

TRAFFIC



CHINA'S WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT NEWS DIGEST

January 2022

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Tianjin Postal Customs Seized a Batch of Ivory Products



News Release Date: 6 January 2022
Law Enforcement Authority: Tianjin Postal Customs
Location: Tianjin Post Office
Detection Method: Routine Examination (machine inspection)
Species: Six ivory products, weight about 534.39 g, Class I of National Protected Species/CITES I/II
Transport Method: Inbound mail (declared as "wooden box")
Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

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Luzhou Customs Seized Ivory Painting Scroll from Inbound Mail



News Release Date: 6 January 2022
Law Enforcement Authority: Luzhou Customs
Location: Luzhou Customs, Hefei City, Anhui Province
Detection Method: Routine Examination (CT machine)
Species: One ivory painting scroll, Class I of National Protected Species/CITES I/II
Transport Method: Inbound mail
Reason for Seizure: Smuggling
Case Progress: Items were detained and handed over to relevant department for further process.

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Pudong Airport Customs Seized Nautiloid and Stony Coral Products



News Release Date: 13 January 2022
Law Enforcement Authority: Pudong Airport Customs
Location: Shanghai Airport, Shanghai City
Detection Method: Supervision
Species: Five Nautiloid handicrafts (Nautiloidea), 61.3 g, CITES II; 41 stony corals ornament inlays (*Scleractinia* spp.), 282.5 g, Class II of National Protected Species/CITES II
Transport Method: Inbound and outbound express (declared as "shell pendant")
Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

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Jimo Customs Seized Four Ivory Products from Inbound Express



News Release Date: 13 January 2022
Law Enforcement Authority: Jimo Customs
Location: Qingdao City, Shandong Province
Detection Method: Routine Examination (machine inspection)
Species: Four ivory products, 148.7 g, Class I of National Protected Species/CITES I/II
Transport Method: Inbound express (declared as "sneakers", hidden in inbound sneakers)
Reason for Seizure: Smuggling
Case Progress: Customs has temporarily detained ivory products for further process.

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Wenzhou Customs Seized 12 Ivory Painting Scroll Heads from Inbound Mail



News Release Date: 14 January 2022

Law Enforcement Authority: Wenzhou Customs

Location: Wenzhou Customs, Wenzhou City, Zhejiang Province

Detection Method: Routine Examination (X-ray)

Species: 12 ivory painting scrolls, Class I of National Protected Species/CITES I/II

Transport Method: Inbound mail (declared as "tea box")

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

Case Progress: Handed over to relevant department for further process.

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Luzhou Customs Seized Ivory Handicraft from Postal Channel



News Release Date: 14 January 2022

Law Enforcement Authority: Luzhou Customs

Location: Luzhou Customs, Hefei City, Anhui Province

Detection Method: Risk alert, Routine Examination (CT machine)

Species: One ivory handicraft, gross weight about 75 g, Class I of National Protected Species/CITES I/II

Transport Method: Inbound parcel

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

Case Progress: Items were detained and handed over to relevant department for further process.

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Guangzhou Postal Customs Seized Ivory Painting Scroll Heads from Inbound Mail



News Release Date: 14 January 2022
Law Enforcement Authority: Guangzhou Postal Customs
Location: Guangzhou Post Office, Guangzhou City, Guangdong Province
Detection Method: Routine Examination (machine inspection)
Species: Two ivory scroll heads, Class I of National Protected Species/CITES I/II
Transport Method: Inbound mail (declared as "old scroll painting")
Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

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Luzhou Customs Seized Three Ivory Splicing Paintings from Inbound Parcel



News Release Date: 14 January 2022
Law Enforcement Authority: Luzhou Customs
Location: Luzhou Customs, Hefei City, Anhui Province
Detection Method: Risk warning, manual inspection
Species: Three ivory splicing paintings, Class I of National Protected Species/CITES I/II
Transport Method: Inbound parcel
Reason for Seizure: Smuggling
Case Progress: Items were detained and handed over to relevant department for further process.

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Pudong Airport Customs Seized Endangered Bird Specimens from Airport Express Supervision Channel



News Release Date: 15 January 2022

Law Enforcement Authority: Pudong Airport Customs

Location: Shanghai Airport Express Supervision Channel, Shanghai City

Detection Method: Supervision

Species: 26 bird specimens, of which four were endangered: one purple-throated carib (*Eulampis jugularis*), CITES II; one swift parrot (*Lathamus discolor*), CITES II, one Costa's hummingbird (*Calypte costae*), CITES II, one hooded pitta (*Pitta sordida*), Class II of National Protected Species

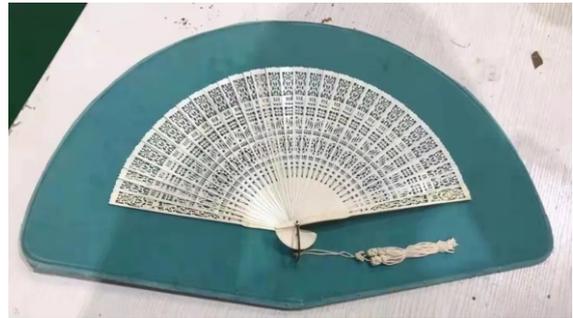
Transport Method: Inbound express (declared as "handicraft ornaments")

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

Case Progress: Case has been handed over to relevant department for further process.

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Maoming Customs Seized an Ivory Fan from Inbound Express



News Release Date: 16 January 2022

Law Enforcement Authority: Maoming Customs

Location: Maoming Customs, Maoming City, Guangdong Province

Detection Method: Routine Examination (machine inspection)

Species: One ivory fan, net weight 60 g, Class I of National Protected Species/CITES I/II

Transport Method: Inbound express parcel (declared as photo frames and folding fans)

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

Case Progress: Items were detained and handed over to relevant department for further process.

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Mengla Customs Seized Two Ivory Products



News Release Date: 19 January 2022

Law Enforcement Authority: Mengla Customs

Location: Mohan International Express Centre, Mengla County, Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province

Detection Method: Routine Examination (machine inspection)

Species: Two ivory beads bracelets, 30 g, Class I of National Protected Species/CITES I/II

Transport Method: Inbound express

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

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Wuhan Customs Seized a Pair of Ivory Earrings from Postal Channel



News Release Date: 19 January 2022

Law Enforcement Authority: Wuhan Postal Customs

Location: Wuhan Post Office, Wuhan City, Hubei Province

Detection Method: Inspection

Species: One pair of ivory earrings, Class I of National Protected Species/CITES I/

Transport Method: Inbound parcel (declared as "ornament")

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

Case Progress: Items have been processed according to relevant regulations.

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Dandong Customs Seized One Ivory Ornaments from the Postal Channel



News Release Date: 19 January 2022

Law Enforcement Authority: Dandong Customs

Location: Dandong Customs, Dandong City, Shandong Province

Detection Method: Routine Examination (machine inspection)

Species: One ivory ornament, Class I of National Protected Species/CITES I/II

Transport Method: Parcel (wrapped with layers of aluminum foil and sealed in a snack bag)

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

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Luzhou Customs Seized Ivory Ornaments from Postal Channel



News Release Date: 19 January 2022

Law Enforcement Authority: Luzhou Customs

Location: Luzhou Customs, Hefei City, Anhui Province

Detection Method: Risk warning, Routine Examination (CT machine)

Species: One ivory handicraft, gross weight 40.6 g, Class I of National Protected Species/CITES I/II

Transport Method: Inbound parcel

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

Case Progress: Items were detained and handed over to relevant department for further process.

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Nantong Customs Seized Live Endangered Plants



News Release Date: 21 January 2022

Law Enforcement Authority: Nantong Customs

Location: Nantong Customs E-Commerce Export Channel, Nantong City, Jiangsu Province

Species: One live Santa Cruz striped agave (*Agave parviflora*), CITES I

12 live Queen Victoria agave (*Agave victoriae-reginae*), CITES II

Transport Method: Export e-commerce goods

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

Case Progress: Nantong Customs shall carry out further process in accordance with law.

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Shenzhen Bay Customs Seized a Batch of Totoaba Fish Maw from Import Freight



News Release Date: 26 January 2022

Law Enforcement Authority: Shenzhen Bay Customs

Location: Shenzhen Bay Customs Freight Import Channel, Shenzhen City, Guangdong Province

Detection Method: Inspection

Species: 9 pieces of totoaba (*Totoaba macdonaldi*) fish maw, 2.9 kg, CITES I

Transport Method: Inbound empty truck (hidden in the corner of the cab)

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

Case Progress: Case has been handed over to disposal department for further process.

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Lujiang County Police of Anhui Province Cracked a Major Case of Poaching and Harming Endangered Wildlife



News Release Date: 4 January 2022

Law Enforcement Authority: Luzhou County Police Bureau Ketan Police Station

Location: An abandoned house in Zhangzhuang Village, Fenshui Village, Ketan Town, Luzhou County, Hefei City, Anhui Province

Detection Method: Patrol

Species: A total of 2302 birds, including 1237 live birds and 1065 dead birds, of which three were Class II of National Protected Species

Reason for Seizure: Poaching

Estimated Value: Sold for 7-8 CNY each

Number of Offenders: Five

Case Progress: Suspects were under criminal compulsory measures. Case is under further investigation.

[Read more](#)

Hunan Forest Police Cracked a Series of Cases of Illegal Leopard Cat Trade



News Release Date: 8 January 2022

Seizure Date: 1 June 2021, 21 October 2021

Law Enforcement Authority: Leiyang City Forest Police Bureau

Location: Leiyang District, Leiyang City, Hunan Province; six provinces including Guangdong Province and Guangxi Province

Detection Method: Investigation by special taskforce

Species: 16 leopard cats (*Prionailurus bengalensis*), Class II of National Protected Species/CITES II

Reason for Seizure: Illegal sale

Number of Offenders: 12

Case Progress: Leopard cats were handed over to relevant department for proper care.

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Longmatan District Sub-Bureau of Luzhou City Police Bureau of Sichuan Province Successfully Rescued 17 Chinese Hwamei



News Release Date: 24 January 2022

Seizure Date: 13 January 2022

Law Enforcement Authority: Luzhou City Police Bureau Longmatan District Sub-Bureau Yudaihe Police Station, Forest Police Brigade

Location: Suspect's residence, Longmatan District, Luzhou City, Sichuan Province

Detection Method: Patrol, investigation

Species: 17 Chinese Hwamei (*Garrulax canorus*), Class II of National Protected Species

Reason for Seizure: Illegal sale, poaching

Estimated Value: Sold at prices ranging from 500 CNY

Number of Offenders: One

Case Progress: Suspects were under criminal detention according to law. Case is under further process. Chinese Hwamei were all released to the wild.

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Changsha Police Cracked a Case of Illegal Himalayan Yews Logging



News Release Date: 24 January 2022

Seizure Date: 7 May 2021 (arrest date)

Law Enforcement Authority: Liuyang City Forest Police Bureau

Location: Daweishan Mountain Farm, Liuyang City, Hunan Province (crime scene)

Detection Method: Tip off

Species: 25 Himalayan yews (*Taxus wallichiana* var. *mairei*), Class I of National Protected Species/CITES II; 32 Phoebe zhennan (*Phoebe zhennan*), Class II of National Protected Species

Transport Method: SUV

Reason for Seizure: Illegal logging

Estimated Value: 1.25 million CNY

Number of Offenders: 19

Case Progress: Case has been handed over to Liuyang City People's Court for review and prosecution.

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Sichuan Ya'an Police Bureau Forest Police Destroyed a Wildlife Trafficking Gang



News Release Date: 25 January 2022

Law Enforcement Authority: Sichuan Ya'an Police Bureau Forest Police Detachment Comprehensive Brigade

Location: Suspect's wildlife farm in Sichuan Province; five provinces and six cities across the country

Detection Method: Investigation

Species: 18 golden snub-nosed monkeys (*Rhinopithecus roxellanae*), Class I of National Protected Species/CITES I; 17 red pandas (*Ailurus fulgens*), Class II of National Protected Species/CITES I

Reason for Seizure: Poaching, illegal trade

Estimated Value: The poacher sold golden snub-nosed monkeys for about 13,000 CNY to the suspect. The suspect then sold monkeys for about 75,000 CNY each to Tonglong Zoo. Tonglong Zoo sold monkeys to other zoos for about 500,000 CNY each.

Number of Offenders: 15

Case Progress: Sichuan Ya'an City Intermediate People's Court held a hearing for the case.

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Jinhua Police Cracked a Major Case of Wildlife Poaching



News Release Date: 26 January 2022

Law Enforcement Authority: Wucheng Police Sub-Bureau Forest Police Brigade

Location: Wucheng and Jindong in Jinhua City, Zhejiang Province

Detection Method: Patrol, investigation by special taskforce

Species: Four species of Class II of National Protected Species, including rhesus monkeys (*Macaca mulatta*) CITES II, tufted deers (*Elaphodus cephalophus*), crested serpent-eagles (*Spilornis cheela*) and others. 15 species of Animal of important economic and scientific values, 72 Animal of important economic and scientific values products, including Bornean red muntjac (*Muntiacus muntjak*), wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), Chinese hare (*Lepus sinensis*) and others.

Reason for Seizure: Poaching

Number of Offenders: 45

Case Progress: 5 suspects were handed over to procuratorate for review and prosecution according to law.

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Jilun Huichun Forest District Basic-Level People's Court Concluded a Case of Harming Endangered Wildlife



News Release Date: 6 January 2022

Judicial Authority: Jilin Huichun Forest District Primary Court

Location: State-owned Forest area, Sandaogou Forest Farm, Huichun Forestry Bureau, Jilin City, Jilin Province

Species: Three Wild Sika deers (*Cervus nippon*), Class I of National Protected Species

Reason for Seizure: Poaching

Number of Offenders: One

Case Progress: Suspect was sentenced to seven years in prison and fined 30,000 CNY and compensated 90,000 CNY for losses caused by permanent damage to the national ecological environment function.

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Sanmen County People's Court Held a Hearing on the Case of Cobras Trade



News Release Date: 7 January 2022

Law Enforcement Authority: Sanmen County Police

Judicial Authority: Shandong Province Dezhou City Lingcheng District People's Court

Location: Suspect's residence, Huaqiao Town, Sanmen County, Taizhou City, Zhejiang Province

Species: 248 snakes, of which Chinese cobras (*Naja atra*) account for the majority, CITES II. Other snakes include Zaocys (*Zaocys dhumnades*), King rat snakes (*Elaphe carinata*), many-banded kraits (*Bungarus multicinctus*), Chen's bamboo pitvipers (*Trimeresurus stejnegeri*) and others.

Reason for Seizure: Poaching, illegal sale

Number of Offenders: One

Case Progress: Suspect was sentenced to three years in prison and four years' probation and fined 10,000 CNY.

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Lingcheng District People's Court of Dezhou City in Shandong Province Held a Hearing on the Case of Illegal Parrot Trade



News Release Date: 7 January 2022

Sentence Date: 3 December 2021

Judicial Authority: Shandong Province Dezhou City Lingcheng District People's Court

Location: Lingzhou District, Dezhou City, Shandong Province

Species: 84 monk parakeets (*Myiopsitta monachus*), Class II of National Protected Species/CITES II; 38 sun parakeets (*Aratinga solstitialis*), Class II of National Protected Species/CITES II

Reason for Seizure: Illegal sale, illegal purchase

Number of Offenders: Two

Case Progress: Both suspects were sentenced to three years in prison.

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Hong Kong SAR

AFCD seizes 17 pieces of suspected ivory products



The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) yesterday (January 20) seized 17 pieces of suspected elephant ivory products from a shop in Central and Western District.

AFCD staff conducted inspections in Central and Western District on January 20 and found a shop suspected of possessing scheduled elephant ivory for commercial purposes. The shop was suspected of selling elephant ivory products that have been banned from the local

trade as well as selling alleged antique elephant ivory without providing any proof. The AFCD has seized the items for further investigation.

A spokesman for the AFCD said, "The Government is committed to the protection of endangered species, including elephants. The Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 has been fully implemented since December 31, 2021, such that import, re-export and commercial possession of elephant ivory (except for 'antique elephant ivory') have been banned. The AFCD has stepped up inspection efforts, and will remain in close contact with the Customs and Excise Department and relevant government departments to combat smuggling and illegal trade of ivory."

According to the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) (the Ordinance), "commercial purposes" means:

- (1) a purpose relating to trade or business; or
- (2) a purpose of obtaining profit or other economic benefit (whether in cash or in kind) and directed towards sale, resale, exchange, provision of a service or other form of economic use or benefit, whether direct or indirect.

According to the Ordinance, "antique elephant ivory" means:

- (1) a piece of elephant ivory that was, before July 1, 1925:
 - (i) removed from the wild;
 - (ii) significantly altered from its natural state for jewellery, adornment, art, utility or musical instruments; and
 - (iii) acquired by a person after the alteration in such altered state that required no further carving, crafting or processing to effect its purpose; and
- (2) does not include an elephant hunting trophy.



Traders possessing "antique elephant ivory" for commercial purposes must prove that the ivory meets the above-mentioned definition of "antique elephant ivory". Examples of acceptable proof of "antique elephant ivory" include a qualified appraisal or scientifically approved aging methods carried out by an accredited laboratory or facility.

Any person importing, re-exporting or possessing elephant ivory not in accordance with the Ordinance will be liable to a maximum fine of \$10 million and imprisonment for 10 years upon conviction. The specimens will also be forfeited.

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department yesterday (January 20) seized 17 pieces of suspected elephant ivory products from a shop in Central and Western District. Photo shows the suspected elephant ivory products seized.

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Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected scheduled red sandalwood



Hong Kong Customs today (January 21) seized about 3 378 kilograms of suspected scheduled red sandalwood, with an estimated market value of about \$17 million, at Hong Kong International Airport.

Through risk assessment, Customs officers today inspected an air consignment, declared to be carrying furniture raw materials, arriving in Hong Kong from Dubai. Upon inspection, Customs officers found the batch of suspected scheduled red sandalwood inside two large wooden boxes.

The case was handed over to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department for follow-up investigation.

Under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance, any person found guilty of importing or exporting an endangered species without a licence is liable to a maximum fine of \$10 million and imprisonment for 10 years.

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DRC

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- [Rhino horn smuggling](#)

India

- [ED arrests kingpin Badshah Malik in red sandalwood smuggling case](#)
- [Chennai Air Cargo customs foil smuggling attempt, recover 1364 live star tortoises](#)

Mozambique

- [Mozambique: Police seize 50 ivory tusks from house in Maputo outskirts](#)
- [Powder down to thirty years in prison](#)

Singapore

- [Ivory, rhino horns, pangolin and tiger parts seized in transit from Africa to Asia](#)

South Africa

- [Over R700 000 worth of abalone confiscated in Plett](#)
- [Rhino horn disguised as chocolates seized at OR Tambo airport](#)

Thailand

- [Bengal tiger pelts, weapons seized in forest, 5 suspects escape](#)

Uganda

- [Senegalese national caught with animal scales](#)

USA

- [Texas Biologist Indicted for Wildlife Trafficking](#)

Vietnam

- [Vietnam seizes over 6 tonnes of suspected ivory, pangolin scales smuggled from Nigeria](#)