



## China's Wildlife Enforcement News Digest (December 2015)

### Xi reiterates China's commitment to wildlife protection



**2015-12-02, Chinadaily.com.cn** - Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan watch an elephant during their visit to a private wildlife sanctuary in Harare, Dec 2, 2015. Chinese President Xi Jinping said Wednesday that his country is committed to wildlife protection and will provide Zimbabwe with more assistance for preserving the vital component of the natural ecosystem. Beijing has been cracking down on illegal trade of wild animals and animal products, including ivory, and has scored remarked progress, he said, adding that China has also been enhancing public awareness and has witnessed an increasing number of people and organizations joining the cause. "China has earnestly fulfilled the international obligations and actively participated in international cooperation in wildlife protection," Xi said. [Read More](#)

### Tencent joint with multi-agencies lunches 'Loving Elephant Month' event



**2015-12-03, Sina.com.cn** - On Dec. 2th, Tencent launched the 'Loving Elephant Month' to call their online users for refusing illegal wildlife online trade and say no to the elephant ivory trade. About 10 agencies, including NGOs (TNC, IFAW and TRAFFIC), China Southern Airlines have engaged in this activities. Currently, the Internet has been explored to be an important avenue for illegal ivory trade. Until Dec. 2015, the WeChat (instant messaging app from Tencent) has disabled 622 public and individual accounts, and screened over 100 thousand illegal wildlife trade advertisements. [Read More](#)

### Online transaction emerge as new features for illegal ivory trade

**2015-12-03, Xinhuanet.com** - Since the beginning of 2015, Hangzhou Customs released several ivory smuggling seizures which indicates that the WeChat, QQ and other online applications have been applied for ivory trafficking. In addition, ivory smuggling through postal services also emerges new features. According to these changes, Hangzhou Customs launched targeted tactics, which confiscated 270kg ivory and 9kg rhino horn



products, to crack down on endangered species trafficking. [Read More](#)

**Xi Jinping's address at opening ceremony of FOCAC summit**



**2015-12-07, China.org.cn** - Chinese President Xi Jinping makes an address at the opening ceremony of the Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in Johannesburg, South Africa, Dec. 4, 2015. He claimed that China-Africa cooperation will never be pursued at the expense of Africa's eco-system and long-term interests. [Read More](#)

**China-Vietnam seizes 3086.67kg pangolin scales and 1167.39kg elephant tusks**



**2015-12-04, Youth.cn** - Recently, Dongxing Customs and Heng Mo Customs of Viet Nam jointly seized 3086.67kg pangolin scales and 1167.39kg ivory. In the beginning, Police in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region have busted a wild animal products trafficking ring who smuggled 505.19kg pangolin scales and 284.95kg ivory under the cover of frozen fish. According to further investigation, Nangning Customs seized another 465.48kg pangolin scales and 22.44kg ivory outside the port supervision area. Meanwhile, receiving the intelligence reported by China's Customs, Quang Ninh Customs (Viet Nam) confiscated 2116kg pangolin scales and 860kg ivory in the container which has been detained by Viet Nam Customs. [Read More](#)

**The national customs seizes over 100 ton endangered species and products**

**2015-12-06, Nbd.com** - According to the statistics, during the first three quarters of 2015, the national customs yielded 135 seizures of endangered species smuggling, which confiscated 100.8 ton of endangered species products, including 629.3kg ivory, 16.9kg rhino horns, and pangolin products, *Ariocarpus fissuratus*, *Podocarpus macrophyllus* and other endangered species products. And a total of 446 suspects have been arrested. [Read More](#)

**Five years imprisonment for engaging pangolin smuggling**

**2015-12-09, Chinanews.com** - On April 7<sup>th</sup>, the suspect Tang Guoli and He Bingyuan were hired to delivery live pangolins from Dongxing, Guangxi Province to



Guangdong Province. They received the pangolins from a boat from Viet Nam. According to the intelligence, Dongxing Customs intercepted the suspects in Huashi Highway and discovered 20 live Sunda pangolins and 6 live Chinese pangolins. On 8<sup>th</sup> Dec., Fangchenggang Intermediate People's Court sentenced Tang Guoli for five years imprisonment with a fine of CNY 50,000 (USD 8065); He Bingyuan for one year imprisonment with a fine of CNY 20,000 (USD 3226). [Read More](#)

### Hengjiang Border Police intercepts 50 live pangolins



**2015-12-14, Xinhuanet.com** - Early morning of Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, Hengjiang Border Police of Fangchenggang, Guangxi Province noticed a driver who appeared extremely nervous. After rummage, the police discovered 50 live pangolins from his car. According to the driver Shen, he was asked to take the pangolins from Dongding to Gangkou District of Fangchenggang, Guangxi Province for a payment of CNY 1,000 (USD 161). [Read More](#)

### Overseas purchased ivory products intercepted by China's Customs

**2015-12-16, Sina.com.cn** - On Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>, the suspect Chen Ping, who purchased 156 items of ivory products

(weighing 6.674kg) from an overseas e-commerce website – EBay, was heard by the Changsha Intermediate People's Court. [Read More](#)

### An endangered species trafficking seizure through WeChat

**2015-12-17, Gywb.cn** - On Sep. 18<sup>th</sup>, Manchuria forest police arrested the suspect Zhao who was trading bear paws in a store. Meanwhile, the police officer digged out the fact that Zhao had ever purchased tiger bone products from another suspect Zhang in Putian, Fujian Province. According to the intelligence and under the cooperation of Putian Forest Police, the suspect Zhang along with his wife Liu was arrested on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> and a total of 408 bear teeth, 165 bear nails, 8 pangolin scales, a pangolin claw, 3 hornbill skulls and 5 ivory products were discovered. [Read More](#)

### Endangered species trade to be banned through online platforms



**2015-12-21, Sina.com.cn** - Relevant departments under the State Council have already started amending the Law on the Protection of Wildlife and plan to submit the draft



amendments to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) this year. According to the draft, it is banned to sale, purchase or utilize wildlife, wildlife products and hunting tools through e-commerce platforms or in trade markets. [Read More](#)

#### **Smuggled elephant tusks hidden in rosewood furniture**

**2015-12-23, Sina.com.cn** - On Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> 2014, the suspect Lin purchased two pairs of elephant tusks from Viet Nam and asked the Vietnamese boss to send them to Pingxiang, Guangxi Province. However, the suspect Lin was arrested when he was about to deliver the ivory to Xianyou, Fujian Province and hide in rosewood furniture. Eventually, Pingxiang Customs intercepted a total of 4 elephant tusks, weighing 64.95kg. Recently, Chongzuo Intermediate People's Court sentenced Lin to 11 years in jail with a fine. [Read More](#)

#### **The national customs seizes 358 tons endangered species**

**2015-12-24, Legaldaily.com.cn** - According to the General Administration of Customs, from January to November 2015, the national customs yielded a total of 2088 smuggling seizures, which including 160 endangered species smuggling seizures, and 358 tons of endangered species and their products were confiscated. In addition, in order to strengthen trans-national enforcement cooperation, great achievements have been obtained during Operation COBRA III. [Read More](#)

#### **5.5 years imprisonment for taking ivory gifts**

**2015-12-28, QQ.com** - On Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> 2014, the suspect Ming, who has got permanent residency in Japan, came back to China from Osaka taking with 385 items of ivory products (weighing 14.465kg) for his/her father's birthday. Ming was arrested by the Shenyang Customs. Ming's defender pleaded that Ming purchased and carried the ivory products only for gifts. However, Ming's statement and previous chatting records with his/her father revealed that Ming was aware of the illegality of ivory smuggling. Eventually, Ming was sentenced for 5.5 years imprisonment with a fine of CNY 100,000 (USD 16,129). [Read More](#)

#### **The capital airport confiscates 1895 items of ivory product during 2015**



**2015-12-31, Qianlong.com** - The Beijing Capital International Airport released on Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> that during 2015, the airport customs yielded 149 endangered species seizures, which confiscated 1895 items of ivory products, weighing over 200kg. In addition to the ivory products, a total of 712 items of other endangered species products were confiscated, including rhino horn, leopard skins, pangolin scales, hawksbill etc. Meanwhile,



the capital airport joint with CITES SA and WildAid distribute postcards at the terminal 3 for public awareness increasing. [Read More](#)

### **Jiangxi Province seizes ivory smuggling case**

**2015-12-31, People.com.cn** - At the end of 2014, Lichuan County police confiscated 22 items of ivory products (weighing 13.3kg, worthy CNY 550,000) from Chen Haiyan's car. According to Chen's statement, the Jiangxi forest police arrested Chen Dongdong, who assisted her

for ivory processing; Xu Tianyong, who sold ivory to Chen; and Liu Lianshui in Fujian Province, who sold ivory products to Xu. The entire seizure involves 600kg of ivory products, worthy CNY 20 million (USD 3.2 million). The seizure reveals the fact that Liu Lianshui was responsible for purchasing ivory from Africa and resold them to Xu Tianyong. Recently, the suspect Chen Haiyan was sentenced to 10.5 years in jail with a fine; Chen Dongdong was sentenced to 3 years and the other suspects were in process. [Read More](#)

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