

# WILDLIFE CRIME BULLETIN

**env**  
ACTION AGAINST EXTINCTION

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02

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## SPOTLIGHT





## A BLEMISH AMIDST PROGRESS: LACK OF ARRESTS AND PROSECUTIONS FOLLOWING MAJOR SEIZURES AT OUR PORTS

**W**hile Vietnam has shown substantial progress in tackling illegal wildlife trafficking over the past few years, including the prosecution of a number of senior leaders of trafficking networks, the lack of arrests and prosecutions from major port seizures casts a shadow over Vietnam's otherwise outstanding progress in counter-wildlife trafficking.

An assessment of major seizures at Vietnam's ports since 2018, which together amount to just over 15 tonnes of ivory and over 36 tonnes of pangolin scales, show that **NONE** of these major seizures resulted in arrests and prosecutions. As one might suspect, these 12 major seizures at ports are shipments of high value wildlife into Vietnam by major transnational criminal networks operating within our borders.

This serious gap in Vietnam's counter-wildlife trafficking efforts highlights the need to place greater emphasis on investigating port seizure cases and identifying the criminal networks that own these shipments.

Energy and resources need to be invested to collect evidence associated with these major seizures, including tracing financial transactions by consignees and consignors, seizing and searching telephone and electronic communications, cooperating with source country law enforcement investigators, and utilizing informants. Investigations need to focus on identifying the owners, leading to the arrest, prosecution, and imprisonment of senior leaders of these major transnational criminal enterprises that are smuggling tonnes of ivory and pangolin scales into Vietnam each year.

Law enforcement must also consider the use of money laundering laws, tax evasion laws, and laws prohibiting the operation of criminal enterprises to aid in targeting and eliminating major Vietnamese-led transnational wildlife trafficking networks. The objective is to secure arrests and put major traffickers in prison, and this can be achieved by applying many types of laws, not just wildlife protection laws.

Vietnam does not need to be a transit country for major wildlife trafficking shipments, nor a consumer country for ivory or rhino horn demand. It takes but a flick of a pen and a little determination to make a difference and end Vietnam's role in the ivory, pangolin scale, and rhino horn trafficking chain.

Vietnam has done so well on all other fronts in the war on wildlife trafficking. Frontline police are routinely scoring successes, while prosecutors and courts are setting unprecedented positive examples in dealing with wildlife criminals. And yet, the very largest traffickers, who ship tonnes of elephant ivory, pangolin scales, and rhino horn into Vietnam have been, at best, taxed by the loss of a few shipments. Their lives and the riches they have amassed by engaging in criminal activities are seemingly beyond the reach of authorities and the scope of their attention.

It's time to put them out of business, and it starts in the ports where they smuggle their illegal goods into Vietnam.

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



# Prosecution Review: WILDLIFE CRIMES FROM 2015-2020

Vietnam's revised Penal Code came into effect in January 2018, stipulating much tougher punishments for wildlife crime and widely believed to be sufficiently effective in deterring crime if applied universally. A closer look into the data three years after the Penal Code came into force shows that law enforcement agencies are taking a more serious stance on addressing wildlife crime, and most courts are taking a much stricter approach towards deterring wildlife crime by issuing longer prison sentences to subjects convicted of serious wildlife crimes.

The following figures reflect the performance of the criminal justice system in Vietnam regarding wildlife trafficking cases, and have been collected from ENV's Wildlife Crime Incident Tracking Database for all known trafficking cases that occurred during the given years. In each case, ENV maintains communications with police, prosecutors, and the courts to confirm the final outcome.

## Criminal trafficking cases and arrests

Table 1: Arrests and prosecutions of wildlife trafficking cases in Vietnam [by incident date]

	2015	2016	2017	Revised Penal Code in effect	2018	2019	2020
<b>Criminal trafficking cases</b>	91	83	94		117	146	111
<b>Cases with arrests</b>	80	72	80		103	127	105
<b>Percentage of criminal cases with arrests</b>	87.9%	86.7%	85.1%		88%	87%	94.6%
<b>Number of subjects arrested</b>	125	122	134		174	220	149
<b>Number of cases prosecuted</b>	53	54	55		87	110	63
<b>Percentage of criminal cases prosecuted</b>	66.3%	75%	68.8%		84.5%	86.6%	* 60%

\* 2020 prosecution/conviction data does not reflect the results of 42 cases that are currently pending prosecution.

## Prosecution outcomes

Table 2: Court performance summary [by verdict date]

Year	Prosecutions	Cases resulting in prison sentences	% Cases resulting in prison sentences	No. of subjects sentenced to prison	Average prison term
<b>2015</b>	24	11	45.8%	15	0.98 years
<b>2016</b>	54	19	35.2%	22	1.55 years
<b>2017</b>	64	19	29.7%	27	1.21 years
Revised Penal Code in effect					
<b>2018</b>	60	27	45%	35	3.22 years
<b>2019</b>	90	45	50%	80	4.5 years
<b>2020</b>	122	62	50.8%	99	4.38 years

To learn more about ENV's wildlife criminal prosecution review and analysis, you can find the full electronic version of ENV's report here: <https://tinyurl.com/prosecution2020ENV>.

Although there are many obstacles ahead, Vietnam can take pride in the level of accomplishment that has been achieved in the fight against wildlife trafficking over the past three years. ENV believes Vietnam will be able to get the problem under control as long as we can maintain the high risk of arrest, prosecution, and imprisonment for wildlife traders. With continued support from the highest levels of government, combined with strategically focused and aggressive front-line efforts by law enforcement, prosecutors, and the courts, victory is within reach.

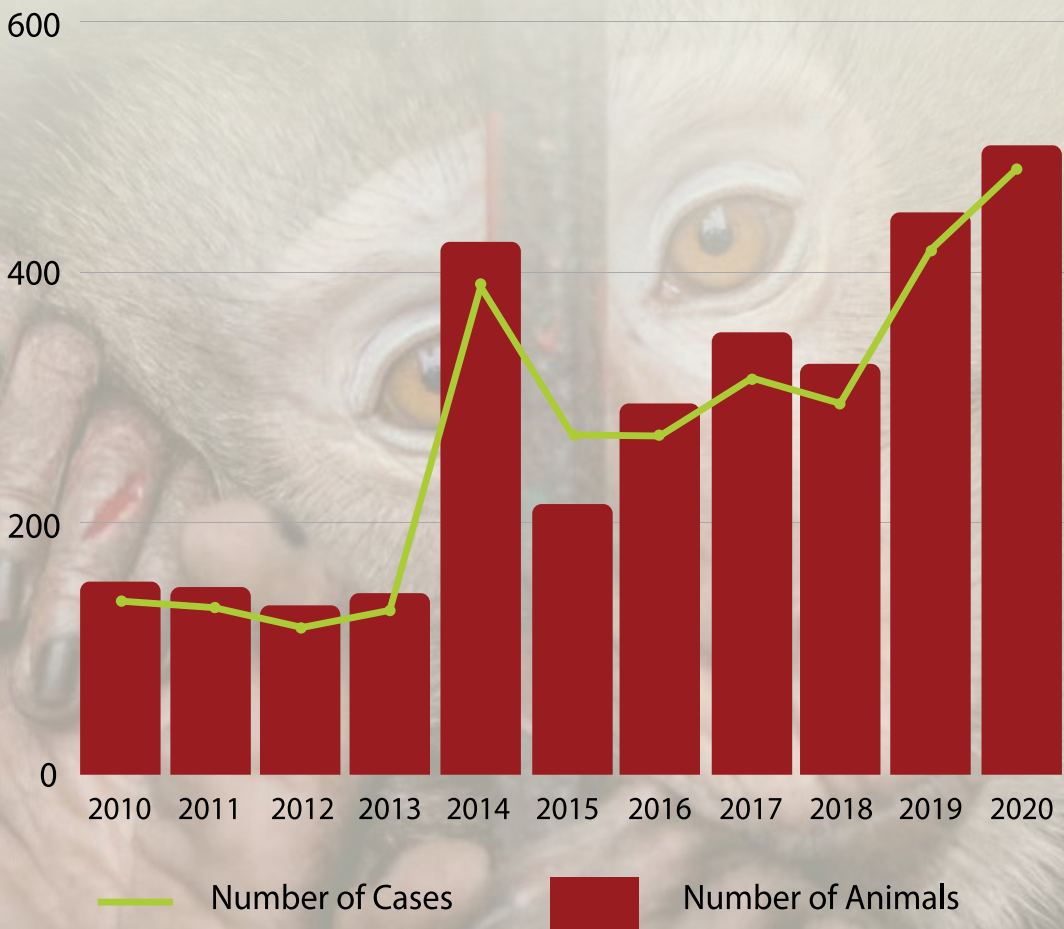
# MACAQUES ARE NOT PETS



All five species of macaque that are native to Vietnam are protected under Group IIB of Decree 06 (2019) which prohibits buying, selling, advertising, trading, or possession of a macaque without a permit issued by the Forest Protection Department. Illegal possession or other violations relating to macaques are punishable by administrative fine or the Penal Code, with punishments ranging from fines up to VND 300,000,000 or 12 years in prison, depending on the monetary value of the confiscated macaques. Advertising these species can also be fined from VND 1,000,000 to VND 1,500,000.

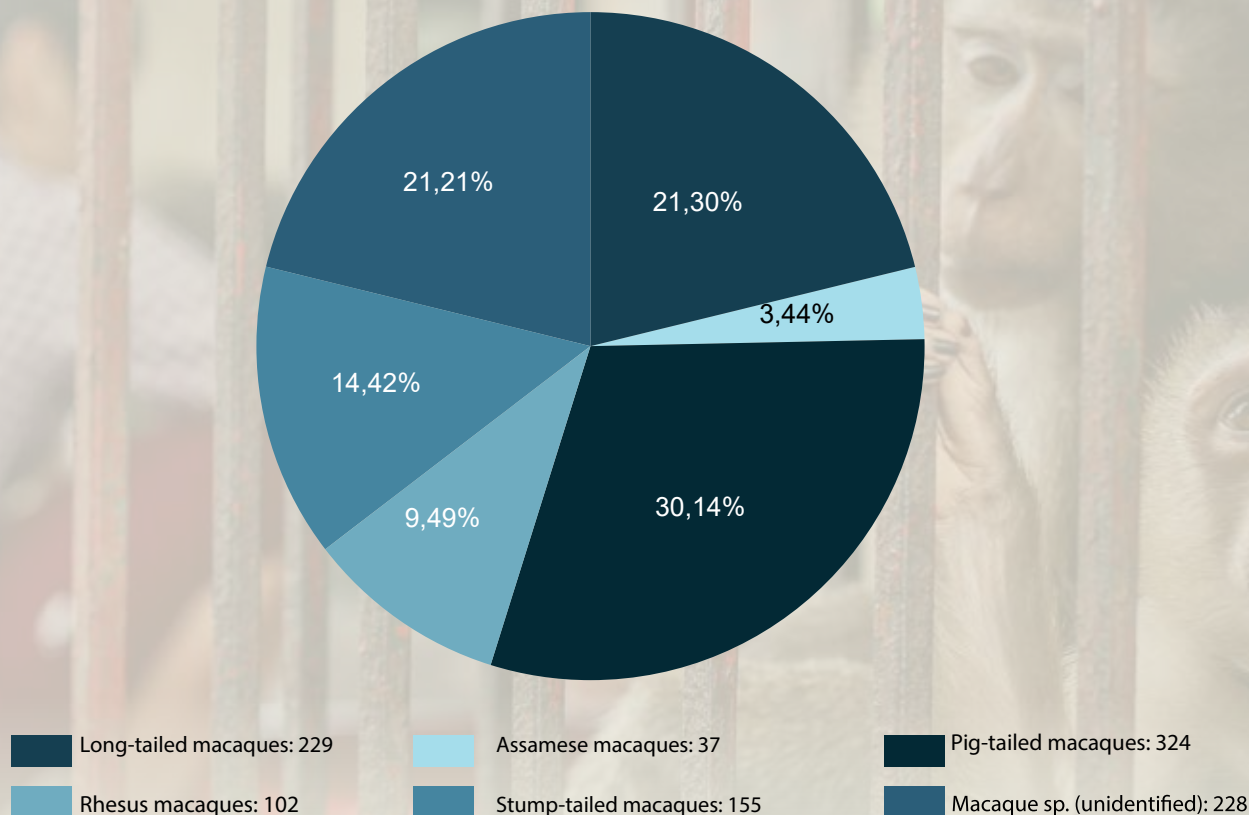
Over the past 10 years, ENV’s Wildlife Crime Unit has received increasingly widespread reports of the sale, advertisement, and possession of macaques as pets. ENV’s Wildlife Crime Incident Tracking Database indicates that from January 2010 to December 31, 2020 ENV logged 2,965 macaque cases, comprised of 3,261 individual violations. Of those cases, 2,353 cases involved possession or sale of 2,545 live macaques. Of the 2,353 possession or sale cases, 766 resulted in the successful confiscation or transfer of 1,059 macaques.

**MACAQUE CASES REPORTED TO ENV**  
*By year and number of animals, January 2010 - December 2020*



## MACAQUES ADVERTISED AND KEPT IN VIETNAM

*By species and amount of cases, January 2010 - December 2020*



*This chart ONLY reflects confiscations and transfer from possession and selling advertising cases. It does not include smuggling cases*

Responding to reports of macaque violations on a case-by-case basis is rapidly becoming a burden for law enforcement. When confiscating macaques, one of the most pressing challenges for authorities is what to do with the animal once it is confiscated. In most cases, releasing the animals back into nature is not an ideal option, considering that a proper release would require extensive planning, careful site selection, health screening, and monitoring post-release to increase the chances of an animal's survival in the wild after a stint in captivity. However, due to lack of resources and facilities, release of macaques into nature continues to be the most common response.

To effectively resolve the problem of macaque exploitation and stop overwhelming wildlife rescue facilities with confiscated macaques, the most viable option is to reduce the number of macaque crimes by strengthening law enforcement and deterring citizens from keeping macaques in the first place.

To succeed in this endeavor, ENV encourages law enforcement agencies to respond to **all** macaque possession crimes in a prompt manner, then to confiscate macaques when found, and **STRICTLY** punish violators in accordance with the law. Through continued law enforcement action, combined with increased awareness, macaque possession can be deterred and reduced.

As deterrence gains strength, the idea of keeping a macaque or any other wild animal as a pet will increasingly be recognized as an inappropriate and illegal behavior.

It's also worth mentioning the need to reduce and eliminate the *legal* possession of macaques with valid papers, thereby also preventing visible possession of wildlife that stimulates the desire for others to keep macaques as well. Eradicating legal possession of macaques will reduce consumer demand for macaques as pets. Under no circumstance should FPD issue permits to private citizens to keep macaques. Legal possession only complicates enforcement and promotes more illegal trade.

Macaques are not pets. They are wild animals. They do not belong in clothes or at the dinner table.

They are wild animals that belong in nature. Moreover, macaques can carry diseases such as hepatitis, SARS, and other infectious viruses harmful to humans. FPD should live by the motto:

**“IF YOU WANT A PET,  
GET A DOG OR A CAT.”**



# ENDING BEAR FARMING IN VIETNAM

## 2020's Progress and 2021's Challenges

**D**espite many challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, the end of bear farming in Vietnam is now firmly in sight with efforts to eliminate bear bile farming progressing along steadily through the year.

In 2020, 22 bears were voluntarily transferred to bear sanctuaries and rescue centers, while 10 illegal bears were discovered and confiscated by authorities. By the end of 2020, 376 bears remained on bile farms in Vietnam, a reduction of 91.3% from the >4,300 bears registered on farms in 2005. Moreover, as of today, 40 provinces in Vietnam can now declare themselves "bear bile farm free," having actively encouraged the transfer of their last bile bears and ridding their province of this illegal form of wildlife trafficking.

Despite the encouraging progress seen throughout 2020, however, there is still more work that needs to be done to ensure the remaining bears are moved to sanctuaries and rescue centers, and that bear bile farming is totally eradicated in Vietnam.

This will only be achieved if the current momentum is continued and decisive action is taken, especially in hotspots like Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh – the country's two biggest and most developed cities.

While the rest of the country moves forward, it is embarrassing to say that Hanoi has made little progress in recent years and still holds almost half of the country's captive bile bears, with 159 bile bears remaining on 30 farms, mostly in the nation's bear farming hotspot of Phuc Tho district. ENV strongly believes that as the

nation's capital, Hanoi should always set an example for the rest of the country. How Hanoi performs in critical situations reflects Vietnam's image, both nationally and internationally. Earning the title of bear bile capital of Vietnam is not a label that reflects the pride of our CAPITAL city.

Unfortunately, Ho Chi Minh City ranks second highest in terms of number of bears kept on bear bile farms, with 25 bears being kept by six farmers. Until mid-2021, one Ho Chi Minh City bear farmer had alone been keeping 16 bears, most of whom were identified as some of the worst cared-for and abused captive bears in the country. Unsurprisingly, seven of these bears died, and the remaining 10 were transferred to a private zoo notorious for its lack of welfare practices - two outcomes that decrease the number of bears on farms in the province, but ultimately contribute nothing to the fight to end bear farming for good.

This bear owner's actions are indicative of the resistance and stubbornness still being shown by many bear owners in the country's hotspots and highlights the urgent need for action by the authorities in these areas.

ENV has sought to address the issue of bear bile farming in Phuc Tho and elsewhere in Hanoi for nearly 15 years, investing considerable time and energy in demand reduction, strengthening enforcement, and urging district and city decision-makers to keep pace with the change happening in the rest of the country. However, Hanoi continues to stay behind every other province and city in Vietnam in this regard. It is time to remove this blemish from our society, particularly in our nation's capital, permanently.

## BEAR FARMERS DO NOT OWN THEIR BEARS

It is important to note that ALL of the bile bears kept in captivity throughout Vietnam were originally purchased illegally by their owners- a direct violation of the law. Technically, bear bile farmers would be subject to criminal penalties, including imprisonment, for purchasing a bear without legal origin. The fact that authorities have chosen to address the issue through voluntary transfers of bears by their owners is a benefit to the farmers, whereby they will not face criminal or administrative sanctions for their original crimes. However, it should be stated that these bears are NOT legally owned by the bear bile farmers as they have no legal origin. Registration of the bears back in 2005 did not grant ownership rights to the bile farmers, but in fact, merely left the bears in their care. Confiscation of bears, while objectionable by the bile farmers, is within the rights of the State.

The State does not support compensation to bear bile farmers, and thus, all bear transfers to date have been without payment. After all, it would be considered foolish to pay someone who has committed a crime to have their illegal products transferred to the State. The fact that these bile farmers have cared for these bears for so many years at their own expense is a direct result of their illegal acts, which are far more deserving of substantial fines and punishment. Bear bile farmers should consider themselves lucky as the State has responded reasonably to their crimes of the past.



# CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM ALERT

## LIST OF COMPANIES ELIGIBLE TO CARRY OUT WILDLIFE VALUATIONS

Over the past few years, ENV has continuously received feedback from local authorities regarding difficulties in valuating evidence consisting of wildlife and/or wildlife parts. According to the Criminal Code 2015 (revised in 2017) and related sanctioning Decrees, in some cases, the monetary value of wildlife evidence is one of the prerequisites for criminal prosecution or administrative penalties for violators.

Under the provisions of the Government Decree 30/2018/ND-CP dated March 7, 2018, the operation of the Asset Valuation Council and the procedures for asset valuation in criminal proceedings were established. Accordingly, “prices provided by valuation companies” are to be used for valuating both prohibited and non-prohibited goods (Article 15).

However, not all valuation companies have the experience and ability to value wildlife or wildlife products. In order to support authorities in the valuation of wildlife evidence, serving the process of handling wildlife cases, ENV contacted nearly 300 authorized valuation entities on the *List of valuation enterprises, branches of valuation enterprises, and price appraisers eligible for asset valuation in 2020*, issued together with Notice no. 1240/TB-BTC dated December 31, 2019 of the Ministry of Finance, in order to produce the **List of 49 companies eligible to carry out wildlife valuations**. Each of these companies has been categorized geographically according to their area of operation.

The electronic version of this list can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/huongdanenv2021> (page 74-79). If assistance is required to value wildlife in order to handle violations, authorities can contact the business representative via the telephone number listed **in advance**, or **contact ENV directly** for timely assistance.



# CONGRATULATIONS

## 2020 RECOGNITION RECIPIENTS



### Team 6, Hanoi Environment Police

For the successful seizure of nearly 800 kg of ivory between 2018-2019 in Nhi Khe Village, a hotspot for ivory carving and trafficking. The arrests made in these 10 cases led to the prosecution of more than 10 subjects, including major wildlife traffickers.



### Hai Ba Trung Court

For consistently imposing appropriately strict punishment for wildlife crime, including two recent 12-year prison sentences for two wildlife traffickers, and a 10-year prison sentence to their accomplice, for the illegal trafficking of 207.3 kg of ivory.



### Thai Nguyen Provincial Procuracy

For their timely and effective intervention in a case involving the illegal possession of two live bears, seven live Indochinese box turtles, and products from other endangered wildlife, resulting in sufficiently strict punishment for the subject.



### Ba Thuoc District Court

For handing down a three-year prison sentence to an online supplier caught illegally transporting two Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) paws. This marked the first prison sentence for a wildlife offense involving bear paws in Vietnam.



### Ca Mau Provincial Court

For issuing a 13-year prison sentence and an additional penalty of VND 100,000,000 to a major pangolin trafficker, while also handing down appropriately strict sentences to the subject's accomplices, and a two-year prison sentence to an FPD officer who supported them in their illegal activities.



### Ca Mau Provincial Procuracy

For proposing a prison sentence of 13-15 years and an additional penalty between VND 50,000,000 and VND 200,000,00 for a major pangolin trafficker, in addition to appropriately strict sentences for the subject's accomplices and an FPD officer who supported them in their illegal activities.



2020 was a tough year, but we are proud of what Vietnam accomplished as a country. Below are some great examples of achievements from government agencies that reinforced a strict zero-tolerance policy with regards to arresting and punishing wildlife criminals, and therefore greatly contributed to the national effort to combat wildlife trafficking.

2020  
RECIPIENTS

**Ha Dong Police**  
For an effective response to a publicly reported crime resulting in the successful seizure of a live loris and subsequent prosecution of the subject. This is a positive demonstration of an appropriately aggressive response to publicly reported wildlife crime, setting an important example for other agencies.

2020  
RECIPIENTS

**Hanoi Court**  
For sentencing a top-tier wildlife trafficker to 11 years in prison for trafficking 200.04 kg of ivory, and imposing similarly severe punishments on his two accomplices.

2020  
RECIPIENTS

**Buon Ma Thuot Police**  
For successful detection and prosecution of a subject involved in the criminal possession of 127 endangered turtles kept for illegal commercial purposes, including species non-native to Vietnam. This significant achievement is an important step forward in addressing the illegal trafficking of endangered exotic species in Vietnam.

2020  
RECIPIENTS

**Hanoi Economic Police**  
For conducting an effective investigation in response to 126.5 kg of rhino horn discovered at Noi Bai Airport on July 25, 2019, leading to the successful prosecution of the subject. This marked the first successful arrest and prosecution that resulted from a major seizure of rhino horn at Noi Bai Airport.

2020  
RECIPIENTS

**Hung Yen Procuracy**  
For supporting relevant agencies in Hung Yen to ensure a case involving possession of 780 kg of pangolin scales was treated as a criminal offense – a two-year effort which led to the successful prosecution of the owner of the pangolin scales, and the first prison sentence in Vietnam for possession of African pangolin scales.

2020  
RECIPIENTS

**Hanoi High Court**  
For the successful intervention and subsequent retrial of Nguyen Mau Chien, a major international wildlife trafficker arrested for trafficking rhino horn, ivory, and other protected wildlife. As the first “kingpin” trafficker to be arrested and prosecuted in Vietnam, the retrial of Chien constituted an important contribution to national efforts to combat illegal wildlife trafficking in Vietnam.





# Q & A **ASK ENV**

In response to questions recently posed to ENV...

## **Does ENV pay or reward informants for wildlife crime reports?**

No, ENV does not pay or reward informants for reporting wildlife crime. In the past, monetary rewards were offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of tiger traffickers, however this initiative did not yield any results. At present, information provided to ENV is done so by citizens for a multitude of different reasons but financial reward is not one of them.

## **Does ENV receive rewards from authorities or others for confiscations/ transfers of wildlife to rescue centers?**

No, we do not. In over 20 years of service protecting wildlife, ENV has never received compensation for successful arrests or prosecutions of wildlife traffickers. ENV is satisfied with the knowledge of our contribution to wildlife protection, and our reward is the progress and impacts we have had over many years.

## **Does ENV pay the authorities in the course of confiscating and transferring wildlife or arresting and handling wildlife violations?**

No, ENV does not pay the authorities for their cooperation in handling wildlife crime. ENV believes our partnerships with government agencies must be built on trust and shared values, a sustainable approach that contributes to promoting and strengthening the role of government in protecting wildlife.



**“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.”**

# ENV WILDLIFE CRIME UNIT OPERATIONS: JULY- DECEMBER 2020

## TACKLING WILDLIFE CRIME



The ENV Wildlife Crime Unit receives an average of more than **10** new cases reported to the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline each day. Upon receiving a report, experienced case officers contact the appropriate authorities to address the violation, tracking each case through to conclusion and 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 the wildlife.

A total of **1,770** cases were logged during the second half of 2020, including **97** trafficking cases, **1,243** retail selling and advertising cases, and **428** cases involving illegal possession of wildlife, most commonly possession of live animals.

Public reports to ENV's hotline accounted for **1,258** new cases during the reporting period, of which, **66%** resulted in successful outcomes. Successful outcomes range from seizure of wildlife, arrest and prosecution, to administrative penalty or voluntary legal compliance after warnings are issued by authorities or ENV.

A total of **690** live animals were confiscated or received by authorities due to public reports to the Wildlife Crime Hotline during the second half of 2020. These included more than **230** tortoises and freshwater turtles, **75** macaques, **15** bears, **15** eagles, hawks and other raptors, **11** lorises, **10** otters, **7** hornbills, **5** pangolins, **2** gibbons, and many other wild animals of varying species.

ENV wishes to thank our collaborating partners in law enforcement, Customs, provincial Forest Protection Departments, market authorities, local governments, 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.

### 2020 WILDLIFE CRIME STATISTICS

Crime classification	July 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020	January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020	TOTAL 2005-2020
Total cases [1]	1,770	2,909	18,316
Total violations	4,832	7,726	48,813
Trafficking violations	97	183	2,188
Selling and advertising violations	1,243	1,868	10,528
Possession violations	428	864	5,323
Hunting/other violations	37	70	450
Internet crime violations	1,060	1,762	5,675

[1] Some cases logged are not classified as violations, and thus the total number of cases may differ slightly from the total number in each classification (possession, trafficking, etc.). Moreover, some cases include more than one type of violation.

[2] Overall success includes both publicly reported cases AND cases resulting from ENV enforcement campaigns. Successes include all positive outcomes that occurred during the reporting period, including successful achievements from older cases that were not yet confirmed until this reporting period.

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

The rise of online crime has become a major problem for enforcement agencies as traders no longer need a physical place of business such as a shop or market to sell wildlife. The only effective way to address online crime is to target major dealers, issue fines and stiff penalties, and continue to close online marketplaces by removing links and deactivating sites.

ENV urges law enforcement agencies to utilize strict administrative punishment for minor violations, and actively pursue arrests and prosecutions in more serious cases. Once it is known that authorities intend to eliminate online crime, a majority of online violations will decrease substantially, reducing the burden upon law enforcement.

In addition to partnering with Facebook, Google, and Zalo to address online crime, ENV is making every effort to deter crime by targeting accounts that advertise on key social media platforms, aiming to use outcomes from real online cases that result in substantial fines or prison sentences to deter future online crime.

Advertising wildlife for sale is also an administrative violation subject to fines. Accordingly, a person who advertises the sale of endangered species under CITES Appendix I, IB group of Decree 06 or Group I of Decree 26, which are considered “prohibited goods” in Vietnam according to the Investment Law, can be fined VND 70,000,000 to VND 100,000,000 according to Article 33 of Decree 38. Meanwhile, a person who advertises the sale of other forest animals not included in the aforementioned groups can be fined VND 1,000,000 to VND 1,500,000 according to Article 16 of Decree 35. The punishment for legal entities involved in the sale of wildlife is double the punishment for individuals.

## REUSING LEGAL PAPERS PROVIDES COVER FOR ILLEGAL ANIMALS

When inspected by authorities, it is a common trick in the wildlife restaurant business to show legal papers indicating that the animals came from a commercial farm. However, the date on the papers should provide some evidence to inspecting authorities as to whether the animals were actually legally sourced. If the date shows that the animals were acquired legally some time ago, the inspecting officer can count on the fact that those animals are long gone and the animals that are present during the time of inspection (many months later) are illegally sourced.

In one notable case, a Hanoi restaurant showed papers indicating that a civet was legally purchased from a licensed farm two years prior. When asked how the civet had lived so long in his restaurant without being ordered, cooked, and eaten, the owner responded with a smile, “The civet on these papers has already been eaten at least 100 times.”

Don't be made a fool by criminals. If a restaurant cannot immediately present papers with a reasonable date of issuance, they probably do not have them, and if given time, the owner will buy false papers to avoid difficulties with authorities.

Be smart. Be tough. Be fair. Compliance with the law is not difficult to achieve if the law is applied consistently by professionals.

# CLEANING UP THE STREETS

ENV has been inundated with street vendor cases in southern provinces, particularly Ho Chi Minh City. Given the mobility of these criminals who move from location to location, these types of crimes are by definition difficult to address. During the period July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020, ENV received 166 cases involving street vendors selling wildlife in Ho Chi Minh City.

ENV commends law enforcement in Ho Chi Minh City for making a determined effort to respond to and address these crimes, and for the successful cases thus far. However, successful results comprise only a fraction of the outcomes in these 166 cases. The fact is that by the time an inspection is carried out, the street vendors have moved.

How do we address street vendor violations more effectively?

In order to address this ongoing problem, ENV strongly urges the following actions to be taken with the aim of reducing and eliminating the sale of wildlife by street vendors, while at the same time, reducing the energy investment required by authorities who respond to these violations.

Immediate intervention to be taken when street vendors are observed selling wildlife:

1. Confiscate all animals observed at the scene. Warnings are not sufficient enough to deter crime.
2. Issue sufficient fines that will appropriately deter street vendors from continuing their illegal business.
3. Offer street vendors the opportunity to cooperate with law enforcement by naming their supplier to avoid otherwise more substantial fines.
4. Aggressively target suppliers of turtles and other wild animals to street vendors.

Deterrence reduces crime by increasing risks to criminals. On occasions where street vendors are caught but only given a warning, authorities fail to deter future crime, and the likelihood is that the vendor will violate again, and will be more careful to avoid authorities the next time.

Deterring crime requires sufficiently strict action that leaves the subject with a fine or loss of income that makes him or her think about whether continuation of their illegal business is worth the risk and the potential costs. Be tough, fair, and firm. It is the only way to reduce crime, short of putting everyone in prison.

Following an extended undercover operation in Ho Chi Minh City, during which ENV worked alongside street vendors who were selling wildlife, ENV has provided law enforcement agencies with detailed information about the commercial farms that supply street vendors and mid-level traffickers (who also supply street vendors). Arrests are expected.

ENV has also issued a correspondence to all police agencies in 24 districts and 247 wards requesting that patrol officers maintain vigilance and intervene accordingly when street vendors are observed selling wildlife.

If law enforcement agencies intervene when street vendors are observed selling wildlife during their routine patrols, it would be more difficult for street vendors to operate, resulting in a reduction of crime.



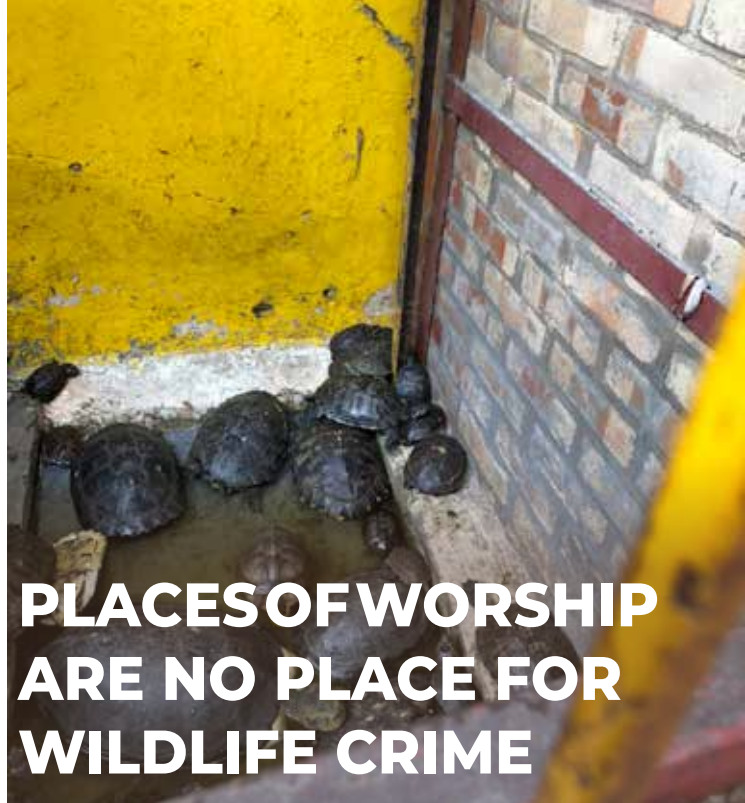
# POOR PERFORMANCE DOES NOT SERVE THE LAW, THE PEOPLE, OR THE INTEREST OF SOCIETY

**M**embers of the public play a critical role as valued allies in the effort to tackle wildlife crime in Vietnam. While it may be frustrating in some instances to deal with public reports, functional agencies must adopt an effective response to publicly reported crimes that is sensible and recognizes and respects this important alliance with the public, promoting a better society and strengthening efforts to protect national biodiversity.

In a recent case in an unnamed province, ENV received a tip from an informant about a bus that was heading for a major city in Vietnam after reportedly originating from the border with Laos. The informant stated that there were at least a dozen live civets and about 60 bamboo rats being transported on the bus.

The informant reported the case to ENV at 1338 hrs. ENV then verified the bus schedule and determined that it would arrive at its destination city between 1700-1800 hrs the same day. At 1430 hrs, FPD was notified of the case and given photos of the bus and the animals, as well as the registration number of the bus, its description, and arrival schedule. The mobile FPD team agreed to intercept the bus at the bus station when it arrived at 1700 hrs. However, when the arrival time passed without word of the results, ENV checked with FPD and learned that the FPD manager had never assigned staff to check the bus because they had not received a correspondence on the case.

If this particular FPD is to carry out its duties effectively as expected by both the government and the people of Vietnam, then common sense must apply to their work in how they accept and receive reports from the public. Surely, they do not expect a motorbike driver reporting a crime to send a correspondence first? Be sensible. There is a reason why the public does not trust this agency with reporting crimes (*Case ref. 17176/ENV*).



## PLACES OF WORSHIP ARE NO PLACE FOR WILDLIFE CRIME

**W**hile ENV respects the value of religion in people's lives, we also expect that places of worship set an example for their practitioners while promoting the rule of law.

Since 2018, ENV has received no less than 72 public complaints about wild animals being kept at churches and pagodas. While some of these cases have resulted in successful seizures or voluntary transfers, ENV has noted that religious leaders are commonly less than cooperative in dealing with violations such as a macaques, hornbills, gibbons, or other animals kept at their church, or in the case of pagodas, turtles kept in the pagoda pond.

ENV calls upon religious leaders to respect wildlife protection laws which are written and enforced for the benefit of society and the preservation of Vietnam's biodiversity. Religious leaders should be part of the solution, working hand in hand with local government to build a more lawful and healthier community, and this starts with setting an example for worshippers by living in accordance with the religious and moral beliefs that form the foundation of religion. These beliefs certainly do not include keeping wild animals illegally.

Authorities are urged to not be afraid of religious leaders when the law is being violated. Treat all citizens equally in your expectation that they must follow the law. Be fair, professional, and effective, and maintain a relationship of mutual respect while also maintaining your expectations of compliance- as you would any other person or entity that you found violating the law.

Three provinces stand out in taking action to address violations at religious establishments. These include Binh Phuoc, Dong Nai, and Ho Chi Minh City, where a total of seven macaques, four birds, two pythons, and 12 turtles of three different species were confiscated or turned over to authorities between July and December 2020.



# STOP LETTING CRIMINALS FOOL US: LAUNDERING OF WILD ANIMALS IN COMMERCIAL FARMS IS REAL

On September 15, 2020, ENV received a public report via the Wildlife Crime Hotline about an individual advertising wildlife on his Facebook account. Violations included advertisements for elongated tortoises (*Indotestudo elongata*), Chinese stripe-necked turtles (*Mauremys sinensis*), sulcata tortoises (*Centrochelys sulcata*), red-footed tortoises (*Trachemys scripta elegans*), four-eyed turtles (*Sacalia quadriocellata*), Bourret's box turtles (*Cuora bourreti*), and a python.

ENV transferred the information to the provincial authorities, who checked the subject's house and discovered 20 elongated tortoises (*Indotestudo elongata*), all with legal documentation. On November 3, 2020, the subject was administratively fined VND 3.5 million for failing to register the farm code (Case ref. 17671/ENV).

While this individual was subject to a VND 3.5 million punishment for having not registered his farm, a quick review of his social media account would have shown clearly that he was a turtle trafficker illegally selling protected species such as the endemic Bourret's box turtle, found only in central Vietnam and fully protected under Decree 64.

Moreover, the fact that he is permitted to still operate as a licensed commercial wildlife farmer is a clear indicator of a systemic failure within the commercial wildlife farming sector in Vietnam.

How much longer will we pretend that 20 adult tortoises that are probably 15 years or older were born on a farm that has no history or understanding of breeding and raising animals? The truth is simple: they were not born on the farm, nor were the 2 tonnes of rat snakes, nor the 300 kg of Mekong snail-eating turtles (that do not breed in captivity), nor were thousands of other animals that have been shipped from Vietnamese farms with legal papers to China.

It seems that everyone knows the truth about commercial wildlife farming and yet chooses to ignore the facts. While at the same time, provincial authorities are issuing licenses to would-be criminals through a poorly designed and managed system, allowing these licensed criminals to severely undermine the biodiversity of our nation.

The fact is that only a small number of economically viable species can actually be bred and raised in captivity, and therefore can be viably farmed. The rest are from our forests and beyond.

Our message is to stop pretending. We know what is going on and you do too.

If indifference is our enemy in protecting wildlife, where are the voices of the authorities that DO care? Who is prepared to change how commercial farming in Vietnam is regulated and enforced? Where are the people who stand for strengthening Vietnam and improving the quality of wildlife management?

We all know the truth about commercial wildlife farming. It is time that we collectively do something about it. ENV encourages those currently responsible for regulating farms to be determined, prepared for the task at hand, and willing to do what is necessary to ensure commercial wildlife farming does not result in Vietnam selling what little wildlife we have left for short term profits or gain.

## **An excellent example of the problem: 20 tonnes of wildlife laundered**

On December 25, 2019, Ha Tinh Environment Police stopped a passenger bus and detected 5,081 kg of wildlife, including common rat snakes (*Ptyas mucosus*), Indochinese rat snakes (*Ptyas korros*), tockay geckos (*Gekko gecko*), Bocourt's water snakes (*Enhydrys bocourti*), Chinese cobras (*Naja atra*), water monitors (*Varanus salvator*), yellow-headed temple turtles (*Heosemys annandalii*), and radiated rat snakes (*Elaphe radiata*). According to the legal documentation provided, the wildlife was sourced from four farms in An Giang, Dong Thap, and Quang Tri provinces, and therefore no seizure was made (Case ref. 15660/ENV).

**Note:** Experts familiar with the species in this case confirm that it is highly likely that all or a portion of the shipment were comprised of animals illegally laundered through licensed commercial farms. In the case of monitor lizards, cobras, yellow-headed temple turtles, and common rat snakes, all of these species are listed under CITES appendix I or II. If the shipment were to be tracked from origin to final destination, authorities would see that these animals were more than likely shipped to Mong Cai then smuggled over the border into China, without CITES permits, and in direct violation of Vietnam's treaty requirements under CITES.



# IMPORTANT CASES

## Online seller arrested with frozen tiger cubs and trophies

On September 22, 2020, Phu Nhuan District Police responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a frozen tiger cub, a bear head trophy, and a tiger head trophy from the home of a local online seller. The subject has been prosecuted and the case is under investigation (Case ref. 16709/ENV).

## Nghe An Police seize tigers from residential basement

On September 25, 2020, Dien Chau District Police, in cooperation with Dien Thap Commune Police and Dien Chau FPD, confiscated two live tigers from a local resident's home, each weighing about 60 kg. One subject was arrested. On September 28, 2020, the tigers were transferred to Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center. On February 5, 2021, the subject was sentenced to 24 months in prison by the People's Court of Dien Chau district, but suspended for 48 months (Case ref. 17851/ENV).



## Frozen tiger cubs seized in Nghe An

On September 15, 2020, Nghe An Economic Police seized two frozen Indochinese tiger (*Panthera tigris*) cubs weighing 15 kg from man in Quynh Luu district. On November 30, 2020, the subject was convicted by Quynh Luu District Court and sentenced to a suspended term of 30 months and 60 months of probation. The evidence was destroyed (Case ref. 17977/ENV).

## Bear paw sting leads to online rhino horn trader arrest

On August 15, 2020, Hanoi Environment Police confiscated four Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) paws during a sting operation undertaken in cooperation with ENV. One subject was arrested. The bear paws had been advertised for sale on the subject's Facebook for VND 900,000/paw. The subject was an online supplier who advertised many products from endangered species, including rhino horn, ivory products, tiger products, and bear products. On December 21, 2020, the subject was sentenced to 12 months in prison by Nam Tu Liem District Court. The bear paws have been destroyed (Case ref. 17264/ENV).



## Illegal bears seized in Lai Chau

On July 21, 2020, through a specialized investigation carried out by Lai Chau Environment Police in cooperation with Lai Chau Criminal Technical Police, two Asiatic black bears (*Ursus thibetanus*) were seized while they were being transported. The smuggler was arrested, and the bears were subsequently transferred to the Four Paws' Bear Sanctuary in Ninh Binh. On March 18, 2021, the subject was sentenced to 36 months in prison by the Sin Ho District Court (Case ref. 17137/ENV).

## Online tortoise seller arrested with 64 rare tortoises

On August 18, 2020, District 9 Police of Ho Chi Minh City responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated 64 live tortoises, including four radiated tortoises (*Astrochelys radiata*), six Burmese star tortoises (*Geochelone platynota*), 12 Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*), 39 sulcata tortoises (*Centrochelys sulcata*), and three leopard tortoises (*Stigmochelys pardalis*) from the home of an online seller who used Facebook to advertise many exotic turtle species. These tortoises were temporarily transferred to Saigon Zoo and the subject has been prosecuted. The case remains under investigation (Case ref. 17046/ENV).



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

## KEY

## PROSECUTIONS

### Pangolin trafficker gets 11 years in Hung Yen

On July 9, 2018, after receiving a tip, Hung Yen Economic Police flagged a pick-up truck at a ferry terminal in Hung Yen and discovered 116 Java pangolins (*Manis javanica*) weighing a total of 530 kg. There were two subjects in the truck, which was found to have fake plate numbers, however, both subjects escaped when the vehicle was detected by the authorities. All 116 pangolins, including the 23 found live and 93 found dead at the time of the seizure, were handed over to the Small Carnivore and Pangolin Conservation Program at Cuc Phuong National Park the following day. One of the drivers later turned himself in to police in late 2019.

On July 16, 2020, the subject was convicted by Hung Yen Provincial Court and sentenced to a prison term of 11 years for illegally transporting pangolins and an additional five years for deliberate destruction of property (Case ref. 12945/ENV).

### Five pangolins and a turtle results in 18-month prison sentence

On October 18, 2019, Quang Nam Police seized three live and two dead Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*) and an Indochinese box turtle (*Cuora galbinifrons*) from a local trader in Dai Loc District. The three live pangolins were subsequently transferred to the Small Carnivore and Pangolin Conservation Program at Cuc Phuong National Park, and the turtle was transferred to the Turtle Conservation Center at Cuc Phuong National Park. Two dead pangolins were destroyed.

On August 20, 2020, the subject was convicted by Dai Loc District Court and sentenced to a prison term of 18 months (Case ref. 15203/ENV).

### Up to eight-year sentences for pangolin traders in Hanoi

On December 16, 2019, the National Environmental Police in cooperation with Hai Ba Trung District Police responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and seized a total of 13 live Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*) weighing 52.5 kg. Nine of the pangolins were seized as they were being moved to a vehicle for transport and four more were confiscated during a raid of the owner's home. Two subjects were arrested, though the real owner had yet to be detained. On July 14, 2020, both subjects were convicted by Phu Xuyen District Court and sentenced to a prison term of five years for one subject and six years for the other subject. Finally, the owner of the pangolins was arrested on December 23, 2020.

On April 22, 2021, the People's Court of Phu Xuyen district began the trial for the owner, who was a ring-leader for selling and illegally transporting pangolins, and sentenced him to eight years in prison. The subject appealed the trial's verdict, but later withdrew the appeal (Case ref. 15597/ENV).



#### **Five years six months in prison for Nghe An pangolin trader**

On December 20, 2019, Dien Chau District Police stopped a passenger bus and seized eight live Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*) that were being kept in cardboard boxes. The pangolins were subsequently transferred to Pu Mat National Park. On July 21, 2020, the subject was convicted by Dien Chau District Court and sentenced to a prison term of five years and six months in prison (Case ref. 15624/ENV).

#### **Four years for pangolin trafficker caught in Quang Tri after smuggling animals from Laos**

On January 12, 2020, after receiving a tip-off, Huong Hoa District Police in cooperation with Huong Hoa 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 Conservation Program at Cuc Phuong National Park. One subject was arrested.

On July 13, 2020, the subject was convicted by Quang Tri Provincial Court and sentenced to a prison term of four years (Case ref. 15768/ENV).

#### **30 kg of pangolins gets trafficker says his sentence was reduced to eight years**

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, which were hidden in two styrofoam boxes. The wildlife was destroyed, and one of the two arrested subjects was prosecuted.

On October 12, 2020, the subject was convicted by Vinh City Court and sentenced to a prison term of 10 years. The subject then appealed this sentence.

On March 17, 2021, the People's Court of Nghe An accepted the subject's appeal and reduced his sentence to eight years in prison (Case ref. 16517/ENV).

#### **Rhino horn kingpin goes back to prison for seven months in second trial in Hanoi**

On April 27, 2017, Anti-Smuggling Police (C74) arrested two employees of the kingpin Nguyen Mau Chien with 15 white rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum simum*) horns weighing 33 kg at Hanoi train station while the contraband was being taken from the train into a car. The horns were transported from Mozambique to Malaysia by plane, from Malaysia to Ca Mau province by sea, then transported to Hanoi by train. On the same day, police checked Nguyen Mau Chien's house in Ha Dong district and seized two frozen tiger (*Panthera tigris*) cubs, 11 unidentified wildlife TCM products, two pieces of African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) bones, and four pieces of lion bones (*Panthera leo*), and four pieces of lion (*Panthera leo*) skins. More evidence was seized at Tran Thi Lanh's house (originally Chien's) including six white rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum simum*) horns, two black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*) horns, five pieces of African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) ivory, and many more wildlife products. Chien and three relevant subjects were arrested and prosecuted. One of Chien's nephews was previously employed by Vietnam Railways and had taken care of the rhino horn transportation by train.

On March 7, 2019, the subject Nguyen Mau Chien received an appeal verdict for 16 months imprisonment by Hanoi People's Court. All evidence was destroyed. On February 28, 2020, Hanoi High Court decided to annul the appeal trial and verdict for Chien, meaning Chien would receive a retrial in Ha Dong District Court. On September 8, 2020, the kingpin was convicted in the retrial by Ha Dong District Court and sentenced to a prison term of 23 months (Case ref. 10872/ENV).

#### **Rhino horn and ivory kingpin gets minor sentence reduction in appeal trial**

On September 30, 2019, Hanoi Investigation Police in cooperation with Hanoi Environment Police discovered 200.4 kg of African elephant (*Loxodonta Africana*) ivory packed in sacks near several vehicles that were parked by a lake in Gia Lam district. The subjects initially tried to flee the scene, but one immediate arrest was made. Following nearly a month of further investigation, police identified Nguyen Van Nam – a high-priority ivory and rhino horn trafficker and kingpin – as the primary suspect in the case. Nam, who is the cousin of one of the men initially arrested in the case, subsequently turned himself in to police. Nam is credited with reportedly supplying most of the ivory and rhino horn to traders in Nhi Khe village, previously a hotspot for the ivory and rhino horn trade in Hanoi. Nam and two other subjects were prosecuted.

On July 16, 2020, all three subjects were convicted by Hanoi Court, and kingpin Nam was sentenced to a prison term of 11 years. One subject, who played a major role in the crime similar to Nam's, was also sentenced to a prison term of 11 years, and Nam's cousin, the third subject, was sentenced to 10 years in prison. The ivory is being destroyed.

On December 29, 2020, all three subjects appealed and were again convicted by the Hanoi High Court. However, Nam's prison sentence was reduced to eight years, and Nam's cousin's sentence was reduced to nine years, while the other subject's sentence was reduced to 10 years in prison (*Case ref. 15273/ENV*).

#### **Rhino horn smuggler gets 12 years six months thanks to redirected Covid flight**

On March 2, 2020, Can Tho International Airport Customs seized 11 pieces of rhino horn weighing 28.7 kg that was 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 Covid-19 epidemic prevention policy.

On December 29, 2020, the subject was convicted by Can Tho City Court and sentenced to a prison term of 12 years and six months. The subject also received an additional fine of VND 100 million. The rhino horn will be destroyed.

The subject later appealed. On April 29, 2021, the High People's Court in Ho Chi Minh City decided to turn down the subject's appeal (*Case ref. 16018/ ENV*).

#### **Rhino horn smuggler gets six years in Ho Chi Minh**

On March 6, 2020, Tan Son Nhat International Airport Customs seized 12 pieces of white rhino (*Ceratotherium simum*) horn weighing 6.1 kg. The rhino horn pieces were hidden in two check-in bags belonging to a Vietnamese man arriving on a flight that originated in Mozambique. One subject was arrested.

On November 20, 2020, the subject was convicted by Tan Binh District Court and sentenced to a prison term of six years. The rhino horn will be destroyed.

On March 8, 2021, the People's Court of Ho Chi Minh City opened an appellate trial of the case based on the subject's appeal to reduce the penalty, however, the court upheld the initial judgment (*Case ref. 16037/ENV*).



**Notation:** While similar cases in Hanoi's Noi Bai International Airport typically fail to result in prosecution of smugglers, Ho Chi Minh is setting an example in airport smuggling cases. The system seems to work in HCM, however there are clearly problems in Hanoi despite being the nation's capital.

#### **Rhino horn trafficker sentenced to six years in Quang Ninh**

On March 23, 2020, after receiving a tip from the public, Dan Tien Wharf Customs in Quang Ninh province, in cooperation with Mong Cai City Economic Police, checked a passenger bus and seized 3.135 kg of rhino horn. One subject was prosecuted.

On August 18, 2020, the subject was convicted by Mong Cai City Court and sentenced to a prison term of six years (*Case ref. 16398/ENV*).



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

### Live tiger trader gets five-year sentence from Quang Ninh Court

On September 14, 2019, Quang Ninh Drug Criminal Investigation Police and Quang Ninh Environment Police coordinated with Cam Pha City Police to check a pickup truck displaying a fake registration number and discovered a live tiger (*Panthera tigris*) weighing 240 kg as it was being delivered to a buyer. At the time of the seizure, the tiger had been anaesthetized but was beginning to stir. After police secured the tiger, they checked the buyer's home in Ha Long City and confiscated more evidence including three tiger skins, a lion skull (*Panthera leo*), an Indochinese box turtle (*Cuora galbinifrons*), many bones of other wildlife, and some TCM bone cooking tools. The tiger was reportedly sourced from a known trafficker in Nghe An. The tiger was subsequently transferred to the Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center, and four subjects were arrested and prosecuted.

On July 7, 2020, four subjects were convicted by Quang Ninh Provincial Court. The seller was sentenced to six years in prison and fined VND 50 million, and the three remaining subjects were each sentenced to prison terms ranging from 12 to 24 months.

On January 21, 2021, the High People's Court in Hanoi reduced a year for the seller and sentenced him to five years in prison, while another subject previously sentenced to 24 months in prison received a suspended sentence after the second trial (Case ref. 14977/ENV).



### Man who bought endemic grey-shanked douc langur online goes to prison for 12 months

On December 20, 2019, Phu Loi Ward Police in Binh Duong stopped a motorbike and seized a live grey-shanked douc langur (*Pygathrix cinerea*), arresting the driver and his accomplice. The driver claimed to have just purchased the langur from an online seller. The langur was subsequently transferred to the Dau Tieng Wildlife Conservation Station.

On August 5, 2020, the driver was convicted by Thu Dau Mot City Court and sentenced to prison for 12 months (Case ref. 15627/ENV).

### Thanh Hoa sentences cobra trafficker to 18 months

On March 15, 2020, Thanh Hoa City Police stopped a car and seized a live king cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*) weighing 10 kg. Three subjects were arrested, and the cobra was subsequently transferred to Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center.

On July 9, 2020, the three subjects were convicted by Thanh Hoa City Court, and the subject who had played the biggest role in the crime was sentenced to 18 months in prison. The two remaining subjects each received suspended sentences of 15 months and 30 months of probation (Case ref. 16126/ENV).

### Turtle trafficker gets 12 months in Quang Ninh

On December 22, 2019, Ha Long City Economic Police in Quang Ninh province stopped a passenger bus and seized 18 turtles, including three big-headed turtles (*Platysternon megacephalum*), two Indochinese box turtles (*Cuora galbinifrons*), and 13 four-eyed turtles (*Sacalia quadriocellata*). The turtles were subsequently transferred to Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center. The owner was arrested.

On September 25, 2020, the owner was convicted by Ha Long City Court and sentenced to a prison term of 12 months.

Later, the subject appealed the sentence. On December 8, 2020, the People's Court of Quang Ninh province turned down subject's appeal (Case ref. 15668/ENV).

### Endemic and endangered turtle trader gets prison time in Hanoi

On March 11, 2020, after a lengthy chase, Bac Tu Liem Eco-police in Hanoi seized three Bourret's box turtles (*Cuora bourreti*) being transported by a subject. Following the seizure, on March 16, 2020, the police seized another three Indochinese box turtles (*Cuora galbanifrons*) and arrested another subject. The turtles were transferred to Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center.

On July 23, 2020, both subjects were convicted by Bac Tu Liem District Court and sentenced to prison terms of 12 and 18 months respectively (Case ref. 16556/ENV).

### Six and seven year sentences for endemic turtle traffickers in Ha Tinh

On June 1, 2020, Can Loc District Police in Ha Tinh, in cooperation with Traffic Police, stopped a public bus and seized nine Indochinese box turtles (*Cuora galbanifrons*) and 18 Bourret's box turtles (*Cuora bourreti*) that were hidden in a cardboard box. The turtles were subsequently transferred to the Turtle Conservation Center at Cuc Phuong National Park, and two subjects were arrested.

On November 17, 2020, both subjects were convicted by Can Loc District Court and sentenced to prison terms of six and seven years respectively (Case ref. 16691/ENV).



### **Turtle trader gets 14 months for trafficking 63 endangered turtles**

On June 22, 2020, Hoan Kiem District Economic Police seized four Indochinese box turtles (*Cuora galbinifrons*) that were being transported. Following the seizure, police checked the subject's house and seized six impressed tortoises (*Manouria impressa*) and 53 elongated tortoises (*Indotestudo elongata*). The turtles were subsequently transferred to the Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center. The owner of the turtles was arrested and fined VND 25 million for violations against IIB wildlife.

On October 17, 2020, the subject was convicted by Hoan Kiem District Court and sentenced to a prison term of 14 months (Case ref. 16821/ENV).


### **Prior felon violates probation, goes back to prison for four years for loris possession**

On June 16, 2020, Ha Dong District Police in Hanoi responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a common slow loris (*Nycticebus bengalensis*) from a staff member at a local restaurant. The loris was later transferred to the Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center and the subject was arrested.

On November 19, 2020, the subject was convicted by Ha Dong District Court and sentenced to a prison term of four years, which included the penalty for the subject's previous crimes. The subject had previously been convicted and jailed for rape and was released from detention early, but violated his probation with this additional conviction (Case ref. 16773/ENV).

### **Loris trader gets five years in Hanoi**

On August 24, 2020, Team 2 of Hanoi Environment Police, in cooperation with Gia Lam District Economic Police, seized two live pygmy lorises (*Nycticebus pygmaeus*) and two dead pygmy lorises while they were being transported on passenger bus. The live lorises were subsequently transferred to Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center. One subject was arrested. On December 22, 2020, the subject was convicted by Gia Lam District Court and sentenced to a prison term of five years (Case ref. 17440/ENV).



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



## Serow hunters get 18-24 months in prison in Quang Binh

On September 17, 2019, Phong Nha Ke Bang National Park FPD seized a dead serow (*Naemorhedus sumatraensis*) weighing 61 kg, a live masked palm civet (*Paguma larvata*) weighing 1 kg, a dead common palm civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*) weighing 0.3 kg, a live common palm civet weighing 1.1 kg, four knives, and 162 bicycle brake wires used to make snare traps. The live civets were transferred to the Center for Rescue, Conservation and Development of Creatures of Phong Nha - Ke Bang National Park. The dead wildlife was destroyed. Four subjects were arrested.

On July 3, 2020, four subjects were convicted by Bo Trach District Court. Two of the subjects received suspended sentences of 18 months, along with 36 months of probation, while the other two subjects were sentenced to 18 months and 24 months in prison respectively (Case ref. 15008/ENV).

## Wildlife seized on Laos border gets smuggler 18 months

On December 4, 2019, Bo Y Border Gate Security checked a pick-up truck and seized a live Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*), a live common palm civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*), two dead Java mouse deer (*Tragulus javanicus*), and a dead masked palm civet (*Paguma larvata*). The live animals were subsequently transferred to Cuc Phuong National Park, while the dead wildlife was destroyed. The driver was prosecuted.

On October 20, 2020, the subject was convicted by Ngoc Hoi District Court and sentenced to a prison term of 18 months (Case ref. 15509/ENV).

## Five-year sentence for transporting wildlife

On November 20, 2019, after receiving a public tip-off, Dien Bien FPD stopped a truck driven by a Dien Bien man and seized a live Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*), eight live big-headed turtles (*Platysternon megacephalum*), 35 kg of serow (*Capricornis sumatraensis*) meat, 1 kg of clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*) bone, and 5 kg of Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) bone. The live pangolin and eight big-headed turtles were transferred to the Small Carnivore and Pangolin Conservation Program at Cuc Phuong National Park, while the wildlife meat and bone were destroyed.

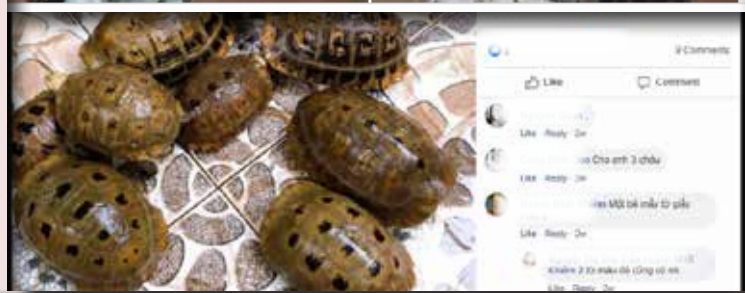
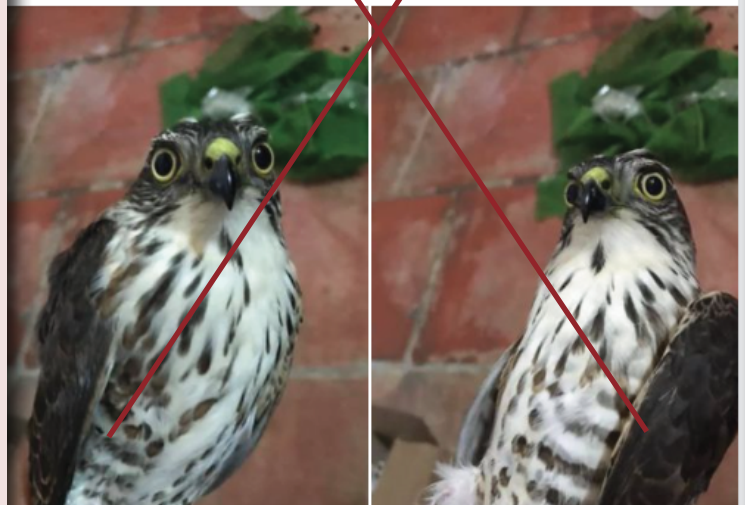
On July 15, 2020, the driver was convicted by Dien Bien District Court and sentenced to a prison term of five years (Case ref. 15486/ENV).

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

## Online wildlife markets shut down

“Soc Den Con Dao - Giao Luu Chia Se Ky Thuat Nuoi Thuan Soc Viet Nam” - Exchanging Experiences and Raising Squirrels in Vietnam  
 “Group Bò Sát” - Lizard Group  
 “Rùa núi vàng” - Elongated Tortoises  
 “Bảo vệ động vật hoang dã” - Protected Animals  
 “Cộng đồng Rùa nước Việt Nam” - Vietnamese Turtle Community  
 “Hoi Rua Viet Nam” - Turtle Group in Vietnam  
 “CLB yêu thích động vật hoang dã” - Loving Wildlife Group  
 “Hoi chim san moi Sai Gon” - Saigon Falconry  
 “Vet Yen Phung Can Tho” - Parakeet in Can Tho  
 “Chim San moi Mien Bac” - Falconry in Northern Vietnam

(Case ref. 16830/17978/18183/17310/17478/17541/17826/17646/17850/17964/ENV)



# CRIME LOG

## An Giang

On August 3, 2020, during a patrol in Tra Su forest, Tinh Bien District FPD in cooperation with the patrol team of Tra Su Melaleuca Forest Ecotourism Area seized 15 dead storks that had been hunted. The storks were subsequently destroyed and the subject was administratively fined VND 7.5 million (Case. ref. 17216/ENV).

On August 5, 2020, An Giang FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and received a leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) that was voluntarily transferred by a local man, who claimed that he had bought it with the aim of rescuing it. The leopard cat was later released in Co To Protective Forest (Case ref. 17223/ENV).

## Ba Ria Vung Tau

On July 8, 2020, Ba Ria - Vung Tau Environment Police checked a restaurant and found two live common palm civets (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*) and two live snakes, all of which had legal documents. However, the subject was administratively fined VND 750,000 for improperly submitting documents (Case ref. 16973/ENV).



## Bac Giang

On December 15, 2020, Luc Nam District Economic Police responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a common slow loris (*Nycticebus bengalensis*), a pig-tailed macaque (*Macaca leonina*), and a Pallas's squirrel (*Callosciurus erythraeus*) from a local residence. The wildlife had been advertised for sale on social media. A subject was arrested and later fined VND 10 million for illegally raising, confining, and trading wildlife in group IIB Decree 06/2019/ND-CP (Case ref. 18415/ENV).

## Bac Kan

On September 24, 2020, Ngan Son District FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated two silver pheasants (*Lophura nycthemera*) which were being kept at a local bus stopover (Case ref. 17725/ENV).



## Bac Ninh

On December 8, 2020, Bac Ninh FPD responded to a journalist's report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated 27 gulls and 24 cranes from a prevalent wild bird trader. The birds were subsequently released back into nature, and the trader was administratively fined VND 5 million (Case.18318/ENV).

## Binh Duong

On July 24, 2020, Binh Duong Environment Police responded to an ENV Law Enforcement Evidence Package (LEEP) summarizing the violations of an online raptor supplier, and raided the subject's place of work, confiscating a brahmyn kite (*Haliastur indus*), two mountain hawk-eagles (*Nisaetus nipalensis*) and three rufous-bellied hawk-eagles (*Lophotriorchis kienerii*). The case originated when the subject advertised the raptors for sale on social media. The subject was then fined VND 26 million (Case ref. 16407/ENV).



On October 8, 2020, Binh Duong Environment Police responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated an otter from a local man. The otter was transferred to the Dau Tieng Wildlife Conservation Station (*Case ref. 17796/ENV*).

On October 26, 2020, Binh Duong FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a blue-and-yellow macaw (*Ara ararauna*), a salmon-crested cockatoo (*Cacatua moluccensis*), a red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), and eight iguanas (*Iguana iguana*) which were kept at a cafe with invalid papers. The wildlife was transferred to the Wildlife At Risk rescue center (*Case. 17694/ENV*).

On November 12, 2020, Binh Duong Environment Police in cooperation with Thuan An City Police checked a feng shui shop and seized 18 kg of elephant ivory products, 3 kg of African pangolin scales, a hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) trophy, and many tiger and bear canines and claws. The shop owner was prosecuted (*Case ref. 18205/ENV*).

On November 13, 2020, four Asiatic black bears (*Ursus thibetanus*) were voluntarily transferred to the Four Paws' Bear Sanctuary in Ninh Binh. The transfer occurred after a monitoring mission conducted by National FPD, local FPD, and World Animal Protection in April 2019. During the monitoring mission the owner was convinced to give up his registered bears. Between 2011 and 2019, a total of 26 additional bears were transferred from this farm to the Vietnam Bear Rescue Center and Four Paws' Bear Sanctuary in Ninh Binh, bringing the total number of transferred bears in 2020 to 32 (*Case ref. 2746/ENV*).

On November 13, 2020, three Asiatic black bears (*Ursus thibetanus*) were voluntarily transferred to the Four Paws' Bear Sanctuary in Ninh Binh. The transfer occurred after a monitoring mission conducted by local FPD and World Animal Protection in July 2020, during which the owner was convinced to give up his registered bears (*Case ref. 13860/ENV*).

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

## Binh Phuoc

On July 22, 2020, Binh Phuoc FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated two reticulated pythons (*Malayopython reticulatus*) from a monastery. The pythons were later transferred to Bu Gia Map National Park's rescue center (*Case ref. 17106/ENV*).

On December 31, 2020, Dong Phu District FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated an oriental pied hornbill (*Anthracoceros albirostris*) from a local coffee shop. The hornbill was subsequently released back into nature (*Case ref. 18618/ENV*).



## Ca Mau

On September 10, 2020, Ca Mau FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) from a local resident (*Case ref. 17636/ENV*).

On November 24, 2020, U Minh Ha National Park rangers stopped a truck exiting the park and seized a 103 kg carcass of a sambar deer (*Rusa unicolor*). The transporter was administratively fined VND 37.5 million and the hunter was administratively fined VND 65 million. The deer carcass was later destroyed (*Case ref. 18269/ENV*).

## Cao Bang

On June 23, 2020, Interdisciplinary Control Team 389 in cooperation with Ta Lung Border Gate Station and Ta Lung Border Gate Customs checked a residential house and seized 50 kg of dried seahorses and 12 kg of long-snouted pipefish. The wildlife was later destroyed, and four subjects were each administratively fined VND 12,500,000 (*Case ref. 17956/ENV*).

On November 29, 2020, Cao Bang FPD's Mobile Unit seized 130 bulbuls and 92 red-billed leothrixes (*Leiothrix lutea*). The birds were subsequently released back into nature, and the owner was administratively fined VND 10 million (*Case ref. 18308/ENV*).

## Da Nang

### Great hornbills, gibbon and other wildlife seized from home in Da Nang

On July 9, 2020, Da Nang FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated four great hornbills (*Buceros bicornis*), a wreathed hornbill (*Aceros undulatus*), a yellow-cheeked gibbon (*Nomascus gabriellae*), and a raccoon from a resident's home. The house was being rented by two Chinese men, who claimed they were keeping the animals on behalf of a third party. The animals were subsequently placed at Saigon Zoo (*Case ref. 16959/ENV*).

On August 12, 2020, after receiving a tip-off from the public, Hoa Vang District FPD checked a resident's home and seized a live common palm civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*) weighing 2.2 kg, which was being kept as pet. The civet was subsequently released into Ba Na - Nui Chua Natural Reserve. The owner was administratively fined VND 5 million (*Case ref. 17644/ENV*).

## Dien Bien

On March 16, 2020, Dien Bien District Police checked a motorbike and seized a dead Asian golden cat (*Catopuma temminckii*) that was being transported to a buyer. The dead golden cat was subsequently transferred to the Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources for preservation. On June 30, 2020, the subject received an 18-month suspended sentence and 36 months of probation (*Case ref. 17572/ENV*).

## Dak Lak

On July 8, 2020, Dak Lak Environment Police issued fines of VND 1.25 million to four separate online traders in Dak Lak who were advertising large numbers of animals or wildlife products on their Facebook pages, ranging from live binturong, macaques, squirrels, and raptors, to ivory carvings, tiger skin wallets, bear and tiger claws, and tiger teeth. In each of the cases, ENV provided police with a Law Enforcement Evidence Package (LEEP) summarizing the violations and profiling the subject. In addition to fining the subjects, police ordered all four online suppliers to remove all advertisements from their social media (*Case ref. 8050, 15974, 16043, 16079/ENV*).

### Dak Lak taking active measures to deal with online wildlife traders

On May 8, 2020, during a routine internet crime reduction campaign, the ENV Wildlife Crime Unit detected an individual advertising wildlife on his Facebook accounts. Violations included advertisements for tiger canines and claws, tiger bone TCM, tiger skin wallets, bear gall bladders, rhino horn pieces, and various types of ivory products. ENV provided a Law Enforcement Evidence Package (LEEP) to Buon Ma Thuot City Police, comprised of a profile and evidence of violations by the online supplier. On October 7, 2020, the subject was confronted by police and fined VND 1.5 million for illegally advertising wildlife products, while also receiving a warning. All violation links were removed (*Case ref. 16489/ENV*).

### Online ivory trader arrested

On August 27, 2020, Dak Lak Environment Police searched the home of an online seller who had advertised large quantities of wildlife products, confiscating 2.56 kg of African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) ivory products and two Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) gallbladders weighing 183.87 grams. The case was reported to police by ENV through issuance of a Law Enforcement Evidence Package (LEEP) profiling the trader and summarizing the violations. The online supplier was subsequently arrested (*Case ref. 14692/ENV*).



### Sting operation nabs online ivory trader in Dak Lak

On August 27, 2020, Dak Lak Environment Police confiscated 121.7 grams of African elephant (*Loxodonta Africana*) ivory products, including two bracelets and ten rings, from an online seller during a sting operation. The case was reported to police by ENV through issuance of a Law Enforcement Evidence Package (LEEP) profiling the supplier and summarizing the violations (Case ref. 16215/ENV).

On September 3, 2020, Buon Ma Thuot City Police issued a VND 1.25 million fine to an online wildlife trader in Dak Lak who was advertising large quantities 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. 16462/ENV).



On September 26, 2020, Dak Lak Provincial FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and received a gibbon from a resident's home. The gibbon was later transferred to the Endangered Primate Rescue Center of Cuc Phuong National Park (Case ref. 17585/ENV).



On November 23, 2020, Dak Lak Police in cooperation with Ea H'leo District Police checked a public bus heading to Ho Chi Minh City from Kom Tum province and seized 151 kg of wildlife, including two live Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*), a live civet, nine dead civets, two dead wild pigs (*Sus scrofa*), and four slaughtered porcupines. The live wildlife was transferred to Chu Mom Ray National Park, and the bus driver was arrested (Case ref. 18142/ENV).

On November 25, 2020, Buon Ma Thuot City FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated an Asian koel (*Eudynamys scolopaceus*) and a crested hawk-eagle (*Nisaetus cirrhatus*) from a coffee shop. The birds were later released back into nature (Case ref. 8926/ENV).

### Dak Nong

On July 3, 2020, during a routine patrol, Long Son Commune Police, in cooperation with Dak Mil FPD, seized a live Burmese python (*Python molurus*) as a hunter was carrying it out of the forest. The subject was administratively fined VND 10 million, and the python was released back into nature (Case ref. 16980/ENV).

On February 12, 2020, ENV received a public report via the Wildlife Crime Hotline about an individual advertising wildlife on her Facebook accounts. Violations included advertisements of bear claws, vials of bear bile, bear gall bladders, tiger bone TCM, and tiger claws. On November 4, 2020, the subject was confronted by police, given a warning, and fined VND 1.25 million for illegally advertising wildlife products. Previously, in 2019, Dak Mil District Police responded to another public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated four black giant squirrels (*Ratufa bicolor*) from the same subject during a sting operation. The subject was fined VND 7.5 million (Case ref. 14862/ENV).



**Question for Dak Nong authorities:** Do you think a VND 1.25 million fine given to someone with a prior wildlife violation will be effective enough to deter this subject from violating again? Expect another case with the same subject soon.

Given our work loads, it seems sensible to make an example of the subject and ensure through strict punishment that he/she never returns to committing crimes. Gia Lai issued VND 45 million fines to several subjects advertising wildlife online, sufficient punishment to deter further criminal activity.

On November 11, 2020, Dak Nong Environment Police in cooperation with Dak Mil District FPD checked a residential house and seized a live king cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*), six dead civets, 8 kg of skinned mouse deer, and 48 kg of frozen wild pig (*Sus scrofa*) meat. The king cobra was released in Nam Nung Nature Reserve, while the dead wildlife was destroyed. The subject was arrested and faces prosecution (Case ref. 18071/ENV).

On October 3, 2018, during a tiger internet campaign, ENV found an individual advertising wildlife on his Facebook account. Violations included advertisements for tiger trophies, tiger claws, tiger canines, tiger bone TCM, bear paws, bear bile vials, bear claws, and various types of ivory products. ENV provided a Law Enforcement Evidence Package (LEEP) to Dak Nong Police, comprised of a profile of the subject and evidence of violations by the online supplier. On December 23, 2020, the subject was confronted by police. Although no wildlife was found, the subject was subsequently given a warning and fined VND 1.25 million for illegally advertising wildlife products (Case ref. 13388/ENV).



## Dong Nai

On July 14, 2020, during a routine patrol in the area of Nui Tuong forest in Tan Phu district, Cat Tien National Park FPD detected four men exiting the forest and seized 140 kg of gaur (*Bos gaurus*) meat and bone, which was being kept in two sacks and two backpacks. The remains of the gaur carcass were later found in the forest. The four subjects resisted arrest and fled the scene (Case ref. 17103/ENV).

On September 8, 2020, Long Thanh District FPD received a common snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*), which was transferred by a local restaurant whose owner had received a warning letter from ENV (Case ref. 17153/ENV).

On September 15, 2020, Long Thanh District FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a stump-tailed macaque (*Macaca arctoides*), a clouded monitor (*Varanus bengalensis*), three giant Asian pond turtles (*Heosemys grandis*), and a Burmese python (*Python molurus*), which were illegally kept at a farm. The animals were temporarily placed at Mango Garden Eco-Resort (Case ref. 17637/ENV).

On September 30, 2020, Tan Phu District FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a Burmese python (*Python molurus*) from a local petrol station. The python was later placed at Cat Tien National Park's rescue center (Case ref. 17684/ENV).

On October 2, 2020, Bien Hoa City FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated three giant Asian pond turtles (*Heosemys grandis*) and eight other turtles from a local pagoda. The turtles were transferred to Dong Nai Culture and Nature Reserve (Case ref. 17665/ENV).

On November 26, 2020, Hoa An Ward Police responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a giant Asian pond turtle (*Heosemys grandis*), two elongated tortoises (*Indotestudo elongata*), and two Mekong snail-eating turtles (*Malayemys subtrijuga*) that were being sold on a bridge in Bien Hoa City. The turtles were later released in Dong Nai Culture and Nature Reserve (Case ref. 18220/ENV).

On December 17, 2020, Bien Hoa City FPD in cooperation with Tan Tien Ward Police responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated three giant Asian pond turtles (*Heosemys grandis*), three Mekong snail-eating turtles (*Malayemys subtrijuga*), and a yellow-headed temple turtle (*Heosemys annandalii*) that were being sold on the street (Case ref. 18474/ENV).

On December 2, 2020, Vinh Cuu District FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated two pied falconets (*Microhierax melanoleucos*) and two hawks (*Accipitriformes spp.*) from the home of an online seller. The subject was administratively fined VND 10 million, and the raptors were released back into nature (Case ref. 16210/ENV).



Gia Lai

On August 19, 2020, Gia Lai Environment Police responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated two hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) trophies from an online seller. These trophies were later transferred to Gia Lai Provincial Museum (Case ref. 17312/ENV).



Ha Nam

On December 9, 2020, Ha Nam Environment Police responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated 42 doves, 30 grey herons (*Ardea cinerea*), a black-crowned night heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), nine spotted doves, 15 spot-billed ducks (*Anas poecilorhyncha*), and 80 crakes and common moorhens (*Gallinula chloropus*) from a restaurant. The birds were later released back into nature. The restaurant owner was administratively fined VND 5 million (Case ref. 18349/ENV).



Ha Tinh

On July 26, 2020, Can Loc District Police, in cooperation with Can Loc District FPD, stopped a passenger bus and seized two elongated tortoises (*Indotestudo elongate*), six Malayan snail-eating turtles (*Malayemys subtrijuga*), two Asian leaf turtles (*Cyclemys tcheponensis*), and a giant Asian pond turtle (*Heosemys grandis*), which were being kept in the luggage compartment under the bus along with 72,000 medical face masks. The turtles were subsequently transferred to the Turtle Conservation Center at Cuc Phuong National Park. The driver was administratively fined VND 10 million (Case ref. 17158/ENV).

On July 31, 2020, Ha Tinh Environment Police, in cooperation with Huong Son District Police, seized 45 bamboo rats weighing 45 kg that were being transported on a passenger bus. Five dead bamboo rats were destroyed, while the remaining 40 weak but live bamboo rats were auctioned off for VND 1,890,000. The owner was administratively fined VND 5 million (Case ref. 17212/ENV).

On September 4, 2020, Son Kim 1 Commune Police in cooperation with Cau Treo International Border Guard Station checked a motorbike heading to Ha Tinh city from Huong Son district and seized 12 kg of turtles, including eight Indochinese box turtles (*Cuora galbinifrons*), six keeled box turtles (*Cuora mouhotii*), and an impressed tortoise (*Manouria impressa*). The turtles were subsequently transferred to Pu Mat National Park's rescue center. Two subjects were arrested. On December 28, 2020, each subject was sentenced to 36 months in prison by the People's Court of Huong Son district, but given a suspended sentence. The probation period is 72 months (Case ref. 17613/ENV).

On September 21, 2020, Ha Tinh FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and caught a subject hunting storks in the area. The subject was administratively fined VND 2 million (Case ref. 17673/ENV).

On September 23, 2020, Ha Tinh Environment Police in cooperation with Huong Khe District Police checked a motorbike and seized two king cobras (*Ophiophagus hannah*) weighing 6 kg. Two subjects were arrested, of which only the owner faced prosecution. On November 30, 2020, the subject was given 12 months suspended sentence with 24 months of probation. The snake was transferred to Vu Quang National Park and released back into the wild (Case ref. 17732/ENV).

On October 13, 2020, during a campaign targeting violations relating to hunting of wild birds, Ha Tinh Environment Police and Duc Tho FPD checked a residential house and seized 134.2 kg of common birds kept in three freezers, as well as 80 additional wild birds, including black-crowned night herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), Chinese pond herons (*Ardeola bacchus*), spot-billed ducks (*Anas poecilorhyncha*), and sandpipers. In total, 24 live birds were released back into nature and 56 dead birds were destroyed along with the 134.2 kg of frozen birds.

In a second inspection carried out on the same day, Ha Tinh Environment Police in cooperation with Can Loc District Police and Can Loc District FPD checked a local restaurant and seized 43 kg of wild bird meat from Chinese pond herons (*Ardeola bacchus*), storks, herons, and sandpipers, as well as 14 dead Chinese pond herons (*Ardeola bacchus*) weighing 7 kg. All of the birds and wild bird meat were destroyed (Case ref. 17906/17907/ENV).

On December 19, 2020, during a routine patrol, Cam Xuyen District Police arrested a man who was using a handmade gun to hunt wild birds. The subject did not have any hunted wildlife with him, but was still given an administrative fine for illegal use of a weapon, and the firearm and ammunition were confiscated (Case ref. 18505/ENV).

On December 19, 2020, Ha Tinh FPD in cooperation with Ha Tinh Traffic Police stopped a public bus and seized 500 bulbuls. The bulbuls were later released in Vu Quang National Park, and the subjects received an administrative fine of VND 10 million each (Case ref. 18529/ENV).

On December 25, 2020, Huong Son District Police stopped a motorbike and seized a frozen civet. Following the seizure, police checked the subject's house and confiscated additional frozen wildlife, including three wild pigs, three bamboo rats, and two civets. The frozen wildlife was destroyed, and the subject was given an administrative fine of VND 15 million (Case ref. 18620/ENV).

“ **TIGERS, GIBBONS,  
LANGURS, ELEPHANTS,  
AND MANY MORE  
SPECIES  
ARE FOLLOWING  
RHINOS DOWN THE PATH  
TOWARDS EXTINCTION.  
IT’S UP TO YOU TO STOP THIS  
BEFORE IT’S TOO LATE.**

”



**Hai Duong**

On August 5, 2020, Tu Ky District Police issued an administrative fine of VND 1,250,000 for illegally advertising wildlife products to an online wildlife supplier after ENV provided police with a Law Enforcement Evidence Package (LEEP) profiling the subject and detailing his violations. All violation links were subsequently removed (Case ref. 16483/ENV).

On October 29, 2020, two Asiatic black bears (*Ursus thibetanus*) that were being kept in a residential house in Hai Duong province were voluntarily transferred to the Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center, thanks to efforts by provincial authorities and NGO partners convincing the bear farmer to give up his bears (Case ref. 3953/ENV).



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

**Hanoi**

On August 21, 2020, Ba Dinh District Economic Police responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a loris, which was being kept in front of a local restaurant. The loris was later placed at the Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center (Case ref. 17419/ENV).

On September 25, 2020, Tay Ho District Environment Police set up a sting operation and seized two Asian small-clawed otters (*Aonyx cinereus*), which were being transported via taxi in a carton box and intended for sale. The otters were subsequently transferred to the Small Carnivore and Pangolin Conservation Program of Cuc Phuong National Park. One subject was arrested. On February 2, 2021, the subject was sentenced to 18 months in prison (Case ref. 17736/ENV).



On September 22, 2020, Long Bien Environment Police in cooperation with Ngoc Thuy Ward Police seized an Asian small-clawed otter (*Aonyx cinereus*), a masked palm civet (*Paguma larvata*), and two dead common palm civets (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*), all of which were being transported. The live wildlife was subsequently transferred to the Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center, and one subject was arrested. The subject received an administrative fine of VND 10 million for illegally transporting IIB-listed wildlife (Case ref. 17959/ENV).

On October 1, 2020, National Environment Police in cooperation with Noi Bai Customs checked a shipment of fish from Singapore and seized 146 Asian arowana (*Scleropages formosus*). According to police, the arowanas were sourced from Indonesia. The person whose name was listed on the container's documents denied being the owner of the fish (Case ref. 17789/ENV).



Photo: Asian arowana

The Asian arowana is categorized as Endangered on the IUCN Red List and listed under Appendix I of CITES prohibiting international trade without permits from both the source and receiving country.

On October 15, 2020, an Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) kept at a resident's home in Phuc Tho district of Hanoi, Vietnam's biggest bear-farming hotspot, was voluntarily transferred to Bear Rescue Center Vietnam operated by AAF at Tam Dao National Park after more than a year-long effort by ENV to convince the owner, who was a local district official (Case ref. 2533/ENV).

On November 26, 2020, Hanoi FPD Team 1 responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated two oriental pied hornbills (*Anthracoceros albirostris*) that were previously kept on the premises of a local business. The hornbills were later transferred to Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center (Case ref. 18170/ENV).

On December 15, 2020, Bac Tu Liem Economic Police stopped a motorbike and seized two Owston's civets (*Chrotogale owstoni*) that were being transported for sale. One subject was arrested, and the civets were subsequently transferred to the Small Carnivore and Pangolin Rescue Center at Cuc Phuong National Park (Case ref. 18476/ENV).

On October 7, 2020, Cau Giay Environment Police conducted a sting operation and seized a live big-headed turtle (*Platysternon megacephalum*) from a subject who was waiting for the supposed customer. The subject was arrested, and the turtle was subsequently transferred to the Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center. On May 19, 2021, the subject received a suspended sentence of 12 months with 24-month probation (Case ref. 18069/ENV).

On October 8, 2020, Dan Phuong District Police confiscated four Vietnamese pond turtles (*Mauremys annamensis*) and arrested a subject during a sting operation. The subject confessed that he had bought the turtles from an online supplier. On March 18, 2021, the subject was given a suspended sentence of 15 months with 30-month probation (Case ref. 18005/ENV).



Photo: *Mauremys annamensis*

*Mauremys annamensis* is a species of freshwater turtle endemic to the central provinces of Vietnam and found in no other place in the world. The species is listed as fully protected under Decree 64 and Decree 06 making it a criminal offense to possess this species. IUCN categorizes the species as Critically Endangered. It is also listed on Appendix I of CITES prohibiting international trade.

**ATTENTION:** Customs and Border Army in Quang Ninh, Lang Son, and other northern border provinces! This species requires CITES permits to export. Despite this, a number of these turtles are being sold and smuggled into China from Vietnamese sources. All of these shipments are illegal unless CITES Appendix I permits are in hand for both export from Vietnam and import into China. Animals discovered without permits must be confiscated and those attempting to smuggle the animals should be arrested and prosecuted.

## Ho Chi Minh

On July 17, 2020, Ho Chi Minh City Environment Police responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a baby Owston's civet (*Chrotogale owstoni*) and two squirrels from a gymnastics center. The wildlife was transferred to Saigon Zoo on the same day (Case ref. 16953/ENV).

**Shop fined for selling ivory in Ho Chi Minh City**

On August 18, 2020, Go Vap District Environment Police responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated approximately 487 grams of ivory products and 830 grams of fake ivory made from plastic that was for sale at a jewelry shop. The shop owner was administrative fined VND 225 million (Case ref. 15579/ENV).

On August 21, 2020, District 3 Economic Police responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a yellow-headed temple turtle (*Heosemys annandalii*), a giant Asian pond turtle (*Heosemys grandis*), and two elongated tortoises (*Indotestudo elongata*) from a street vendor. The turtles were later transferred to the Cu Chi Rescue Center (Case ref. 17425/ENV).

On August 24, 2020, Da Kao Ward Police in District 1 responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated two turtles that were being sold on the street. The turtles were later transferred to Saigon Zoo (Case ref. 17426/ENV).

**Pangolin sting operation nabs online seller**

On September 16, 2020, Binh Tan District Police confiscated a live Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*) weighing 500 grams during a sting operation undertaken in cooperation with ENV. The pangolin was advertised for sale on Facebook for VND 3,500,000. The pangolin was then transferred to Saigon Zoo. The subject was an online supplier who used different Facebook accounts to advertise live animals. On April 14, 2021, the subject was sentenced to 18 months in prison (Case ref. 16026/ENV).



On September 23, 2020, Tan Phu District Police responded to a report from ENV and confiscated a baby Asian small-clawed otter (*Amblonyx cinerea*). The subject was an online supplier who advertised otters and other wildlife for sale on his Facebook. The otter was transferred to Saigon Zoo. On April 2, 2021, the subject received a suspended sentence of 18 months with 36-month probation (Case ref. 17586/ENV).

On September 29, 2020, Saigon Zoo responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and received a raccoon, which was found alive in a refrigerated storage container that had been imported two weeks prior from the United States (Case ref. 17752/ENV).



**Restaurants fined for advertising wildlife**

In September 2020, Ho Chi Minh FPD carried out inspections of restaurants and issued fines to six violating establishments for illegally advertising wildlife on their menus. The fines ranged from VND 1.25 million to VND 2.5 million each. Violations included advertisements of specialty dishes ranging from civet, snake, and stone fish (*Scorpaenopsis diabolus*), to Asiatic soft-shell turtles (*Amyda cartilaginea*), bamboo rat, spot-billed duck (*Anas poecilorhyncha*), water rails, herons, and storks.

All of these cases were reported to FPD following an ENV wildlife crime reduction campaign in Ho Chi Minh City in 2020, during which 346 restaurants and other business establishments were inspected for wildlife violations. Among the restaurants fined were also establishments offering shark fin soup, a partial focus of ENV's campaign. (Case ref. 7216/11119/11878/11976/12079/14260/ENV)



On October 15, 2020, District 11 Police responded to a report from ENV and confiscated three live Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*) and a live sulcata tortoise (*Centrochelys sulcata*) that were being transported. Following the confiscation, police checked the subject's house and confiscated an additional 61 live sulcata tortoises (*Centrochelys sulcata*). The tortoises were all transferred to Saigon Zoo. Police are evaluating the case evidence in order to prosecute the subject (Case ref. 17682/ENV).

On October 27, 2020, Saigon Zoo received an Arctic fox (*Vulpes lagopus*) that had been publicly reported to the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline. The fox was voluntarily transferred by a local woman, who claimed the fox had run into her house (Case ref. 17952/ENV).

On December 3, 2020, Ho Chi Minh FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated two purple swampheens (*Porphyrio porphyrio*), two crakes, and four squirrels from a seafood shop. The wildlife was later transferred to Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station (Case ref. 18218/ENV).

On December 3, 2020, Phu Nhuan District Police conducted a sting operation in cooperation with ENV and confiscated six oriental small-clawed otters (*Amblonyx cinerea*). The otters had been advertised for sale on a Facebook group for VND 4.5 million each. ENV worked with the district police, posing as a buyer, and arranged for a meeting that resulted in the successful confiscation. The subject was arrested, and the otters were transferred to Saigon Zoo. On June 15, 2021, the People's Court of Phu Nhuan District sentenced the subject to six years in prison (Case ref. 18280/ENV).

On December 22, 2020, Tan Phu District Police confiscated a baby otter during a sting operation undertaken in cooperation with ENV. Following the confiscation, police checked the motorcycle shop where the subject worked and confiscated another baby otter. The two otters were transferred to Saigon Zoo, and the seller was arrested (Case ref. 16671/ENV).

## Hoa Binh

On October 19, 2020, Hoa Binh Police checked a car and seized two frozen pig-tailed macaques (*Macaca leonina*) and four frozen rhesus macaques (*Macaca mulatta*) as they were being transported. It is likely these macaques were going to be used to make TCM from their bones (Case ref. 18032/ENV).

On December 14, 2020, Luong Son District Police stopped a motorbike and seized a leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) that was being transported for sale. The leopard cat was subsequently transferred to the Small Carnivore and Pangolin Conservation Program at Cuc Phuong National Park. (Case ref. 18473/ENV).

## Khanh Hoa

On November 19, 2020, Khanh Hoa Environment Police responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated four monitor lizards and a giant Asian pond turtle (*Heosemys grandis*) from a local coffee shop (Case ref. 14126/ENV).

## Kien Giang

### Hawksbill trophies seized after public report

On August 7, 2020, Kien Giang Environment Police responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated four hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) trophies from a local hotel. The trophies were later transferred to the Vietnam National Museum of Nature (Case ref. 17298/ENV).

On July 2, 2020, Kien Giang FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a raptor from a local resident. The raptor was later released into the local forest (Case ref. 16850/ENV).

On October 8, 2020, Kien Giang Environment Police in cooperation with Kien Giang Fisheries responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) that was being kept at a restaurant in Rach Gia City. The turtle was released back into the ocean on the same day (Case ref. 17814/ENV).



## Kon Tum

On September 3, 2020, Kon Tum Provincial Traffic Police checked a car and seized a Chinese pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) weighing 2.7 kg and 46 hoary bamboo rats (*Rhizomys pruinosus*) along with nine Siamese rosewood logs. The wildlife was subsequently transferred to Chu Mom Ray National Park, however, the subject fled the scene. Currently, the case is temporarily suspended (Case ref. 17648/ENV).

On December 7, 2020, Kon Tum Traffic Police in cooperation with Ngoc Hoi District Police stopped a taxi and seized 64 kg of suspected deer meat. Despite being passed off as deer meat to potential customers by the subject, the meat was later identified as beef (Case ref. 18358/ENV).

On December 22, 2020, Kon Tum Traffic Police checked a car and seized 313 kg of wild pig meat, two live Asiatic soft-shell turtles (*Amyda cartilaginea*), and a live civet. The two Asiatic soft-shell turtles were transferred to Chu Mom Ray National Park, while the civet later died and was incinerated with the wild pig meat. The owner was administratively fined VND 40 million (*Case ref. 18560/ENV*).

## Lai Chau

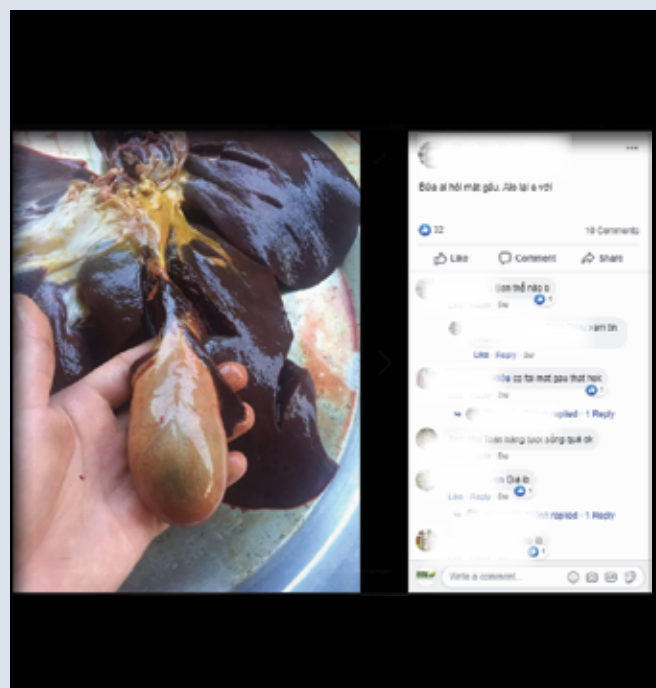
### Sea horse trafficker gets four years

On September 1, 2020, Trang Dinh District Police in Lang Son province checked three motorbikes and seized 28 bags containing 129 kg of dried flat-faced seahorses (*Hippocampus trimaculatus*) and hedgehog seahorses (*Hippocampus spinosissimus*). The dried seahorses were destroyed. One subject was arrested.

On February 3, 2021, the subject was convicted by Trang Dinh District Court and sentenced to a prison term of four years (*Case ref. 19438/ENV*).

## Lam Dong

On May 8, 2020, the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline received a report from a member of the public about an online wildlife supplier advertising tiger claws and canines, small pieces of tiger skin, bear claws and gall bladders, as well as other wildlife products on several Facebook accounts. ENV provided Lam Dong Police with a Law Enforcement Evidence Package (LEEP) profiling the supplier and documenting the evidence of violations. On November 2, 2020, the subject was confronted by Lam Ha FPD and fined VND 1.5 million for illegally advertising wildlife products. The subject was also given a warning and required to remove all of the advertisements immediately (*Case ref. 16527/ENV*).



On August 28, 2020, Lam Dong Environment Police, in cooperation with Cat Tien District FPD, searched the home of a local wildlife trader and seized a number of animals including a live oriental rat snake (*Ptyas mucosus*), two live Bengal monitors (*Varanus nebulosus*), a live water monitor (*Varanus salvator*), four dead common palm civets (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*), a dead leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*), a dead Javan chevrotain (*Tragulus javanicus*), three dead small Indian civets (*Viverricula indica*), six dead small-toothed palm civets (*Arctogalidia trivirgata*), a dead masked palm civet (*Paguma larvata*), two dead large-toothed ferret badgers (*Melogale personata*), a dead Javan mongoose (*Herpestes javanicus*), five dead bamboo rats, 49 kg of wild pig meat (*Sus scrofa*), 7 kg of dead porcupine, and 2 kg of common barking deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*). The live wildlife was transferred to Cat Tien District FPD. One subject was arrested (*Case ref. 17574/ENV*).

On September 2, 2020, Duc Trong District Economic Police checked a residential house and seized a Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*) weighing 1.9 kg, a common palm civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*) weighing 2.7 kg, and two elongated tortoises (*Indotestudo elongata*) weighing 2.6 kg, which were being kept in cages. The owner was arrested. On November 26, 2020, the subject was given a criminal fine of VND 20 million by the People's Court of Duc Trong district. The subject was also administratively fined VND 10 million for violations relating to IIB species (*Case ref. 17597/ENV*).

On September 10, 2020, Lam Dong Environment Police responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and raided a local house, confiscating a live Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*), 22.6 kg of wildlife meat including porcupine, civet, and wild pig, and 21.5 kg of feet suspected to belong to a primate species. The pangolin was transferred to Cat Tien National Park's Rescue Center. One subject was arrested. On March 8, 2021, the People's Court of Da Huoi district sentenced the subject to 12 months in prison. The subject appealed, but his appeal was turned down by the People's Court of Lam Dong province. He was also administratively fined VND 30 million for violations relating to common and IIB species (*Case ref. 17396/ENV*).

On September 15, 2020, Cat Tien National Park FPD checked a motorbike and seized a dead common palm civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*) weighing 2.4 kg and two live Bengal monitors (*Varanus nebulosus*) weighing 3.2 kg. The monitors were subsequently transferred to Cat Tien National Park and the dead civet was destroyed. The subject was administratively fined VND 295 million (*Case ref. 17809/ENV*).

### Lam Dong police seize bear paws in sting

On September 23, 2020, Lam Dong Environment Police confiscated two bear paws during a sting operation undertaken in cooperation with ENV. The bear owner was arrested and confessed that he had cut off the paws from a bear that had died on his farm in February 2020. The bear paws were advertised for sale by the bear owner for VND 10 million. On October 1, 2020, Free the Bears Sanctuary in Cat Tien National Park received the owner's last two live bears from his farm. On May 31, 2021, the People's Court of Da Huoi district imposed a criminal fine of VND 700 million to the subject. The bear paws were destroyed (Case ref. 17604/ENV).



On October 8, 2020, Bao Loc City Police checked a passenger bus and seized two live Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*) weighing 10 kg, a live 10.5 kg reticulated python (*Python reticulatus*), and three live bamboo rats, all of which were being kept in sealed boxes. The driver was arrested, and the wildlife was subsequently transferred to Cat Tien National Park (Case ref. 17820/ENV).

### Lang Son

On December 29, 2020, after receiving a tip-off from the public, Lang Son Economic Police, in cooperation with Lang Son City FPD, stopped a motorbike and seized 40 kg of slaughtered wildlife. Following the seizure, authorities searched the subject's home and seized a further 120 kg of slaughtered wildlife, including leopard cats (*Prionailurus bengalensis*), civets, snakes, deer, monitor lizards, and squirrels. The wildlife was destroyed (Case ref. 18698/ENV).

### Lao Cai

On November 26, 2020, Lao Cai FPD in cooperation with Lao Cai Environment Police checked a restaurant and seized eight masked palm civets (*Paguma larvata*) and four hoary bamboo rats (*Rhizomys pruinosus*). The wildlife was transferred to Hoang Lien National Park's rescue center, and the restaurant owner was administratively fined VND 30 million (Case ref. 18470/ENV).

### Nghe An

On July 7, 2020, after detecting signs of suspicious activity, Vinh City Traffic Police checked a bus and seized 160 kg of porcupines and civets which were being transported in 23 boxes (Case ref. 16965/ENV).

#### Bear paws seized in Nghe An

On August 20, 2020, after receiving a tip, Nghe An Environment Police, in cooperation with Que Phong District Police, checked a local resident's home and seized four Asian black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) paws weighing 11 kg. One subject was arrested and claimed that he bought the paws from a Laotian man at the Vietnam-Laos border. On November 27, 2020, the subject received a suspended sentence of 12 months with 24-month probation (Case ref. 17428/ENV).

On August 31, 2020, Nghe An Provincial Environment Police, in cooperation with Nam Dan District Police, checked a car and seized six live Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*) weighing 23.8 kg. The pangolins were subsequently transferred to Pu Mat National Park. One subject was arrested. On March 11, 2021, the People's Court of Nam Dan district sentenced the subject to five years in prison (Case ref. 17587 /ENV).

On September 30, 2020, Dien Chau District FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and checked a residential house. No wildlife was found at the address, however, the subject was administratively fined VND 1.25 million for advertising songbirds for sale on social media. All violation links were subsequently removed (Case ref. 17214/ENV).

# TO REPORT WILDLIFE CRIME, CALL 18001522.

### Restaurant owner gets 30-month suspended sentence

On July 9, 2020, Nghe An Economic Police seized three Asian golden cats (*Catopuma temminckii*) weighing 38 kg from a restaurant in Anh Son town and arrested the restaurant owner. On October 28, 2020, the subject was convicted by Anh Son Town Court and sentenced to a prison term of 30 months. The subject then appealed, and on March 29, 2021, the People's Court of Nghe An province accepted the subject's appeal, giving him a suspended sentence of 30 months with 60-month probation (Case ref. 18097/ENV).

On October 7, 2020, Anh Son District Police in cooperation with Traffic Police checked a motorbike and seized two frozen macaques. Following the seizure, police checked the subject's house and seized six dead macaques, a Chinese serow (*Naemorhedus milneedwardsii*) skeleton, a live Asian water monitor (*Varanus salvator*), three impressed tortoises (*Manouria impressa*), and 80 vials of cow and civet bile. One subject was arrested (Case ref. 17810/ENV).

On October 14, 2020, Con Cuong District Police checked a pickup truck and seized two dead porcupines, four dead masked palm civets (*Paguma larvata*), and two dead leopard cats (*Prionailurus bengalensis*), all of which were bought from a hunter and were being transported at the time of the seizure. The wildlife was later destroyed, and the subject was administratively fined VND 20 million (Case ref. 17894/ENV).

On October 14, 2020, after receiving a tip-off from the public, the Investigation Team of Que Phong District Police, in cooperation with Tri Le Commune Police, checked a residential house and seized six live big-headed turtles (*Platysternum megacephalum*). One subject was arrested, and the turtles were subsequently transferred to Cuc Phuong National Park. On January 15, 2021, the People's Court of Que Phong district gave the subject a 24-month suspended sentence with 48-month probation (Case ref. 18075/ENV).

On November 18, 2020, Ta Ca Commune Police seized 80 live bulbuls from a street vendor. The birds were later released back into nature and the subject was administratively fined VND 5 million (Case ref. 18207/ENV).

On November 22, 2020, Khe Bu Forest Protection Station FPD of Pu Mat National Park seized a 50 kg Chinese serow (*Naemorhedus milneedwardsii*) as it was being transported out of the park. Two subjects were arrested (Case ref. 18232/ENV).

On December 21, 2020, Nam Tu Liem District Police confiscated 130 vials of Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) bile from an online seller during a sting operation undertaken in cooperation with ENV. The subject originated from Quynh Luu district in Nghe An province, which is a hotspot for wildlife trafficking. The subject had created two websites to advertise bear bile and bear gallbladders for sale, and was subsequently arrested and currently faces prosecution (Case ref. 5675/ENV).

On December 23, 2020, Nghe An Environment Police in cooperation with Dien Chau District Police confiscated a 200 kg Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) that was being kept at a resident's home in Dien Chau district. The bear was later transferred to Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center. One subject was prosecuted (Case ref. 18553/ENV).

### Ninh Binh

On October 7, 2020, Yen Mo District Police checked a resident's house and seized a gaur (*Bos gaurus*) skull. Two subjects were arrested and the skull was destroyed. On November 26, 2020, the two subjects were convicted by Yen Mo District Court. One subject received a suspended sentence of 15 months with 30 months of probation, and the other subject received 12 months of suspended sentence with 24 months of probation (Case ref. 18730/ENV).

On December 23, 2020, Ninh Binh Police, in collaboration with Kim Son District Police, responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated an oriental small-clawed otter (*Aonyx cinerea*) and five Finlayson's squirrels (*Callosciurus finlaysonii*) from the home of an online seller. The otter was advertised for sale for VND 5 million. The wildlife was transferred to the Small Carnivore and Pangolin Conservation Program at Cuc Phuong National Park. (Case ref. 18260/ENV).



On December 6, 2020, Ninh Binh Traffic Police checked a passenger bus and seized six live Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*) and two dead Chinese serows (*Capricornis sumatraensis*). The pangolins were transferred to the Small Carnivore and Pangolin Conservation Program at Cuc Phuong National Park, and the dead serows were destroyed. The case was temporarily suspended because the owner of the wildlife has not been found (Case ref. 18291/ENV).

#### Ninh Thuan

On October 10, 2020, Ninh Thuan FPD in cooperation with local police responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated two rhesus macaques (*Macaca mulatta*) and a crested serpent eagle (*Spilornis cheela*) from an ecotourism farm. The animals were later transferred to Nui Chua Nature Reserve (Case ref. 17782/ENV).

**Notation:** Development of “ecotourism farms” continues to be a problem in many provinces. These establishments rarely have the expertise to care for captive wild animals, and almost always obtain their animals illegally. Establishing and operating a zoo requires considerable investment and expertise to do so properly. Proper management and care, veterinarian expertise, suitable and sufficient diet, and understanding of the species’ ecology are all prerequisites to keeping wild animals, yet all of these requirements are beyond the capacity of most owners. These requirements are also costly to maintain. Only zoos and other larger establishments with suitable resources and expertise are in a good position to care for captive animals. Leave a professional job to the professionals: Do not register or allow the growth of eco-parks unless animals are obtained legally and park owners can prove they have the capacity, resources, and expertise to keep wild animals.

#### Phu Tho

On November 3, 2020, two Asiatic black bears (*Ursus thibetanus*) were voluntarily transferred to Tam Dao bear sanctuary operated by Animals Asia Foundation (AAF). The transfer occurred after ENV convinced the owner to give up his registered bears (Case ref. 9848/ENV).

#### Phu Yen

On October 2, 2020, Dong Hoa Town Police in Phu Yen province in cooperation with Market Surveillance No. 3 of Phu Yen MS checked a motorbike and seized two civets and an oriental rat snake (*Ptyas mucosus*) that were being transported to a farm. Following the seizure, police checked the farm and seized 18 king cobras (*Ophiophagus hannah*), a crab-eating macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*), 11 keeled box turtles (*Cuora mouhotii*), two civets, and seven brush-tailed porcupines that were being kept illegally (Case ref. 17840/ENV).

#### Quang Binh

On December 21, 2020, Cam Pha City Police checked a passenger bus and seized both a live and a dead leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*), a live ferret badger, and a live civet. None of the live wildlife survived after the seizure, and the dead wildlife was subsequently destroyed. The driver was administratively fined VND 20 million (Case ref. 18573/ENV).

#### Quang Ngai

On September 24, 2020, Duc Pho Town Economic Police stopped a truck and seized eight rhesus macaques (*Macaca mulatta*). The macaques were later released back into nature. The subject was administratively fined VND 20 million (Case ref. 17761/ENV).

#### Quang Ninh

On November 16, 2020, Quang Ninh Traffic Police checked a passenger bus and seized 207 non-native turtles, including 117 red-eared sliders (*Trachemys scripta elegans*), 30 eastern painted turtles (*Chrysemys picta*), and 60 map turtles (*Graptemys* sp.). The bus driver was administratively fined VND 10 million and the evidence was incinerated (Case ref. 18131/ENV).

#### Quang Tri

On December 26, 2020, Cam Lo District Police seized a Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*) and three common palm civets (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*). The wildlife was later transferred to the Small Carnivore and Pangolin Conservation Program at Cuc Phuong National Park (Case ref. 18804/ENV).

#### Son La

On July 12, 2020, the patrol team of Muong Lan Border Station along the Laotian border discovered a northern white-cheeked gibbon (*Nomascus leucogenys*) that was caught in a hunter’s trap and had sustained injury to its arm (presumably from a snare trap). The gibbon was released from the trap and transferred to Sop Cop District FPD for media attention. No hunter was found (Case ref. 17115/ENV).

# TO REPORT CORRUPTION, CALL 08080 48 228.

Tay Ninh

On December 23, 2020, Tay Ninh Environment Police and Go Dau District Police executed a sting operation in cooperation with ENV and searched a resident's home, confiscating 39 hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) trophies being kept in cardboard boxes. Police also confiscated 3.8 tonnes of domestic animal organs without a known origin. One subject was arrested as he was preparing to deliver trophies to the supposed customer. It was determined that the evidence belonged to a local man, who was identified by ENV as an online supplier who advertised pangolin scales, rhino horn, ivory, and tiger products on WeChat. This subject was later arrested. On June 18, 2021, the Go Dau District People's Court sentenced the owner to 12 years in prison. The accomplice was sentenced to 10 years in prison. The turtle specimens will be transferred to the Vietnam National Museum of Nature (Case ref. 16891/ENV).



Thai Binh

On November 2, 2020, Thai Binh FPD confiscated a leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) from a local man who claimed that he had bought it from an anonymous seller. The leopard cat was later transferred to the Small Carnivore and Pangolin Conservation Program at Cuc Phuong National Park (Case ref. 18210/ENV).

Thai Nguyen

On November 10, 2020, Thai Nguyen FPD responded to a public report via the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline and confiscated a leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*) from a local hunter. The leopard cat was subsequently transferred to Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center (Case ref. 18054/ENV).

Thanh Hoa

On January 20, 2020, ENV received a public report via the Wildlife Crime Hotline about an individual advertising wildlife on his Facebook accounts. Violations included advertisements for various types of ivory products and small rhino horn pieces. ENV provided a Law Enforcement Evidence Package (LEEP) to Thanh Hoa City Police, comprised of a profile and evidence of violations by the online supplier. On October 16, 2020, the subject was confronted by police and given a warning, as well as a fine of VND 1.25 million for illegally advertising wildlife products (Case ref. 15800/ENV).



On December 22, 2020, Thanh Hoa Police, in cooperation with Bim Son Town Police, checked a passenger bus and seized three Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*). The subject confessed that he was hired to transport the pangolins from Thua Thien Hue to a bus station in Hanoi. The pangolins were later transferred to the Small Carnivore and Pangolin Conservation Program at Cuc Phuong National Park. The case was temporarily suspended because police could not find the owner (Case ref. 18545/ENV).

### Vinh Long

On October 15, 2020, Vinh Long Environment Police responded to a report from ENV and confiscated two hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) trophies from a local hotel. The trophies were later transferred to the Vietnam National Museum of Nature (Case ref. 16873/ENV).

### Vinh Phuc

On November 29, 2020, Vinh Phuc Environment Police checked a motorbike and seized a dead Chinese serow (*Naemorhedus milneedwardsii*) weighing 44 kg, which was packed in a styrofoam container. The seller, transporter, and buyer were all arrested (Case ref. 18253/ENV).

On December 7, 2020, Vinh Yen City Economic Police checked a restaurant and seized 41 common snipes and herons with mutilated eyes. The birds were later destroyed and the restaurant owner was administratively fined VND 10 million (Case ref. 18296/ENV).

### Yen Bai

#### Yen Bai bear cubs transferred

On July 19, 2020, Yen Bai FPD transferred two bear cubs (*Ursus thibetanus*) to Tam Dao bear sanctuary operated by AAF. The bear cubs had reportedly been bought from a wildlife trader for nearly VND 100 million. The man claimed that he had intended to keep the bears as pets, but had been convinced by neighbors to give them up (Case. ref. 17297/ENV).

On October 15, 2020, Yen Bai Environment Police checked a residential house and seized two live Asian water monitors (*Varanus salvator*) as they were being sold to a customer. Later, the police also seized two live king cobras (*Ophiophagus hannah*) and a dead red giant flying squirrel (*Petaurista petaurista*). The wildlife was later transferred to the Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources. The subject's prosecution is pending (Case ref. 17911/ENV).


**“RESEARCH SHOWS THAT ABOUT 60 PERCENT OF NEW INFECTIOUS DISEASES ARE ZOONOTIC. THE CAPTURE, TRANSPORTATION, TRADE, SLAUGHTER, AND CONSUMPTION OF WILD ANIMALS MAY ALL CONTRIBUTE TO THE OCCURRENCE OF DEADLY VIRUSES SUCH AS SARS, MERS, EBOLA, AND COVID-19. SAVE WILDLIFE, AND SAVE HUMANITY. STOP WILDLIFE CONSUMPTION.”**

## 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:

-  Working with policy-makers to strengthen legislation, close loopholes in the law, and promote sound policy and decision-making relevant to wildlife protection.
-  Strengthening enforcement through direct support and assistance to law enforcement agencies, and mobilizing active public participation in helping combat wildlife crime.
-  Reducing consumer demand for wildlife products through investment in a long-term and sustained effort to influence public attitudes and behavior.

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## CONTACT US

**env** 

### ACTION AGAINST EXTINCTION

Block 17T5, 17th floor, Room  
1701, Hoang Dao Thuy Str.,  
Thanh Xuan Dist., Hanoi, Vietnam  
Tel: (84 24) 6281 5424  
Fax: (84 24) 6281 5423  
Email: [env@fpt.vn](mailto:env@fpt.vn)  
Website: [www.env4wildlife.org](http://www.env4wildlife.org)

-  Education for Nature – Vietnam
-  Education for Nature – Vietnam
-  [env.wildlife](https://www.instagram.com/env.wildlife)