

TRAFFIC



CHINA'S WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT NEWS DIGEST

December 2023

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Shenzhen Dapeng Customs Seized 30 Erhus with Python skin in an Export Freight



News Release Date: 6 December 2023
Seizure Date: 22 November 2023
Law Enforcement Authority: Dapeng Customs
Location: Shenzhen City, Guangdong Province
Detection Method: Routine Inspection
Species: 30 Pythons (*Pythonidae* spp.) Erhus, Class II of National Protected Species, CITES I/II
Transport Method: Export Freight (declared as a cross-border e-commerce B2B direct export)
Country of Export: China
Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

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Shenzhen Huanggang Customs Seized Six Live Ball Pythons Carried by an Inbound Passenger



News Release Date: 6 December 2023
Law Enforcement Authority: Huanggang Customs
Location: Futian Port, Shenzhen City, Guangdong Province
Detection Method: Routine Inspection
Species: Six Live Ball Pythons (*Python regius*), CITES II
Transport Method: Concealed on an Inbound Passenger (Hidden in the pants pockets, wrapped in black cotton socks)
Reason for Seizure: Smuggling
Number of Offenders: 1 (Female)

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Guangzhou Nansha Customs Seized 20 Pieces of Furniture Made from Tamalan Tree in an Inbound Freight



News Release Date: 7 December 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Nansha Customs

Location: Nansha District, Guangzhou City, Guangdong Province

Detection Method: Risk Control

Species: 20 Tamalan Tree (*Dalbergia oliveri*) furniture, including bed, dining-table, dining chair, stool, etc., total 951.4 kg, CITES II

Transport Method: Inbound Freight (Container, declared as "old wood furniture")

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

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Guangzhou Postal Customs Seized Three Siamese Rosewood Products in an Inbound Parcel



News Release Date: 8 December 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Guangzhou Postal Customs

Location: Guangzhou City, Guangdong Province

Detection Method: Routine Inspection (Machine Inspection)

Species: Two Siamese Rosewood (*Dalbergia cochinchinensis*) square tables and one artifact, total net weight 3.67 kg, CITES II

Transport Method: Inbound Parcel

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

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Chengdu Postal Customs Seized One Ivory Censer in an Inbound Parcel



News Release Date: 8 December 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Chengdu Postal Customs

Location: Chengdu City, Sichuan Province

Detection Method: Routine Inspection

Species: One ivory censer, about 23 cm wide and 35 cm high, 1049.58 g, Class I of National Protected Species, CITES I/II

Transport Method: Inbound Parcel

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

Case Progress: The seizures have been further disposed by Customs.

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Zhakou Customs Seized 243 Live Juvenile Eastern Mud Turtles Carried by an Inbound Passenger



News Release Date: 12 December 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Zhakou Customs

Location: Gongbei Port, Zhuhai City, Guangdong Province

Detection Method: Routine Inspection

Species: 243 Live juvenile Eastern Mud Turtles (*Kinosternon subrubrum*), CITES II

Transport Method: Inbound Passenger Carry-on Luggage (No declaration channel; wrapped in a black mesh bag, packed in a plastic bag, and deliberately evaded X-ray inspection)

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

Number of Offenders: 1 (Suspect surnamed Zhou)

Nationality: Chinese

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Fuzhou Mawei Customs Seized 19.83 Tonnes of Blue Shark Meat in an Export Freight



News Release Date: 14 December 2023
Law Enforcement Authority: Mawei Customs
Location: Fuzhou City, Fujian Province
Detection Method: Routine Inspection
Species: Blue Shark (*Prionace glauca*) meat, 19.83 tonnes, CITES II
Transport Method: Export Freight (declared as "frozen shark meat" in the general trade way, the company cannot provide the CITES Permit)
Country of Export: China
Reason for Seizure: Smuggling
Number of Offenders: N/A (an enterprise involved)
Case Progress: The goods involved in the case have been handed over for subsequent disposal.

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Rizhao Customs Seized White Teatfish and Black Teatfish in an Inbound Freight



News Release Date: 15 December 2023
Seizure Date: 11 December 2023
Law Enforcement Authority: Rizhao Customs
Location: Rizhao City, Shandong Province
Detection Method: Routine Inspection
Species: 12 kinds of dried sea cucumbers, including White Teatfish (*Holothuria fuscogliva*) and Black Teatfish (*H. nobilis*), CITES II; 1.536 tonnes
Transport Method: Inbound Freight (Container, Enterprises declared by an Enterprise)
Reason for Seizure: Smuggling
Case Progress: The dried sea cucumbers involved in the case have been sealed and ordered to be returned.

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Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport Customs Seized About 39 kg of Agarwood Carried by an Inbound Passenger



News Release Date: 15 December 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport Customs

Location: Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport, Guangdong Province

Detection Method: Routine Inspection (Machine Inspection)

Species: Agarwood (*Aquilaria* spp.) chips and beads bracelet, net weight about 39 kg, Class II of National Protected Species, CITES II

Transport Method: Inbound Passenger Carry-on Luggage (Hidden in suitcases and cardboard boxes, bracelets packed in transparent sealed bags)

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

Number of Offenders: 1 (male)

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Fangchenggang Tongzhong Customs Seized One Agarwood Carving in an Export Freight



News Release Date: 18 December 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Tongzhong Customs

Location: Dongxing City, Fangchenggang City, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region

Detection Method: Risk Control

Species: One Agarwood (*Aquilaria* spp.) carving, 6.8 kg, Class II of National Protected Species, CITES II

Transport Method: Export Freight (hidden in miscellaneous goods declared as "electric motorcycle front drum brakes and chargers")

Country of Export: China

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

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Shanghai Postal Customs Seized Six Ivory Painting Scroll Heads in an Inbound Parcel



News Release Date: 19 December 2023
Law Enforcement Authority: Shanghai Postal Customs
Location: Shanghai
Detection Method: Routine Inspection (X-ray)
Species: Six (three pairs) Ivory painting scroll heads, the paintings weight 771 g, Class I of National Protected Species, CITES I/II
Transport Method: Inbound Parcel
Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

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Dongxing Customs Seized a Bag of Dried Green Sea Turtle Meat Carried by an Inbound Passenger



News Release Date: 20 December 2023
Law Enforcement Authority: Dongxing Customs
Location: Dongxing City, Fangchenggang City, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region
Detection Method: Routine Inspection
Species: One bag of dried Green Sea Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) meat, total 1120 g, Class I of National Protected Species, CITES I
Transport Method: Inbound Passenger Luggage
Reason for Seizure: Smuggling
Number of Offenders: 1

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Yangshan Customs Seized Ivory Piano Patches in Two Inbound Freights



News Release Date: 20 December 2023
Law Enforcement Authority: Yangshan Customs
Location: Shanghai
Detection Method: Routine Inspection
Species: Ivory piano patches, 507 g, Class I of National Protected Species, CITES I/II
Transport Method: Inbound Freights (Declared as "second hand Grand Piano")
Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

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Shenzhen Dapeng Customs Seized 30 Erhus with Python skin in an Export Freight



News Release Date: 21 December 2023
Law Enforcement Authority: Dapeng Customs
Location: Shenzhen City, Guangdong Province
Detection Method: Routine Inspection
Species: 30 Pythons (*Pythonidae* spp.) Erhus, Class II of National Protected Species, CITES I/II
Transport Method: Export Freight
Country of Export: China
Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

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Shenzhen West Kowloon Station Customs Seized 16 Chinese Agarwood Beads Bracelets and Chips Carried by an Outbound Passenger



News Release Date: 28 December 2023
Law Enforcement Authority: West Kowloon Station Customs
Location: West Kowloon Station Mainland Port Area, Hong Kong SAR West Kowloon Station
Detection Method: Routine Inspection
Species: 16 Chinese Agarwood (*Aquilaria sinensis*) beads bracelets and some chips, total 3.85 kg, Class II of National Protected Species, CITES II
Transport Method: An Outbound Passenger Carry-on Luggage (Hidden in a backpack)
Country of Export: China
Reason for Seizure: Smuggling
Number of Offenders: 1

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Guangzhou Postal Customs Seized One Ivory Buddha Figurine in an Inbound Parcel



News Release Date: 29 December 2023
Law Enforcement Authority: Guangzhou Postal Customs
Location: Guangzhou City, Guangdong Province
Detection Method: Routine Inspection (Machine Inspection)
Species: One ivory Buddha figurine, about 10 cm wide and 12 cm high, 1060 g, Class I of National Protected Species, CITES I/II
Transport Method: Inbound Parcel
Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

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Shenzhen Liantang Customs Seized 5.1 kg of Chinese Agarwood Chips Carried by an Inbound Passenger



News Release Date: 30 December 2023

Seizure Date: 18 December 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Liantang Customs

Location: Liantang Port, Shenzhen City, Guangdong Province

Detection Method: Routine Inspection

Species: Chinese Agarwood (*Aquilaria sinensis*) chips, 5.1 kg, Class II of National Protected Species, CITES II

Transport Method: Inbound Passenger Luggage (Hidden in a backpack)

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

Number of Offenders: 1

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Shantou Longhu Customs Seized One Saiga Horn in an Inbound Parcel



News Release Date: 31 December 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Longhu Customs

Location: Shantou City, Guangdong Province

Detection Method: Routine Inspection (X-ray)

Species: One Saiga (*Saiga tatarica*) horn, 167 g, Class I of National Protected Species, CITES II (zero quote)

Transport Method: Inbound Parcel (Hidden in a cookie tin box)

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

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Pingbian County Public Security Bureau, Yunnan Province, Seized Ten Live Chinese Hwamei and Arrested a Suspect



News Release Date: 12 December 2023

Seizure Date: 4 December 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Pingbian County Public Security Bureau

Location: Pingbian Miao Autonomous County, Honghe Hani and Yi Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province

Detection Method: Routine Inspection

Species: Ten live Chinese hwamei (*Garrulax canorus*), Class II of National Protected Species, CITES II

Transport Method: Tricycle

Reason for Seizure: Illegal acquisition and transportation

Number of Offenders: 1 (villagers of Shuanglongtan Village, Baihe Town)

Nationality: Chinese

Case Progress: Li was investigated for harming endangered wild animals. The ten confiscated Chinese hwamei had no obvious external injuries, and were all released into the wild by the police.

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Jiangcheng County Public Security Bureau of Yunnan Province, Seized 1,990 g of Pangolin Scales and Other Wildlife Products, and Arrested Two Suspects



News Release Date: 14 December 2023

Seizure Date: 8 December 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Jiangcheng County Public Security Bureau Forest Police Brigade, Kangping Border Police Station

Location: Sidewalk near Mengkang Port, Kangping Town, Jiangcheng Hani and Yi Autonomous County, Pu'er City, Yunnan Province

Detection Method: Case Clue

Species: Pangolin (*Manidae* spp.) scales, 1,990 g, Class I of National Protected Species, CITES I; two Masked Palm Civets (*Paguma larvata*), the wildlife with important ecological, scientific and social value (wild population only); one Muntjacs (*Muntiacus* spp.), 30 kg of fresh muntjacs meat and 29 kg of dried muntjacs meat, the wildlife with important ecological, scientific and social value; seven Porcupines (*Hystrix hodgsoni*) stomachs, the wildlife with important ecological, scientific and social value

Transport Method: Sedan

Reason for Seizure: Illegal transportation

Number of Offenders: 2 (Suspect Li and Yang)

Case Progress: At present, the criminal suspects Li and Yang confessed to harming the national endangered wild animals and have been criminally detained in accordance with the law, and the case is being further investigated.

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Shigatse Police in Tibet Seized One Suspected Himalayan Musk Deer Pelt and a Carcass, Three Suspected Bharal Hooves, and Arrested Two Suspects



News Release Date: 19 December 2023

Seizure Date: 9 December 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: The Shigatse Border Management Detachment and the Guojia Border Police Station of the Tibet Border Inspection Station, and the Dingjie County Public Security Bureau

Location: On the mountain of Kangkong Village, Guojia Township, Dingjie County, Shigatse City, Tibet Autonomous Region

Detection Method: Case Clue

Species: Suspected Himalayan Musk Deer (*Moschus leucogaster*), 1 pelt and 1 carcass, Class I of National Protected Species, CITES II; 3 suspected Bharal (*Pseudois nayaur*) hooves, Class II of National Protected Species

Reason for Seizure: Illegal hunting (23 traps; 23 travelers)

Number of Offenders: 2 (Luo and Ba)

Case Progress: The two suspects have been criminally detained by the Dingjie County Public Security Bureau in accordance with the law on suspicion of harming endangered wild animals. The case is being further processed.

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The Second Branch of the Hainan Provincial People's Procuratorate Prosecuted Suspect Xing and 26 Other Offenders in the Case of Illegal Hunting, Acquisition, and Sale of Terrestrial Wild Animals

News Release Date: 4 December 2023

Judicial Authority: The Second Branch of the Hainan Provincial People's Procuratorate and the Second Intermediate People's Court of Hainan Province

Species: 2988 Reeves's Butterfly Lizard (*Leiolepis reevesi*), 2 White-Throated Kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*), 4 Greater Coucal (*Centropus fuciphagus*); 1 Besra (*Accipiter virgatus*), Class II of National Protected Species, CITES II; 571 Oriental garden Lizard (*Calotes versicolor*), 78 White-breasted Waterhen (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*), the wildlife with important ecological, scientific and social value; 17 Oriental Rat Snake (*Ptyas mucosa*), the wildlife with important ecological, scientific and social value (wild population only)

Reason for Seizure: Illegal hunting, acquisition, and sale

Estimated Value: CNY 4,803,178

Number of Offenders: 27

Case Progress: The procuratorate initiated a public prosecution against the 22 defendants involved in the case in accordance with the law and imposed a relative non-prosecution disposition on the remaining 5 defendants whose crimes were minor and recommended that the relevant administrative departments impose administrative punishments. At present, the case is under further trial.

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Boleken District People's Court, Xinjiang, Publicly Tried a Case of Poisoning a Brown Bear, One Person Was Sentenced



News Release Date: 5 December 2023

Judicial Authority: Boleken District People's Court, Uyghur Autonomous Region

Species: Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos*), Class II of National Protected Species, CITES I

Reason for Seizure: Illegal hunting (Poisoning)

Estimated Value: CNY 40,000

Number of Offenders: 1 (Suspect Wang, the Legal Representative of a co-operatives farms)

Case Progress: Defendant Wang was sentenced to eight months' imprisonment, suspended for one year and six months, and fined CNY 10,000.

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Luoping County People's Court, Yunnan Province, Publicly Tried a Case of Illegally Hunting and Killing Wild Animals, One Person Was Prosecuted



News Release Date: 15 December 2023

Sentencing Date: 12 December 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Zhongshan Police Station of Luoping County Public Security Bureau

Judicial Authority: Luoping County People's Procuratorate and Luoping County People's Court

Location: The suspect's home in Goujie Village, Zhongshan Township, Luoping County, Qujing City, Yunnan Province

Detection Method: Routine Patrol

Species: Lady Amherst's Pheasant (*Chrysolophus amherstiae*), Class II of National Protected Species; Leopard Cat (*Prionailurus bengaliensis*) Class II of National Protected Species, CITES II; Eurasian Eagle-owl (*Bubo bubo*), Class II of National Protected Species, CITES II; Common Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*), Mountain Bamboo Partridge (*Bambusicola fytchii*), the wildlife with important ecological, scientific, and social value

Reason for Seizure: Illegal hunting

Estimated Value: CNY 93,400

Number of Offenders: 1

Case Progress: The defendant confessed to the alleged facts of the crime and expressed his admission of guilt and acceptance of punishment. After the collegial panel deliberates the case, the verdict will be announced at a later date.

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Tongjiang People's Court, Heilongjiang Province, Publicly Tried a Case of Illegal Hunting Ten Greater White-fronted Goose, Two People Were Prosecuted



News Release Date: 26 December 2023
Judicial Authority: Tongjiang People's Court, Tongjiang Municipal People's Procuratorate
Hunting Location: Yizhuang Village, Leye Town, Tongjiang City, Heilongjiang Province
Species: Ten Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*), Class II of National Protected Species
Reason for Seizure: Illegal hunting (Poisoning)
Estimated Value: CNY 25,000
Number of Offenders: 2
Case Progress: Sentencing will be announced at a later date.

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Yun County People's Court, Yunnan Province, Pronounced a Verdict in a Case of Illegal Owls Hunting , One Person Was Sentenced



News Release Date: 28 December 2023
Hunting Date: 28 May 2023
Judicial Authority: Yun County People's Procuratorate, Yun County People's Court
Hunting Location: In a small garden near the living area of Dachaoshan Power Station in Yun County, Lincang City, Yunnan Province
Species: Four Owls (*Strigiformes* spp.), Class II of National Protected Species, CITES II
Reason for Seizure: Illegal hunting (slingshot)
Estimated Value: CNY 45,000
Number of Offenders: 1
Case Progress: The defendant Li was sentenced to 10 months imprisonment, suspended for one year, fined CNY 1,000, compensated CNY 10,000 for the loss of ecological resources, and compensated CNY 35,000 for the loss of ecological resources in the form of labor compensation (the specific method was that Li signed a "Public Welfare Service Agreement" with the Potou Villager Committee of Dachaoshanxi Town, providing free services such as rule of law publicity, road cleaning, and sanitation maintenance).

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Luannan Court, Hebei Province, Pronounced a Verdict on a Case of Illegal Acquisition of 51 Protected Birds, One Suspect Was Sentenced



News Release Date: 29 December 2023
Sentencing Date: 29 December 2023
Judicial Authority: Luannan Court, Tangshan City, Hebei Province
Location: Defendant's home
Species: 51 protected birds, including Siberian Rubythroat (*Calliope calliope*), Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*), Chestnut-Flanked White-eye (*Zosterops erythropleurus*), Class II of National Protected Species; Swinhoe's White-eye (*Zosterops japonicus*), Oriental Skylark (*Alauda gulgula*), Willow Tit (*Poecile montanus*), Common Rosefinch (*Carpodacus erythrinus*), the wildlife with important ecological, scientific and social value
Reason for Seizure: Illegal acquisition and sale
Number of Offenders: 1 (Suspect Yang)
Case Progress: Defendant Yang was sentenced to 1 year imprisonment, suspended for 2 years, fined CNY 10,000, and confiscated his illegal gains and turned them over to the state treasury.

[Read more](#)

Yinchuan Railway Transport Court Pronounced the Verdict of Two Wildlife Crime Cases, 12 Suspects Were Sentenced

News Release Date: 29 December 2023
Sentencing Date: 28 December 2023
Judicial Authority: Yinchuan Railway Transport Court
Hunting Location: The Yellow River Wetland in Pingluo County, Shizuishan City, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, and the lakes in Alxa Left Banner, Inner Mongolia
Species: Protected birds and their eggs, including Demoiselle Crane (*Grus virgo*), Class II of National Protected Species, CITES II; Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), Class II of National Protected Species; Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*) and Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*), the wildlife with important ecological, scientific, and social value
Reason for Seizure: Illegal hunting, acquisition, and sale
Number of Offenders: 12
Case Progress: Defendants Chen and Luo illegally purchased and sold endangered wild animals and wildlife with important ecological, scientific and social value, and their acts constituted the crime of harming endangered wild animals and the crime of concealing criminal proceeds, and sentenced defendant Chen to eight years imprisonment and a fine of CNY 75,000, and sentenced defendant Luo to four years and ten months imprisonment and a fine of CNY 40,000. Defendants Yang, Li, and others constituted the crime of illegal hunting, and were sentenced to imprisonment ranging from four years to ten months. The defendant was sentenced to pay damages ranging from CNY 16,000 to CNY 980,000.

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Hong Kong SAR

Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected scheduled dried shark fins



Hong Kong Customs seized over 450 kilograms of dried shark fins which included suspected scheduled dried shark fins of endangered species with an estimated market value of about \$1.3 million at Hong Kong International Airport.

A 38-year-old female passenger arrived at Hong Kong from Brazil via Ethiopia yesterday. During customs clearance, Customs officers found the batch of dried shark fins in her 15 check-in baggage. Upon verification, officers of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) confirmed some of the dried shark fins are endangered species under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance.

The case was handed over to the AFCD for follow-up investigation. Customs reminds members of the public not to carry controlled items into and out of Hong Kong.

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.

[Read more](#)

Hong Kong Customs detects suspected case of smuggling scheduled dried shark fins from air passenger



Following the detection of a suspected case of smuggling scheduled dried shark fins from an air passenger at Hong Kong International Airport on November 23, Hong Kong Customs on November 24 detected another similar case and seized over 450 kilograms of dried shark fins, including suspected dried shark fins of scheduled endangered species with an estimated market value of about \$1.3 million at the airport.

A 35-year-old male passenger arrived at Hong Kong from Brazil via Ethiopia on November 24. Upon arrival, he made a Customs declaration for the batch of controlled items and presented an image of a Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) document to Customs officers. The documents were later confirmed invalid by officers of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD). AFCD officers later confirmed some of the dried shark fins in his 15 pieces of check-in baggage are of endangered species listed in CITES Appendix II and regulated under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (the Ordinance).

It was discovered in both cases that crime syndicates not only attempted to use forged or invalid documents, but also deliberately sourced dried shark fins that were yet to be regulated and mixed them with the scheduled ones in order to evade detection.

The Government has gazetted the amendment to the Ordinance to bring more shark species under the control of the Ordinance from December 15, 2023 onwards. The Customs and the AFCD will continue to take vigorous enforcement action to combat smuggling of endangered species.

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Indonesia

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- [Maluku BKSDA secures 11 protected animals in Ambon Port](#)
- [Smuggling of 19 Green Turtles Successfully Foiled in Jembrana](#)

Malaysia

- [About 360 adult turtles were killed, based on the 9,000kg of dried sea turtle meat seized by police during a raid](#)
- [Maluku BKSDA secures six protected bird-type wildlife at Namlea Port](#)

Thailand

- [THE US HELPS THAIS CATCH A MAN SELLING TIGER CARCASSES ONLINE](#)