

## China's Wildlife Enforcement News Digest (Jul 2018)

### Domestic

#### Jiangxi cracked the largest case of trafficking in wild animals so far



**Jiangxi, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jul, 2018,** —At 9 o'clock in the evening of December 24, 2017, the police of Jiangxi Expressway was inspected at the junction of Shanghai-Kunming Expressway and GanXiang. It was found that a truck carrying apples abandoned the green passage and chose toll passage. The traffic police asked for a check, but found a large number of dead animals beyond expectation. After receiving the call, the police of Pingxiang Forest Public Security Bureau quickly rushed to the scene to check and found that there were a large number of provincial key protected animals and national secondary protected animals mainly including red muntjac and river deery. According to the information provided by Fu, the police arrested Guo in the Taihe County, and conducted research on the bank transactions, mobile communication, vehicle trajectory and other information of Fu, Guo, Lu and others. It is found that this is a criminal network that illegally hunts,

acquires, transports and sells wild animals in more than 30 counties in 15 provinces and cities and 11 cities in Jiangxi. During the investigation, the investigators found that the suspects had many personnel and complex status. There were farmers, workers, business owners, students, and even a number of logistics personnel in the railway freight transportation department, allowing the criminals to wear railway uniforms to enter and exit the freight space freely. Wild animals are illegally distributed throughout the country through logistics channels. In addition, the staff of the Wildlife Conservation Management Department illegally issued transportation documents for criminals, acting as umbrellas and facilitating criminal activities. After more than five months of fighting, up to now, there were 27 criminal cases in the case, and 44 criminal suspects were arrested, involving more than 17,000 provincial-level key wild-protected species and 42 national-level key protected wild animals and a batch of animal products. The case is still being further investigated.

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**Zhengzhou customs seized ivory products**



**Zhengzhou, Henan, 3<sup>rd</sup> Jul, 2018**——Ivory products are seized by Zhengzhou customs on June 27. The airport customs subordinate to Zhengzhou customs in the Dubai-Zhengzhou flight supervision, seized a total of 8 ivory products, weight 330 grams from the baggage of a number of passengers. [Read More](#)

**A total of 14 people were detained by customs in the joint crackdown on smuggling of ivory**



香港海关在行动中检获约277公斤怀疑象牙。(海关提供)

**Hongkong, 3<sup>rd</sup> Jul, 2018** ——Hong Kong and the Mainland Customs jointly cracked down on cross-border smuggling of ivory activities and arrested 14 people. Mainland customs earlier investigated a suspected cross-border smuggling ivory group and took action on the 25th of last month to seize about 47 kilograms of suspected ivory and

arrested six people. The Customs raided the smuggling syndicate in San Tin on July 2 and seized about 277 kilograms of suspected ivory. The estimated market value was about \$2.77 million. Eight persons aged between 22 and 60 were arrested, including the head of the group. The case is still under investigation. [Read More](#)

**Case of illegal transaction and transporting wildlife products has been seized in Yunnan**



**Lancang, Yunnan, 9<sup>th</sup> Jul 2018**——On the evening of the 4th, when the police exhibition of the Forest Police of Lancang was publicly investigating, the suspected Huang was carrying a cardboard box to seize suspected wild animal products, confirming that there were 9 suspected pangolin skins and 269 pieces of pangolin fragments with a face of the scorpion. There are 6 pairs of scorpion horn, 8 pieces of scorpion horn after cutting, 510 porcupine thorns, 3 pairs of rock horns, 3 pieces of elephant skin and 2 pieces of wild animal biliary, totaling 9.16 kg. After the trial, Huang confessed that these suspected wild animal products were purchased on the front of the 4th from the outside of the border. They intend to bring these things back and sell them for profit but did not expect to be caught before they got home. Officers and soldiers seized. Huang



has been criminally detained by the forest police. The case is still being further processed. [Read More](#)

### A tiger's skull was found hidden in a passenger's bag in Nanjing



**Nanjing, Jiangsu, 11<sup>th</sup> Jul, 2018**—At about 2 pm on June 6, a Chinese passenger flew from Vancouver to Nanjing and entered the Nanjing Lukou International Airport Travel Inspection Arrival Hall. He did not report to the customs. The baggage showed an abnormal image when passing the X-ray machine. On-site inspection revealed that there was a complete animal skull in the package, and the customs officers initially determined that they were suspected to be tiger skulls. After identification by the South China Wildlife Species Identification Center, the article was confirmed to be the skull of a tiger weighing approximately 840 grams. Nanjing Customs suspended the tiger skull and the incident is being further processed.

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### Harbin Customs seized smuggling case of mega-endangered animal products



**Haerbin, Heilongjiang, 18<sup>th</sup> Jul, 2018**—

On the morning of April 26, customs staff of Hulin Port found that the Russian-style container trucks that loaded and unloaded soybeans in China had been stranded for 24 days, which was suspected. On-site inspection by the customs staff found that the front part of the trailer car was abnormal in appearance, the front rivets were obviously inconsistent, and there were recent scratches and treatment marks. When the truck is struck at different positions, the sound emitted within 0.5 m from the front of the side of the car is significantly different from the sound at other locations. The inspection found that the car was loaded with a large number of inferior soybeans, some of which had been rotted, which did not meet the characteristics of the current season's soybean products, and the price of the declared goods was obviously not in line with the quality of the goods carried. During the cross-examination process, Russian drivers were very nervous. After further inspection by the customs staff, the customs staff found 2 ivories, 1276 antelope horn, 156 mammoth ivory, 406 sea ivory, 226 whale teeth, 44 bear bile, 70 bear teeth, 4 deer whip and sea cucumber 319.25 kg, the identification value reached 106 million



yuan. The Customs anti-smuggling police immediately took action and arrested Russian-owned car owners hidden in vehicles outside the port supervision area. At the same time, Harbin Customs Office in Hulin controlled the owners of the goods. Up to now, a total of 8 suspected private individuals have been arrested at home and abroad, and the case is being further investigated. [Read More](#)

### Nanning cracked the case of smuggling precious animal products



### Erliaohot Customs seized smuggling bear teeth



**Erliaohot, Inner Mongolia, 17<sup>th</sup>, Jul, 2018**— Erliaohot Customs Anti-Smuggling Branch recently obtained information that a Mongolian resident will sell a batch of bear teeth in the near future, and the private member immediately locked in a hotel where he stayed. The suspect was arrested in the hotel room where he was staying. A total of 149 bear teeth were found under the bed and in the parcel. These bear teeth were identified as black bears and brown bears. The case is currently under investigation. [Read More](#)

**Nanning, Guangxi, 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018**—According to the reports of the masses, Pingxiang Customs found a gang that was engaged in the smuggling of precious animal products at the border. On the morning of July 3, intelligence showed that the group was preparing to smuggle a number of precious animal products into the country. Subsequently, with the assistance of the relevant departments of the Public Security Department, dispatched a total of 60 police forces in 4 action groups, conducted investigations and arrests in Pingxiang and Longzhou, and arrested 4 suspects. On the two vehicles driven by the suspects, endangered animal products such as suspected rhinoceros horn were found. After preliminary inspection, a total of suspected rhinoceros horn was shipped, with a net weight of 5.5559kg, 121 suspected rhinoceros products, and a net weight of 272.7kg. After preliminary trials, the suspects in the case confessed that their gangs procured precious animal products such as rhino horn from Africa and shipped them to Vietnam. The local smuggling gang smuggled into the country for profit. At present, the case is being further investigated by the branch. [Read More](#)

**Chengdu men violated regulations 140 times, more than 60 wild animals were caught in the car.**



**Chengdu, Sichuan, 23rd Jul, 2018**—On the morning of July 23, the traffic police of Danling conducted a daily patrol check and found that a red car on the head of the car suddenly decelerated when attempting to check the police car, attempting to turn around. This unusual behavior immediately caused the attention of the patrolling police, the police judged that the car had a major suspicion, and immediately rushed to the front to intercept the car. After entering the vehicle license plate number into the inquiry system, it shows that the car has more than 140 violations, and the violation score is as high as 640 points, and the fine is also more than 20,000 yuan. With so many violation records, the police have become more suspicious of the driver Xiong. The police then carried out a detailed inspection of the vehicle and found that there was a disguised freezer in the rear seat of the car. There were more than 60 wild animals such as cockroaches, crocodiles, owls, pheasants, wild ducks and hares. Someone could not get the relevant procedures and was suspected of illegally transporting wild animals. The police immediately reported to the command center and informed the forest police to come forward and hand over

the case. At present, the driver of the vehicle has been taken compulsory measures for the crime of illegally transporting wild animals, and the wild animals involved in the case have been handed over to the relevant identification institutes in Chengdu for further identification. [Read More](#)



## International

### Illegal tiger products were seized in the Czech Republic



**Jul 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018**--the Czech General Administration of Customs said on July 18 that they spent more than a year collecting evidence from a group of Czech and Vietnamese residents who were suspected of trading and processing tiger products, including tiger bone wine. According to the Czech Environmental Inspectorate (CEI), the country has the second-largest Vietnamese community in Europe. Authorities, however, said the products were also being sold in other European Union countries and in Asia. This footage of a raid, said to have taken place on July 16 in Prague, shows the discovery of a dead tiger, tiger skin, tiger claws and other tiger parts, along with cookware and other materials used in the production of highly-profitable traditional Asian medicine products, officials said. Customs officials said inspections were mainly focused on Prague's Václav Havel International Airport, through which animals and animal parts are transported. On July 18, the same day Czech officials announced the raids, animal-rights group Four Paws released hidden-camera footage that showed tigers held in cages in the Czech Republic and a trader, with his face blurred, describing trading practices and offering to sell tigers and tiger parts to Asian buyers. The group said the breeding facility seen in the hidden-camera video was at a zoo in BašŤ, north of Prague, and was among the sites raided by Czech authorities. Czech media named the man in the hidden-camera video as Ludvík Berouska, and said he was among the three people arrested.

Four Paws said that the Vietnamese SAPA market in Prague's southern outskirts was among the sites raided, and said tiger meat and other tiger products were found on sale there.

Director of Prague Zoo Miroslav Bobek issued a statement saying Ludvík Berousek and his two accomplices represented "just the tip of the iceberg," and claimed big-cat breeding and exploitation was widespread in the Czech Republic. [Read More](#)

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