

# TRAFFIC



## CHINA'S WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT NEWS DIGEST

June 2023

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## Lanzhou Zhongchuan Airport Customs Seized a Crocodile Belt Carried by an Inbound Passenger



**News Release Date:** 2 June 2023

**Law Enforcement Authority:** Lanzhou Zhongchuan Airport Customs

**Location:** Lanzhou Zhongchuan Airport, Gansu Province

**Detection Method:** Routine Examination (CT scan)

**Species:** One Crocodile (Crocodylidae spp.) belt, CITES I/II

**Transport Method:** Inbound Passenger Luggage

**Country of Export:** Thailand

**Reason for Seizure:** Smuggling

**Number of Offenders:** 1

**Case Progress:** The customs have detained the goods for further processing.

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## Nanjing Nantong Customs Seized 11 Crocodile Belts, Weighing 2,560 g



**News Release Date:** 5 June 2023

**Forensic Result Date:** 29 May 2023

**Law Enforcement Authority:** Nantong Customs

**Location:** Nanjing, Jiangsu Province

**Detection Method:** Routine Examination

**Species:** 11 Crocodile (Crocodylidae spp.) belts, weight 2,560 g, CITES I/II

**Reason for Seizure:** Smuggling

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## Hangzhou Qianjiang Customs Seized Two Ivory Painting Scroll Heads in the Inbound Parcel



**News Release Date:** 6 June 2023

**Law Enforcement Authority:** Qianjiang Customs

**Location:** Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province

**Detection Method:** Routine Examination

**Species:** Two Ivory painting scroll heads, gross weight with painting 326 g, Class I of National Protected Species, CITES I/II

**Transport Method:** Inbound Parcel

**Reason for Seizure:** Smuggling

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## Hangzhou Xiaoshan Airport Customs Seized Three China Clams and One False Pillow Coral Carried by an Inbound Passenger



**News Release Date:** 8 June 2023

**Law Enforcement Authority:** Hangzhou Xiaoshan Airport Customs

**Location:** Hangzhou Xiaoshan Airport, Zhejiang Province

**Detection Method:** Routine Examination (Machine Inspection)

**Species:** Three China Clams (*Hippopus porcellanus*), net weight 579 g, CITES II; one false pillow coral (*Pseudosiderastrea tayamai*), net weight 491 g, CITES II

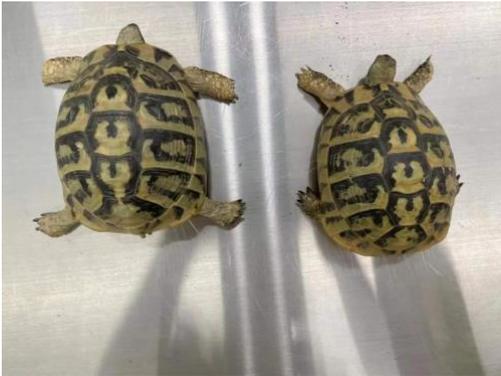
**Transport Method:** Inbound Passenger Luggage

**Reason for Seizure:** Smuggling

**Number of Offenders:** 1

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### Shenzhen Huanggang Customs Seized Two Live Hermann's Tortoises Carried by an Inbound Passenger



**News Release Date:** 12 June 2023

**Law Enforcement Authority:** Huanggang Customs

**Location:** Futian Port, Shenzhen, Guangdong Province

**Detection Method:** Routine Examination (Machine Inspection)

**Species:** Two Live Hermann's Tortoises (*Testudo hermanni*), CITES II

**Transport Method:** Inbound Passenger Luggage (wrapped in Women's black stockings)

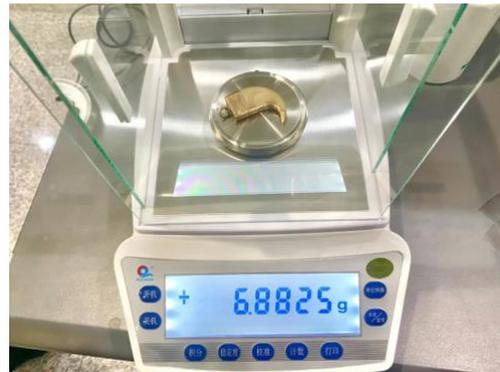
**Reason for Seizure:** Smuggling

**Number of Offenders:** 1

**Case Progress:** Two Hermann's tortoises have been transferred to the rescue department.

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### Dalian Zhouzishui Airport Customs Seized One Tiger Nail Ornament Carried by an Inbound Passenger



**News Release Date:** 15 June 2023

**Law Enforcement Authority:** Dalian Zhouzishui Airport Customs

**Location:** Liaoning Province Dalian Zhouzishui Airport

**Detection Method:** Routine Examination (Machine Inspection)

**Species:** One Tiger (*Panthera tigris*) nail ornament, gross weight 6.88 g, Class I of National Protected Species, CITES I

**Transport Method:** Inbound Passenger Luggage

**Reason for Seizure:** Smuggling

**Number of Offenders:** 1

**Case Progress:** The item involved in the case has been transferred to the relevant departments for further processing.

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### Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport Customs Seized 82 Amazon Parrot Eggs Carried by an Inbound Passenger



**News Release Date:** 16 June 2023

**Law Enforcement Authority:** Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport Customs

**Location:** Guangdong Province Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport

**Detection Method:** Risk Control Directive + Machine Inspection

**Species:** 82 Amazon Parrots (*Amazona* spp.) eggs, CITES II

**Transport Method:** Inbound Passenger Luggage (wrapped in cotton)

**Reason for Seizure:** Smuggling

**Number of Offenders:** 1

**Case Progress:** All 82 parrot eggs hatched.

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### Dalian Zhouzishui Airport Customs Two Ivory Carvings Carried by an Inbound Passenger, Weighing 390 g



**News Release Date:** 20 June 2023

**Law Enforcement Authority:** Dalian Zhouzishui Airport Customs

**Location:** Liaoning Province Dalian Zhouzishui Airport

**Detection Method:** Routine Examination (Machine Inspection)

**Species:** Two Ivory carvings, weight 390 g, Class I of National Protected Species, CITES I/II

**Transport Method:** Inbound Passenger Luggage

**Reason for Seizure:** Smuggling

**Number of Offenders:** 1

**Case Progress:** The items involved in the case have been transferred to the relevant departments for further processing.

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## Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport Customs Seized Three Consecutive Batches of Crocodile Skin and Leather Products in the Inbound Parcel, with a Total of 205 Items



**News Release Date:** 22 June 2023  
**Law Enforcement Authority:** Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport Customs  
**Location:** Guangdong Province, Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport  
**Detection Method:** Risk Control Directive  
**Species:** Crocodile (Crocodylidae spp.), 100 Skins, 100 leather products, 5 belts, CITES I/II  
**Transport Method:** Inbound Parcel  
**Reason for Seizure:** Smuggling  
**Case Progress:** The case has been further processed.

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## Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport Customs Seized Five Giant Clam Shells Carried by an Inbound Passenger



**News Release Date:** 23 June 2023  
**Law Enforcement Authority:** Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport Customs  
**Location:** Guangdong Province Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport  
**Detection Method:** Routine Examination (Machine Inspection)  
**Species:** Five Giant Clam (Tridacnidae spp.) Shells, Class I/II of National Protected Species, CITES II  
**Transport Method:** Inbound Passenger Luggage  
**Reason for Seizure:** Smuggling  
**Number of Offenders:** 1  
**Case Progress:** The case has been further processed.

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## Shenzhen Bay Customs Seized Five Undeclared Red Sanders Logs, Weighing 191 kg in the Inbound Freight



**News Release Date:** 24 June 2023

**Law Enforcement Authority:** Shenzhen Bay Customs

**Location:** Shenzhen Bay Port, Shenzhen, Guangdong Province

**Detection Method:** Routine Examination (Machine Inspection)

**Species:** Five Red Sanders (*Pterocarpus santalinus*) logs, net weight 191 kg

**Transport Method:** Inbound Freight (hidden in the toolbox of an empty truck without declaration)

**Reason for Seizure:** Smuggling

**Number of Offenders:** 1

**Case Progress:** The case has been transferred to the customs for further processing.

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## Chongqing Postal Customs Seized Three Inbound Parcels with 539 Giant Clam Go Stones



**News Release Date:** 25 June 2023

**Law Enforcement Authority:** Chongqing Postal Customs

**Location:** Chongqing City

**Detection Method:** Routine Examination (Machine Inspection)

**Species:** 539 Giant Clam (*Tridacnidae* spp.) Go Stones, weight 3110.3 g, Class I/II of National Protected Species, CITES II

**Transport Method:** Inbound Parcel

**Reason for Seizure:** Smuggling

**Case Progress:** The customs have detained the items involved in this case for further processing.

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## Nanjing Xinshengyu Customs Seized 22 pieces of *Dalbergia Spp.* Furniture in Inbound Passenger Separate Transport Baggage



**News Release Date:** 29 June 2023  
**Forensic Result Date:** 28 June 2023  
**Law Enforcement Authority:** Xinshengxu Customs  
**Location:** Nanjing, Jiangsu Province  
**Detection Method:** Routine Examination  
**Species:** 22 *Dalbergia* spp. made furniture, weighing 220 kg, Class II of National Protected Species, CITES II  
**Transport Method:** Inbound Passenger Separate transport baggage  
**Reason for Seizure:** Smuggling  
**Case Progress:** The customs have further disposed of the items involved in the case in accordance with the law.

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## The Forest Police of Liuzhi Special Zone in Guizhou Province Seized 175 Chinese Hwamei and Arrested Ten Suspects



**News Release Date:** 12 June 2023  
**Seizure Date:** From February to May 2023  
**Law Enforcement Authority:** Forest Police in Liuzhi Special Zone  
**Location:** Liupanshui City (Taohua Park, Liuzhi Special Zone), Anshun City, Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture, etc, Guizhou Province  
**Detection Method:** Regular Patrol and Investigation  
**Species:** 175 Chinese Hwamei (*Garrulax canorus*), Class II of National Protected Species, CITES II  
**Reason for Seizure:** Illegal hunting, killing, purchases, transportation, sales  
**Estimated Value:** CNY 875,000  
**Number of Offenders:** 10  
**Case Progress:** The case has been further processed.

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### Biquan Police Station of the Bishan District Police Bureau in Chongqing City Seized 100 kg Pangolin Scales and Arrested Three Suspects



**News Release Date:** 13 June 2023

**Seizure Date:** 28 May 2023

**Law Enforcement Authority:** Biquan Police Station of Bishan District in Chongqing City

**Location:** Roadside near Zhao Jia Zebra Bamboo Forest, Biquan Street, Bishan District, Chongqing City

**Detection Method:** Tip off

**Species:** Pangolins (*Manis* spp.) scales, 100 kg, Class I of National Protected Species, CITES I

**Transport Method:** Saloon car (depart from Jingxi County, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous region)

**Reason for Seizure:** Illegal transportation & purchase

**Number of Offenders:** 3

**Case Progress:** The customs have further disposed of the items involved in the case in accordance with the law.

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### The Forest Police Patrol of the Huangyuan County Police Bureau of Gansu Province Seized Three Dead Przewalski's Gazelles and a Dead Tibetan Gazelle, and Prosecuted Five Suspects



**News Release Date:** 16 June 2023

**Seizure Date:** 15 August 2022

**Law Enforcement Authority:** Forest Police Patrol of Huangyuan County Police Bureau of Qinghai City

**Location:** An epidemic prevention and control checkpoint at the junction of Huangyuan County and Haiyan County (Hunting location) in Qinghai City, Gansu Province

**Detection Method:** Routine Examination

**Species:** Three Dead Przewalski's Gazelles (*Procapra przewalskii*), Class I of National Protected Species; one Dead Tibetan Gazelle (*Procapra picticaudata*), Class II of National Protected Species

**Transport Method:** White SUV

**Reason for Seizure:** Illegal Hunting

**Estimated Value:** CNY 625,000

**Number of Offenders:** 5

**Case Progress:** The case has been transferred for prosecution.

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**The Food, Drug and Environmental Crime Investigation Patrol of the Changshun County Police Bureau of Guizhou Province Cracked the Case of Illegal Harvest, Transportation and Sales of 110 Orchids, and Arrested One Suspect**



**News Release Date:** 16 June 2023

**Law Enforcement Authority:** Food, Drug and Environmental Investigation Patrol of Changshun County Police Bureau

**Location:** Changzhai Subdistrict, Shun County, Qiannan Buyi and Miao Autonomous Prefecture, Guizhou Province

**Detection Method:** Led by Case Clue

**Species:** More than 100 Noble Orchid (*Cymbidium goeringii*) (44 seized), Class I of National Protected Species, CITES II

**Reason for Seizure:** Illegal harvest, sales (market)

**Number of Offenders:** 1

**Case Progress:** The seized wild orchids have been transferred to the county forestry department in accordance with regulations, and the case is being further handled.

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**The People's Court of Qiongsan District, Haikou City, Hainan Province, Concluded a Case of Illegal Sales of 11 Giant Clam Shells and 696 Pieces of Its Products and 25 Hawksbill Turtle Shell Products, and One Person Was Sentenced**

**News Release Date:** 2 June 2023

**Law Enforcement Authority:** Haikou Market Supervision Administration

**Judicial Authority:** Qiongsan District People's Court

**Location:** In the shop operated by the defendant in Haikou City, Hainan Province

**Detection Method:** Routine Examination

**Species:** Giant Clam (*Tridacnidae* spp.), 11 Shells, 696 products, Class I/II of National Protected Species, CITES II; 25 Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) shell products, Class I of National Protected Species, CITES I

**Reason for Seizure:** Illegal purchases, sales

**Estimated Value:** CNY 24,850 (from 71 items that can be issued with value appraisal)

**Number of Offenders:** 1

**Case Progress:** The defendant was sentenced to eight months' imprisonment, suspended for one year, and fined CNY 10,000. All items seized in the case shall be handled by the seizure authority in accordance with law. After the first-instance judgment was pronounced, the defendant paid a fine to this court.

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## The People's Court of Xiangzhou District of Zhuhai City, Guangdong Province, Concluded a Case of Illegal Purchases and Sales of 38 Giant Clam Shells, and One Person Was Sentenced



**News Release Date:** 5 June 2023

**Judicial Authority:** Zhuhai Xiangzhou District People's Court

**Location:** Defendant's home in Zhuhai City, Guangdong Province

**Detection Method:** Routine Examination

**Species:** Eight Giant Clam (*Tridacna gigas*) shells, Class I of National Protected Species, CITES II; 30 other Giant Clams (*Tridacnidae* spp.) shells, Class II of National Protected Species, CITES II

**Reason for Seizure:** Illegal purchases (post bar, Taobao, Xianyu), sales (Xianyu)

**Estimated Value:** CNY 150,150

**Number of Offenders:** 1

**Case Progress:** The defendant Yuan was sentenced to one year in prison, suspended for two years, and fined CNY 30,000. In addition, more than CNY 150,000 of damage to the ecological environment must be compensated, and a public apology must be made in the news media at or above the municipal level.

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## The Shucheng County People's Court Concluded a Case of Illegal Hunting and Sale of Two Anhui Musk Deer and Other Wild Animals, and Seven People Were Sentenced

**News Release Date:** 5 June 2023

**Law Enforcement Authority:** Shucheng County Police Bureau

**Judicial Authority:** Shucheng County People's Court

**Hunting Location:** Hepeng Town and Tangchi Town in Shucheng County, Liuan City, Anhui Province

**Detection Method:** Routine Examination

**Species:** Two Anhui Musk Deer (*Moschus anhuiensis*), Class I of National Protected Species/CITES II; three Chinese Spot-billed Ducks (*Anas zonorhyncha*), the wildlife with important ecological, scientific and social value; one Common Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*), the wildlife with important ecological, scientific and social value (wild population only); two Common Moorhens (*Gallinula chloropus*), the wildlife with important ecological, scientific and social value; wild boars (*Sus scrofa*), the wildlife with important ecological, scientific, and social value

**Reason for Seizure:** Illegal Hunting (electric hunting net, air gun), Illegal sale (consumption)

**Estimated Value:** CNY 62,400

**Number of Offenders:** 7

**Case Progress:** Defendants Zhang and Pan committed crimes of harming and hunting endangered wild animals were sentenced to fixed-term imprisonment from eight months to one year, and fines ranging from CNY 15,000 to CNY 25,000; Defendants Cheng, Wang, Waang, Li, and Hu committed crimes of harming wild animals, were sentenced to suspended sentences and fined CNY 10,000 respectively; Confiscation and recovery of the unlawful gains of several defendants. In the incidental civil public interest lawsuit, five defendants bore joint and the compensation for the ecological and environmental damage damages of CNY 63,400 involved in the case and apologized to the public through the media at or above the municipal level.

**Note:** The "List of Wildlife with Important Ecological, Scientific, and Social Values" was updated on June 26, 2023, and wild boars is no longer included. The case occurred before the update.

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## Anhui Province Huizhou District People's Court of Huangshan City Concluded the Case of Illegal Orchids Harvest and Poaching, and Two People Were Sentenced

**News Release Date:** 7 June 2023

**Judicial Authority:** Huizhou District People's Court

**Location:** Huizhou District, Huangshan City, Anhui Province

**Detection Method:** Routine Examination

**Species:** One Orchids (*Orchidaceae* spp.), Class I of National Protected Species, CITES II; 1 Reeves's Muntjac (*Muntiacus reevesi*), the wildlife with important ecological, scientific, and social value; 11 wild boars (*Sus scrofa*), the wildlife with important ecological, scientific and social value

**Reason for Seizure:** Illegal harvesting, Illegal Hunting

**Number of Offenders:** 2

**Case Progress:** The two defendants were sentenced to six months' detention and fined CNY 5,000, while they should pay CNY 3,000 and CNY 5,500 respectively for damage to wildlife resources.

**Note:** The "List of Wildlife with Important Ecological, Scientific, and Social Values" was updated on June 26, 2023, and wild boars is no longer included. The case occurred before the update.

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## The Second Intermediate People's Court of Hainan Province Concluded a Case of Poaching Rhesus Macaque, and Two People Were Sentenced

**News Release Date:** 10 June 2023

**Judicial Authority:** The Second Intermediate People's Court of Hainan Province

**Location:** Yinggeling Nature Reserve of Hainan Tropical Rainforest National Park

**Detection Method:** Routine Examination

**Species:** One Rhesus Macaque (*Macaca mulatta*), Class II of National Protected Species, CITES II; 2 wild boars (*Sus scrofa*), the wildlife with important ecological, scientific, and social value

**Reason for Seizure:** Illegal Hunting (spring traps, nets, and steel traps)

**Number of Offenders:** 2

**Case Progress:** Defendant Fu 1 was sentenced to 8 months' imprisonment, suspended for 1 year and 6 months; Defendant Fu 2 was sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment, suspended for 1 year. After the verdict was pronounced, the two said they accepted the verdict and would not appeal.

**Note:** The "List of Wildlife with Important Ecological, Scientific, and Social Values" was updated on June 26, 2023, and wild boars is no longer included. The case occurred before the update.

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## The Tongguan District People's Court of Tongling City, Anhui Province, Publicly Cleared the Cases of Illegal Purchases, Sales Three Golden Snub-Nosed Monkeys, and Ten Red Pandas; Ten People and One Unit Were Sentenced



**News Release Date:** 21 June 2023

**Judicial Authority:** Tongguan District People's Law

**Location:** Tongling City, Anhui Province

**Detection Method:** Routine Examination

**Species:** Three Golden Snub-nosed Monkeys (*Rhinopithecus roxellana*) (one of them was died and its fur has been illegally sold), Class I of National Protected Species, CITES I; ten Red Pandas (*Ailurus fulgens*) (nine of them was died and the furs has been illegally sold), Class II of National Protected Species, CITES I; forty Tibetan Macaques (*Macaca thibetana*), Class II of National Protected Species, CITES II; four Chinese Pheasants (*Chrysolophus pictus*), Class II of National Protected Species; Grey Crowned Crane (*Balearica regulorum*), CITES II; one Red-crowned Crane (*Grus japonensis*) 1, Class I of National Protected Species, CITES I

**Transport Method:** Vehicle (depart from Anzhou District, Mianyang City, Sichuan Province)

**Reason for Seizure:** Illegal purchase, sale, transportation

**Number of Offenders:** 10 People and one Enterprise

**Case Progress:** The 10 defendants were sentenced to fixed-term imprisonment of one year to 12 years and six months, and fines ranging from CNY 1,000 to CNY 125,000; a wildlife rescue center in Anhui Province, where the defendant worked for, was sentenced to commit the crime of harming endangered wild animals and fined CNY 100,000; ordered the defendants Yong, Liu and Li to jointly pay CNY 740,000 in compensation for ecological resource damages; The wildlife rescue center and defendant Hu jointly paid CNY 150,000 in compensation for ecological resource damages; the wildlife rescue center, defendants Hu, Li, Gu and Li 2 jointly paid CNY 150,000 in compensation for ecological resource damages; the wildlife rescue center, defendants Hu and Jiang, jointly paid CNY 10,000 in compensation for ecological resource damages; Defendants in criminal incidental civil public interest litigation are required to publicly apologize to the public in the state-level news media.

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## The Anhui Province Xuanzhou Intermediate People's Court Publicly Concluded a Case of Illegal Hunting of an Elliot's Pheasant, a Silver Pheasant, and Other Wild Animals, and One Person Was Sentenced

**News Release Date:** 28 June 2023

**Sentencing Date:** 26 June 2023

**Judicial Authority:** Xuanzhou Intermediate People's Court

**Location:** A mountain farm in Huangdu Township, Xuanzhou District, Xuancheng City, Anhui Province

**Detection Method:** Routine Examination

**Species:** One Elliot's Pheasant (*Syrnaticus ellioti*), Class I of National Protected Species, CITES I; one Silver Pheasant (*Lophura nycthemera*), Class II of National Protected Species; Reeves's Muntjac (*Muntiacus reevesi*), the wildlife with important ecological, scientific, and social value; Chinese Ferret-badger (*Melogale moschata*), the wildlife with important ecological, scientific, and social value; wild boars (*Sus scrofa*), the wildlife with important ecological, scientific, and social value

**Reason for Seizure:** Illegal Hunting (leg hold traps and nets), sales

**Number of Offenders:** 1

**Case Progress:** Defendant He committed the crime of Illegal Hunting and was sentenced to seven months in prison, suspended for one year. All seized items were confiscated.

**Note:** The "List of Wildlife with Important Ecological, Scientific, and Social Values" was updated on June 26, 2023, and wild boars is no longer included. The case occurred before the update.

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## The Yunzhou District People's Court of Datong City, Shanxi Province, Publicly Cleared a Case Involving Illegal Hunting, Purchases, Transportation, Sales More Than 300 Wild Animals, and Two People Were Sentenced



**News Release Date:** 30 June 2023

**Sentencing Date:** 27 June 2023

**Judicial Authority:** Yunzhou District People's Court of Datong City, Shanxi Province, and Yunzhou District People's Procuratorate of Datong City

**Location:** Farmland near Luoying Village, Yunzhou District, Datong City, Shanxi Province (Hunting location)

**Detection Method:** Routine Examination

**Species:** More than 300 wild animals, including Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), Class I of National Protected Species, CITES II; Upland Buzzard (*Buteo hemilasius*), Class II of National Protected Species, CITES II; Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), Class II of National Protected Species; Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), the wildlife with important ecological, scientific and social value (wild population only); Chinese spot-billed duck (*Anas zonorhyncha*), the wildlife with important ecological, scientific and social value; Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*), the wildlife with important ecological, scientific and social value

**Reason for Seizure:** Illegal Hunting (scattered corn with a potent poison), purchases, transportation, sales

**Number of Offenders:** 2

**Case Progress:** The defendant pleaded guilty in court, and the court adjourned the trial and pronounced the verdict later.

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## Hong Kong SAR

### **Hong Kong Customs detects speedboat smuggling case involving about \$14 million**



Hong Kong Customs yesterday (June 28) mounted an anti-smuggling operation at Yau Tong industrial area and detected a suspected speedboat smuggling case. A batch of suspected smuggled goods, including red coral, dried fish maws, bird nests, dried shark fins and used mobile phones, with an estimated market value of about \$14 million was seized, and a light goods vehicle suspected to be connected with the case was detained.

Customs officers yesterday evening conducted an anti-smuggling operation at the Yau Tong industrial area and spotted a suspicious speedboat heading towards the seashore of the industrial area with its navigation lights off. Later, several suspicious men on the shore moved a batch of goods onto the speedboat. They were suspected of participating in smuggling activities. The officers then took action and the speedboat fled towards the southern waters of Hong Kong.

Customs officers later seized the batch of suspected smuggled goods in a nearby open space and inside a light goods vehicle. A 41-year-old male driver of the light goods vehicle was arrested.

An investigation is ongoing and the likelihood of further arrests is not ruled out.

Customs stresses that it will keep up its enforcement action and continue to fiercely combat sea smuggling activities through proactive risk management and intelligence-based enforcement strategies, along with mounting targeted anti-smuggling operations at suitable times to land a solid blow against relevant activities.

Smuggling is a serious offence. Under the Import and Export Ordinance, any person found guilty of importing or exporting unmanifested cargo is liable to a maximum fine of \$2 million and imprisonment for seven years.

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## Hong Kong Customs detects largest smuggling case on record involving goods worth about \$1.5 billion



Hong Kong Customs on June 13 detected a suspected case of an ocean-going vessel being used to smuggle goods to the Mainland via Singapore at the Kwai Tsing Container Terminals. A large batch of suspected smuggled goods, including electronic goods, expensive food ingredients, table wines, music records and scheduled endangered species, with a total estimated market value of about \$1.5 billion was seized. This is the largest smuggling case detected by Customs on record in terms of the seizure value.

Through risk assessment, Customs discovered that criminals may use ocean-going vessels to smuggle goods to the Mainland via Southeast Asian countries, and therefore formulated strategic plans. Fifteen containers, declared as carrying wood pulp, prepared to be shipped to the Mainland via Singapore by an ocean-going vessel, were identified at the Kwai Tsing Container Terminals.

Upon inspection, Customs officers found that the 15 containers were fully packed with wooden boxes. Some of the wooden boxes were used to carry raw paper while most of the wooden boxes were used to conceal suspected smuggled goods. The majority of them were electronic goods, including integrated circuits, printed circuit boards and capacitors, totalling about 1.1 billion pieces. Other goods included about 25 tonnes of expensive food ingredients, about 20 000 bottles of table wines, about 27 000 pieces of classical music CDs and vinyl records, and scheduled endangered species.

After a follow-up investigation, Customs arrested a 45-year-old man suspected to be connected with the case, and detained 15 containers suspected to be involved.

An investigation is ongoing. The arrested man has been released on bail pending further investigation and the likelihood of further arrests is not ruled out.



Customs is the primary agency responsible for the suppression of smuggling activities and has all along been combating various smuggling activities proactively at the forefront. Customs will keep up its enforcement action and continue to fiercely combat sea smuggling activities through proactive risk management and intelligence-based enforcement strategies, along with mounting targeted anti-smuggling operations at suitable times to land a solid blow against relevant activities.

Smuggling is a serious offence. Under the Import and Export Ordinance, any person found guilty of importing or exporting unmanifested cargo is liable to a maximum fine of \$2 million and imprisonment for seven years. Moreover, any person who imports or exports pharmaceutical products and medicines without a valid licence commits an offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$500,000 and imprisonment for two years.

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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## **Hong Kong Customs and AFCD join hands to combat endangered species smuggling activities**

Hong Kong Customs and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) conducted a one-month joint enforcement operation codenamed "Shepherd" in May this year to combat endangered species smuggling activities at the airport, seaport, land boundary and railway control points.

During the operation, Customs detected 24 cases with seizures of about 5.3 tonnes of suspected endangered species with an estimated market value of about \$22 million and arrests of 14 persons. Among the seizures, over 5 tonnes were suspected scheduled dried shark fins of endangered species, with an estimated market value of about \$21 million, seized by Customs inside two imported seaborne containers. Apart from these, other suspected endangered species, including live turtles, dried seahorses and American ginseng were also seized.

"The joint operation was a great success. It is also a vivid demonstration of how the two departments' close co-operation effectively targets the activities of endangered species smuggling," the Group Head (Air Cargo Group) of Airport Command of Customs, Mr Cheung Ka-chung, said in summarising the operation today (June 16) at a joint press conference.



"Facing the endless smuggling tactics, Customs will stay vigilant and strengthen its efforts in intelligence collection and analysis for even more effective enforcement. Similar joint operations will be undertaken," he added.

"As the epidemic gradually levelled off and normal travel between Hong Kong and Mainland has been resumed since February 6, Customs detected 175 cases of suspected smuggling of endangered species in the first five months of this year, which has exceeded 60 per cent of the total number of cases detected last year. This reflects that endangered species smuggling activities had become relatively active recently. Customs and the AFCD will continue to work closely in combating illegal activities involving endangered species on all fronts."

Smuggling is a serious offence. Under the Import and Export Ordinance, any person found guilty of importing or exporting unmanifested cargo is liable to a maximum fine of \$2 million and imprisonment for seven years.

The Endangered Species Protection Officer of the AFCD, Dr Jenny Lau, reminded the public that any person who imports, exports or possesses endangered species not in accordance with the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance will be liable to a maximum fine of \$10 million and imprisonment for 10 years upon conviction, while the relevant items will be confiscated. Members of the public are urged not to break the law.

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## AFCD busts 50 ivory products in Yau Tsim Mong store



The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) officers seized 50 suspected elephant ivory products from a shop during a Monday morning operation in the Yau Tsim Mong District.

The AFCD stated that they had previously received a complaint regarding a store in Yau Tsim Mong that was suspected of selling products made from elephant ivory, which is banned in Hong Kong.



The AFCD sent out officers yesterday (Jun 5) to investigate the store and discovered 50 products suspected to be made from elephant ivory, which have been seized for further investigation.

AFCD spokesman states that the government has been committed to the protection of endangered animals and has banned the import, re-export, and commercial possession of elephant ivory, except for antique elephant ivory in Hong Kong, since December 31, 2021.

The AFCD has also warned the public that enticing customers with free ivory or displaying ivory labeled "not for sale" may also violate the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance.

The AFCD stated they would remain in close contact with relevant government departments, including the Customs and Excise Department, to continue combating smuggling and the illegal trade of ivory.

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## Europe

- [Europol-led operation finds 25 tonnes of trafficked eels worth EUR 13 million destined for Asia](#)

## India

- [Seven held with 4 kg elephant tusks worth Rs 7.19 crore](#)
- [15 from five states sentenced to 3-yr jail term](#)
- [2 caught trying to fly out with 369 star tortoises at Chennai airport; 4th case in last 2 yrs](#)

## Indonesia

- [Legal Action For LHK Sumatra Thwarts Trade In 2 Sumatran Tiger Skins](#)
- [Jayapura Agricultural Quarantine Secures 19 Illegal Animals at Sentani Airport](#)
- [Balai Gakkum LHK Sulawesi Region Confiscates 51 protected birds, 2 collectors are also secured](#)
- [The Maluku BKSDA secures 22 protected animals in Saumlaki](#)

## Israel

- [Snakes on a plane: Woman arrested for trying to smuggle snakes through airport](#)

## Malaysia

- [Singaporean trying to smuggle 11 wild parrots nabbed](#)

## Mozambique

- [Nine Arrested in Pemba for Wildlife Crimes](#)

## Nigeria

- [Clearing agent jailed for unlawful dealing in pangolin scales, elephant tusks](#)
- [Customs Seizes N432m Pangolin Scales In Bauchi](#)

## Kenya

- [Three arrested as 50kgs of elephant tusks recovered in Marigat](#)
- [Herders Charged With Illegal Possession Of Elephant Tusks](#)
- [Kenyan police arrest man with elephant tusk pieces](#)

## South Africa

- [POLICE NAB 4 FOR POSSESSION OF ELEPHANT TUSKS NEAR POTCHEFSTROOM](#)



## Thailand

- [A THAI AND A CAMBODIAN ARE ARRESTED FOR SMUGGLING MACAQUES](#)
- [Abandoned captured macaques rescued](#)
- [Two wildlife poachers arrested, 34 macaques bound for Laos freed, police say](#)

## United States

- [US authorities seize shipment of swim bladders from endangered fish valued at \\$2.7 million](#)

## Viet Nam

- [Kien Giang discovered 2 businesses trading in jewelry suspected to be made from ivory](#)