

China's Wildlife Enforcement News Digest (October 2019)

Domestic

21 pieces of suspected ivory products were seized from the luggage of 3 Chinese passengers at Chengdu Airport



2019-10-10, Chengdu, Sichuan — — Recently, during the Chengdu Shuangliu Airport Customs Inspection, 21 pieces of suspected ivory products, weighed about 0.552kg, were seized from 3 Chinese passengers' luggage in the flight from Ethiopia to Chengdu.

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Rhino horn from South Africa was seized at Shanghai Hongqiao Airport

2019-10-12, Shanghai — — Customs officers at Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport saw a box filled with suspected rhino horn products during a baggage inspection, and released the box for more information. A male suspect then took it to the bathroom, where all the horn products were transferred to his backpacks. Subsequently, the officers arrested two suspects and seized rhino horn of 9.97kg. After interrogation, the suspects admitted that they had been commissioned by

someone in South Africa to bring the rhino horn into China for selling.

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The milk powder can was filled with pangolin scale powder



2019-10-12, Chengdu, Sichuan — — Recently, Chengdu Shuangliu Airport Customs seized a bag of suspected pangolin scales and a bag of pangolin scale powder, each gross weight of 254 grams and 913 grams, in the checked baggage of a male Chinese passenger during the regular inspection of the arrived flights from Addis Ababa. The passenger said that the pangolin scales and its powder were to be used as medicine, and he grinded some of the suspected pangolin scales into powder for filling them into plastic bottles in an attempt to muddle through the customs. According to endangered animal and plant protection experts, a pangolin body has about 0.4-0.6 kg of scales which means that three pangolins may be killed in this case.

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Police in Fangchenggang, Guangxi, seized 10 illegally transported national protected animal otters

2019-10-13, Fangchenggang — — At 12 o'clock on the 11th October, when the police on duty at the Hengjiang border checkpoint were checking a taxi coming from the direction of Dongxing City, they heard some noise in the trunk. The policemen asked the driver what kind of goods was carried and the driver prevaricated that it was bamboo rats. But it was found subsequently that there were several plastic cages and woven bags in the tail box, which contained 10 live otters, 2 kangaroos without legal transport permissions. After further investigation, it was learned that the taxi driver was the local and was entrusted to bring these animals to Fangcheng where someone was waiting to pick up. At present, the case has been referred to the local fisheries authorities.

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Lanzhou Customs seized more than 3000 grams of ivory and other endangered species and their products

2019-10-15, Lanzhou, Gansu — — Lanzhou Customs' sound chain of three-dimensional detection and control mode for accurate detection and control, established in this year, has achieved significant results. In the first three quarters of this year, 56 pieces of endangered species such as ivory and their products were seized, with a total weight of 3012.77 grams, among which 21 pieces were ivory products, 786.77 grams, 10 pieces were antelope horn, 871 grams, and 25 were tridacnidae, 1355 grams. It effectively combated the illegal trade in endangered

species such as ivory and its products. It is reported that Lanzhou Zhongchuan Airport Customs recently seized a piece of ivory products, weighing 30.30 grams, in the flight from Cambodia to Lanzhou. The case has been handed over to the anti-smuggling department for further processing.

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Hangzhou Customs seized 3 pieces of ivory products in the travel inspection channel

2019-10-16, Hangzhou, Zhejiang - October 14th, Hangzhou Customs Technical Center has confirmed that previous three suspected ivory products seized in Yiwu Customs, are ivory products, a total weight of 210.57 grams. At present, the above-mentioned items have been handed over to the Customs Anti-smuggling Department for further processing.

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Xining Customs detected a huge case of smuggling of precious animal products



2019-10-18, Xining, Qinghai — — Recently, Xining Customs, after careful investigation, successfully cracked a case of smuggling of precious animal products, whose value is the highest in Chinese northwest area this year among the case of smuggling of precious animal products. Under the unified



command and coordination of the Anti-Smuggling Bureau of the General Administration of Customs, the Xining Customs Anti-Smuggling Bureau, with the cooperation of Lhasa, Zhengzhou, Nanning Customs Anti-Smuggling Bureau and the public security organs of the three places, dispatched 47 police officers in 4 groups to take arrests in Qinghai, Tibet, Henan, Guangxi and other places. Two suspects were arrested and 2 9.585 kg of ivory products, 26.26 kg of pangolin tablets, 10.51 kg of lion bones, 4 lion teeth and 2 tiger skins. The case is the largest seizure of precious animal products in Qinghai province in a single case over the years. At present, the case has been and transferred to the procuratorate for examination and prosecution, while provided other customs anti-smuggling bureaus with a number of suspected smuggling of precious animals and their products intelligence clues.

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Hong Kong Airport Customs seized rhino horn and detained a suspected woman from South Africa



2019-10-19, Hongkong — — About 16 kilograms of rhino horn, estimated to be worth about HK\$3.2 million, were seized at the Hong Kong International Airport on

January 9 and a 33-year-old woman was arrested for suspicion of smuggling. The passenger flew from Johannesburg, South Africa, to Hong Kong for a connecting flight to Ho Chi Minh City, where customs officers found the suspected rhino horn in one of her hold bags. The case has been referred to the Agriculture and Fisheries Nature Conservation Department for follow-up.

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Shanghai Customs seized a number of suspected smuggling of endangered species



2019-10-20, Shanghai — — Shanghai Pudong Airport Customs recently seized 41 endangered animals such as spotted box turtles in a single ticket carrying cargo. The two suspects were detained by the customs anti-smuggling department. The goods were declared as mud turtle and other ordinary tortoises. The cargo owner usually would pick up the goods in the first time after the arrival of fresh goods. But these turtles from Mexico were picked up in the second day, which caught the attention of customs. The Shanghai Customs Anti-smuggling Bureau highly suspected that some precious goods were in the cargo and inspected them during customs clearance. Surprisingly, there were more than 3000 living tortoises in 11 wooden boxes, including 40 speckled box



turtles and 1 central American river turtle listed as endangered by international conventions. During enquiry, the cargo owner said he was unaware that these turtles contained endangered species. However, it was found that the suspect already know the turtle species when contacting with the supplier in Mexico on the mobile phone. At present, the case is still under further processing

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Nanning Customs cracked major crocodile smuggling case and successfully rescued 806 live Siamese crocodiles



2019-10-21, Nanning, Guangxi — — Recently, Dongxing Customs Anti-Smuggling Branch in Naliang town, Fangchenggang City, Guangxi Province, China-Vietnam border, destroyed a crocodile smuggling dens, seized 806 live Siamese alligator, 1 transport ship, and 2 heavy vehicles on the spot and arrested 16 people involved, 14 of whom are illegal immigrants of Vietnamese. The crocodiles, completely without the ferocity and vitality, were packed in 158 wooden boxes according to their size, an average of 3-10 per box, their mouths were sealed with glue, and their activity space is extremely small. After the preliminary identification, it was confirmed that the crocodile is Siamese

crocodile. According to previous investigation and the confessions of the persons involved in the case, the siamese crocodiles were organized by smugglers in Vietnam and transported by ship from the Vietnam side of the Beilun River to the non-border terminals such as the Naliang Zhenjiangkou. Smugglers in this dens would transfer crocodiles over the barge to the big truck, and then wait for the opportunity to transport them to Guangdong sales for profit. At present, Dongxing Customs Anti-Smuggling Branch has begun a criminal investigation into the case, the main personnel involved has been taken coercive measures, and the related the crocodile has been transferred to Guangxi Lusheng Wildlife Rescue Research Center for treatment and protection

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Nanning Customs seized 2735 cynomolgus monkeys which is the Largest case of this type of what Chinese Customs anti-smuggling investigation has processed



2019-10-21, Nanning, Guangxi — — It's reported that "GN1903", the major cynomolgus monkeys smuggling case investigated by Fangcheng Anti-smuggling Branch, has been transferred to the



Fangcheng People's Procuratorate for examination and prosecution. It is by far the largest scale of cynomolgus monkeys smuggling case Chinese customs anti-smuggling department has cracked. It's confirmed that the amount of smuggling cynomolgus monkeys up to 2,735, with fight 2 smuggling gang cracked down and 17 suspects arrested. In the early hours of July 24th, 2018, the Fangcheng City customs anti-smuggling bureau received a report that there were outlaws engaging in smuggling of wild animals in the jurisdiction. The civilian police immediately carried out intelligence investigation and investigation, while sending teams to suspicious locations to lurk. In the evening, the van driven by the smugglers, under the cover of two "lead vehicles", crashed into the enforcement vehicle, and the driver of the van abandoned his car and ran into the roadside forest. In the stopped van, the anti-smuggling police seized 70 live-food cynomolgus monkeys of the national second-class key protection animals. After the comparison of scene evidence, the police caught the driver Chen Mou. During the trial, Chen confessed that he had been hired by Ah Liu to smuggle cynomolgus monkeys from the Sino-Vietnamese border. A month later, the anti-smuggling police in Liuzhou railway station arrested Ah Liu. After a surprise trial, Ah Liu truthfully confessed to the smuggling destination - Guangxi Wuzhou, a primate animal experimental company. The company has a formal breeding license issued by the relevant departments, its business is cynomolgus monkeys breeding and sales to pharmaceutical companies for drug experimentation. They strengthened communication with Guangxi Lusheng

wildlife rescue research and epidemic surveillance center and other professional institutions, seeking professional support, jointly going to the breeding base for many times, verifying the suspected smuggling of cynomolgus monkeys one by one and counting the suspected smuggling numbers from the tens of thousands of cynomolgus monkeys accurately to ensure solid and reliable evidence. So far, the number of smuggled cynomolgus monkeys involved has been expanded from 70 to 2735, the suspects are fully arrested, and 2 cynomolgus monkeys smuggling gangs were completely destroyed by customs.

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International

Water turtles and pangolin scales were seized in India

2019-10-02, Bangalore, India - India's forest authorities have arrested four suspects on suspicion of illegally transporting 1.025 kg of pangolin scales, 1 kg of Indian fish and 7 kg of Indian pond turtle. It was the biggest seizure of the year, according to forestry officials. "These people, who claim to be agricultural workers, are expected to receive Rs 15,000 to Rs 20,000 for the shipment. The suspect was arrested in the village of Narsipur, near the town of Nelamangala. They packed the things in sacks and were waiting for the bus when they were captured. The men admitted to selling pangolins to make bags and bulletproof jackets, the shells of fish and turtles would be sold to make medicine for cancer and impotence.

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2019-10-30, ISTANBUL, Turkey – October 23, Turkish police seized a total of 2,69 illegal animal products worth \$2,61,000 in Istanbul, including two pieces of ivory and a rhino horn, along with beads and other ornaments. Police said the suspect was Azerbaijani.

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Large quantity of illegal animal products were seized in Istanbul



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