

Asian Wildlife Trade Bulletin

News from TRAFFIC's Wildlife Trade Initiative
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China imports legal ivory stocks from African Elephant range States

China has imported 65 tonnes of stockpiled African Elephant ivory sold by four southern African nations in auctions held in 2008. The auctions were overseen by members of the CITES Secretariat (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora).

The ivory auctions, held by Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe, were the first in which China was permitted to bid after the country was designated an approved buyer at a CITES Standing Committee meeting in July 2008.

"After any ivory sale takes place, CITES monitoring systems track whether or not it leads to an increase in illegal trade in ivory," noted Tom Milliken, TRAFFIC's East/Southern Africa Regional Director, and a leading expert on the global ivory trade.

TRAFFIC operates the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) on behalf of CITES, which uses law enforcement data to track illegal trade in elephant products. It is one of the principal monitoring tools for elephants under CITES.

"Following the last one-off ivory sale (to Japan, in 1999), it is encouraging to note that the illicit trade in ivory progressively declined over the next five years; we hope a similar result is achieved this time," Milliken added.

China's market control systems and law enforcement effectiveness were assessed by the CITES Secretariat prior to the latest sale, with a report to the CITES Standing Committee noting that China's trade controls "satisfy what is required by the relevant Resolution and these are designed to prevent illicit ivory from being laundered through licensed premises."

China's controls to improve the management of ivory stock and products include the recording of ivory product sources and the issuance of certification labels.

"TRAFFIC will continue working with the Chinese government to help maintain the effectiveness of their market controls when the new ivory products begin entering the retail market," said Professor Xu Hongfa, Head of TRAFFIC's East Asia China Programme.

China's State Forestry Administration has listed African Elephants as a national Grade

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Ivory products in Beijing © Xu Ling/TRAFFIC

TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network

I protected animal and capped the annual consumption of ivory raw materials at five tonnes in order to sustain the ivory sculpting industry for the next 15–20 years.

China has also stepped up its efforts in prosecuting those convicted of illegal trading in ivory. For example, in May 2009, two Chinese men were each sentenced to three years in jail by the Chengdu Intermediate Court and Chongqing No. 1 Intermediate People's Court, respectively, for smuggling ivory carvings from the USA and Japan into China.

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China's consumption of wildlife rising: report

China's consumption of wild animal and plant species is rising according to a TRAFFIC report—*The State of Wildlife Trade in China 2007*.

Consumption of wild animals is increasing following a slump surrounding fears over SARS in 2003. A TRAFFIC survey in five southern Chinese cities found that 13 of 25 markets and 20 of 50 restaurants had wild animals for sale. A total of 56 species were found and of these eight were protected under Chinese law and 17 were protected under CITES, which prohibits or strictly controls their international trade.

TRAFFIC released its yearly snapshot of wildlife trade in China in November 2008 with coverage on issues including wild meat consumption, traditional Chinese medicine trade, illegal ivory trade and wood imports.

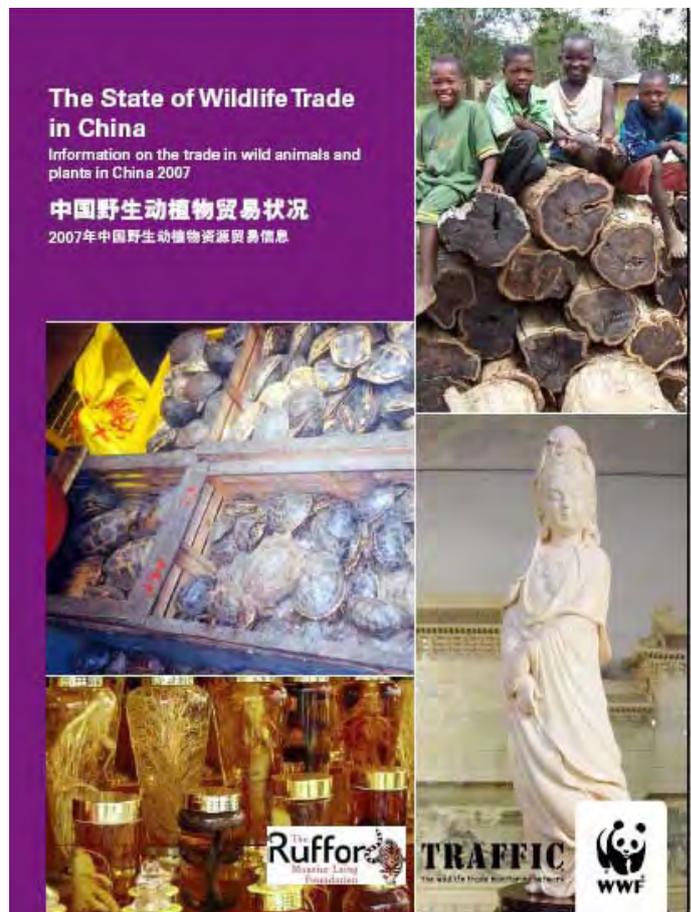
“*The State of Wildlife Trade in China 2007* examines the impact China's consumption is having on biodiversity and what emerging trends there are in the wildlife trade,” explained Professor Xu Hongfa, Head of TRAFFIC East Asia's China Programme.

In addition to tracking a rise in China's wildlife consumption, the report revealed that China's traditional medicine trade is rapidly growing; China's illegal ivory trade is declining; China is the world's second largest wood importer; and China's persistent trade in freshwater turtles is thriving.

Traditional Chinese medicine

The Chinese traditional medicine trade has grown at an annual rate of 10 percent since 2003. Most exports (USD687 million-worth) go to Asia, but Europe (USD162 million) and North America (USD144 million) are increasingly important markets. Over-harvesting and poor management of resources are looming threats, for species sourced both in China and from neighbouring countries, and currently there are no standards to ensure the sustainable collection of wild medicinal plants.

“TRAFFIC, the Beijing Chinese Medicinal Institution and others recently contributed to the development of the International Standard for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, which could be applied to help China's important medicinal plant industry achieve sustainability,” said Professor Xu.



The front cover of *The State of Wildlife Trade in China 2007*

Ivory trade

A re-examination in 2007 of the illegal ivory trade in China found that the situation had improved since a year earlier, with surveys showing a substantial reduction in the number of outlets selling ivory illegally.

“The reduction in illegal ivory trade is very welcome, but we urge the authorities to remain vigilant, particularly to ensure there is no laundering of illegal ivory,” said Professor Xu.

Timber imports

The report notes the rapid increase in demand in China for commodities such as timber and points out that while Russia is currently the top supplier of timber to China, Africa accounts for a growing percentage, which is stimulating illegal timber trade in Africa.

“Chinese companies buying legal African timber must ensure the benefits of the timber trade are equitably shared, right down to the African rural communities on whose land the trees are growing,” said Professor Xu.

Freshwater turtle trade

The majority of illegal wild animal trade was in freshwater turtles and snakes. In China, freshwater turtles and snakes are sold mostly for their meat and for medicinal purposes.

While China tends to be a destination for many wildlife products, other countries such as Viet Nam are both a user and a key transit point, with many of the wildlife products—including those sourced illegally—en route to China.

“The trends seen in this report into *the State of Wildlife Trade in China 2007* that show increasing demand in wildlife products and diminishing supply should be a wake up call for law enforcement, policy makers and consumers,” said Dr Susan Lieberman, Director of WWF International's Species Programme.

“We call upon Chinese authorities to enhance enforcement and public education efforts, to stop illegal trade and reduce consumption of threatened species from around the world.”

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Elephants under threat as illegal ivory prices soar in Viet Nam

Indochina's few surviving elephants are under increasing threat from high ivory prices in Viet Nam, according to a market analysis released by TRAFFIC Southeast Asia in February 2009.

The report, *An Assessment of the Illegal Ivory Trade in Viet Nam*, said Vietnamese ivory prices could be the highest in the world.



Painted plaques seen in several places in Viet Nam are manufactured in a village near Hue. They can be made of ivory or bone, and can be difficult to distinguish. © Daniel Stiles

Most of the raw ivory was said to originate from the Lao Peoples' Democratic Republic, with small amounts from Viet Nam and Cambodia. According to TRAFFIC's Chris Shepherd, this is a particularly worrying trend as according to IUCN figures, no more than 1000 elephants are believed to survive in Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) while in Viet Nam, fewer than 150 are believed to exist.

Although no African raw ivory was found during the survey, a major seizure in Haiphong, Viet Nam, in March 2009 confirms that Viet Nam is still either a conduit or final destination for the illegal trade of African Elephant ivory in the region. The fate of the six tonnes (equating to more than 200 pairs of tusks) of ivory seized in this event remains unclear. Investigations are ongoing in both Viet Nam and Tanzania, where the shipment originated.

Trade in ivory was outlawed in Viet Nam in 1992, but a major loophole in the legislation exists because shops can still sell ivory held in stock prior to 1992. This facilitates the possible re-stocking by some shop owners with recently-carved ivory.

In 2008, TRAFFIC surveyed 669 retail outlets across Viet Nam and found 73 (11%) selling a total of 2444 ivory items. Whilst the scale of the ivory market was smaller than in previous surveys, there were signs of increasing demand and overall numbers of craftsmen had increased since 2001. Ho Chi Minh City had the most retail outlets (49) and ivory items (1776), but Ha Noi, with only 10 outlets, had the highest number of craftsmen.

The report recommends that Viet Nam should strengthen its compliance with its obligations under CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), particularly regarding the reporting of ivory seizures to the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS), that national regulations and their enforcement should be tightened and offenders prosecuted, and that ivory for sale in retail outlets should be confiscated by the government authorities and destroyed.

The report also recommends enhanced training programmes for wildlife law enforcement officers and continued participation in the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) and similar initiatives that aim to control the illicit trafficking of ivory and other wildlife products in the region.

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Raising awareness about protecting marine turtles in Viet Nam

Hanoi's citizens may have seen something strange walking in the Vietnamese capital's historic Old Quarter in recent months: a line of cyclists dressed as marine turtles making their way through traffic.

The cyclists, who carried signs about marine turtle conservation, aimed to raise public awareness as part of the Marine Turtle Conservation Programme. The campaign, funded by DANIDA and jointly implemented by TRAFFIC, the Department of Capture Fisheries and Fisheries Resource Protection (DECAFIREP), and Hanoi Fisheries, took place over a period of two weeks last November.



A volunteer from the local student group "Cycle for the Environment" participating in TRAFFIC's November awareness campaign © Lisa Kelley/TRAFFIC

Six of seven of the world's marine turtle species are found in the Asia Pacific, five of them in waters off Viet Nam. Marine turtles have historic cultural, social and economic significance to many communities in Southeast Asia and many in the region consume marine turtles for their meat and eggs. There is also a long history of harvesting turtle eggs for their aphrodisiac and medicinal properties, and of targeting Hawksbill Turtles for their shell, used in the manufacture of jewellery, ornaments and utensils.

Levels of consumption today, however, pose one of the most serious threats to wild populations of marine turtles, many of which have already undergone a precipitous decline over the past two decades. Reflecting this decline, all species found in Viet Nam's waters are prohibited from trade for all purposes except scientific research. The five marine turtle species known to inhabit Vietnamese waters are classified as Endangered or as Critically Endangered in the 2008 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

However, marine turtle products continue to be found in retail shops in Hanoi and other cities in Viet Nam, with TRAFFIC research showing the trade has actually increased in some parts of the country since the early 1990s, with many consumers still unaware of the trade's illegality.

The public awareness campaign began with 200 roadside banners on the major thoroughfares in Hanoi that asked consumers to question their consumption of turtles. Other campaign activities included a three-day bicycle road show through some of Hanoi's busiest streets and two TV programmes that showcased the illegality of the trade as many citizens were unaware of the legislation protecting marine turtles. A highlight of the campaign was the participation of over 50 university students, part of a group called Cycle for the Environment. The students spent three days following the roadshow and distributing fliers about the trade to the public.

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ASEAN judiciary workshop on wildlife crime and prosecution in Kuala Lumpur

Magistrates and prosecutors across Peninsular Malaysia gathered in March to discuss how the judiciary could play a bigger role in combating wildlife crime.

Some 20 magistrates and four prosecutors working in wildlife crime "hotspots" attended the ASEAN Judiciary Workshop on Wildlife Crime and Prosecution and discussed how stronger cases could be presented against poachers and smugglers.

Participants heard from speakers who represented the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (PERHILITAN), Royal Malaysian Customs, the Anti-Smuggling Unit and TRAFFIC.

Magistrates and prosecutors were presented with facts regarding the major threat posed by illegal wildlife trade to Southeast Asia's biodiversity, and were told further that the criminal nature of the trade not only contributed to the extinction of internationally protected species, but had repercussions for Malaysia's international stature.

Enforcement officers detailed how the illegal trade in wildlife benefitted only a few individuals but cost the country an immeasurable amount in loss of biodiversity. They pushed the case for stiffer sentences and jail time for smugglers and poachers.

At the opening ceremony, participants also heard a strong message of commitment from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to strengthen current legislation, including a proposal for mandatory jail terms for some wildlife crimes.



Prosecutors and magistrates during group discussions at the workshop © Julia Ng/TRAFFIC

The magistrates and prosecutors spent a day with Robert S. Anderson, a Senior Trial Attorney attached to the US Department of Justice's Environmental Crimes Section, who discussed how charges could be better constructed, the standards of evidence brought to court, and argued the case for appropriate sentences.

He also stressed to prosecutors the importance of presenting wildlife crime cases as they would other criminal cases, based on law, hard facts and evidence, rather than on appeals on an emotional basis.

The magistrates and prosecutors, many of whom had never handled wildlife crime cases, also had the opportunity to discuss with Anderson factual scenarios and how they would present these in court cases.

This workshop was the fifth in a series held in the region under the USAID-funded support programme for the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN), and also had the support of the Federal Courts of Malaysia.

ASEAN-WEN is an initiative that brings ASEAN governments together to combat wildlife crime. TRAFFIC and Freeland Foundation, in partnership with USAID, provide technical assistance to government agencies implementing this initiative.

The next judiciary workshop in the series is scheduled for later in 2009. Around thirty people including prosecutors and judges from hotspot provinces will be invited.

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Wildlife trade in the Russian Far East feels bite of global economic crisis?

Between September and November 2008, the main season for wildlife trade in Russia, TRAFFIC staff from the Russian Far East and representatives of the Vladivostok branch of the Russian Customs Academy surveyed five key wildlife markets in Vladivostok and also markets in Primorsky province



Leopard skin in Russia @ Sergey Aramilev/
WWF Amur branch

(in the villages of Nezhino, Olenevod, Filipovka, Barabash, Znadvorovka and Andreevka).

According to preliminary analysis of monitoring results, trade in wild medicinal, decorative and other plants and mushrooms, some of them listed in the Russian and Primorye Red Data Books, appeared widespread. There was active trade in wild plants from Khabarovsk and Sakhalinsky provinces, including illegally procured species such as Manchurian Birthwort *Aristolochia manshuriensis* and Snowdown Rose *Rhodiola rosea*.

Earlier in 2008, monitoring in Primorsky and Khabarovsk provinces revealed that many local people were aware that trade in rare and threatened protected wild animals and plants was strictly prohibited and may result in strict penalties under Russian legislation. However, interviews suggested that 40–70% of the population were involved in such trade, driven largely by the opportunities to earn extra income. Buyers included Russian citizens as well as foreigners, predominantly from China and North Korea, living temporarily in Russia.

“Monitoring of markets in Primorsky and Khabarovsk provinces is very important in terms of understanding what is happening to the wildlife trade in the region,” said Natalia Pervushina, co-ordinator of TRAFFIC’s work in the Russian Far East.

“Special attention should be paid to assess the impact of the global economic crisis on the illegal wildlife trade. Many mining and timber industries have closed, resulting in high levels of unemployment in the region. The situation is exacerbated by the reduction of armed forces in the region by up to 60-70% with the closure of many military bases, leaving even fewer opportunities for local employment,” she added.

A vivid indication that the wildlife trade situation may be worsening was the seizure of an Amur Leopard skin on 3 April 2009 in Primorsky province made by Internal Police Service officers while inspecting a private car. The Amur Leopard *Panthera pardus orientalis* is one of the rarest animals in the world with only 30-40 individuals left in the wild. It is listed by IUCN and in the Russian Red Data Book as Critically Endangered, as well as in Appendix I of CITES, meaning all commercial international trade is prohibited.

Sergey Aramilev, WWF Russia’s Amur Branch Biodiversity Conservation Co-ordinator described the killing as “an act of outspoken barbarism”.

Bi-annual wildlife trade market monitoring is one of the core activities of TRAFFIC’s work in the Russian Far East, which aims to determine the composition, scale and value of trade in wild animals and plants between Russia and China.

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Metal detectors uncover hidden traps

TRAFFIC, in co-operation with India’s National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is using a novel method to locate snares set to catch Tigers and other animals in India’s forests.

“Metal snares are often used to catch Tigers and other big cats, but they are almost impossible to find because they are cleverly camouflaged,” said Samir Sinha, Head of TRAFFIC India. “However, by using Deep Search Metal Detectors, forest guards can now find even the most cleverly hidden traps.”

Deep Search Metal Detectors are ideal for remote field operations because they are robust, simple to assemble and use, and do not require complicated maintenance or handling.

The detectors can also be used during post-mortem examinations to see if snared animals have bullet wounds. This helps strengthen legal follow up procedures and should lead to more effective prosecutions for poaching.

TRAFFIC is providing full training in the use of detectors and has developed a handy manual in English and Hindi to help Indian field personnel.

“The feedback from trainees is very positive and they see many benefits from using the equipment,” said Sinha.

Senior officials are enthusiastic too, and several have contacted TRAFFIC to ask how they can obtain detectors.

“The use of metal detectors is likely to have a deterrent effect in the long run, simply as poachers become aware new technology is in place to stop their efforts,” said Sinha.

TRAFFIC India’s metal detector programme, which is generously funded by WWF-UK and WWF-Germany, has seen equipment sent to Tiger areas throughout India, including well-known reserves such as Corbett, Ranthambore, Kanha, Pench, Simlipal, Bandhavgarh and Rajaji.

A pair of detectors plus training in their use can cost up to INR80 000 (USD1600) for each reserve but, according to Sinha, the cost of the new technology is a small price to pay for helping to protect India’s Tigers.

For more information, contact Samir Sinha at ssinha@wwfindia.net



Metal detector being used to locate snares © Samir Sinha/TRAFFIC

Some recent large wildlife seizures in Asia

East Asia

China

On 6 January 2009, Kunming forest police seized 31 Asian Elephant (CITES I) tusks (36 kg) that had been purchased in Yingjiang City, on the border with Myanmar. Two suspects were detained. The case is under investigation.

On 5 January 2009, border soldiers at the Hengjiang checkpoint, Fangchenggang City, Guangxi Province, confiscated 150 kg of suspected elephant tusks from a coach in Dongxing City, en route to Xiamen City, Fujian Province. The material was to be identified by the relevant authority.

http://www.yn.xinhuanet.com/nets/2009-02/04/content_15601756.htm;

<http://news.sina.com.cn/c/2009-01-07/085114994537s.shtml>

Taiwan

In March 2009, Customs officials in Taipei intercepted a parcel arriving by post from Tanzania. Inside they found 84 Leopard Tortoises (CITES II). No one turned up to collect the package.

On 11 May 2009, at Taipei International Airport, two people returning from Jakarta, Indonesia, were stopped by Customs after 27 kg and 14.9 kg of agarwood spp. (CITES II) was discovered in their respective luggage; no CITES permit could be presented. The agarwood was seized and the case has been sent to the district prosecution office.

Customs and Forestry police, Taiwan; <http://news.chinatimes.com/2007Cti/2007Cti-Rtn/2007Cti-Rtn-Content/0,4526,110105+112009051100884,00.html>

South Asia

India

On 31 January 2009, the north-east district police of Delhi confiscated a large consignment of art brushes made out of mongoose hair at a factory in the Bhajanpura area, reported to be ready for shipment to Mumbai. Police officers arrested two people, and the owner of more than 30,000 brushes is being sought. All species of mongoose *Herpestes* are protected under Schedule 2 Part II of the *Wildlife Protection Act, 1972*.

On 16 February 2009, personnel from Assam Rifle's 20th battalion in Chandel district, Manipur, seized animal parts, including skulls of two Tigers (CITES I), two Tiger paws, 16 kg of Tiger bones, 340 kg of pangolin *Manis* spp. (CITES II), shell and 191 deer antlers from a lorry at a checkpoint in Bongyang village.

On 7 January 2009, personnel of the Customs Preventative Force stationed at Pallel Gate, Chandel district, Manipur, seized 58.4 kg of deer [species not reported] horn antlers and 116 kg of pangolin spp. scales from a lorry travelling from Imphal towards Moreh, Manipur, on the border with Myanmar.

On 9 December 2008, officials of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Coimbatore, seized 10.51 t of Red Sandalwood logs. The consignment was on its way to Kochi from Bangalore and was intended for export. The logs have been deposited at the Inland Container Depot at Singanallur, Tamil Nadu.

www.wpsi-india.org/news/25012009.php, 25 January 2009; http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Delhi/30000_mongoose_hair_brushes_seized_2_held/articleshow/4057990.cms; *The Sangai Express*, 12 January 2009, www.e-pao.net/GP.asp?src=3.130109.jan09; http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Health_Science/Earth/43_jailed_for_smuggling_animal_parts_in_MP/articleshow/3962751.cms; www.thehindu.com/2008/12/12/stories/2008121260250800.htm



China-Nepal visit exchange: cracking down on cross-border illegal wildlife trade

A landmark visit by Chinese government officials to Nepal has laid the foundation for improved cross-border collaboration to stem illegal and unsustainable wildlife trade between the two countries.

A three-person delegation from China's Endangered Species Import and Export Management Office visited Nepal in October 2008. The Chinese delegates met their Nepali counterparts from the Management Authorities for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) for focused discussions on enhancing bilateral CITES law enforcement.

China borders Nepal along a 1400 km stretch of mostly remote snow-capped mountains rising up to 5000-6000 m above sea level. However, cross-border smuggling of wildlife species continues to include wool from Tibetan Antelopes, poached in China and smuggled into India via Nepal, processed into scarves and sold illegally as the prized *shahtoosh*. Numerous examples of Tiger and Leopard skins and bones smuggled from India and Nepal into China have led to previous dialogue meetings between China, India and Nepal regarding multilateral co-operation on cross-border smuggling.

The bilateral exchange between China and Nepal in 2008 builds on a previous visit by Chinese officials to India in 2006, and missions from India and Nepal to China.

The Chinese mission discussed cross-border management of trade in several species, including Tibetan Antelope, Red Sandalwood, Asian big cats, *Cordyceps sinensis* (caterpillar fungus, a valuable ingredient in traditional oriental medicines), and how to crack down on illegal activities. Key Nepali government agencies, including the General Administration of Customs, the Bureau of Flora Resources, the Forestry Bureau, the CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, were involved in discussions with the Chinese delegation. A field visit to Tatopani Customs (opposite Zhangmu in China) enabled an assessment of the on-ground challenges faced by Customs to control the heavy traffic passing through the major land-border between the two countries.

The visit was co-ordinated by TRAFFIC and WWF-Nepal, with funding from WWF-UK.

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Southeast Asia

Malaysia

On 15 April 2009, wildlife and National Parks department officers chased down and stopped a lorry carrying 1202 Clouded Monitor Lizards along a highway in the state of Pahang, Malaysia. This haul was believed to be destined for restaurants overseas. Based on information from this seizure, the team later raided the home of a man in an indigenous people's settlement nearby and seized another 34 Clouded Monitor Lizards and 2 Dumeril's Monitor Lizards that he had hidden behind the house.

On 1 April 2009, four tonnes (150 head) of Wild Boar carcasses were seized from a lorry believed to be smuggling the meat from Malaysia to Thailand. The carcasses were found along a major highway in the Peninsular Malaysian state of Pahang.

In November 2008, more than 7000 live Clouded Monitor Lizards and almost 900 dead owls plus other protected wildlife species were seized in two raids in Peninsular Malaysia. A local man was arrested and remanded in custody for three days, but pleaded not guilty and was released on bail of MYR19 000 (USD5300).

On 2 November, Malaysian marine police based in Sandakan seized 10 000 Green Turtle (CITES I) eggs that had been abandoned on Kampung Forest beach; four people escaped by speedboat. This is the largest seizure of turtle eggs by local authorities in 2009 to date.

www.traffic.org/home/2009/4/17/clouded-and-dumerils-monitor-lizards-seized-in-malaysia.html, 17 April 2009; www.wildlifeextra.com/go/news/malaysia-crime827.html 19 November 2009

Thailand

Officials in Bangkok have seized 1 tonne of ivory arriving from Uganda, the biggest seizure of illegal animal products from the country in recent times. Police questioned two Ugandan Entebbe-based officials who allegedly cleared the cargo on 13 January 2009. The suspected exporter, believed to be a Congolese, is on the run.

www.newvision.co.ug/D/8/12/675746, 24 March, 2009



Almost 900 dead owls plus other protected wildlife were seized in two raids in Peninsular Malaysia in November 2008 © Chris R Shepherd / TRAFFIC Southeast Asia.

Viet Nam

On 6 March 2009, at Dinh Vu Port, Hai Phong city, Customs officials discovered over 6 tonnes of tusks contained in 114 boxes of cartons covered with bags of plastic waste – the largest-ever seizure of tusks in the country. The container was on a ship carrying a Malaysian flag, which arrived at the port on 28 February. The receiver, as written in the bill of lading, was a company based in Hai Phong city. The smuggled goods started their journey in Tanzania in late January 2009, and transited Malaysia before entering Viet Nam.

On 10 January 2009, Hanoi's environmental police seized two sets of Tiger bones, 10 kg of bones and horns of Serow *Naemorhedus sp.* (CITES II), 6 frozen pieces of Tiger skin, 7 bear paws, 16 bear gall bladders, 6 porcupine stomachs and 69 bags of bones from various wild animals (more than 2 metric tonnes) from a store in Dong Da district. The testimony of the suspect led to the arrest of a man manufacturing Tiger bone gel found in a warehouse belonging to the suspect.

On 19 December 2008, Customs officials in Viet Nam seized 4400 kg of frozen pangolin meat and 900 kg of pangolin scales in Cai Lan seaport, Quang Ninh, believed to be bound for China.

www.nhandan.com.vn/english/life/300309/life_cas.htm, 30 March 2009; www.ensnewswire.com/ens/jan2009/2009-01-21-02.asp, 21 January 2009; <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/article/show/msid-3873473,prtpage-1.cms>, 22 December 2008

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Turtle, © WWF-Canon / Cat HOLLOWAY

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