



China's Wildlife Enforcement News Digest (June 2019)

Domestic

Ningbo Customs seized ivory products smuggling case

Ningbo, Zhejiang, 3 June 2019 -Recently, officers in the post office customs affiliated to Ningbo Customs found a number of suspected ivory scroll heads with a total weight of more than 240 grams when inspecting antique paintings from Japan postal entry. It has been confirmed as modern ivory product by the identification of the Wildlife Species Identification Center. Initial investigation shows that suspect Hong colluded with his relatives Wu and Xia who lived in Japan, selling paintings with illegal ivory scroll to Chinese buyers through an APP from March to April 2019. After the domestic buyers bought items, Xia and Wu deliberately applied nail polish outside the ivory scroll to evade customs inspection and mailed the package to Hong in Ningbo. According to the agreement, after receiving the goods, Hong will deliver the goods to domestic buyers according to the instructions of Wu and Xia. Due to the alleged smuggling of precious animal products, Hong has been taken criminal coercive measure. [Read more](#)

Huanggang Custom seized over 9.4 kilograms of suspected agalloch



Shenzhen, Guangdong, 5 June 2019- On the

afternoon of May 23, a passenger entered the Futian Port through the green channel (nothing to declare). The passenger carried a backpack and was nervous and rushed, drawing the attention of police officers. The customs officers then inspected his backpack in detail. After inspection, the customs officers seized a large amount of wood with a faint aroma, suspected to be agarwood, weighing 9.4 kg. At present, the case has been handed over to the relevant departments for processing. [Read more](#)

Longkou Custom seized national second class protected animals gray-faced buzzards



Longkou, Shandong, 4 June 2019-Recently, Longkou Customs conducted a routine inspection of an Australian international voyage vessel and found that three live birds in the off-board lounge were not declared. The three live birds are identified to be gray-faced buzzards (*Butastur indicus*), the national second-class protected animals and medium-sized raptors. The case has been transferred to the forest public security department for handling. [Read more](#)

Qingdao Liuting Airport Custom seized a pair of white-lipped deer antler



Qingdao, Shandong, 6 June 2019—On June 4th, Qingdao Liuting Airport Customs seized a pair of suspected national first-class protected animal white-lipped deer antlers in the travel inspection channel. On the same day, Customs officers inspected a flight from Nagoya to Qingdao. When checking the luggage of a Chinese passenger, the Customs officers found a pair of antlers wrapped in the clothes and weighed about 940 grams. Upon inquiry, the passenger said he brought the antlers back from Japan. At present, the Customs has temporarily detained the antlers for further processing. [Read more](#)

Jiangmen Customs Seized a Drumfish Gelatin Smuggling Case

Jiangmen, Guangdong, 12 June 2019—Recently, under the command of the Anti-smuggling Bureau of the General Administration of Customs, the Jiangmen Customs Anti-smuggling Bureau, in conjunction with the Chengdu Customs and the Shanghai Customs Anti-smuggling Bureau, seized a case of smuggling drumfish gelatin from the Gulf of California at Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport and arrested one suspect on the spot. After preliminary investigation, the Chinese criminal suspect Wang took a flight from Mexico to enter Chengdu Shuangliu Airport, and he did not declare any goods to the customs. The Customs officers found a total of 91 suspected California Bay drumfish gelatin in the two suitcases carried by Wang. It weighed about 32 kilograms and the case value was about 12 million

yuan. Currently, the case is under further investigation. [Read more](#)

Changchun Custom Seized Ivory Products 1.13 kilograms



Changchun, Jilin, 12 June 2019—Recently, the Customs officers of the Changchun Post Office found the machine inspection image of a mail from Estonia abnormal. They opened the package and found an ivory shaped carved ornament weighing 1.13 kg. The appraisal results issued by the Wildlife Testing Center of the State Forestry Administration show that the ivory carving originates from Asian elephants or African elephants and is illegal endangered animal products banned by China. At present, the case has been handed over to anti-smuggling department for further processing. [Read more](#)

Dried Seahorses Disguised as Instant Noodles-Guangzhou Customs Seized 4 Cases of Illegal Dried Seahorses Smuggling in a Week

Guangzhou, Guangdong, 13 June 2019—Recently, Guangzhou Customs consecutively seized four cases of foreign men carrying dried seahorses that were disguised as instant noodles into the country in a week, totaling 8.3 kilograms. Currently, the above cases are being further processed. [Read more](#)

Shijiazhuang Airport Customs seized 26 illegal tridacna products



Shijiazhuang, Hebei, 12 June 2019—Since April this year, the customs of Shijiazhuang Airport has continuously seized 19 cases of passengers illegally carrying suspected tridacna into the country. They seized 26 suspected products with a total weight of 1131 grams. On June 6th, it was confirmed by professional institutions that they were all tridacna products. [Read more](#)

Jinan Custom seized multiple suspected wildlife products

Jinan, Guangdong, 13 June 2019—Recently, Jinan Customs seized a number of suspected endangered wildlife products in a passenger's baggage who entered from Los Angeles. Among them, there are 3 suspected ivory products totaling 133 grams, 4 suspected ostrich bone products totaling 102 grams, and 2 suspected rosewood products totaling 1031 grams. At present, Jinan Customs has temporarily detained and sent to professional institutions for identification. [Read more](#)

Huanggang Custom seized suspected tridacna and hawksbill turtle products

Shenzhen, Guangdong, 19 June 2019— Recently, Huanggang Custom officers affiliated to Shenzhen Custom found the X-ray machine image of a black luggage abnormal when inspecting entry passengers' luggage. They opened the luggage and found one suspected hawksbill turtle product

and 2 suspected tridacna products, totaling 2.47 kilograms. At present, the case has been handed over to anti-smuggling department for further processing. [Read more](#)

Qingdao Customs seized significant dried seahorse smuggling case

Qingdao, Shandong, 19 June 2019—Qingdao Custom seized 495,361 dried seahorses totaling 1.28 tons and caught two suspects. Preliminary investigation shows that suspect Sun colluded with colleague Jia and others abroad to profit from dried seahorses smuggling. They hid the dried seahorses in declared horse skin. At present, the case is being further investigated. [Read more](#)

Gongbei Custom seized 1.66 tons of walrus ivory and related crafts

Gongbei, Guangdong, 20 June 2019—On May 16th, Doumen Customs conducted a pre-inspection analysis of a Zhuhai Craft Manufacturing Co., Ltd., and found that the company may be suspected of processing endangered wild animals and plants products. The inspection department immediately cooperated with the anti-smuggling department to carry out special inspections. The case-handling personnel found a special sales record in the production handover account and seized 1.66 tons of suspected walrus ivory and its craft products. Appraised by the South China Animal Species Environmental Damage Judicial Appraisal Center, the seized objects were confirmed as walrus ivory. After investigation, they found that a process manufacturing company in Zhuhai city imported walrus ivory from abroad. The company hired workers in the factory located in Zhongxing South Road, Doumen District to process and sell walrus ivory products without the approval of the wildlife protection authorities. At present, the case and related evidences have been transferred to the Zhuhai Forest Public Security Department



for further processing. [Read more](#)

[more](#)

Shenzhen Custom seized 6.5 kg rhino horns



Shenzhen, Guangdong, 21 June — On June 12, at the Shenzhen Bay Customs Arrival Hall, the Customs officers found that the X-ray machine image of a baggage carried by a female passenger was abnormal, there were suspected angular and blocky items in the box. The customs officers conducted an in-box inspection and found a suspected animal horn block packed in carton with obvious animal blood smell in the trunk, totaling 6.5 kg. The batch was identified as a horn or horn piece of the rhinoceros. The case has been transferred to the customs anti-smuggling department for further investigation and handling. The suspects involved have been criminally detained. [Read more](#)

Tianjin Customs seized multiple endangered species products

Tianjin, 25 June, 2019 — Recently, when inspecting incoming passengers' luggage in Tianjin cruise home port, Dongjiang Customs affiliated to Tianjin Customs seized 10 pieces of wildlife products weighing 409 grams, including three ivory products, one hawksbill turtle product and six tridacna products. The above items are identified as endangered species products by the National Endangered Species Management Office. At present, Dongjiang Customs has detained the above items and further processed them. [Read](#)

Jinhua Yiwu Custom seized one ivory product at airport



Jinhua, Zhejiang, 25 June 2019-Jinhua Yiwu Customs recently found a suspected ivory product from a Chinese passenger when conducting inspection on a flight from Thailand to Yiwu. The product is confirmed as ivory according to the identification of Shanghai Wildlife Identification Center, weighing 22 grams. [Read more](#)

Fuzhou Custom seized endangered species *Astrophytum asterias* Lem for the first time



Fujian, Fuzhou, 25 June 2019-When Rongcheng Customs inspected a mail sent from Taiwan, China to Wenzhou, Zhejiang, the X-ray machine image showed that the package contained suspected living plants. After unpacking, 3 live plants of the cactus family were found, weighing 0.8 kg. On June 17th, it was identified that the species was *Astrophytum asterias* Lem, a species in the cactus family and controlled by Appendix I of the



Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This is the first time that the specie is seized in Fuzhou District. At the same time, Cactus virus X (CVX) was also detected in this batch of stars. At present, the Customs has detained and treated the above plants in accordance with the law. [Read more](#)

Zhanjiang Custom seized pangolin scales for the first time



Zhanjiang, Guangdong, 30 June 2019, --On June 25, Zhanjiang Airport Customs seized 23 pieces of pangolin scales weighing 40 grams in a baggage belonging to a Chinese male passenger on a flight from Phnom Penh. It is reported that this is the first time that the customs have seized endangered animals and plants and their products in the travel inspection channel. At present, the pangolin scales have been temporarily detained by the customs waiting for further handling. [Read more](#)



International

Kenyan Police seized 16 raw ivory



Kenya 6 June 2019--Last week, police in the Nakuru area of Kenya detained two suspects who illegally transported 16 ivory by private car, which were originally intended to be shipped to Nairobi. It is learned that the police received a report from the citizen the day before, saying that the car was driving aimlessly in front of several residential houses. After receiving the information, the police quickly took action to arrest two men who were waiting to hand over the ivory to a person from Nairobi. The police are currently working with detectives to continue investigating the purchaser of the 16 ivory suspects. Police suspect that suspects involved in the illegal ivory trade collect ivory in rented houses and then sell ivory to individuals who sell ivory abroad .[Read more](#)

3.5 tons of ivory and 4 tons of pangolin scales seized in Vietnam

Vietnam, 14 June 2019--The Vietnamese authorities seized a total of 7.5 tons of ivory and pangolin scales (3.5 tons of ivory and 4 tons of pangolin scales), making it one of the largest cases of wildlife smuggling in Vietnam. It is reported that when the customs officers inspected a

container arriving at Haiphong Port in northern Vietnam, they found that the steel drums filled with ivory and pangolin were mixed with tar-filled barrels. The shipment was sent to a logistics company in Haiphong Port, but there is no detailed information on the source. [Read more](#)

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