

TRAFFIC



CHINA'S WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT NEWS DIGEST

July 2023

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Shenzhen Shatoujiao Customs Seized One Live Mongolian Lark Carried by an Outbound Passenger



News Release Date: 2 July 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Shatoujiao Customs

Location: Zhongying Street, Shenzhen City, Guangdong Province

Detection Method: Routine Examination

Species: One live Mongolian Lark (*Melanocorypha mongolica*), Class II of National Protected Species

Transport Method: Outbound Passenger Luggage (Within a bird cage packed in handbag)

Country of Export: China

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

Number of Offenders: 1 (Male)

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

[Read more](#)

Shenzhen Huanggang Customs Seized Six Live Ball Pythons (1.4 kg) Carried by an Inbound Passenger



News Release Date: 5 July 2023

Forensic Result Date: 26 June 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Huanggang Customs

Location: Futian Port, Shenzhen City, Guangdong Province

Detection Method: Routine Examination

Species: Six live Ball Pythons (*Python regius*), weight 1.4 kg, CITES II

Transport Method: Inbound Passenger Luggage (Wrapped in knee-high cotton socks)

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

Number of Offenders: 1

Case Progress: The seized ball pythons has been handed over to the relevant departments.

[Read more](#)

Shenzhen Huanggang Customs Seized Over 600 Pieces of Pangolin Scales in an Inbound Sedan



News Release Date: 5 July 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Huanggang Customs

Location: Huanggang Port, Shenzhen City, Guangdong Province

Detection Method: Routine Examination

Species: Over 600 pieces of Pangolin (*Manis* spp.) scales, Class I of National Protected Species, CITES I

Transport Method: Inbound Sedan (Carried by the driver, hidden in two white plastic bags in the right rear car trunk)

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

Number of Offenders: 1

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

[Read more](#)

Nanjing Xinshengxu Customs Seized 32 Ivory Chess Pieces (898.34 g) in an Inbound Shipping Luggage



News Release Date: 6 July 2023

Forensic Result Date: 4 July 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Xinshengxu Customs

Location: Nanjing City, Jiangsu Province

Detection Method: Routine Examination

Species: 32 Ivory chess pieces, weight 898.34 g, Class I of National Protected Species, CITES I/II

Transport Method: Inbound Shipping Luggage (Container)

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

Case Progress: The case has been further processed.

[Read more](#)

Guangzhou Postal Customs Seized Fifty-three Red Coral Jewelry (200.1 g), Five Ivory Jewelry (17 g) and One Hawksbill Sea Turtle Jewelry (2 g) in an Inbound Parcel



News Release Date: 7 July 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Guangzhou Postal Customs

Location: Guangzhou City, Guangdong Province

Detection Method: Routine Examination

Species: Fifty-three red coral (*Coralliidae* spp.) jewelries, net weight 200.1 g, Class I of National Protected Species, CITES III (four species distributed in China only); five ivory jewelries, weight 17 g, Class I of National Protected Species, CITES I/II; one Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) jewelry, weight 2 g, Class I of National Protected Species, CITES I

Transport Method: Inbound Parcel

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

Number of Offenders: 1

Case Progress: The case has been further processed.

[Read more](#)

Zhangjiagang Customs Seized 22.5 tonnes of *Dalbergia* spp. wood sawn



News Release Date: 8 July 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Zhangjiagang Customs

Location: Zhangjiagang City, Jiangsu Province

Detection Method: Routine Examination The color and texture rate characteristics of the goods are inconsistent with the declared items)

Species: *Dalbergia* spp. wood sawn, 22.5 tonnes, Class II of National Protected Species, CITES II

Transport Method: Freight (container)

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

Case Progress: The seized shipment has been handed over for further processing.

[Read more](#)

Foshan Customs Seized Nine Indian Rosewood Furniture (233 kg) in Export Freight, One Enterprise Involved



News Release Date: 8 July 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Foshan Customs

Location: Foshan City, Guangdong Province

Detection Method: Routine Examination

Species: Nine Indian Rosewood (*Dalbergia latifolia*) furniture, including Chinese Display Racks, Round chair, tea cabinet etc., weight 233 kg, CITES II

Transport Method: Export Freight (declared by a company)

Country of Export: China

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

[Read more](#)

Shenzhen Huanggang Customs Seized Ten Live Leopard Tortoises Carried by an Inbound Passenger



News Release Date: 10 July 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Huanggang Customs

Location: Futian Port, Shenzhen City, Guangdong Province

Detection Method: Routine Examination (Machine Inspection)

Species: Ten Live Leopard Tortoise (*Stigmochelys pardalis*), CITES II

Transport Method: Inbound Passenger Luggage

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

Number of Offenders: 1

Case Progress: The seized leopard tortoises have been transferred to the relevant departments for rehabilitation.

[Read more](#)

Shenzhen Liantang Customs Seized 3.7 kg Agarwood Chips Carried by an Inbound Passenger



News Release Date: 11 July 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Liantang Customs

Location: Shenzhen City, Guangdong Province

Detection Method: Routine Examination (Machine Inspection)

Species: 3.7 kg Agarwood (*Aquilaria* spp.) chips, Class II of National Protected Species, CITES II

Transport Method: Inbound Passenger Luggage

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

Number of Offenders: 1 (Female)

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

[Read more](#)

Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport Customs Seized 33 Ivory Jewelries (1.41 kg) Carried by an Inbound Passenger



News Release Date: 13 July 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport Customs

Location: Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport, Guangdong Province

Detection Method: Routine Examination (Machine Inspection)

Species: Ivory products, including seven bead bracelets, eight bangles, four fang-shaped pendants, eight donut shaped pendants, two Buddha amulets and four accessories, total 1.41 kg, Class I of National Protected Species, CITES I/II

Transport Method: Inbound Passenger Luggage (Tightly wrapped in tin foil without declaration)

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

Number of Offenders: 1 (Male)

Case Progress: The case has been further processed.

[Read more](#)

**Dalian Zhoushuizi International Airport
Customs Seized 362 Dried Seahorse
(0.5 kg) Carried by an Inbound
Passenger**



News Release Date: 15 July 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Dalian Zhoushuizi International Airport Customs

Location: Dalian Zhoushuizi International Airport, Liaoning Province

Detection Method: Routine Examination (Machine Inspection)

Species: 362 Dried Seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp.), total 0.5 kg, Class 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.

[Read more](#)

**Wuhan Tianhe International Airport
Seized Three Giant Clams Shells (about
1.371 kg) Carried by an Inbound
Passenger**



News Release Date: 15 July 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Wuhan Tianhe International Airport Customs

Location: Wuhan Tianhe International Airport, Hubei Province

Detection Method: Routine Examination (Machine Inspection)

Species: Three Giant Clam (*Tridacnidae* spp.) shells, about weight 1.371 kg, Class I/II of National Protected Species, CITES II

Transport Method: Inbound Passenger Luggage

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

Number of Offenders: 1

[Read more](#)

Yantai Customs Seized One Queen Conch (about 980 g) Carried by an Inbound Passenger



News Release Date: 15 July 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Yantan Customs

Location: Yantai City, Shandong Province

Detection Method: Routine Examination (Machine Inspection)

Species: One Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*), 3 mm thick of the shell, 190 mm long, and about 190 mm at its widest point, about weight 980 g, CITES II

Transport Method: Inbound Passenger Luggage

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

Number of Offenders: 1

Case Progress: The case has been further processed.

[Read more](#)

Guangxi Youyiguan Customs Seized 24 Wildlife Products Carried by Inbound Passenger



News Release Date: 16 July 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Youyiguan Customs

Location: Youyiguan Port, Pingxiang City, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region

Detection Method: Routine Examination

Species: Two Horned Helmet (*Cassis cornuta*) shells, Class II of National Protected Species; 2 Ranellidae spp. shells, Class II of National Protected Species; four Siamese rosewood (*Dalbergia cochinchinensis*) logs, CITES II; three Fragrant Rosewood (*Dalbergia odorifera*) products, Class II of National Protected Species, CITES II; 1 *Dalbergia* spp. products, Class II of National Protected Species, CITES II; 12 Agarwood (*Aquilaria* spp.) products, Class II of National Protected Species, CITES II

Transport Method: Inbound Passenger Luggage

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

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

[Read more](#)

Fuzhou Changle International Airport Customs Seized 19 Wildlife Products Carried by Two Inbound Passengers



News Release Date: 17 July 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Fuzhou Changle International Airport Customs

Location: Fuzhou Changle International Airport, Fujian Province

Detection Method: Routine Examination (Machine Inspection)

Species: One Stony Coral (*Scleractinia* spp.) bead bracelet, Class II of National Protected Species, CITES II; three Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) bangles, Class I of National Protected Species, CITES I; 1 Giant Clam (*Tridacnidae* spp.) bangle and 5 bead bracelets, Class I/II of National Protected Species, CITES II; 9 Dried Seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp.), Class II of National Protected Species, CITES II

Transport Method: Inbound Passenger Luggage

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

Number of Offenders: 2

Case Progress: The seized items have been transferred to the anti-smuggling department for further processing.

[Read more](#)

Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport Seized Five Saiga Antelope Horns (total 895 g) Carried by an Inbound Passenger



News Release Date: 21 July 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport Customs

Location: Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport, Guangdong Province

Detection Method: Risk Control Directive, Machine Inspection

Species: Five Saiga Antelope (*Saiga tatarica*) horns, about 35cm long per, total 895 g, Class I of National Protected Species, CITES II

Transport Method: Inbound Passenger Luggage (wrapped in tin foil)

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

Number of Offenders: 1 (Female)

Case Progress: The case has been further processed.

[Read more](#)

Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport Seized 61 kg Red Coral in an Inbound Freight



News Release Date: 25 July 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport Customs

Location: Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport, Guangdong Province

Detection Method: Risk Control Directive

Species: Red Coral (*Coralliidae* spp.), net weight 61 kg, Class I of National Protected Species, CITES III (four species distributed in China only)

Transport Method: Inbound Freight

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

Case Progress: The case has been further processed.

[Read more](#)

Suzhou Customs Seized One Sperm Whale Ivory in an Inbound Parcel



News Release Date: 27 July 2023

Forensic Result Date: 18 July 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Suzhou Customs

Location: Suzhou City, Jiangsu Province

Detection Method: Routine Examination

Species: One Sperm Whale ivory (*Physeter macrocephalus*), Class I of National Protected Species, CITES I

Transport Method: Inbound Parcel

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

Case Progress: The seized parcel has been handed over for follow-up processing.

[Read more](#)

Yunnan Dulong Customs Seized Five Live Chinese Hwamei Carried by Two Outbound Passengers



News Release Date: 28 July 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Dulong Customs

Location: Dulong Port, Maguan County, Wenshan Prefecture, Yunnan Province

Detection Method: Routine Examination (Machine Inspection)

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

Transport Method: Outbound Passenger Luggage

Country of Export: China

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

Number of Offenders: 2

[Read more](#)

Gongbei Customs Seized Over 60 Pieces of Giant Pangolin Scales (about 500 g) in an Inbound Sedan



News Release Date: 29 July 2023

Seizure Date: 12 June 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Gongbei Customs

Location: Gongbei Port, Zhuhai City, Guangdong Province

Detection Method: Routine Examination

Species: Over 60 pieces of Giant Pangolin (*Manis gigantea*) scales, about weight 500 g, CITES I

Transport Method: Inbound Sedan (Hidden in a red plastic bag in the car trunk, license plates from Guangdong and Macao)

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

Number of Offenders: 1 (Driver)

Case Progress: The case has been further processed.

[Read more](#)

Shenyang Postal Customs Seized 35 Ivory Products (4.875 kg) in an Inbound Parcel



News Release Date: 31 July 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Shenyang Postal Customs

Location: Shenyang, Liaoning Province

Detection Method: Routine Examination (Machine Inspection)

Species: 35 ivory products, including three bead bangles, ten bangles, five bead necklaces, two thumb rings, two figure statues, one horsetail whisk, two ornaments, four carving handles, two cigarette holders, one raw pieces, and three bracelet accessories, total 4.875 kg, Class I of National Protected Species, CITES I/II

Transport Method: Inbound Parcel (Tightly wrapped in tin foil)

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

Case Progress: The case has been further processed.

[Read more](#)

Hohhot Baita International Airport Customs Seized 329 g Red Coral Products in an Inbound Parcel and Arrested One Suspect



News Release Date: 5 July 2023

Arrest Date: 3 July 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: The Food, Drug and Environmental Crime Investigation Patrol of Xincheng Police Bureau and Hohhot Baita International Airport Customs

Location: Hohhot Baita International Airport, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region

Arrest Site: Chifeng City, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region

Detection Method: Routine Examination (Machine Inspection), Intelligence guide

Species: 329 g Red Coral (*Coralliidae* spp.) products, Class I of National Protected Species, CITES III

Transport Method: Inbound Parcel

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling +Illegal Sale (Jewelry stores)

Estimated Value: Over CNY 160,000

Number of Offenders: 1

Case Progress: The case is being further investigated.

[Read more](#)

Tongzhou Police Bureau of Beijing Seized One White-tailed Eagle Specimen and Arrested One Suspect



News Release Date: 8 July 2023

Arrest Date: 6 June 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Forest Police Patrol of Tongzhou Police Bureau

Location: A residential area in Chaoyang District, Beijing

Detection Method: Case Clue

Species: One White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) specimen, Class I of National Protected Species, CITES I

Transport Method: Online Platform

Reason for Seizure: Illegal Sale (Online)

Number of Offenders: 1 (Male, 32 years old)

Case Progress: The suspect has been arrested and the case is being further investigated.

[Read more](#)

Tongzhou Police Bureau of Beijing Seized One Rough-legged Buzzard Specimen and Arrested One Suspect



NNews Release Date: 8 July 2023

Seizure Date: 19 June 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Forest Police Patrol of Tongzhou Police Bureau

Location: In the living room of the suspect's home in Tongzhou District, Beijing

Detection Method: Case Clue

Species: One Rough-legged Buzzard (*Buteo lagopus*) specimen, Class II of National Protected Species, CITES II

Reason for Seizure: Illegal Sale

Number of Offenders: 1 (Male, 42 years old)

Case Progress: The suspect has been arrested and the case is being further investigated.

[Read more](#)

Luoping County Police Bureau of Yunnan Province Seized Eight Chinese Hwamei and Arrested Two Suspects



News Release Date: 10 July 2023

Seizure Date: 20 June 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Forest Police Patrol of Luoping County Police Bureau

Location: Luoping County Police Station, Qujing City, Yunnan Province

Detection Method: Routine Examination

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

Transport Method: Sedan (From the direction of Guizhou; From Fengxin County, Jiangxi Province to Hekou County, Yunnan Province)

Reason for Seizure: Illegal Transportation

Number of Offenders: 2

Case Progress: The suspects were taken criminal compulsory measures and the case is being further investigated.

[Read more](#)

Xiqing Police Bureau of Tianjin Seized One Bearded Vulture Specimen and Arrested One Suspect



News Release Date: 13 July 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Anti-Crime Investigation Detachment of Xiqing Police Bureau and The Food, Drug and Environmental Crime Investigation Patrol of Municipal Police Bureau

Location: Tianjin (at the suspect's friend's company)

Arrest Site: An apartment on Li Qizhuang Street, Tianjin City

Detection Method: Case Clue

Species: One Bearded Vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*) specimen, Class I of National Protected Species, CITES II

Reason for Seizure: Illegal Sale (Online)

Number of Offenders: 1

Case Progress: The suspect was taken criminal compulsory measures and the case is being further investigated.

[Read more](#)

Fuzhou Coast Guard Seized 346 Precious Parrot Eggs, 155 Live Adults and 21 Juveniles and Arrested Eleven Suspects



News Release Date: 26 July 2023

Seizure Date: 9 April 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: Fuzhou Coast Guard

Location: Fuzhou, Xiamen, Zhangzhou and other places, Fujian Province

Detection Method: Special Task Force operation

Species: 346 Parrot (*Psittaciformes* spp.) eggs, 155 Live adults and 21 juveniles, Class II of National Protected Species, CITES I/II

Transport Method: Ship and Vehicle (One vessel and one vehicle involved in the case, one smuggling hatchery, one breeding facility, and several account books and mobile phones were seized)

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling (Since May 2022, a total of 31 trips for smuggling parrots from abroad, and more than 12,000 precious parrot eggs have been smuggled); Illegal Acquisition, Transportation and Sale

Estimated Value: Aroud CNY 20 million (cumulative value of 31 trips)

Number of Offenders: 11

Case Progress: The parrot eggs and hatched parrots involved in the case have been transferred to the Fuzhou Zoo Management Office for breeding and preservation, and the case is being further handled.

[Read more](#)

Yushui Police Bureau of Jiangxi Province Seized 133 Indian Bullfrogs Along with Over 400 Other Protected Wildlife and Arrested Four Suspects

News Release Date: 29 July 2023

Seizure Date: 20 June 2023, 05 July 2023

Law Enforcement Authority: The Food, Drug and Environmental Crime Investigation Patrol of Yushui Police Bureau

Location: In a hidden underground garage in a residential area in the south of Xinyu City, Jiangxi Province

Detection Method: Case Clue, Special Task Force operation

Species: 133 Indian bullfrog (*Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*), Class II of National Protected Species (wild population only), CITES II; Over 400 other protected wildlife, including Chinese Pond Heron (*Ardeola bacchus*), Wild Duck (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*), Common Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*), King Ratsnake (*Elaphe carinata*), dove (*Streptopelia* spp.), Totai Hare (*Lepus totai*), Cobras (*Naja* spp.), Dark-spotted Frog (*Pelophylax nigromaculatus*), all of them are the wildlife with important ecological, scientific and social value, and *Enhydryis* spp.

Transport Method: Vehicle

Reason for Seizure: Illegal Acquisition and Sale

Estimated Value: Over CNY 100,000

Number of Offenders: 4

Case Progress: Seized live wild animals have been released by professionals. The dead bodies of wild animals will be handed over to professional departments for harmless treatment. Four suspects have been taken criminal compulsory measures in accordance with the law. The case is being further investigation.

[Read more](#)

Xiangzhou County People's Court of Guangxi Province Hearing a Case of Illegal Hunting Wildlife, One Suspect Was Sentenced



News Release Date: 20 June 2023

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

Location: Refrigerator in suspect's home in Xiangzhou County, Laibin City, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region

Hunting Site: Near the mountain forest in Shuijing Township, Xiangzhou County, Laibin City, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region

Detection Method: Routine Examination

Species: 21 frozen bodies of wild animals, including 13 Leopard Cats (*Prionailurus bengalensis*), the wildlife with important ecological, scientific, and social value (10 worth CNY 15,000, hunt before 1 February 2023), Class II of National Protected Species (3 worth CNY 22,500, hunt after 1 February 2021), CITES I/II; 1 Owl (*Strigiformes* spp.), CITES I/II

Reason for Seizure: Illegal Hunting (Air gun, hunting dog and flashlight)

Estimated Value: CNY 37,500 (Leopard Cats Only)

Number of Offenders: 1

Case Progress: The sentencing will be made on a later date.

[Read more](#)

Shaoxing Intermediate People's Court of Zhejiang Province Publicly Sentenced a Illegal Harvesting Case of Over 400 Noble Orchid



News Release Date: 8 July 2023

Sentencing Date: 26 January 2022 (Arrest Date)

Judicial Authority: Shaoxing Intermediate People's Court

Location: In the forest on the outskirts of Zhuji County-level City, Shaoxing City, Zhejiang Province (Harvesting Site)

Detection Method: Routine Examination

Species: Over 400 Noble Orchid (*Cymbidium goeringii*), Class II of National Protected Species, CITES II

Reason for Seizure: Illegal Harvesting

Number of Offenders: 1

Case Progress: The suspect was sentenced to one year in prison, suspended for one year and six months, and fined CNY 5,000. Seized items will be confiscated in accordance with the law.

[Read more](#)



Pingxiang Municipal People's Court of Guangxi Province Sentenced a Case of Smuggling 66 Wild Turtles



News Release Date: 27 July 2023

Sentencing Date: 26 June 2023

Hearing Date: 21 June 2023

Judicial Authority: Pingxiang Municipal People's Court

Location: Inside a shop run by a suspect in Xitang Town, Xining City, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region

Detection Method: Routine Examination

Species: 66 Wild Turtles, including Keeled Box Turtle (*Cuora mouhotii*), Class II of National Protected Species (wild population only), CITES II (1 died) ; Indochinese Box Turtle (*C. galbinifrons*), Class II of National Protected Species (wild population only), CITES II; Four-eyed Turtle (*Sacalia quadriocellata*), Class II of National Protected Species (wild population only), CITES II; Black-breasted Leaf Turtle (*Geoemyda spengleri*), Class II of National Protected Species, CITES II (2 died)

Transport Method: Vehicle

Country of Export: Vietnam

Reason for Seizure: Smuggling

Estimated Value: CNY 164,700

Number of Offenders: 3

Case Progress: 63 live turtles have been transferred to the Guangxi Aquatic Wildlife Rescue Center. Suspect Yue was sentenced to one year and six months in prison, suspended for two years, and fined CNY 15,000; Lu was sentenced to one year and two months in prison, suspended for one year and six months, and fined CNY 10,000; Tang was sentenced to one year in prison, suspended for one year and three months, and fined CNY 10,000; and jointly bear the loss of wildlife resources and rescue expenses totaling CNY 46,373.75.

Subsequently, in the 9923rd issue of the Nanguo Morning Post, the defendants Yue, Tang and Lu publicly apologized

[Read more](#)

Hong Kong SAR

Twenty-nine Specimens of Endangered Turtles Seized in Joint Operation by AFCD and Police



The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) conducted a joint operation with the Police on July 19. Twenty-nine specimens of endangered turtles, seven suspected turtle eggs and some tools suspected for hunting purposes were seized on some premises in Tai Po and a male suspect was arrested.

A spokesman for the AFCD said, "The Police received a complaint last October regarding suspected illegal hunting of wild turtles. After investigation and intelligence collection, the Police and the AFCD mounted a joint operation. Twenty-nine specimens, including 14 big-headed turtles (*Platysternon megacephalum*), which are listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Appendix I; two yellow-margined box turtles (*Cuora flavomarginata*), four Southeast Asian box turtles (*Cuora amboinensis*), two Giant Asian pond turtles (*Heosemys grandis*) and four wattle-necked softshell turtles (*Palea steindachneri*), which are listed in CITES Appendix II; and three Reeve's turtles (*Mauremys reevesii*), which are listed in CITES Appendix III, were found on the premises of a male suspect in Tai Po. All the turtles are listed as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species, and regulated under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586). Furthermore, seven suspected turtle eggs and some tools suspected for hunting purposes were also seized. The investigation is still under way."

The spokesman went on that there are wild populations of big-headed turtles and Reeve's turtles in Hong Kong. All local wild chelonians are protected by the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170). Since the suspect has indicated in a group chat of a messaging application that turtles were available for sale but did not reveal the sources of the turtles, the AFCD is also investigating along the direction of whether illegal hunting and possession of protected wild animals stipulated under the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) is involved.

The spokesman added, "Illegal possession of endangered species is a serious offence. Any person contravening the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) will be liable to a maximum fine of



\$10 million and imprisonment for 10 years upon conviction. The specimens will also be forfeited. In addition, the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) also stipulates that unless otherwise permitted, no one shall hunt, willfully disturb, buy, sell, export, offer for sale or export, possess or control protected wild animals (including all wild chelonians). Offenders are liable to a maximum fine of \$100,000 and imprisonment for one year upon conviction."

The spokesman said that the Government is committed to combatting illegal hunting of and trading in wild animals to protect local wild species and endangered species. The AFCD will continue to remain vigilant and monitor various platforms and social media, and proactively take action to deter illegal trade in wild fauna and flora species.

[Read more](#)

Hong Kong Customs Detects Suspected Scheduled Hippo ivory and live tortoise smuggled by speedboat



Hong Kong Customs early this morning (July 12) mounted an anti-smuggling operation in the southern waters of Hong Kong and detected a suspected smuggling case involving a speedboat. About 60 pieces of suspected scheduled hippopotamus ivory, about 3 300 live tortoises, and about 500 boxes of medicines for dogs, with a total estimated market value of about \$2 million, were seized.

Customs officers conducted an anti-smuggling operation in the waters near Ap Lei Chau and spotted a suspicious speedboat heading towards the Ap Lei Chau Public Pier with its navigation lights off in the early hours today. A light goods vehicle then arrived near the pier and the male driver, together with three men in the vehicle, immediately moved a batch of goods from the vehicle onto the speedboat. They were suspected of participating in smuggling activities. Customs officers swiftly took action and a man on the shore immediately jumped onto the speedboat and fled.

Later, Customs officers seized the batch of suspected scheduled hippopotamus ivory, live tortoises and medicines for dogs off-loaded from the light goods vehicle.



During the operation, three men, aged between 33 and 44, suspected to be connected with the case were arrested and the light goods vehicle was also detained.

An investigation is ongoing and further arrests are not ruled out.

Customs stressed that it will keep up its enforcement action and will continue to vigorously combat sea smuggling activities through proactive risk management and intelligence-based enforcement strategies, along with mounting 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.

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](#)



Egypt

- [Authorities at Cairo Airport arrest passenger who attempted to smuggle 73 snakes](#)

Europe

- [Wildlife crime: extradition of prominent trafficker to face prosecution in Tanzania](#)

Malaysia

- [Pangolin smuggling: MACC nabs 12 individuals](#)

Nigeria

- [Wildlife Trafficking: Court Jails Three Vietnamese, One Cameroonian](#)

Nepal

- [Three arrested on charge of killing rhinos](#)

Netherland

- [4,000 illegal shark fins seized by customs in The Hague](#)

Panama

- [Panama seizes 6 tonnes of shark fins bound for Asia](#)

South Africa

- [Hawks arrest foreign national for dealing in pangolin scales in Durban](#)
- [Hawks arrest alleged rhino horn thief](#)

Viet Nam

- [Wildlife Conservation Center in Vietnam in collaboration with Cuc Phuong National Park and Hoa Binh Provincial Police Investigation Agency rescued a pangolin](#)