



China's Wildlife Enforcement News Digest (Oct 2018)

Domestic

Jilin police cracked the case of cross-border sale of endangered animal products valued 20 million



Huadian, Jilin, 8th, Oct 2018--Jilin Provincial Forest Police announced a case of illegally collecting and selling endangered wildlife products. On March 26 this year, Jilin Provincial Forest police got the clue: in May 2017, Han and Xing sold the rhino horns to Zhang in Huadian, Jilin, at a price of 300,000 yuan. The police continued to dig deep into the line and found that there was an interest chain behind the case of illegally acquiring and selling endangered wildlife products. After locking the suspects and the chain of evidence, more than 100 police forces across Beijing, Hebei, Heilongjiang and other provinces and cities went on capture. On August 3, 2018, the police successfully destroyed the transport chain from abroad to the territory, and arrested 18 people involved, seized 26 rhino horns, 110 ivory products, which value nearly 20 million yuan. It is reported that the suspects smuggling rhino horn from abroad in 80,000 yuan. After selling once, it will become 120,000 yuan. After selling second hand, it will become 220,000 yuan. And one more hand, it will become 300,000 yuan. At present, the case has been investigated and the relevant

suspects have been transferred for review and prosecution.

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Woman was sentenced for smuggling antelope horns from overseas



Beijing, 8th, Oct 2018-- On the morning of January 8, Ms. Ma took the SU200 flight from Moscow to the T2 terminal of Beijing Capital International Airport. After getting off the plane, Ms. Ma, who put the down jacket on the baggage car, walked into the airport with other passengers to prepare for customs clearance. At the time of the inspection, the Customs officers found that the down jacket carried by Ms. Ma seemed to be somewhat different. The officer asked her to hand over the down jacket for inspection. Upon inspection, it was found that 12 pieces of horn products carefully wrapped in black plastic bags and tape were placed in the pockets sewn on the inside of the down jacket. The 12 pieces of horn products are all derived from the wild saiga antelope which are endangered animal products. The antelope horn products involved have a total value of RMB 240,000. Recently, the case was heard in the Fourth



Intermediate People's Court of Beijing and was pronounced in court. The defendant, Ms. Ma, was sentenced to three years in prison for smuggling antelope horn products and fined 35,000 yuan.

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Dongxing customs seized 26 smuggled tridacnas



Dongxing, Guangdong, 8th, Oct 2018-- On September 5, anti-smuggling department of Dongxing Customs subordinated to Nanning Customs seized a major smuggling case in Dongxing. 26 tridacnas suspected smuggling were seized on the spot, with a value of about 1 million yuan. In order to evade the inspection by the law enforcement agencies, the suspects used the foam boxes wrapped in green bags to be packaged, hidden inside the vans, and covered with camouflage on the surface with wooden boards, parcels, and daily groceries. At present, the customs anti-smuggling department has already filed a criminal case investigation and imposed criminal detention compulsory measures on the two suspects.

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Fujian parrots smuggling case was cracked by investigating pet market



Xiamen, Fujian, 12th, Oct 2018-- At the beginning of this year, the Xiamen Customs Anti-smuggling Bureau investigated the domestic pet market and found that the market demand for parrots is very large, many sellers claimed that these parrots are imported from abroad. Xiamen Customs Anti-smuggling Bureau immediately set up a task force to investigate this clue. The task force found that there was a criminal gang in Xiamen and Fuzhou, Fujian, that colluded with Taiwan's smuggling gangs and smuggled parrots by sea channels. After the mainland's smuggling gang and Taiwan's suppliers completed the transfer of goods at sea, they drove the ship to the non-customs land along the coast of Fujian and smuggled it ashore, then handed the goods to the suspects who received them on the shore. inter-provincial buses or air cargo will deliver the smuggled parrots to buyers everywhere. A few days ago, the task force obtained information. The Lin's gang, which is the offline group of Taiwan's smuggling gang in mainland, would smuggle a group of parrots into the country. On the night, the anti-smuggling department, the sea police and other departments launched a network-receiving operation. At 10 o'clock in the evening, the smuggling ship carrying the parrot was docked at a dock in Huangqi, Lianjiang, Fujian. The suspect had just loaded the parrot into the car and when the



handover was made with the buyer, the anti-smuggling clerk appeared on the scene. In the parrot farm in Minhou, Lin and other criminal suspects were also arrested. In the network-receiving operation, 9 suspects were arrested, and 395 rare birds including live parrots were seized on the spot, and one smuggling ship was seized. These parrots have been identified as belonging to the Appendix II species of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. After preliminary investigation, the case was suspected of smuggling more than 14,000 live parrots, with a case value of about 22 million yuan.

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Suzhou Customs seized national first-class protected animal Burmese python mailing into the country



Suzhou, Jiangsu, 16th, Oct 2018--On September 29th, Suzhou Customs Post Office subordinate to Nanjing Customs seized one national first-class protected animal burmese python in the incoming mail. In early October, Suzhou Customs Anti-smuggling Branch has arrested the suspect He for smuggling the protected animal. Currently, this case is still under investigation.

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A Tonglu man seeking to buy pangolin for his wife to cure liver disease but police come



Zhejiang, Hangzhou, 22nd, Oct 2018--A nearly 60-year-old farmer couple in Yuchao Village, Fuchunjiang, Tonglu, contacted Tonglu local wild-taste supplier Huang to buy pangolin. Huang contacted his supplier Huang in Lishui and paid the deposit by WeChat. The supplier of Huang of Lishui is Wang, who is in Jiangshan, Quzhou and bought pangolin at 5080 yuan there. In the end, pangolin was sold to the old couple for 17800 yuan. On June 29th, Tonglu Forest Police, with the help of Fuchunjiang Police Station, detected that there were photos of pangolins and sensitive vocabulary suspected transaction of pangolins in Huang’s mobile phone, so the police conducted an interrogation investigation against him. Later, in the old couple's home, pangolin frozen meat, scale powder, bone powder and other products were seized. Subsequently, the forest police officers investigated by the clues and arrested Huang in Lishui and Wang in Jiangshan. The case was settled in early October and handed over to the local procuratorate.

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A man was sentenced to 8 months for smuggling rhino horns from Africa



Hong Kong, 24th, Oct 2018--In June, the 21-year-old defendant in Fujian tried to smuggle more than 3 kilograms of rhino horns with a market value of about 830,000 to 1.7 million yuan (HK\$), from Bella Mozambique, via Hong Kong to his hometown for medical purposes. In Hong Kong, it was seized by the customs. This is the first case that has been arranged for trial in the District Court after the revision of the Regulations on the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants. In the end, the defendant was sentenced to 8 months in prison. The judge said that the sentence was more deterrent than the previous two weeks to four months of imprisonment.

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Endangered python was found in postal parcel

Hangzhou, Zhejiang, 29th, Oct 2018--A customs officer of the Hangzhou Customs Post Office seized a live reticulated python from a Taiwan postal parcel. The postal parcel was declared as thermos, blankets, and accessories (for personal use). It is found that the parcel did contain a thermos bottle and a gauze bag with live reticulated python. It has been identified that the living python is an endangered animal-- leucistic

reticulated python. This is the first time that Zhejiang Province has seized such endangered species after it intercepted the endangered living snake in the postal entry channel in September.

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Xishuangbanna knocked out a criminal gang selling ivory products



Xishuangbanna, Yunnan, 31st, Oct 2018--On July 1, 2015, Xishuangbanna Forest police seized 7 packets of 316 suspected ivory products on a logistics vehicle with a net weight of 13.258 kg. In early July 2015, the investigative police locked the suspects through logistics and other information, and arrested three suspects in Kunming, Chongqing and Fujian. After the trial, the police found that the members of the gang were related to another case investigated earlier, that is, the case of 29.02 kilograms of ivory products seized on November 11, 2014. According to the criminal suspects, they started to purchase 6 times and total 94 kilograms of ivory products as shareholding from the Republic of Malawi and other places in 2014, and transported via Southeast Asia and Mengla, Yunnan, to Fujian for sale. On September 4, 2018, all seven suspects of the gang were arrested. Currently, the case is under further investigation.

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International

Vietnam seizes over two tonnes of ivory and six tonnes of pangolin from Nigeria

2018-10-05, Vietnam —Vietnamese authorities have seized more than eight metric tonnes of pangolin scales and ivory in one of the Southeast Asian country's largest wildlife trafficking cases for years, the government said early this month. Police found more than two tonnes of ivory and six tonnes of pangolin scales hidden in a plastic waste container at Tien Sa port in the central Vietnamese city of Danang on Thursday, the government said in a statement. The container, owned by Vietnam's Thien Truong Su Co., originated from Nigeria, according to the statement. The raid came days after authorities at Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi said they seized nearly a ton of ivory and pangolin scales hidden in cargo boxes, also sent from Nigeria. Most of pangolin scales seized in Vietnam originate from Africa and are bound for China, which is the bigger market, and part of the shipments were for the Vietnamese market.

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Vietnam seizes 13 rhino horns shipped from South Africa



2018-10-12, Vietnam —Customs officers seized 13 rhino horns weight nearly 34kg at Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi, on October 12, which had been shipped from South Africa. The rhino horns were shipped by a sender in South Africa on a Qatar Airways flight coded QR 8954 to an individual in Hanoi's outskirts district of Soc Son and arrived at the airport on October 4. The sender on the bill of lading was a South Africa-based company called EXQUISITE GLOBAL SHIPPING & LOGISTICS SUITE 101 KEMPTON PARK JOHANNESBURG SOUTH AFRICA and the consignee was Truong Van Nam in Hanoi's Soc Son district, who refused to pick up the package. On the morning of October 8, with the witness of warehouse representatives, Qatar Airways and related people, the competent agencies opened the package and found 13 rhino horns. The authorised agencies are still collecting samples of the specimens to specify the weight and type of the rhino horns in the package.

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Two Chinese women were arrested by Indian customs for smuggling 15 Shahtoosh shawls from India



2018-10-20, India —Two Chinese women have been arrested by the customs officials for allegedly trying to smuggle out ‘Shahtoosh’ shawls at Delhi airport. The women—aged 41 years and 39 years respectively—were intercepted Thursday when they were proceeding to board a flight from Delhi to Shanghai, the statement said. “Fifteen Shahtoosh shawls were seized by the customs officers from their checked in baggage, following which they were arrested,” it said, adding that “international trade in these products is strictly prohibited”. A Shahtoosh shawl is made from the hair of ‘Tibetan Antelope’ The market value of the seized shawls, the statement said, is estimated to be 4,500,000 rupees.

At present, the Indian Customs has investigated the criminal responsibility of the two people on the grounds of violation of relevant laws and regulations. First, a fine of 450,000 yuan will be imposed. Secondly, they will be detained and may be sentenced to 3-7 years in prison. The judge basically agreed to the defense opinion and can start the bail procedure on the same day. The Chinese Embassy in India also issued a document reminding Chinese citizens who are going to India not to bring illegal wildlife products such as Tibetan antelope wool into and out of the country.

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Contact us : ↕

TRAFFIC China ↕

22-2-3B ~~Baiwanzhuang~~ Street, Xicheng District, ↕

Beijing, 100037 ↕

Tel: 010-68093666 ↕

