER PANDEMIC!

Nearly 70% of all infectious diseases over the last 30 years originated from wildlife

The entire world has been devastated by the Covid-19 pandemic, which has threatened millions of lives and continues to shatter the global economy, costing countries trillions of dollars in efforts to respond to this very real threat to human health.

Not since the Spanish flu of 1918 has the world witnessed a global pandemic of such epic proportions. However, Covid-19 is not the only deadly virus to emerge in recent decades that reportedly originated from contact between humans and animals.

According to scientists, about 70% of all infectious diseases over the last 30 years have been zoonotic, including HIV/AIDS, avian influenza, SARS, Ebola, MERS, and now Covid-19.


While Vietnam has done a highly commendable job in combating the outbreak of Covid-19, the costs to society have been unprecedented. In addition to the impacts on human health, businesses, factories, and service industries have been shut down and many small businesses have been bankrupted by the closures. Many people have lost their jobs and savings.


More important than the current effects, however, is the fact that when Covid-19 is finally contained, it will almost certainly not be the last deadly virus to pass from wild animals to humans – unless we commit to changing our relationship with nature.

It has often been said, “The definition of **insanity is doing the same thing** over and over again, but expecting different results.” Indeed, some interpret the Covid-19 pandemic as a clear warning from the earth that we should realign and rethink our relationship with nature and the environment.


To this end, which actions should we take to ensure that Covid-19 is contained, and that similarly deadly viruses never again threaten human health and the health of our global economy?


In Vietnam, we must identify and target interventions to contain and eliminate threats emerging from high-risk areas. Some of the highest risk areas include:


 **Restaurants:** Restaurants that serve wildlife not only put wildlife consumers at risk, but also all other patrons of the restaurant, whether they consume wildlife or not. Kitchens where wildlife is butchered, cooked, and stored, as well as the handling and transportation of both legal and illegal wildlife to consumer establishments, represents some of Vietnam's highest risk areas for zoonotic diseases to reach the public.

 **Wildlife farms:** Commercial wildlife farms are poorly regulated and enforcement is lax, permitting conditions to exist that could pose a serious threat to human health and serve as incubation hotspots or sources for zoonotic diseases.

One of the greatest threats arises from the fact that a large majority of commercial wildlife farms are suspected of laundering wild animals that originate from the wild through their facilities, rather than breeding them on their farms as they claim on paper. These illegally sourced wild animals provide a means for animal-borne diseases to reach humans from the wild, and undermine any reasonable health and safety controls that might otherwise regulate a legitimate commercial farming operation.

 **Markets:** While the scale and number of markets selling wildlife in Vietnam can in no way be compared to that in China, wildlife markets still exist in some parts of Vietnam, mostly selling birds, and some reptiles and small mammals. These markets remain a potential threat to society due to the direct contact between humans and wildlife occurring in these overcrowded consumer venues.

 **Pets:** Keeping wildlife as pets has also become very popular amongst Vietnamese citizens in recent years. Like other risk areas, purchasing and keeping a wild animal as a pet is not only illegal, but it also provides another vector for diseases to be transferred from wild animals to humans. Indeed, a pet macaque may well become the next source for a deadly disease outbreak.

 **TCM shops and other establishments processing wildlife products:** Medicine made from wildlife is still commonly prescribed by TCM doctors and practitioners. The TCM-making industry is potentially a high risk area, as there is direct human contact with wildlife during the TCM production process, which includes killing animals, collecting their parts, and cooking them so that they turn into a consumable TCM.

Given our understanding of the high-risk areas where zoonotic diseases are most likely to be transferred from wild animals to humans, we must take decisive action to reduce and eliminate these risks as a means of proactively eliminating present and future threats to our safety and security.

Prescribed actions are as follows:

Central and provincial government

- Instruct all relevant agencies to aggressively address wildlife crime at all stages of the trade chain, from hunting and supplying of wildlife, to advertising, selling, and consumption.
- Develop more effective laws and policies to curb the illegal wildlife trade and effectively manage commercial and non-commercial wildlife facilities, including effectively and aggressively eliminating the laundering of wild animals through licensed commercial wildlife farms.
- Eradicate corruption within the ranks of regulation and enforcement agencies, especially where corruption permits the continuation of wildlife trafficking, processing, laundering, and selling.
- Urge the public not to consume wildlife and wildlife products through government-led awareness initiatives.

Enforcement agencies

- Enforce the law by shutting down businesses (e.g. restaurants, markets, TCM shops, etc.) selling or serving wildlife and wildlife products, as well as addressing cases where wild animals are possessed illegally.
- Investigate, arrest, and prosecute major wildlife traffickers and the leaders of wildlife trafficking networks.
- Shut down licensed commercial wildlife farms and non-commercial wildlife facilities where illegal sourcing of wild animals or laundering of wildlife is detected, and prosecute the owners in accordance with the law.
- Eradicate corruption within each agency, particularly in relation to the licensing of commercial wildlife farms, as well as the issuance of transport permits and other types of permits that support illegal laundering of wildlife.
- Prioritize and develop effective measures to combat internet wildlife crime.

Reducing risks and protecting our health and safety, as well as our economy, means seeing the world differently after Covid-19. By proactively identifying high-risk areas and taking preventative measures to reduce risk, we can protect ourselves and the global community from becoming the source of the next pandemic. Although laws and regulations need to be strengthened in a few areas, the most important action to take is to become more effective at doing our jobs.

Our health, our safety, our security, and our livelihoods are all worth the effort of making the necessary changes.



NEW DIRECTIVE FROM VIETNAM'S PRIME MINISTER: STRENGTHEN WILDLIFE PROTECTION LAWS

On July 23, 2020, the office of Vietnam's Prime Minister issued Directive No. 29/CT-TTg to address the urgent issues facing the management and protection of wildlife in Vietnam. Directive 29 proposes solutions to these issues, aiming to strengthen enforcement of the national and international wildlife protection laws that have been in place in Vietnam for years.

The directive is a timely response from the government of Vietnam to the current Covid-19 pandemic – a zoonotic outbreak suspected to have originated from wildlife. The newest directive confronts current wildlife protection laws and enforcement efforts of those laws in pursuit of improving Vietnam's ability to regulate the wildlife trade. Important instructions from Directive 29 include:

- Ban all wildlife imports temporarily. Notably, this effort has been exercised by law enforcement authorities since January 2020;
- Eliminate wildlife markets or other wildlife establishments that facilitate the illegal wildlife trade;
- Amend punishments for illegal wildlife consumption through a comprehensive review of current legislation;
- Develop a plan to incinerate ivory and rhino horn stockpiles;
- Improve the monitoring and management of wildlife farms with an emphasis on animal origins and establish a database of commercial farms;
- Launch an assessment on the status of captive tigers and the results of the tiger breeding pilot program initiated in 2007;
- Enhance supervision of TCM establishments in order to eliminate the illegal use of wildlife;
- Promote the investigation of wildlife crime with a focus on taking down leaders of criminal networks that traffic wildlife, and address internet wildlife crimes; and
- A proposition has been made to hold wildlife crime case trials in front of the public, as opposed to in courthouses, to broadcast a clear message and educate more Vietnamese citizens about wildlife protection. Another suggestion was put forth that stricter penalties be imposed on leaders of wildlife criminal networks and those trafficking wildlife in a professional manner.

While there is no new law created by Directive 29, the orders signify an outstanding move from the government that demonstrates the country's commitment to the fight against the illegal wildlife trade, in turn to protect public health and the environment. It now comes down to provincial People's Committees, law enforcement agencies, courts, and procuracies to use the directive as a guideline to boost efforts against the illegal wildlife trade. ENV fully supports all relevant government agencies in their implementation of the directive to create a better future for Vietnam's wildlife and people.





Confiscating illegal bears: AUTHORITIES IMPERATIVE

Bear bile farming in Vietnam is coming to an end: The number of captive bears has decreased from more than 4,300 in 2005, to 398 bears kept on bear bile farms as of the end of July 2020. This significant progress in bringing an end to the illegal exploitation of bears in Vietnam has resulted from many years of hard work by the government, law enforcement agencies, as well as the public and a few committed NGOs. Victory is very close; however we must finish the job.

Finishing the job means preventing new bears from entering bear bile farms, whether born in captivity or originating from the wild, as well as establishing effective deterrence that will substantially increase the risks to bear bile farm owners and others who trade in bears or exploit bears for bile.

Forest Protection Departments must exercise a zero-tolerance policy in regards to bile farms. This means immediately confiscating any bears that are not registered or were not chipped back in 2005, and aggressively issuing fines and punishments to bear bile farm owners when bears are moved between bile farms without notice or when bile farm owners are found to be exploiting captive bears for bile, which is 100% illegal in Vietnam.

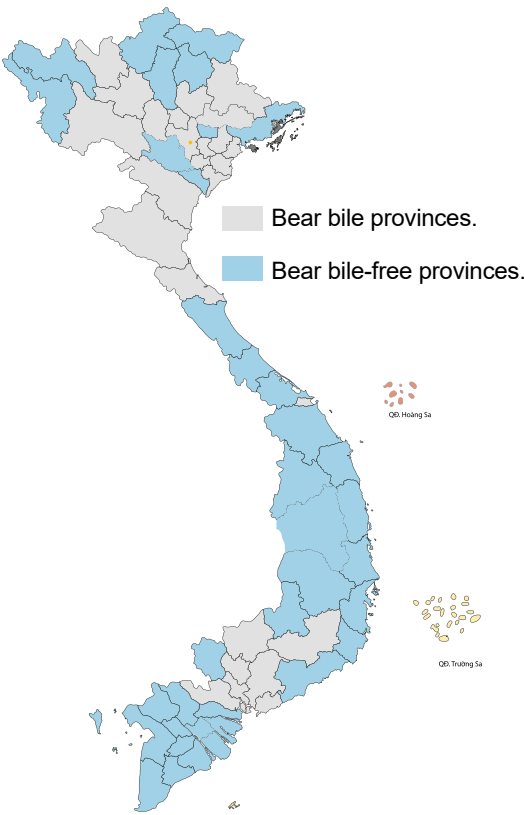
ENV commends the action undertaken by Ha Nam, Nam Dinh, and Hai Duong in successfully and urgently acting to confiscate unregistered and illegal bears from owners following their discovery during farm inspections.

ENV notes the concerning presence of illegal bears in Hung Yen and Lang Son which were discovered in 2020 during inspections by authorities. ENV calls upon authorities in these provinces to follow the law and confiscate these bears immediately.

ENV further calls upon Hanoi authorities to aggressively pursue measures to put an end to bear bile farming in our nation's capital, which is one of the few remaining hotspots that allows the illegal bear bile farming industry to persist.

Authorities should apply the law and make the bear bile business too risky and costly to continue. Serious violations found at bear bile farms should be prosecuted, and bear farm owners should be strictly punished in accordance with the Penal Code. ENV will communicate these punishments to every bear bile farm owner in the country.

Authorities should also issue stiff punishments for advertising, selling, or exploiting bear bile. Once such risks are real, and persons seeking traditional medicine options switch to suitable herbal alternatives recommended by their traditional medicine practitioners, the majority of the industry will come to an end.



37 bear bile-free provinces in Vietnam*:
As of October 1, 2020

An Giang, Bac Kan, Bac Lieu, Bac Ninh, Ben Tre, Binh Dinh, Binh Thuan, Ca Mau, Can Tho, Cao Bang, Dak Lak, Dak Nong, Dien Bien, Dong Thap, Gia Lai, Ha Giang, Hau Giang, Hoa Binh, Khanh Hoa, Kien Giang, Kon Tum, Lai Chau, Ninh Binh, Ninh Thuan, Phu Yen, Quang Binh, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Quang Ninh, Quang Tri, Soc Trang, Tay Ninh, Thua Thien Hue, Tien Giang, Tra Vinh, Tuyen Quang, Vinh Long.

**Including 6 provinces that never had bears before and 8 provinces with bears kept at tourism areas or private zoos.*

KNOW A CRIMINAL OFFENSE WHEN YOU SEE ONE

On May 8, 2020, Buon Ma Thuot City Environment Police and Dak Lak provincial Forest Protection Department (FPD) raided an online wildlife supplier's home and seized 127 turtles, including northern Vietnamese box turtles (*Cuora galbinifrons*), southern Vietnamese box turtles (*Cuora picturata*), Bourret's box turtles (*Cuora bourreti*), Asian forest tortoises (*Manouria emys*), and other rare species (Case ref. 10336/ENV). During the seizure, the owner presented "legal papers" for more than half of the turtles and proclaimed the remaining turtles to be their offspring. The truth, however, was another story.

This case was a great opportunity for Dak Lak authorities to demonstrate how a combination of law application and common sense can defeat the clever tactics of wildlife traffickers posing as licensed commercial farmers.

In this case, several of the species of confiscated turtles are fully protected under the law and unable to be farmed under any circumstances. Moreover, these same critically endangered species are difficult to breed in captivity and produce offspring, making it unlikely – if not impossible – that the turtles originated on the farm, as claimed by the owner.

Finally, one of the species is not native to Vietnam and also critically endangered, listed under Appendix II of CITES, suggesting that the farm owner would have to have a CITES permit in hand to show legal origin if the animal was legal.

A study undertaken by ENV in 2014 and 2015 showed that nearly all of the commercial wildlife farms consulted in the survey had laundered wildlife at different levels. Many also bought or sold transportation permits showing legal origin for animals that came from the wild. A recent series of arrests of licensed commercial wildlife farm owners in Quang Nam has yielded large quantities of animals of illegal origin.

The targeted outcome for this case? Prosecution and strict punishment for the Dak Lak trafficker, sending a clear message to licensed commercial wildlife farmers throughout the country that anyone laundering wild-caught animals through licensed farms will be subject to strict punishment.

How to recognize laundering of wildlife when you see it:

- **Species composition:** Shipments or facilities containing species that do not breed well in captivity or require years to reach a size suitable for sale are to be treated as suspicious.
- **Facility inspection:** Breeding wildlife requires appropriate housing, living conditions, and diet for the animals in captivity. Inspection of such facilities by experts can allow for the easy identification of false claims by farmers regarding large numbers of certain species allegedly born and raised on the farm.
- **Multiple sources:** Cases where farmers have acquired all or part of the shipment from other farms is an indication of trafficking. Although this does not prove criminal wrongdoing, subsequent inspections of source facilities that allegedly supplied the permitted farm can easily distinguish legally sourced animals from illegally sourced ones by use of other indicators on this list.
- **Economics:** If the species requires significant monetary investment to reach a sellable size, and the selling price is less than the investment, the animals are without a doubt sourced from the wild and being illegally laundered through the farm.
- **Animals and facilities:** Simple inspection of the farm and the animals there tell a clear story about legality.
 - ▶ Wild animals can be differentiated from animals born in captivity in many cases based on appearance, as a captive diet results in physical attributes that are easily identifiable. Turtles, for example, may have scars and scrapes or bite marks that originated from encounters with predators in the wild. Such former injuries are not found in captive-born individuals. Civets and other small mammals may be missing a limb – a clear indication of having been caught in a snare trap in the wild.
 - ▶ Age classes of species that require many years to reach maturity and grow to market size can help determine whether or not an animal was sourced from the wild. Large turtles may take 8-15 years to reach a sellable size. The investment in their growth over many years makes these species economically inviable for commercial trade as adults.

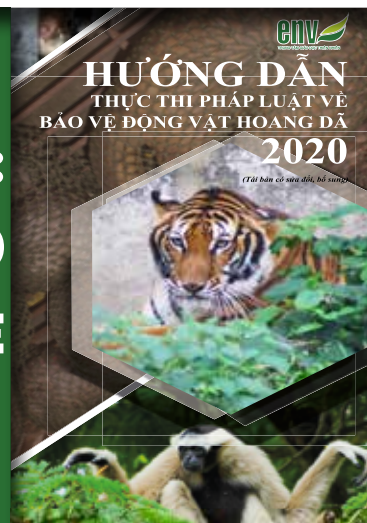


- Ecology and behavioral traits can also determine if the animals in question have been raised in captivity. Many species of reptiles, birds, and mammals do not do well in captivity due to certain environmental or dietary requirements, or simply due to being easily stressed around humans, resulting in a high captive mortality.
- Many species do not breed well in captivity due to ecological or social requirements, and therefore they are not economically viable for commercial farming.
- Some species cannot live within the same enclosure as other animals of the same species, thus, experts can easily identify that the animals could not have been bred or raised in captivity if found housed together.

The recent directive by the Prime Minister only further illustrates the need to address the rampant crime and corruption associated with the commercial wildlife farming industry in Vietnam. Traffickers posing as commercial farmers not only threaten the nation's biodiversity, but represent a threat to human health, our economy, and our national security.



NEW RELEASE: ENV'S 2020 LAW GUIDANCE



In 2019, ENV first introduced our Law Guidance – a document intended for use as a comprehensive legal tool by law enforcement officials, judges, and prosecutors when dealing with wildlife crimes. The guidance includes a section on handling common wildlife crime, another section giving guidance on the disposal of confiscated animals, a species list with protection statuses, and a reference list of documents showing legal origin of species. Since this initial release of the Law Guidance, ENV has received positive feedback from law enforcement agencies, courts and procuracies around the country.

For the 2020 edition of the Law Guidance, ENV has conducted another comprehensive review of all relevant sections to ensure the information provided is up to date. Moreover, ENV has added a new manual to help guide law enforcement agencies through the correct procedure when handling confiscated or voluntarily transferred animals. This addition to the guidance takes into consideration the fact that there are several legislations relating to these kinds of cases, and thus, a large number of agencies have faced difficulties in following current procedures.

Please find the latest edition of ENV's Law Guidance at <https://tinyurl.com/huongdanenv2020>, if you wish to receive a hard copy, call the ENV Law Hotline: 024 628 154 27/0865 24 28 82 or email cgteam.env@gmail.com.

You can also register as a member of ENV's Criminal Justice System network to receive quick updates on laws and other important wildlife issues, please email cgteam.env@gmail.com to register.

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



BUSES BUSTED FOR ILLEGAL WILDLIFE

Buses are commonly used to transport goods by wildlife traffickers to avoid getting caught. A number of cases were recorded in 2019 where police were unable to identify the owners of wildlife that had been transported on a public bus. As a result, no punishment was given, as the bus drivers and assistants claimed that they had no knowledge of their illegal cargo.

WERE THESE INDIVIDUALS AS INNOCENT AS THEY SEEM TO BE?

According to the Transportation Law of 2008, amended and supplemented in 2018, as well as its implementing documents, organizations/companies providing fixed-route public transport services are not allowed to transport prohibited goods and/or live animals. In order to ensure that they are abiding by this law, bus drivers and company staff are allowed to inspect the goods prior to loading.

Given these stipulations, ENV believes that drivers and driver's assistants should be held responsible for the goods they transport, whether they agreed to transport illegal goods or failed to check beforehand.



The illegal transportation of prohibited wildlife is treated as either a criminal offense punishable under the highest punishment bracket of up to 15 years in prison, according to Article 244 of the 2015 Penal Code, amended in 2017; or as an administrative penalty of up to VND 360 million, according to Article 22 of Decree 35/2019/ND-CP and Article 41 of Decree 42/2019/ND-CP.

Therefore, ENV recommends that relevant authorities:

- ◇ Enhance communication with bus companies, drivers, and driver's assistants to ensure that these individuals do not participate in the transportation of prohibited goods, and in particular, wildlife products.
- ◇ Strictly punish drivers and driver's assistants in accordance with the law in cases where there is a reasonable expectation that an inspection should have been completed by the driver or the driver's assistant prior to departure (e.g. live animals are confiscated or a large volume of wildlife is found that should have been easily detected, such as pangolin scales).

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

THE ROLE OF ACCOMPLICES IN A CRIMINAL CASE

Exercise caution when applying Clause 2 of Article 54 of the 2015 Penal Code

Clause 2 of Article 54 is a new regulation under the Penal Code, aimed at extending Vietnam's leniency policy for those criminals that have been charged with a very serious crime carrying a high punishment bracket, while in fact they had played a very minor role in the crime.

According to Clause 2 of Article 54, the court can apply lighter punishments for the subject if he/she was only an abettor, playing a negligible role as an accomplice. Clause 2, Article 54 of the Penal Code 2015 states: *"2. The Court may decide a sentence below the lower limit of the current punishment bracket, and it is not required to be in the next lighter bracket, provided the offender is an abettor with a negligible role in the offense and does not have a prior criminal record."*

In short, this means that for those wildlife crimes where the punishment bracket ranges from 10-15 years in prison, the court can sentence an abettor who played a negligible role as an accomplice under the first punishment bracket of one to five years in prison.

ENV believes this to be a very sound and appropriate position, but only if it is understood and used correctly within the spirit of the law. In other words, the law is suitable when applied in regards to persons playing minor roles in a crime. However, it should NOT be applied in cases where persons played key roles in the criminal act.

Unfortunately, in three recent cases recorded by ENV, the courts have applied this regulation for wildlife criminals who were either the main perpetrators of the crime or abettors with important roles.

ENV urges the judicial system to only apply this regulation in wildlife cases if all the required conditions are met, in order to avoid having an adverse impact on wildlife protection efforts. These conditions include: (1) the subject doesn't have a past criminal record (he/she has never committed a crime, or he/she has committed another crime, but their criminal record was clear at the time they committed the new crime); (2) the subject is an abettor in the crime; and (3) his/her role as an abettor in the crime is negligible – meaning that his/her participation in the crime doesn't change the nature, level, or the consequences of the crime.



REPORT:

2019 ENFORCEMENT

Responsiveness Evaluation

The public plays a key role in helping law enforcement tackle wildlife crime in Vietnam. The public serves as the eyes and ears of law enforcement by reporting crimes, volunteering their assistance, and educating others. For this alliance to work, it is essential for the authorities to recognize the important role the public plays and to make every effort to be responsive to public reports of violations. Responsiveness to public reporting of crime motivates further public assistance, thereby strengthening the partnership and efforts to end wildlife trafficking.

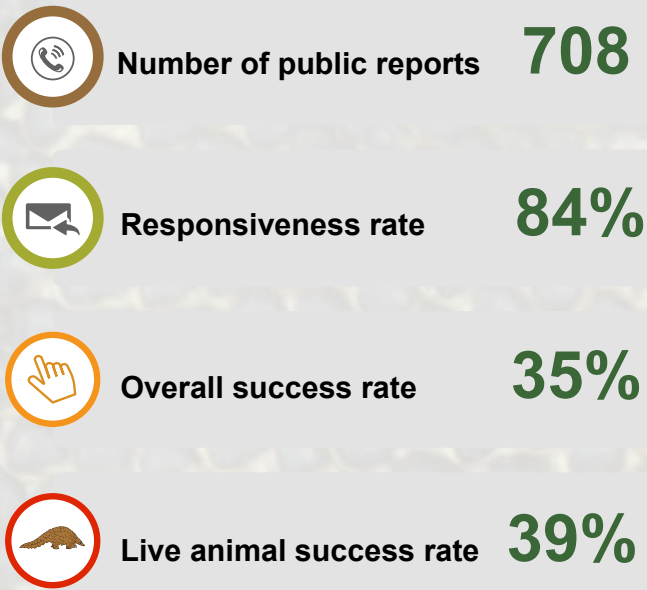
Since 2005, ENV has been working closely with members of the public and law enforcement agencies throughout the country to combat wildlife crime on a day-to-day basis. In 2019, the ENV Wildlife Crime Unit received an average of **five** new cases reported to the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline each day. ENV then contacts the appropriate authorities to address the violations, tracking each case through to its conclusion and documenting the outcome on ENV's National Wildlife Crime Incident Tracking Database.

In 2020, ENV initiated the Responsiveness Reporting System to evaluate the performance of local law enforcement agencies tasked with wildlife protection, comparing statistics to other provinces. Results are shared with provincial People's Committees to ensure provincial leaders are aware of how well their provinces are performing on a national scale.

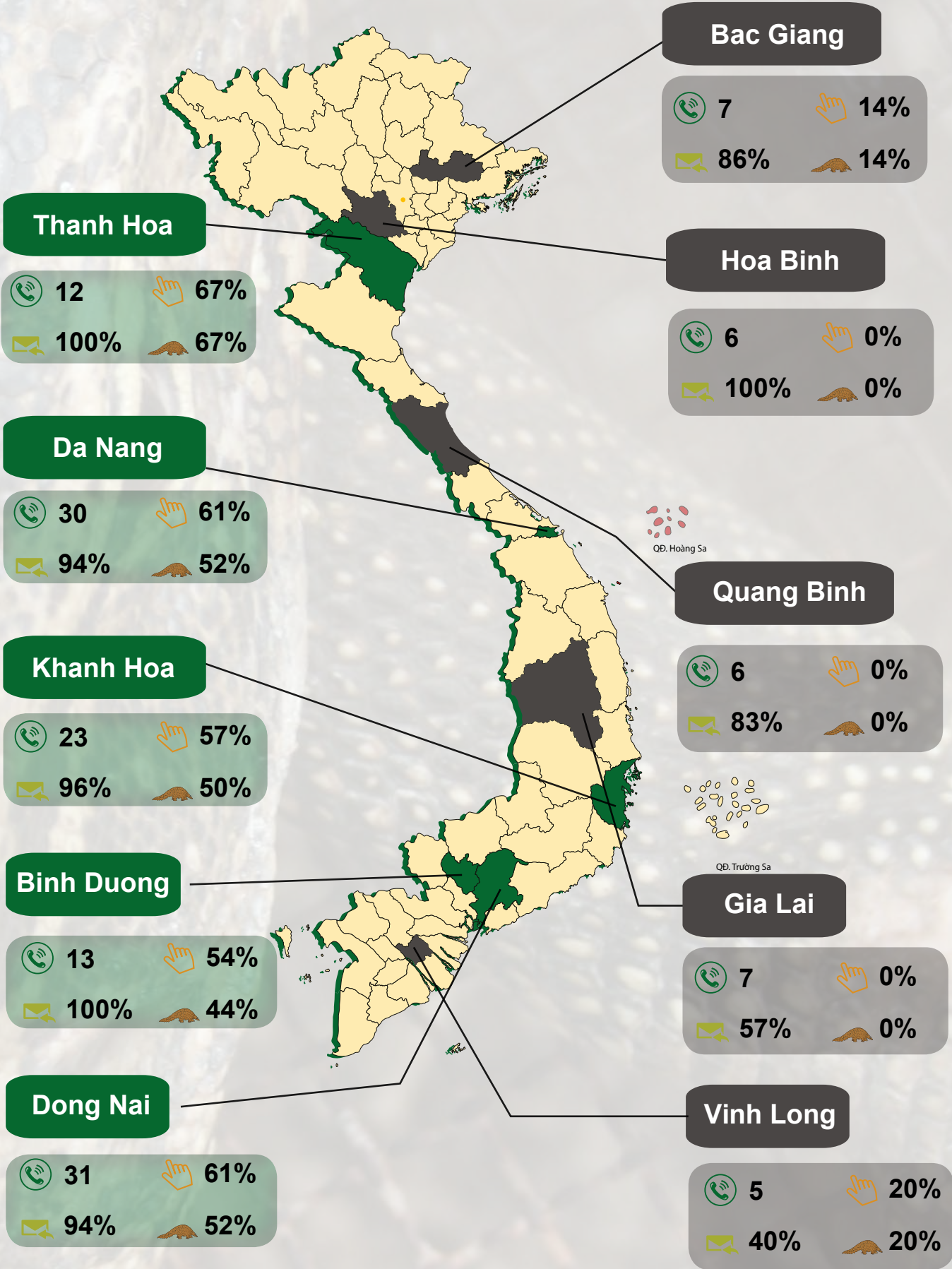
The report was compiled from crime data for the entirety of 2019 and evaluates enforcement using three criteria: Responsiveness to publicly reported crimes, success rate in addressing reported crimes, and live animal success rate.



NATIONAL AVERAGE



MAP 1: TOP FIVE BEST AND TOP FIVE POOREST PERFORMING PROVINCES



Top 5 best performing provinces
Top 5 poorest performing provinces

OTHER IMPORTANT FINDINGS:
HO CHI MINH CITY, HANOI, AND HAI PHONG

Although Ho Chi Minh City had a high responsiveness rate in dealing with crimes reported by the public (95%), the city’s overall success rate (26%) was still well below the national average, suggesting that the People’s Committee needs to dedicate more resources to addressing wildlife crime and set higher expectations among functional agencies.

Hanoi, on the other hand, did not perform poorly, but given the city’s prominent position as the nation’s capital, superior performance is expected on all fronts. Hanoi’s rates of responsiveness (74%), overall success (32%), and live animal success (24%) were all below the national average as well, prompting more decisive action from this important city’s authorities.

Finally, Hai Phong province was able to successfully handle 27% of the 23 cases reported by the public. However, it should be noted that this success rate does not include cases brought to the authorities’ attention during a November 2019 survey. At the time, authorities were alerted to a number of important cases involving live wild animals observed by survey teams. None of these cases resulted in successful outcomes by local FPDs – a clear cause for alarm, regardless of the province’s other success. Performance in these cases was disappointingly unsatisfactory in comparison with other major cities, and ENV remains concerned about Hai Phong’s commitment to address the illegal wildlife trade.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

In 2019, law enforcement agencies such as Forest Protection Departments and police departments responded to 84% of public reports made through ENV’s Wildlife Crime Hotline. This number reflects a proactive attitude when receiving a publicly reported crime.

ENV would like to thank law enforcement agencies for their effort to work directly with the public to tackle wildlife crime. At the same time, however, ENV challenges authorities from all provinces to increase the national responsiveness to 90% in 2020. Cooperation between the public and the authorities is essential for promoting compliance with wildlife laws that benefit society, and greater responsiveness to public reports of wildlife violations lies at the heart of this.

Conversely, the positive responsiveness rate recorded in 2019 does not correspond to the overall success rate [35%], suggesting that there are considerable improvements to be made. Low success rates may be attributed to slow response times, owners of establishments being tipped off before the arrival of authorities, or in some cases, inaccurate or non-specific information provided by the public.

Accordingly, ENV would like to reemphasize the need for law enforcement agencies to respond quickly and decisively to all publicly reported violations, thereby ensuring the law is applied in a sustained and determined fashion to eradicate wildlife crime in Vietnam.



WHAT SHOULD FPD OFFICERS DO WHEN RECEIVING AN ANIMAL

VOLUNTARILY TRANSFERRED BY A CITIZEN?

According to Decree 29/2018/ND-CP, Circular 57/2018/TT-BTC, and Circular No. 29/2019/TT-BNNPTNT, FPD officials should follow the below procedure for the handling of voluntarily transferred animals:

01

Receive forest animal(s) voluntarily transferred to the State (Clause 1, Article 9 of Circular 29)

Receiving authorities shall draw up a minute for receiving the forest animal(s) in accordance with Form No. 01, enclosed with Circular 29.

Note: In case the receiving authority is unable to care for the animal(s), the animal(s) can be transferred to a facility capable of doing so, such as a rescue center. The authority needs to make a minute about the transfer, using Form No. 01 enclosed with Circular 29.

District FPD shall carry out the procedures for the establishment of the State's ownership if common species are voluntarily transferred to them.

Provincial Forest Protection Agencies shall carry out the procedures for the establishment of the State's ownership for all animals voluntarily transferred to them, as well as for endangered species that are voluntarily transferred to their subordinate FPD.

02

Determine which authority is to carry out the procedures for establishing the State's ownership of the animals (Clause 3, Clause 4, Article 9 of Circular 29)

03

Formulate a plan to handle the voluntarily transferred animals.

The agency with the competence to formulate a plan to establish the all-people ownership shall prepare a dossier, including a plan for disposal of property, with the following contents (Clause 2, Article 18 of Decree 29):

- Forest animals' information, including but not limited to: species name, quantity, health status, and forest animal delivery records;
- Forest animals' value (if any);
- Handling methods (proposing one of the five forms prescribed in Article 10 of Circular 29, and stating the reason);
- Presiding entity and cooperating entity;
- Disposal process duration;
- Disposal costs;
- Management and use of proceeds from property disposal (if any);
- Other information (if any).

Authority to establish the State's ownership of property (Clause 5 Article 19, and point (b) Clause 6 Article 7 of Decree 29): The Chairman of the Provincial People's Committee or competent persons are selected by the provincial-level People's Councils to establish the State's ownership of the property.

Required documents for the establishment of the State's ownership of property shall comprise of: (Clause 3, Article 14 of Decree 29):

- Application form for establishment of the State's ownership of property, including the plan for disposal of property (original document);
- Document listing type, quantity, weight, value, and current status of the transferred forest animals (in column) (original document);
- Other document showing the legal origin of the voluntarily transferred animals (if any) (duplicate copy).

Local FPD is responsible for proposing the plan to hand over stated owned property. In cases where district authorities are in charge of receiving state owned property, the local FPD shall propose the plan to the district Department of Finance (DoF), who will subsequently report the proposal to the provincial DoF. In cases where provincial authorities are in charge of receiving state owned property, the local FPD shall propose the plan directly to the provincial DoF.

04

Establish the State's ownership of the animal(s) being voluntarily transferred, and approve the plan for handling the animal(s).

05

Handle forest animals in accordance with the plan for disposal of property.

After the plan for disposal of property is approved, the property shall be handled in accordance with the processes and procedures as prescribed in Articles 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 of Circular 29.

Tackling Wildlife Crime



From January 2020 to June 2020, the ENV Wildlife Crime Unit received an average of more than **eight** new cases reported to the ENV’s Wildlife Crime Hotline each day. Upon receiving a report, experienced case officers contact the appropriate authorities to address the violation and track each case through to conclusion, documenting the outcome on ENV’s Wildlife Crime Incident Tracking Database. In cases involving the advertisement or sale of critically endangered species, ENV will work directly with law enforcement to set up and execute “sting” operations aimed at both apprehending the seller and seizing wildlife.

A total of **1,744** cases were logged during the first two quarters of 2020, including **47** trafficking cases, **687** retail selling and advertising cases, and **425** cases involving illegal possession of wildlife, commonly possession of live animals.

Hotline reports from the public accounted for **958** new cases during the reporting period, of which **43%** resulted in successful outcomes. Successful outcomes include seizure of wildlife, arrest, and prosecution, as well as administrative penalty or voluntary compliance as a result of warnings issued by authorities or ENV.

A total of **515** live animals were confiscated or received by authorities following public reports of violations through the Wildlife Crime Hotline during the first six months of 2020. The hundreds of live wild animals confiscated or transferred include macaques, Asiatic black bears, gibbons, langurs, lorises, pangolins, sharks, a variety of tortoises and freshwater turtles, and a multitude of many other species.

ENV wishes to thank our collaborating partners in law enforcement, provincial Forest Protection Departments, and most importantly, the public, for working together to strengthen wildlife protection and helping Vietnam meet its national and international responsibility to protect global biodiversity.

Crime Statistics: January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020

Crime classification	First half of 2020	TOTAL 2005-2019	TOTAL 2005- June 2020
Total cases [1]	1,744	15,592	17,336
Total number of violations	2,934	41,185	44,119
Trafficking	47	2,019	2,066
Selling and advertising	687	8,838	9,525
Possession	425	4,493	4,918
Hunting/other	30	385	415
Success rate (overall) [2][3]	49%	57%	56%

[1] Some cases logged are not ultimately classified as violations, and thus the total number of cases may differ slightly from the total number in each classification (possession, trafficking, etc.).

[2] Overall success includes both publicly reported cases AND cases resulting from ENV enforcement campaigns. Successes include all successful conclusions that occurred during the month, including achievements that may have been reported in a previous month.

[3] Flagging of successful cases did not begin at ENV until 2014.

CRIME LOG

The crime log includes highlights of cases during the period of January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020. Due to the large number of cases being logged each month by the crime unit, ENV is unable to include all of the cases in the crime log. ENV has subsequently chosen examples from around the country that we believe reflect the outstanding efforts of our law enforcement and Forest Protection Department (FPD) partners.

AN GIANG

On March 27, 2020, An Giang FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated two macaques from a monastery. The macaques were later released into a local forest (Case ref. 15845/ENV).

BA RIA VUNG TAU

On June 22, 2020, Ba Ria city FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a loris which was previously kept at a local restaurant. The loris was later transferred to Dau Tieng Wildlife Conservation Station (Case ref. 16786/ENV).

BAC GIANG

On June 4, 2020, Bac Giang Environment Police responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline, raiding the homes of two local antique sellers and confiscating a variety of wildlife parts and products, including three serow (*Capricornis milneedwardsii*) horns, an Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thitabenus*) skull, skin, and canine tooth, 17 knee bones belonging to serows and Asiatic black bears (*Ursus thitabenus*), as well as fake horns and many domestic animal bones and products. The owners of both homes were arrested (Case ref. 16654/16690/ENV).



BAC KAN

Bac Kan authorities bust online raptor trader

On June 1, 2020, Bac Kan Provincial FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated 20 crested goshawks (*Accipiter trivirgatus*) which were in the possession of an online supplier. The raptors were subsequently transferred to the Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center. The subject received an administrative fine of VND 21,250,000 (Case ref. 16480/ENV).



BAC NINH

On May 5, 2020, Bac Ninh FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a rhesus macaque (*Macaca mulatta*) and a long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*) from a local coffee shop. The macaques were later placed at the Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center (Case ref. 15644/ENV).

BINH DINH

On April 21, 2020, Binh Dinh FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and received a red-shanked douc langur (*Pygathrix nemaeus*) from a resident's house. The langur was later transferred to the Endangered Primate Rescue Center of Cuc Phuong National Park (Case ref. 16321/ENV).

BINH DUONG

It is illegal to advertise bear bile

On March 11, 2020, Binh Duong FPD, in cooperation with Dong Hoa Ward Police, responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline, confiscating and destroying a bear bile signboard that was hung up in front of a local resident's house (Case ref. 16056/ENV).

On May 31, 2020, Thu Dau Mot Economic Police responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated two lorises from an online supplier. The lorises were later transferred to the Dau Tieng Wildlife Conservation Station (Case ref. 16614/ENV).



On June 25, 2020, Binh Duong FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated an osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) from a local restaurant. The osprey was transferred to the Dau Tieng Wildlife Conservation Station (Case ref. 16813/ENV).

BINH PHUOC

On March 23, 2020, Phuoc Long Town Economic Police, in cooperation with Long Phuoc Ward Police, searched a residential house and seized one live and one dead small Indian civet (*Viverricula indica*), 14 kg of wild pig (*Sus scrofa*) meat, 6 kg of deer meat, and 1.5 kg of muntjac meat. The subject was given an administrative fine of VND 20 million. The evidence was subsequently destroyed (Case ref. 16145/ENV).

On June 8, 2020, Bu Gia Map Economic Police in cooperation with Phuoc Minh Commune Police stopped a motorbike and seized a live Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*), contained in a red nylon bag. On June 17, 2020, the pangolin was released. Two subjects were arrested (Case ref. 16785/ENV).

CA MAU

On May 22, 2020, Ca Mau Environment Police in cooperation with Ward 9 Police seized 32 (85 kg) yellow-headed temple turtles (*Heosemys annandalii*) and Malayan snail-eating turtles (*Malayemys subtrijuga*) being transported by a local man on a motorbike. The subject received an administrative fine of more than VND 42.5 million, 31 live turtles was released to U Minh Ha National Park, a dead turtle was destroyed (Case ref. 16623/ENV).

On May 24, 2020, after receiving a tip-off from the public, Ca Mau Market Surveillance in cooperation with the 389/CM Interdisciplinary Inspection Team checked a truck and seized 34 jute bags of sea cucumbers, weighing 1.360 tonnes. The subject was subsequently fined VND 35 million (Case ref. 16658/ENV).

CAN THO

On January 9, 2020, Ninh Kieu District Police, in cooperation with local Ward Police, quickly responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) from a street vendor. The leopard cat was released in Lung Ngoc Hoang Nature Reserve (Case ref. 15744/ENV).

Rhino horn seized from subject during Covid19 screening

On March 2, 2020, Can Tho International Airport's Customs seized 11 pieces of rhino horns, weighing 28.7 kg found in the luggage of a Vietnamese man arriving on a flight originating in Mozambique. The flight was redirected from Tan Son Nhat International Airport in Ho Chi Minh City due to the Corona virus epidemic prevention policy (Case ref. 16018/ENV).

DA NANG

On January 2, 2020, Da Nang City FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated two laughing doves (*Streptopelia senegalensis*), five Pallas's squirrels (*Callosciurus erythraeus*), 45 yellow-spotted keelbacks (*Xenochrophis flavipunctatus*), and two Chinese soft-shell turtles (*Pelodiscus sinensis*) from a restaurant which previously used Facebook to advertise wildlife dishes. The owner was administratively fined VND 10 million. The animals were subsequently released (Case ref. 15216/ENV).

Selling protected fish species is a crime

On February 11, 2020, Da Nang Fisheries in cooperation with Da Nang Environment Police checked a restaurant and seized five false stonefish (*Scorpaenopsis diabolus*). The restaurant owner was administratively fined VND 35 million. The fish were later released back into the sea (Case ref. 16050/ENV).

Show respect for nature: It is time to address the advertising and sale of wild birds

On February 13, 2020, Da Nang FPD seized 80 wild birds including spotted doves (*Spilopelia chinensis*), red-whiskered bulbuls (*Pycnonotus jocosus*), common mynas (*Acridotheres tristis*), and white-crested laughing thrushes (*Garrulax leucolophus*), which were being sold by a street vendor. The wild birds were released into the forest and the subject was administratively fined VND 5 million (Case ref. 16110/ENV).

Live shark seizure in Da Nang

On February 26, 2020, Da Nang FPD, in cooperation with Da Nang Fisheries and Da Nang Environment Police, confiscated 11 grey bamboo sharks (*Chiloscyllium griseum*) from a restaurant recorded during a consumer crime reduction campaign undertaken by ENV in commercial areas in Da Nang City. The sharks were subsequently released back into the sea (Case ref. 15132/ENV).

All species of marine turtles are protected: Trophies, products, and live animals are prohibited

On March 6, 2020, Da Nang Fisheries, in cooperation with Da Nang City Environment Police, responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a hawksbill marine turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) from a coffee shop. The turtle was reportedly kept in fresh water for a long period of time and could not be immediately released back into the ocean. The marine turtle consequently was transferred to the Nha Trang Marine Institute for recovery (Case ref. 14767/ENV).



On March 17, 2020, Da Nang FPD seized 35 live wild birds including spotted doves (*Spilopelia Chinensis*), red-whiskered bulbuls (*Pycnonotus jocosus*), and common mynas (*Acridotheres tristis*) which were being sold by a street vendor. The wild birds were later released into the Da Nang Special Use Forest. The vendor was administratively fined VND 5 million (Case ref. 16109/ENV).

On May 2, 2020, during a routine patrol, the Mobile Team of Da Nang FPD in cooperation with Hoa Tho Dong Ward Police seized 15 live munias and two live sparrows that had been hunted by a local man. The subject was given an administrative fine of VND 5 million. The animals were released back into the wild (Case ref. 16602/ENV).

Online raptor supplier nabbed in Da Nang

On May 5, 2020, Da Nang Environment Police in cooperation with Da Nang FPD nabbed an online raptor supplier following receipt of an ENV Law Enforcement Evidence Package profiling the subject and cataloguing his long list of violations. The police checked the subject's home and confiscated 12 raptors, including common kestrels (*Falco tinnunculus*), mountain hawk-eagles (*Nisaetus nipalensis*) and Japanese sparrowhawks (*Accipiter gularis*). The subject was fined VND 11.25 million (Case ref. 13224/ENV).

On May 5, 2020, Da Nang City FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a common palm civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphrodites*), two elongated tortoises (*Indotestudo elongata*) and four squirrels from a coffee shop. The owner of the shop was administratively fined VND 10 million (Case ref. 16295/ENV).

On May 26, 2020, Ngu Hanh Son FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a southern white-cheeked gibbon (*Nomascus (Hylobates) siki*) which was being kept at a resident's home. The case was reported after the gibbon climbed a fence between the home and a neighboring kindergarten. The gibbon was later transferred to Saigon Zoo (Case ref. 16619/ENV).

On June 8, 2020, Da Nang FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated three Malayan snail-eating turtles (*Malayemys subtrijuga*) which were being kept at a local kindergarten. These turtles were subsequently released into Ba Na Nui Chua Conservation (Case ref. 16710/ENV).

On June 15, 2020, after following the subject on social media, the Mobile Team of Da Nang FPD checked a resident's home and found a signboard advertising wildlife. The owner was administratively fined VND 1.25 million (Case ref. 16838/ENV).

On June 18, 2020, Da Nang Environment Police in cooperation with Da Nang FPD checked a restaurant and seized seven frozen doves. The restaurant was also advertising dove and red junglefowl (*Gallus gallus*) on their menu, in violation of the law. The owner was administratively fined VND 11.25 million (Case ref. 16835/ENV).

“ THE ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE IS MAINLY RUN BY ORGANIZED CRIMINAL NETWORKS, SOME OF WHICH ARE ALSO INVOLVED IN THE DRUG TRADE AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING ”

DAK LAK

Macaques are not pets: YouTube crime results in seizure

On January 15, 2020, Buon Ma Thuot City FPD confiscated two macaques from a woman who posted many videos of the macaques on her YouTube channels. The case was reported to the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline by several people complaining about the treatment of the animals in the video. The macaques were later released into Chu Yang Sin National Park (Case ref. 15457/ENV).

Advertising wildlife on social media is a crime, even if you do not have any wildlife

On March 6, 2020, Buon Ma Thuot City Police issued a VND 1.25 million fine to an online wildlife trader in Dak Lak who was advertising a large quantity of ivory products, tiger claws and canines, and bear claws on his Facebook page. The case was reported to police by ENV through issuance of a Law Enforcement Evidence Package (LEEP) summarizing the violations. Police also ordered the subject to remove all advertisements which were subsequently confirmed to have been removed (Case ref. 15368/ENV).



Dak Lak authorities catch major online turtle trader

On May 8, 2020, Buon Ma Thuot City Environment Police in cooperation with Tan Hoa District police, Buon Ma Thuot City FPD seized 127 turtles from a man's home, including 15 southern Vietnamese box turtles (*Cuora picturata*), 32 Bourret's box turtles (*Cuora bourreti*), 10 keeled box turtles (*Cuora mouhotii*), 18 Asian box turtles (*Cuora amboinensis*), 12 Eastern black-bridged leaf turtles (*Cyclemys pulchristriata*), a four-eyed turtle (*Sacalia quadriocellata*), three black marsh turtles (*Siebenrockiella crassicolis*), two yellow-headed temple turtles (*Heosemys annandalii*), five Chinese striped-neck turtles (*Mauremys sinensis*), two serrated box turtles (*Cuora serrata*), two Asian forest tortoises (*Manouria emys*), three yellow-bellied sliders (*Trachemys scripta scripta*), a red-bellied short-necked turtle (*Emydura subglobosa*), a yellow-spotted river turtle (*Podocnemis unifilis*), and two cooters (*Pseudemys* sp.), 14 Giant Asian pond turtle (*Heosemys grandis*), 04 Elongated Tortoise (*Indotestudo elongata*) and two cooters (*Pseudemys* sp.).

The case was initially reported by a member of the public through ENV's Wildlife Crime Hotline. Given the volume of advertisements and the species composition, ENV subsequently provided police with a Law Enforcement Evidence Package comprised of a profile and evidence of violations by an online turtle supplier.

These turtles were later transferred to the Turtle Conservation Center at Cuc Phuong National Park and all violation links were removed (Case ref. 10336/ENV).



On May 19, 2020, Dak Lak FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a gibbon from a resident's home. The gibbon was subsequently placed at the Endangered Primate Rescue Center at Cuc Phuong National Park (Case ref. 16286/ENV).

On May 23, 2020, Dak Lak Traffic Police stopped a bus and seized 15 kg of live common butterfly lizards (*Leiolepis belliana*), 15 live spotted doves (*Spilopelia chinensis*), a live oriental magpie-robin (*Copsychus saularis*), three raptors, and a crow. The birds were subsequently released back into the wild. The subject was administratively fined VND 10 million (Case ref. 16624/ENV).

On June 29, 2020, Krong Nang district Traffic Police in cooperation with Krong Nang district FPD seized eight dead leopard cats (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) being transported on a motorbike. The leopard cats were subsequently destroyed. On June 30, 2020, two subjects were each administratively fined VND 25 million (Case ref. 16872/ENV).

DAK NONG

On January 2, 2020, Cu Jut District FPD responded to public reports via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated three macaques from a local resident's home. The subject had a YouTube channel and had posted many videos of these macaques which were suspected to attract viewers and earn money from advertisements (Case ref. 15338/ENV).

Dak Glong District Police seize slaughtered animals from home

On March 3, 2020, after receiving tip from the public, Dak Glong District Police caught two subjects selling wildlife in the yard of a resident's home. The police then searched the house and seized a number of dead animals including two lesser Malay mouse-deer (*Tragulus javanicus*), a common palm civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*), a large-toothed ferret badger (*Melogale personata*), and five Indochinese ground squirrels (*Menetes berdmorei*). The owner received an administrative fine of VND 30 million. The dead animals were destroyed (Case ref. 16245/ENV).

Keeping raptors as pets is ILLEGAL

On March 10, 2020, Tuy Duc District FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a raptor from a grocery shop. Unfortunately, the raptor was weak at the time of confiscation and died a short time later (Case ref. 16032/ENV).

On June 9, 2020, Dak Mil district FPD checked a resident's house and seized a live water monitor (*Varanus salvator*) and a live clouded monitor (*Varanus bengalensis*). The monitors were subsequently released back into nature. The subject was administratively fined VND 295 million (Case ref. 16981/ENV).

DIEN BIEN

On January 2, 2020, Nam Po District Police, in cooperation with Nam Po District FPD, checked a car and seized 16 frozen masked palm civets (*Paguma larvata*) weighing 70 kg. The civets were later auctioned off and the subject was administratively fined VND 40 million (Case ref. 15740/ENV).

DONG NAI

Dong Nai province continues to reduce captive bears on bile farms

On February 27, 2020, a registered Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) that was being kept at a bile farm in Bien Hoa City was voluntarily transferred to Free the Bears' sanctuary in Cat Tien National Park. The owner had agreed to transfer the bear during discussions with FPD in September 2019 (Case ref. 14513/ENV).

On March 5, 2020, an Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) being kept by a resident in Bien Hoa City was voluntarily transferred to the Cat Tien Bear Rescue Center operated by Free the Bears. (Case ref. 14516/ENV).

GIA LAI

On June 30, 2020, an Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) that was being kept by a company in Gia Lai province was transferred to Tam Dao bear sanctuary operated by Animals Asia Foundation (AAF) (Case ref. 10996/ENV).

HA GIANG

Ha Giang FPD seizes animals from online trader

On June 7, 2020, Ha Giang City FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated three dead civets and a dead brush-tailed porcupine from an online supplier who was advertising the sale of a tiger, binturong, and a variety of other animal parts and products on social media (Case ref. 16573/ENV).

HA NAM

Illegal unregistered bears confiscated in Ha Nam

On May 20, 2020, two illegal Asiatic black bears (*Ursus thibetanus*) that were being kept by a local resident in Ha Nam province were confiscated and transferred to Bear Sanctuary Ninh Binh operated by Four Paws International. The bears were discovered by Ha Nam FPD, National FPD, World Animal Protection, and ENV in February 2020 during an inspection of bear farms in the province (Case ref. 10661/ENV).

HA TINH

On January 7, 2020, Ha Tinh City Police checked a residential house and seized nine live common palm civets (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*), a live masked palm civet (*Paguma larvata*), and seven dead brush-tailed porcupines (*Atherurus macrourus*). The civets were subsequently released into nature and the brush-tailed porcupines were auctioned off. The subject was administratively fined VND 20 million (Case ref. 15739/ENV).

Online sellers of bear bile are subject to arrest

On April 14, 2020, Cam Xuyen district police responded to a report from ENV and confiscated seven vials suspected to contain bear bile from a local TMC clinic. The clinic was initially found after the owner used Facebook to advertise bear bile. The owner of the social media account was identified, after which police were asked to check the clinic and found out that the advertised bear bile is fake (pig bile). The subject was administratively fined VND 0.75 million (Case ref. 16229/ENV).

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On June 1, 2020, Can Loc district police in cooperation with Ha Tinh Traffic Police stopped a public bus and seized nine Indochinese box turtles (*Cuora galbanifrons*) and 18 Bourret's box turtles (*Cuora bourreti*), which were hidden in a cardboard box. The wildlife was subsequently transferred to the Turtle Conservation Center at Cuc Phuong National Park. Three subjects were arrested and face prosecution (Case ref. 16691/ENV).

On June 29, 2020, Cam Xuyen district FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and removed a bear bile and macaque bone TCM advertisement on a signboard that was displayed at a local TCM shop (Case ref. 16650/ENV).

HAI PHONG

On April 24, 2020, after receiving a tip-off from public, Cat Ba National Park FPD checked a floating aquaculture establishment and seized a live green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*). The turtle was later returned to the wild (Case ref. 16384/ENV).

HANOI

Rare endemic Vietnamese pond turtle seized in Hanoi

On January 5, 2020, Thanh Xuan district Economic Police seized three Vietnamese pond turtles (*Mauremys annamensis*) and arrested a subject who claimed to have found the turtles in a field in Phu Yen province and brought them to Hanoi to sell. The turtles were subsequently transferred to the Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center. According to the police, the subject has been prosecuted (Case ref. 15727/ENV).



Covid19 pandemic: Trafficking of wildlife must stop to protect citizens

On January 9, 2020, Cau Giay Environment Police stopped a man who was transporting wildlife and inspected the storage facility. Upon inspection, they seized a total of 79 animals, including four live and six dead masked palm civets (*Paguma larvata*), 23 live and three dead common palm civets (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*), 11 live and four dead brush-tailed porcupines (*Atherurus macrourus*), and 18 live and ten dead hoary bamboo rats (*Rhizomys pruinosus*).

All of the wildlife was reportedly sourced from a licensed farm in Thuong Tin district of Hanoi, though the papers for the animals had expired. The owner was subsequently fined VND 2.25 million for failing to have updated papers for the animals and for moving the location of a storage facility without notification of to authorities (Case ref. 15748/ENV).

Notation: Wildlife traffickers who operate commercial farms as a cover for illegal trade of wildlife often use outdated papers indicating that the animals were legally sourced. In this case and other similar cases, an inspection of the source farm would quickly reveal if the facility was operating legally.

On March 11 and March 16, 2020, Bac Tu Liem district Economic Police seized three Bourret's box turtles (*Cuora bourreti*) and three Indochinese box turtles (*Cuora galbanifrons*) that were being transported at the time by two different men. Both subjects were arrested and the turtles were transferred to the Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center (Case ref. 16556/ENV).

Douc langur trade highlights need for better protection of habitat

On March 16, 2020, Dong Da district Economic Police seized two live black-shanked douc langurs (*Pygathrix nigripes*) hidden in a black plastic bag which had been transported from Binh Thuan province to Hanoi by a staff of Vietnam Railway Company. According to the police, the subject was arrested and would be prosecuted (Case ref. 16107/ENV).

“ 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. ”

On May 12, 2020, Hanoi FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a changeable hawk-eagle (*Spizaetus cirrhatus*) from a resident's home. The raptor was later placed at the Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center (Case ref. 16464/ENV).

On May 20, 2020, Thach That Economic Police stopped a motorbike with two riders and seized a live slow loris (*Nycticebus bengalensis*). The two subjects were arrested, and the animal was transferred to the Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center (Case ref. 16603/ENV).

On May 21, 2020, Team 5 of Hanoi Environment Police seized a live Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*) from a taxi. One subject was arrested. The pangolin was transferred to the Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center (Case ref. 16606/ENV).



Police target trade in illegal birds

On June 8, 2020, Thanh Tri district Economic Police responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated 33 parakeets from a local shop, including six parrots that were listed in CITES Appendix I. The remaining 27 are listed in CITES Appendix II. The parrots were subsequently transferred to the Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center (Case ref. 16487/ENV).

On June 16, 2020, Ha Dong district Environment Police responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a common slow loris (*Nycticebus bengalensis*) from the staff of a local restaurant. The loris was later transferred to the Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center. According to the police, the involved subject will be prosecuted (Case ref. 16773/ENV).

On June 22, 2020, Hoan Kiem district Economic Police seized four Indochinese box turtles (*Cuora galbinifrons*) while they were being transported. Following the seizure, the police checked the subject's house and seized a further six impressed tortoises (*Manouria impress*) and 53 elongated tortoises (*Indotestudo elongata*). The turtles and tortoises were subsequently transferred to the Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center. The owner of the turtles was arrested (Case ref. 16821/ENV).

HO CHI MINH

Another YouTube macaque channel earning money by filming illegal animals

On January 16, 2020, Ho Chi Minh City FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a pig-tailed macaque (*Macaca leonine*) from a woman who posted many videos of the macaque on her YouTube Channel. The macaques were subsequently transferred to Cu Chi Rescue Center (Case ref. 15766/ENV).

Buying wildlife to rescue it supports wildlife trafficking. People should know better

On February 10, 2020, Ho Chi Minh City FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and received two merlins (*Falco columbarius*) which were voluntarily transferred by a foreigner who had reportedly bought the falcons to rescue them. The merlins were later transferred to the Cu Chi Rescue Center (Case ref. 15874/ENV).

6.1 kg of rhino horns seized from passenger arriving from Mozambique

On March 6, 2020, Tan Son Nhat International Airport's customs seized 12 pieces of white rhino (*Ceratotherium simum*) horns weighing 6.1 kg. The rhino horns were hidden in two checked bags belonging to a Vietnamese man arriving on a flight originating in Mozambique. One subject was arrested (Case ref. 16037/ENV).



On May 15, 2020, Ho Chi Minh City FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated two small owls from a gas station. The owls were later placed at Cu Chi Rescue Center (Case ref. 16531/ENV).

On May 21, 2020, Ho Chi Minh City Environment Police in cooperation with District 12 Police responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a yellow-cheeked gibbon (*Nomascus (Hylobates) gabriellae*) from a resident's home. The gibbon was later placed at the Saigon Zoo (Case ref. 16436/ENV).

Temple turtles confiscated in HCM

On May 19, 2020, Ho Chi Minh City FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated two giant Asian pond turtles (*Heosemys grandis*) and 11 red-eared sliders (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) from a local temple. The red-eared sliders were destroyed and the giant Asian pond turtles were placed at the Cu Chi Rescue Center (Case ref. 16081/ENV).

All raptor species are protected and may not be kept without legal permits

On May 25, 2020, Ho Chi Minh City FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated two raptors from a resident's home. The raptors were placed at Cu Chi Rescue Center (Case ref. 16613/ENV).

On June 8, 2020, Binh Thanh district Economic Police in cooperation with Ward 11 Police responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a giant Asian pond turtle (*Heosemys grandis*) and a leaf turtle (*Cyclemys sp.*), which were being sold on the street. The turtles were subsequently transferred to Cu Chi Rescue Center (Case ref. 16716/ENV).

Possession of marine turtle trophies is illegal

On June 17, 2020, District 1 Market Surveillance responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and a green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) trophy from a watch shop. The police proposed an administrative punishment of VND 35 million for the shop owner (Case ref. 14954/ENV).

On June 18, 2020, District 7 Economic Police responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a giant Asian pond turtle (*Heosemys grandis*), which was being sold on the street. The turtle was later transferred to the Cu Chi Rescue Center (Case ref. 16788/ENV).

HOA BINH

On January 14, 2020, Tan Lac district FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated two masked palm civets (*Paguma larvata*) from a grocery shop. The civets were later released at Ngoc Son Ngo Luong Nature Reserve (Case ref. 15745/ENV).

On June 7, 2020, Hoa Binh City FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a macaque which was being kept at a local resort (Case ref. 16707/ENV).

Note: Resorts and other tourism locations may not possess wildlife to display to guests unless licensed as a legal non-commercial facility in accordance with regulations set forth by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD). Confiscation of animals without legal origin is a requirement under the law.

KIEN GIANG

Restaurant keeping a live marine turtle is violating the law

On January 2, 2020, Kien Giang Fisheries in cooperation with Kien Giang Environment Police responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a hawksbill marine turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) which was previously kept at a restaurant in Rach Gia City. The turtle was released into the sea on the same day (Case ref. 15695/ENV).

Ha Tien police shut down marine turtle meat seller at market

On February 7, 2020, Ha Tien City Police responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated 12 kg of green sea turtle meat (*Chelonia mydas*) from a seafood seller at a local market. The sea turtle was cut into small pieces and displayed for sale. According to the police, the seller was a known sea turtle seller. Both the subject and her husband were arrested and will be prosecuted (Case ref. 15857/ENV).



REPORT

WILDLIFE CRIMES,

18001522

Going after bird traders is a must to protect our biodiversity

Police caught a man selling four live oriental darters (*Anhinga melanogaster*) weighing 3.52 kg, 28 cormorants weighing 11 kg, and 12 other wild birds weighing 15.4 kg. The four live oriental darters were transferred to U Minh Thuong National Park and the subject has been prosecuted (Case 16115/ENV).

On February 19, 2020, An Minh Bac Commune Police searched a resident's house and seized two live oriental darters (*Anhinga melanogaster*). The birds were transferred to U Minh Thuong National Park. One subject has been prosecuted (Case 16116/ENV).

On March 2, 2020, Kien Giang Environment Police responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a hawksbill marine turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) from a floating house. The turtle was later released back into the sea (Case ref. 15964/ENV).

Kien Giang police seize pangolin that was likely locally caught, returned to wild

On March 3, 2020, An Minh Bac Commune Police stopped two subjects who were transporting a live pangolin. Both subjects were arrested and the pangolin was later released back into nature (Case ref. 16114/ENV).

Kien Giang EP targets shops selling ivory

On May 25, 2020, Kien Giang Environment Police in cooperation with Kien Giang Market Surveillance confiscated approximately 2.8 kg of elephant ivory products from two jewelry shops in Rach Gia City (Case ref. 14945/16625/ENV).

Note: Halting the ivory trade involves protecting elephants in their habitat, shutting down trafficking networks, changing public attitudes about ivory, and addressing ivory sales at stores and online. Kien Giang authorities are doing their part – are you?

On May 22, 2020, after receiving a tip-off from the public, Kien Giang Environment Police in cooperation with Kien Giang Fisheries checked a coffee shop and seized three live green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*). The turtles were subsequently released back into the ocean (Case ref. 16627/ENV).



LAI CHAU

On May 17, 2020, Lai Chau Economic Police seized a live juvenile leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) which was being transported by a subject. The subject fled after seeing the police and the leopard cat was later transferred to the Small Carnivore and Pangolin Rescue Center at Cuc Phuong National Park (Case ref. 16611/ENV).

LAM DONG

On February 26, 2020, Lam Dong FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and received an impressed tortoise (*Manouria impressa*) which was voluntarily transferred by a local man who had reportedly kept the tortoise for a month. The tortoise was later released in Bidoup Nui Ba National Park (Case ref. 15973/ENV).



Note: *Manouria impressa* is a forest mountain tortoise native to Vietnam and some neighboring countries. They are historically difficult to keep alive in captivity due to specific climate and dietary requirements. There are also very few examples of this species breeding in captivity, thus, any tortoises of this species observed in the trade, including at licensed wildlife farms, have been illegally obtained from the wild. Don't be tricked by criminals. Know *Manouria impressa* when you see them, and ALWAYS confiscate regardless of papers falsely claiming that the species came from a farm.

LONG AN

Covid Response: National FPD raids market, seizes otters and other wildlife

On March 15, 2020, after receiving tip off from reporters, the Task Force of National FPD, in cooperation with Long An authorities, searched two shops in Thanh Hoa district market and seized a live smooth-coated otter (*Lutra perspicillata*), two live monocled cobras (*Naja kaouthia*), a live Chinese rat snake (*Ptyas mucosus*), a live small Asian Mongoose (*Herpestes javanicus auropunctatus*), and 30 kg of other snakes. The wildlife was transferred to Saigon Zoo and one of the shop owners was fined VND 10 million (Case ref. 16085/16086/ENV).

NAM DINH

Unregistered illegal bears confiscated in Nam Dinh

On April 21, 2020, three illegal Asiatic black bears (*Ursus thibetanus*) that were being kept by a local resident in Nam Dinh province were confiscated and transferred to Tam Dao bear sanctuary operated by Animals Asia Foundation. The bears were discovered by National FPD, Nam Dinh FPD World Animal Protection and ENV in February 2020 during an inspection of bear farms in the province (Case ref. 14364/ENV).

NGHE AN

Yen Thanh Police in Nghe An seize golden cats and bear paws hidden in bus

On January 8, 2020, Yen Thanh District Police stopped a passenger bus heading from Laos and seized two dead Asian golden cats (*Catopuma temminckii*), four Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) paws, a skeleton of Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*), and a skeleton of suspected Asian golden cat (*Catopuma temminckii*). The wildlife was put in a bag and hidden in a secret compartment of the bus along with an unknown quantity of fireworks. The owner stated that he bought the wildlife for the purpose of cooking the bones for TCM. Three subjects were arrested, namely the bus driver, a bus assistant, and the wildlife owner (Case ref. 15736/ENV).

On February 15, 2020, Quy Chau District Traffic Police stopped a pick-up truck and seized 60 live bamboo rats. The driver later provided expired legal documents for the bamboo rats and was subsequently fined VND 0.75 million by Quy Chau FPD, and the bamboo rats were returned to the owner (Case ref. 15905/ENV).

On March 20, 2020, Dien Chau Traffic Police stopped a truck and discovered 63 pieces of elephant ivory weighing over 200 kg hidden in 10 jute bags. One subject were arrested (Case ref. 16159/ENV).

On March 27, 2020, Pu Mat National Park FPD seized four dead bamboo rats and four dead red-whiskered bulbuls (*Pycnonotus jocosus*) which were being transported by a man on a motorbike. The animals were subsequently destroyed and the subject was administratively fined VND 20 million (Case ref. 16190/ENV).

On May 8, 2020, after receiving a tip-off from the public, Nghe An Environment Police stopped a motorbike and seized nine dead Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*), weighing 30.2 kg, that were hidden in two styrofoam boxes. One of the two subjects arrested faces prosecution (Case ref. 16517/ENV).

On June 23, 2020, Team 2 of Nghe An Environment Police in cooperation with Quy Chau district Police stopped a motorbike and seized parts of two serow (*Naemorhedus milneedwardsii*), a dead small Indian civet (*Viverricula indica*), three dead large Indian civets (*Viverra zibetha*), and 11 dead bamboo rats. Police had tracked the subject from Laos prior to the seizure and arrest (Case ref. 16829/ENV).

On June 25, 2020, Vinh Environment-Economic Police stopped a motorbike with a fake registration number and seized a Chinese pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) and two Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*) weighing a total of 17 kg. The pangolins were subsequently transferred to Pu Mat National Park. Two subjects were arrested (Case ref. 16853/ENV).

NINH BINH

On April 28, 2020, during a routine patrol at Cuc Phuong National Park (NP), Cuc Phuong FPD confronted hunters with two live small-toothed ferret badgers (*Melogale moschata*) and a crab-eating mongoose (*Herpestes urva*) in their possession. Both hunters fled, leaving behind the animals, which were then transferred to the Small Carnivore and Pangolin Rescue Center of Cuc Phuong National Park (Case ref. 16500/ENV).

Pangolin scale trader arrested in sting

On June 17, 2020, Phu Tho town police confiscated 200 grams of scales belonging to Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*) and Chinese pangolins (*Manis pentadactyla*) during a sting operation undertaken in cooperation with ENV. The pangolin scales were advertised for sale on Facebook for VND 800,000/100 grams. The subject was an online supplier who advertised pangolin scales and other wildlife (Case ref. 16741/ENV).



QUANG BINH

Quang Binh police bust online wildlife supplier

On March 31, 2020, Quang Trach District Police responded to a report from ENV by raiding the home of a local resident and confiscating 02 bear claws (*Ursus thibetanus*), 07 pangolin scales (*Manis javanica*), and some suspected monitor lizard and python gall bladders. The case started when the subject advertised bear paws, macaques, and other wildlife products on social media (Case ref. 15716/ENV).

REPORT CORRUPTION

080 48 228

QUANG NAM

Online wildlife traders: Pay a fine, and lose your iPhone too

On March 12, 2020, Quang Nam Environment Police issued VND 1.25 million in administrative fines to online wildlife suppliers in two separate cases involving the advertising of tiger, bear, and other wildlife parts and products on social media. In addition to fines, police confiscated “tools of the trade” from both subjects, including an iPhone 6S from one and a Samsung Galaxy J2 Prime from the other. In both cases, the phones were used to post illegal advertisements, making them subject to confiscation under the law.

Both cases started with public reports to the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline, which were followed by provision of a Law Enforcement Evidence Package comprised of a profile and evidence of violations by both online suppliers. All of the violation links were subsequently removed (Case ref. 14168/15371/ENV).



On May 29, 2020, Quang Nam FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and received a baby douc langur from a woman who reportedly purchased the animal to rescue it during the previous month. The langur was later transferred to the Endangered Primate Rescue Centre at Cuc Phuong National Park (Case ref. 16642/ENV).

“PEOPLE THAT BUY, SELL, OR TRADE WILDLIFE IN VIOLATION OF THE LAW ARE CRIMINALS”

QUANG NINH

Rhino horn bust in Mong Cai

On March 23, 2020, after receiving a tip-off from the public, Dan Tien Wharf Customs in cooperation with Mong Cai City Economic Police seized 3.135 kg of white rhino (*Ceratotherium simum*) horn and black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*) from a passenger bus. Three subjects were arrested at the time of the seizure (Case ref. 16398/ENV).



Kites and other species of birds seized from shop

On June 29, 2020, Quang Ninh FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated two black kites (*Milvus migrans*), two spotted doves (*Spilopelia Chinensis*), eight hill mynas (*Gracula religiosa*), and a bulbul (*Pycnonotus* sp.) from a bird shop. The shop owner was an online supplier and vice-president of the Quang Ninh Falconry Club (Case ref. 16759/ENV).

QUANG TRI

Huong Hoa District Police in Quang Tri province seize pangolins smuggled from Laos

On January 12, 2020, after getting a tip-off, Huong Hoa District Police, in cooperation with Team 2, Quang Tri Market Surveillance, stopped a passenger bus heading to Hue city with Laos registration tags and seized five Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*) weighing 19 kg. The pangolins were later transferred to the Small Carnivore and Pangolin Rescue Center at Cuc Phuong National Park (Case ref. 15768/ENV).

SON LA

On February 25, 2020, after following a wildlife trader who often provided wildlife to many restaurants in Son La City, Environment Police stopped the trader’s motorbike and seized a live leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*). The leopard cat was later released back into nature (Case ref. 15966/ENV).

On May 19, 2020, Moc Chau district FPD received an Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) cub from a man who contacted the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline expressing his desire to turn over the bear, which he claimed he had bought from an ethnic man. The cub was later transferred to BEAR SANCTUARY Ninh Binh operated by FOUR PAWS International (Case ref. 16572/ENV).

THAI NGUYEN

On May 28, 2020, Dinh Hoa district FPD in cooperation with Dinh Hoa district Police checked a resident's home and seized 44 live common palm civets (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*), two live Chinese ferret-badgers (*Melogale moschata*), 15 live Malayan porcupines (*Hystrix brachyura*), 21 live Chinese cobras (*Naja atra*), as well as a dead one. The live wildlife was then transferred to the Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center (Case ref. 16673/ENV).

THANH HOA

Thanh Hoa province seizes 16 live pangolins heading for China

On January 10, 2020, Thanh Hoa FPD, in cooperation with Quang Xuong District Police, stopped a taxi and seized 16 live Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*) weighing 71 kg. The pangolins were transferred to the Small Carnivore and Pangolin Rescue Center at Cuc Phuong National Park. The driver and the owner of the taxi were arrested and confessed that they were transporting the pangolins from Nghe An province to Hanoi, after which they would move them to Mong Cai City on the border with China (Case ref. 15755/ENV).



Thanh Hoa works to minimize Covid19 risks by aggressively tackling wildlife crime in the province

On February 13, 2020, Ba Thuoc District Police, in cooperation with Ba Thuoc District FPD, checked a resident's house and seized a dead pygmy loris (*Nycticebus pygmaeus*) and 16 dead small-toothed ferret badgers (*Melogale moschata*) which were kept in a freezer. One subject was arrested and faces prosecution (Case ref. 15928/ENV).

On February 13, 2020, Ba Thuoc District Police, in cooperation with Ba Thuoc District FPD, checked a resident's house and seized two dead leopard cats (*Prionailurus bengalensis*), eight dead common giant flying squirrels (*Petaurista petaurista*), 13 dead small-toothed ferret badgers (*Melogale moschata*), nine dead masked palm civets (*Paguma larvata*) which were kept in a freezer (Case ref. 15936/ENV).

On March 3, 2020, Thanh Hoa FPD seized 25 dead red giant flying squirrels (*Petaurista petaurista*), seven dead black giant squirrels (*Ratufa bicolor*), three dead brush-tailed porcupines (*Atherurus macrourus*), a dead common barking deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*), and 27 dead red-bellied tree squirrels (*Callosciurus erythraeus*) from a passenger bus heading from Gia Lai province to Hanoi. The wildlife was destroyed (Case ref. 16011/ENV).

Herons with eyes sewn shut seized in Thanh Hoa; trafficker walks away scot-free

On April 27, 2020, Nong Cong district FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated nine live Chinese pond herons (*Ardeola bacchus*). All of their eyes had been sewn shut by the bird trafficker, who was released without punishment. The herons later died and were subsequently destroyed by authorities (Case ref. 16351/ENV).

Note: Deterrence does not work if criminals are not punished accordingly. There is a substantial rise in the trafficking of hornbills, wading birds like herons, and raptors in Vietnam, many of which are not protected fully under the law. It is critical that enforcement agencies aggressively address bird crimes, particularly when suppliers and traffickers are involved. Failure to do so will permit the problem to become a crisis, after which the job becomes less manageable for authorities. Administer strict punishment and fines wherever possible when bird traffickers and suppliers are caught.

On May 26, 2020, Quan Son district Economic Police stopped a motorbike and seized five frozen masked palm civets (*Paguma larvata*). The civets were subsequently destroyed. The police fined the subject VND 7.5 million (Case ref. 16706/ENV).

THUA THIEN HUE

On April 10, 2020, Bac Hai Van Forest Management Board seized a live serow, which was captured and being transported by two subjects. The subjects reportedly managed to escape, and the serow was subsequently released back into nature (Case ref. 16268/ENV).

Bird hunter nabbed by rangers on patrol

On May 8, 2020, during a routine patrol, Phu Loc District FPD seized 20 live mountain imperial pigeons (*Ducula badia griseicapilla*) which had been hunted by a local man. The wild birds were later released back into nature. The subject was administratively fined VND 5 million (Case ref. 16501/ENV).

On May 20, 2020, Phu Loc District FPD received a great hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*) from a local man who had previously contacted the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline expressing his desire to turn over the hornbill, which he claimed to have found in his garden. The hornbill was later released at Bach Ma National Park (Case ref. 16585/ENV).

On June 12, 2020, A Luoi District FPD in cooperation with A Luoi District Police seized three frozen red-shanked douc langurs (*Pygathrix nemaeus*), two of which had been cut up. One subject was arrested and faces prosecution (Case ref. 16779/ENV).

TUYEN QUANG

On March 26, 2020, Na Hang District FPD, in cooperation with Na Hang District Police, stopped a car and seized a live cobra at a quarantine station. The subject confessed that he bought the cobra to make medicine for his father. The cobra was released into a special use forest in Na Hang District and the subject was administratively fined VND 20 million (Case ref. 16170/ENV).

On March 31, 2020, after receiving a tip-off from public, Na Hang District Police in cooperation with Na Hang District FPD checked a subject's home and seized a live macaque and 12 bamboo rats. The wildlife was subsequently released into Phieng Bung Forest in Na Hang District. The subject was administratively fined VND 10 million (Case ref. 16236/ENV).

VINH PHUC

On May 12, 2020, two Asiatic black bears (*Ursus thibetanus*) being kept by a resident in Vinh Yen City were voluntarily transferred to the Tam Dao bear sanctuary operated by AAF (Case ref. 14379/ENV).

**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**





PROSECUTION RESULTS

BA RIA - VUNG TAU

Local marine turtle egg trafficker imprisoned

On April 16, 2019, Con Dao National Park FPD and Con Dao District Police seized 60 green sea turtle eggs (*Chelonia mydas*) and body parts, including flippers, organs, and meat, of both green sea turtle and olive ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*). The seizure occurred at the home of a known marine turtle egg trafficker who fled and remained in hiding while his wife was sentenced to 2 years in prison in 2019 but given a suspended sentence. Her husband was subsequently caught by police and prosecuted.

On January 2, 2020, the marine turtle trafficker was convicted by a Con Dao District Court and sentenced to a prison term of three years and six months after being caught on October 8, 2019 (Case ref. 14187/ENV).



BAC KAN

Reptile smuggler gets three years in prison

On July 24, 2019, Bac Kan Environment Police seized 10 king cobras (*Ophiophagus Hannah*), 17 kg of Chinese cobras (*Naja atra*), 27 kg of Indochinese rat snakes (*Ptyas korros*), 8 kg of banded kraits (*Bungarus fasciatus*), seven keeled box turtles (*Cuora mouhotii*), a black-breasted leaf turtle (*Geoemyda spengleri*), and three tockays (*Gekko gekko*) from a wildlife trader's house in Ba Be district. All of the wildlife was later transferred to Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center.

On February 26, 2020, the subject was convicted by the Bac Kan Provincial Court and sentenced to a prison term of 3 years and fined VND 30 million (Case ref. 14733/ENV).

Five years for pangolin trafficker

On December 17, 2019, Bac Kan FPD in cooperation with Bac Kan Traffic Police seized six frozen Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*) from a passenger bus. The owner of the shipment originated from Quynh Luu district in Nghe An province – a hotspot for wildlife trafficking.

On June 24, 2020, the subject was convicted by Bac Kan Provincial Court and sentenced to a prison term of five years. The dead pangolins were destroyed (Case ref. 15616/ENV).

BINH PHUOC

Ivory trafficker gets 12 years in Binh Phuoc

On November 14, 2018, Hon Quan District Police stopped a car and seized 26 pieces of African elephant ivory (*Loxodonta Africana*) weighing 190.2 kg. Two subjects were arrested, however, only one was prosecuted.

On February 12, 2020, the People's Court of Binh Phuoc province maintains a 12-year prison sentence for the subject under the first-instance criminal sentence of October 15, 2019 by the People's Court of Hon Quan district. The ivory was destroyed (Case ref. 16092/ENV).

CA MAU

Pangolin trafficker gets 13 years, accomplices get 2-12 years

On January 20, 2018, Dat Mui Border Security checked an unregistered fishing boat and discovered 35 crates containing 114 Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*), weighing a total of 786.5 kg. In addition, 301 kg of Sunda pangolin scales in 15 styrofoam boxes were found on the boat as well. At the time of the seizure, the boat was making its way from the open ocean to a canal in Dat Mui district in Ca Mau province.

There were seven men aboard the boat at the time of the seizure, and all of them stated that the pangolins and scales belonged to a man on Hon Khoai Island. According to their testimony, the owner hired the crew to transport the pangolins and scales from the island to the mainland, where they would be met by a truck to receive and transport the pangolins onward. The authorities suspected that the pangolins were not sourced from Vietnam. For the disposition, the live pangolins were transferred to Cuc Phuong National Park.

“MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF
CRIMINALS TODAY TO PREVENT
CRIME TOMORROW”

From May 12 to May 13, 2020, the owner of the pangolins, a Forest Protection Department ranger, and two other suspects were convicted by Ca Mau Provincial Court and sentenced to: 13 years in prison and a hefty VND 100 million fine for the owner of the shipment, a 12-year sentence and a VND 50 million fine for one accomplice, and a 10-year sentence for the second accomplice. The forest ranger was sentenced to two years in prison for “commission of fraud in the performance of duties” (Case ref. 12010/ENV).

DONG NAI

Online otter trader gets 18 month prison sentence

On September 7, 2019, Xuan Loc District Police, in cooperation with ENV, conducted a sting operation and confiscated two juvenile Asian small-clawed otters (*Aonyx cinereus*). The otters had been advertised for sale on Facebook for VND 9 million a pair. ENV worked with district police, posing as buyers, and arranged a meet resulting in the successful confiscation. The otters were later transferred to Cat Tien National Park.

On January 15, 2020, subject was convicted by Xuan Loc District Court and sentenced to a prison term of one year six months (Case ref. 14841/ENV).

Hunters in Cat Tien get three to five years for illegal hunting in national park

On October 5, 2019, during a routine patrol, Cat Tien National Park FPD arrested four hunters in possession of a king cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*), a large-toothed ferret badger (*Melogale personata*), a crab-eating mongoose (*Herpestes urva*), a small Asian mongoose (*Herpestes javanicus auropunctatus*) and 16 lesser Malay mouse-deer (*Tragulus javanicus*). One of the hunters had previously been administratively fined VND 8 million for illegal forest exploitation. The live animals were released to Cat Tien National Park and the dead wildlife was destroyed.

On May 20, 2020, the four hunters were convicted by Tan Phu District Court and sentenced to prison terms between three and five years. (Case ref. 15255/ENV).

HA TINH

Pangolin traffickers get sentences ranging from 30 months to eight years in prison

On January 16, 2019, National Economic Police, in cooperation with Huong Son District Police, raided a home in Huong Son district of Ha Tinh and discovered 215 Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*) in the possession of the owner. Twelve people were arrested in connection with the case, and a search of a second home resulted in the discovery of a small quantity of ivory as well.

The pangolins were reportedly smuggled into Vietnam from Laos. At the time of the seizure, only 167 of the 215 pangolins were alive. The surviving pangolins were subsequently transferred to the Carnivore and Pangolin Rescue Center of Cuc Phuong National Park.

On January 14, 2020, 12 subjects were convicted by Huong Son District Court. Two subjects were sentenced to 8 years in prison and each fined VND 70 million. Another subject was sentenced 2 years 9 months in prison and fined VND 60 million. Two other subjects were sentenced 2 years 6 months in prison and were each fined VND 50 million. The seven remaining subjects were each sentenced 2 years in prison (Case ref. 13840/ENV).



Note: The head of the trafficking network received only a 33 month prison sentence in this case. It is ENV's position that this individual should receive the maximum sentence allowed under the law for his role as a wildlife trafficker, 15 years in prison. The case is currently being appealed on the grounds that punishment was not suitable in proportion to the crime for that individual.

Cau Treo pangolin smugglers sentenced to four and a half and five years in prison

On July 29, 2019, Ha Tinh Economic Police, in cooperation with Huong Son District Police, seized 30 live Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*) from a bus that had come through the Cau Treo Border Gate from Laos, headed to Tay Son town. Two days later, 17 additional frozen pangolins were discovered hidden in the same bus in an impound area.

On February 28 and March 3, 2020, two subjects were convicted by the Huong Son District Court. One subject was sentenced to five years in prison while the second received four years and six months (Case ref. 14756/ENV).

12-month sentence in bear taxi case

On December 10, 2019, Ha Tinh Environment Police in cooperation with Ha Tinh FPD and Can Loc District Police seized an illegal Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) weighing 140 kg that was being transported by taxi from Ha Tinh to Nghe An province. Police arrested one subject in the case, and the bear was subsequently turned over to BEAR SANCTUARY Ninh Binh operated by FOUR PAWS International.

On May 6, 2020, the driver was convicted by Can Loc District Court and sentenced to a prison term of 12 months (Case ref. 15570/ENV).

HANOI

Hanoi ivory traffickers go to prison for 10 and 12 year terms

On June 27, 2019, Hanoi Environment Police and Hai Ba Trung District Police arrested a Ha Tinh man transporting 109.3 kg of ivory in Hai Ba Trung district. Following the initial seizure, police inspected a residence and recovered another 98 kg of ivory, resulting in a total of 207.3 kg of ivory. Two other subjects involved in illegal ivory was arrested.

In January 16, 2020, three subjects were convicted by the Hai Ba Trung District Court. Two of the subjects were sentenced to 12 years in prison, and the third subject received a 10 year prison sentence. However, one of the subjects who received a 12 year prison sentence appealed her punishment to Hanoi Court in March 2020 and successfully reduced her sentence to 10 years imprisonment. Punishment remains the same for the other two subjects. (Case ref. 14581/ENV).



Three years for loris smuggler in Hanoi

On September 2, 2018, Hanoi Environment Police arrested a Binh Dinh man and seized three lorises, two impressed tortoises (*Manouria impressa*), and a gray-cheeked flying squirrel (*Hylopetes lepidus*) at the Hanoi railway station. The animals were originally loaded onto the train in Binh Dinh province. They were later transferred to the Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources (IEBR).

On January 15, 2020 the subject was convicted by Hai Ba Trung District Court and sentenced to a prison term of 36 months (Case ref. 13231/ENV).

25 month sentence given to tiger smuggler in Hanoi

On September 20, 2019, Hoan Kiem Economic Police seized a frozen tiger cub weighing 6 kg from a man who claimed that he had been hired to transport the tiger to an undisclosed location. According to the police, the tiger was sourced from Laos. The tiger was subsequently transferred to the Vietnam National Museum of Nature.

On January 20, 2020, the subject was convicted by Hoan Kiem District Court and sentenced to a prison term of 25 months (Case ref. 15011/ENV).



Golden cat smuggler gets three years

On October 3, 2019, Mobile Ranger Team and Forest Fire Prevention and Fighting Team 3, in cooperation with Hang Bai Ward Police, seized a live Asian golden cat (*Catopuma temminckii*) from a resident's home in Hoan Kiem district. The golden cat was subsequently transferred to Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center.

On January 15, 2020, the subject was convicted by Hoan Kiem District Court and sentenced to a prison term of three years (Case ref. 15233/ENV).

Rhino horn and ivory traffickers sentenced to prison terms of 30 months to five years

On August 20, 2019, Hanoi Environment Police, in cooperation with Hanoi Investigation Police, seized nearly a kilogram of rhino horn and just under 30 kg of ivory. Following an initial seizure at a bus cargo storage area, police then inspected the home of one of the subjects where additional rhino horn and ivory were found. Five subjects were arrested in all.

On February 14, 2020, all five subjects were convicted by a Hanoi Court of wildlife trafficking. Four of the individuals received prison terms ranging from 30 months to 5 years while the fifth subject received a 30 month suspended sentence and five years of probation (Case ref. 14889/ENV).



Hanoi Court rejects appeal of rhino horn traffickers- both will stay in prison

On June 6, 2019, Nam Tu Liem District Police confiscated six ivory statues weighing 4.44 kg during a sting operation undertaken in cooperation with ENV. The carved statues were advertised for sale on Facebook for VND 178 million. ENV worked with police to set up a buy during which the ivory was seized and two subjects were arrested. Both subjects were prosecuted and sentenced to 18 and 24 months in prison respectively. The case first developed in December 2018 following the seizure of 32 kg of rhino horns at Ankara International Airport in Turkey. In that case, the horns were discovered in the unclaimed luggage belonging to the subject. Thanks to the cooperation of an international law enforcement agency, ENV was able to work with Vietnamese law enforcement to positively identify the subject. The sting operation was planned after the subject posted advertisements for ivory on his social media. The second subject arrested in the sting was reportedly the supplier.

On October 17, 2019, both subjects were sentenced by the Nam Tu Liem District Court to 24 months imprisonment and 18 months imprisonment respectively. The confiscated ivory was subsequently destroyed. However, both subjects later appealed to a higher court.

On February 20, 2020, Hanoi City Court opened the appeal trial and rejected the appeal upholding the sentence as issued on October 17, 2019 (Case ref. 14294/ENV).



Rhino horn smuggler gets five years

On November 7, 2019, the Control Customs of Noi Bai Customs and Imported luggage of Noi Bai Customs in cooperation with Hanoi Economic Police and Hanoi Anti-Smuggling Police seized 1.865 kg of black rhino (*Diceros bicornis*) horns in the carry-on luggage of a passenger on a flight originating from Angola.

On June 1, 2020, the subject was convicted by a Hanoi Court and sentenced to a prison term of five years. The rhino horns were destroyed (Case ref. 15293/ENV).

Peacock trafficker gets 3 years

On August 15, 2019, Nam Tu Liem Economic and Environment Police seized eight grey peacock pheasants (*Polyplectron bicalcaratum*) from a bus that originated from Dien Bien at My Dinh bus station. The pheasants were transferred to Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center. The driver's assistant confessed that he was hired to transport the wildlife. The owner of the shipment was later identified and arrested.

On June 16, 2020, the owner of the shipment was convicted by Nam Tu Liem District Court and sentenced to a prison term of 36 months (Case ref. 14840/ENV).

Nhi Khe ivory traders go to prison

On December 16, 2019, Hanoi Environment Police arrested two Nhi Khe residents after discovering around 36 kg of ivory in their homes. Nhi Khe Village of Thuong Tin district is known as a hotspot for ivory and rhino horn trade in Hanoi.

In June 2020, both owners were convicted by a Hanoi Court and sentenced to 20 and 24 months in prison respectively. The ivory was to be destroyed (Case ref. 15622/15678/ENV).

HO CHI MINH

Five-year sentence for ivory smuggler shipping contraband hidden with lobsters

On April 11, 2019, Customs at Tan Son Nhat International Airport discovered 9.52 kg of African elephant ivory (*Loxodonta africana*) in the luggage of a male passenger that had arrived on a flight from Dubai. The contraband was painted black, wrapped in foil, and hidden in a box with lobsters and dried fish to avoid inspection.

On May 21, 2020, the subject was convicted by Tan Binh District Court and sentenced to a prison term of five years. The ivory was subsequently destroyed (Case ref. 14220/ENV).



KIEN GIANG

U Minh Thuong District Court sets example; Pangolin hunters sentenced to 2-3 years in prison

On March 17, 2019, U Minh Thuong National Park FPD arrested four hunters found in possession of a pangolin.

On October 29, 2019, two of the hunters were convicted by the U Minh Thuong District Court and sentenced to a prison term of two years and three years respectively. The other two hunters were given administrative punishment (*Case ref. 16113/ENV*).

Two to five years for pangolin hunters in Kien Giang

On December 2, 2019, while patrolling in U Minh Thuong National Park (NP), U Minh Thuong NP FPD seized a live Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*), weighing 2.58 kg and with an injured back leg, and arrested four subjects. The pangolin was later released into U Minh Thuong NP.

On June 23, 2020, four subjects were convicted by U Minh Thuong District Court and sentenced to prison terms ranging between two and five years in prison. One subject in particular had previously been charged with pangolin hunting and appealed the case, but in this instance, was caught red-handed during the time of the appeal, leading to a three year prison sentence. (*Case ref. 16105/ENV*).



LAI CHAU

On October 17, 2019, Muong Te District Police in cooperation with Muong Te district FPD seized a live Chinese pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) from a man shortly after he purchased the animal from a third party.

On May 18, 2020, the man was convicted by Muong Te District Court and sentenced to a prison term of one year (*Case ref. 16841/ENV*).

LAM DONG

On December 20, 2019, Duc Trong District Police checked a resident's home and seized two frozen black-shanked douc langurs (*Pygathrix nigripes*) which were being kept in a freezer. The owner of the home was arrested and the langurs were subsequently destroyed.

On May 27, 2020, the subject was convicted by Duc Trong District Court and sentenced to a prison term of 12 months (*Case ref. 15650/ENV*).

LANG SON

Lang Son court issues 10-year sentence in langur case

On September 1, 2019, Lang Son Traffic Police in cooperation with Van Quan District Police stopped a passenger bus and seized 21 dried black-shanked douc langurs (*Pygathrix nigripes*) hidden in three jute bags. The langurs were later destroyed.

On March 12, 2020, the subject was sentenced to 10 years in prison by Van Quan District Court (*Case ref. 16431/ENV*).

NGHE AN

Nghe An tiger "kingpin" sentenced to six years in prison for trafficking tigers

On July 23, 2019, Hanoi Anti-Smuggling Police arrested three subjects and confiscated seven frozen tiger cubs (*Panthera tigris*). The tigers were recovered from a bag inside a car in the basement of a building in Hanoi. One of the three subjects was a known tiger trafficker, reportedly an investor in a Laotian tiger farm. The seven frozen tiger cubs were transferred to the Vietnam National Museum of Nature and then destroyed.

On January 15, 2020, the tiger trafficker and two accomplices were convicted by Hanoi Court. The trafficker received six years in prison and the accomplices received five years each (*Case ref. 14721/ENV*).



QUANG BINH

Firework and wildlife trafficker gets five years six months

On November 17, 2019, Minh Hoa District Police confiscated 12 boxes of fireworks as they were being transported in the district. A subsequent check of the subject's home resulted in the discovery of an additional 15 kg of fireworks as well as a large quantity of dead wildlife, most of which is currently unidentified. Nine live king cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*), a keeled box turtle (*Cuora mouhotii*), a Hatinh Langur (*Trachypithecus hatinhensis*), two Pygmy Slow Loris (*Nycticebus pygmaeus*) and a macaque (*Macaca sp.*) were also confiscated. The live animals were transferred to Phong Nha Ke Bang National Park.

On March 17, 2020, the subject was convicted by the Minh Hoa District Court and sentenced to a prison term of five years and six months for possessing critically endangered species and transporting fireworks. Additionally, the subject also received an administrative fine of VND 15 million for possessing species under Group IIB of Degree 06 (Case ref. 15388/ENV).

QUANG NAM

Seven months for transporting pangolins

On June 9, 2019, Nam Giang District Police and Song Thanh FPD stopped a motorbike driven by a local woman and confiscated one live and one dead Chinese pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*).

On January 8, 2020, the woman was convicted by the Nam Giang District Court and sentenced to 7 months 3 days imprisonment (Case ref. 14535/ENV).

Quang Nam commercial wildlife farmer and trafficker gets 5 years

On May 8, 2018, Quang Nam Environment Police checked a licensed commercial wildlife farm and seized a large quantity of wildlife, including 294 tortoises and freshwater turtles weighing a total of 214 kg.

The species included Indochinese box turtles (*Cuora bourreti*), Keeled box turtles (*Cuora mouhotii*), big-headed turtles (*Platysternon megacephalum*), as well as other turtle species; 48 kg of snakes, including 28 kg of king cobras (*Ophiophagus hannah*) and 20 kg of other species; 12 clouded monitors (*Varanus bengalensis*); and one common palm civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*).

According to police, the subject was previously administratively fined VND 55 million in 2013 for the illegal possession of snakes.

All of the snakes were transferred to Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center, while the turtles were transferred to the Turtle Conservation Center at Cuc Phuong National Park. The clouded monitors and the civet were subsequently released at Song Thanh Nature Reserve.

On December 24, 2019, the owner of the commercial farm was convicted by Thang Binh District Court and sentenced to 24 months in prison and an additional fine of VND 60 million.

On May 12, 2020, after an appeal of the first conviction, the subject was retried and convicted by Quang Nam Court and sentenced to a prison term of five years (Case ref. 12575/ENV).



One pangolin will get you a year in prison

On October 23, 2019, Quang Nam Police seized a dead Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*) from a local trader in Dai Loc district. One subject was arrested.

On June 12, 2020, the subject was convicted by Nam Giang District Court and sentenced to a prison term of one year (Case ref. 15212/ENV).

QUANG NINH

Rhino horn traffickers sentenced to six and seven years in Quang Ninh

On May 30, 2019, National Criminal Police (C02), in cooperation with Quang Ninh Provincial Police, seized two white rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum*) horns weighing 6.9 kg from a home in Mong Cai. The subject was a woman who lived in Mong Cai but originated from Hai Phong. During the subsequent investigation, two more subjects were arrested.

On January 10, 2020, the three subjects were convicted by Quang Ninh Provincial Court. Two of the subjects were sentenced to a prison term of six years and seven years respectively, while the third subject received a three year suspended sentence (Case ref. 14460/ENV).

QUANG TRI

6.5 years for pangolin trafficking

On December 17, 2019, Da Krong District Police in cooperation with Cam Lo District Police checked a car and seized nine live Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*). The pangolins were subsequently transferred to the Small Carnivore and Pangolin Rescue Center at Cuc Phuong National Park.

On May 5, 2020, the subject was convicted by Cam Lo District Court and sentenced to a prison term of six years and six months, and was fined VND 50 million (Case ref. 15619/ENV).

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

THAI NGUYEN

Thai Nguyen wildlife farmer with illegal bears and tiger goes to prison for 30 months

On May 14, 2019, Thai Nguyen Provincial Environment Police, city police, and FPD checked a registered bear farm in Thai Nguyen City and discovered a large quantity of illegal wildlife including an adult frozen tiger, a frozen Asian golden cat painted to look like a tiger, two live unregistered and illegal bears, two tiger skins, five bear paws, three macaques, 19 turtles, in addition to a quantity of turtle shells and plastrons. The bears and other living wildlife were transferred to Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center while the dead animals and parts were transferred to local FPD.

On January 16, 2020, the owner was convicted by Thai Nguyen City Court and sentenced to a prison term of 2 years and 6 months and fined VND 50 million (Case ref. 14306/ENV).

THANH HOA

Endangered turtle trader gets 18 months in Thanh Hoa

On June 5, 2019, Quan Son District Economic and Environment Police stopped a motorbike and discovered seven live big-headed turtles (*Platysternon megacephalum*), a live Indochinese box turtle (*Cuora galbinifrons*), one frozen masked palm civet (*Paguma larvata*), and 0.7 kg of pangolin scales. The live turtles were transferred to the Turtle Conservation Center at Cuc Phuong National Park. The dead animals were destroyed.

On January 15, 2020, the subject was convicted by the Quan Son District Court and sentenced to a prison term of 18 months (Case ref. 14429/ENV).

Three years given to online bear paw wine supplier

On August 14, 2018, ENV discovered a Facebook advertisement selling a jar of bear paw wine. ENV followed up with further investigation and worked with Ba Thuoc District Environment Police to set up a sting operation. As a result, on September 6, 2018, a wine jar containing two bear paws was confiscated by police and one subject was arrested.

On February 24, 2020, the subject was convicted by the Ba Thuoc District Court and sentenced to a prison term of three years (Case ref. 13115/ENV).



Note: Selling bear paw wine is a criminal offense subject to prosecution. Bears paws are removed from bears after they are slaughtered, and therefore selling bear paw wine involves killing a bear to produce the product. ENV urges other provinces to take bear paw cases seriously in order to deter crime as demonstrated by the Ba Thuoc Environment Police, the prosecutor, and the Ba Thuoc District Court.

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



FACEBOOK FACES WILDLIFE CRIME HEAD-ON

Multiple wildlife trade groups deactivated by Facebook (FB)

On March 3, 2020, Facebook responded to ENV's crime report and deactivated the FB of a wildlife trade group called "Squirrel, macaque, bird trade group in the Highland Center". (Case ref. 15962/ENV).

On April 21, 2020, Facebook deactivated the account of a group called "Keeping, protecting, and caring for pets in Vietnam." The site, first reported by a member of the public to ENV, was comprised of members actively engaged in advertising and selling wildlife (Case ref. 15950/ENV).

On April 28, 2020, responding to a report from ENV, Facebook deactivated a wildlife trade group called "For love and conservation of baby macaques group." (Case ref. 16337/ENV).

These cases are among the many Facebook groups, pages, and private accounts that have been deactivated by Facebook for advertising and selling wildlife.

Online wildlife trade group shut down

On May 5, 2020, responding to a report from ENV, Facebook removed all 287 violation links on the infamous wildlife trader Facebook group called "The Brothers from Three Region Network." This Facebook group included many members who were major online suppliers advertising wildlife or wildlife products. The group ceased to publicly operate after 2018, following the arrest of several of its members. Wildlife products that had been advertised through the group included carved ivory products, rhino horn, tiger products, and bear products, and pangolin scales, amongst many other species and products (Case ref. 15607/ENV).

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 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.

Finally, ENV would like to thank the authorities for providing information and images used in this Wildlife Crime Bulletin.

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



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