



## Wildlife Enforcement News Digest (Dec 2018)

### Domestic

#### **Kunming Customs seized a large number of endangered plants of the Cactus family**

**Mengla, Yunnan, 7 Dec 2018**——Recently, Kunming Customs intercept an inbound cargo vehicle at the Mohan Port. From the cab of the vehicle, 77 undeclared succulents were intercepted and identified as Cactus plants. The owner can not provide relevant quarantine approval materials, and are prohibited to carry prohibited items. At present, Mengla Customs has implemented interception and further treatment of the batch of plant seedlings in accordance with relevant laws and regulations. [Read More](#)

#### **Jinan Customs seized endangered wild animal green tree python**

**Jinan, Shandong, 6 Dec 2018**——On the evening of December 4, a Chinese female passenger entered without a declaration. The customs officer noticed that the passenger was nervous then checked his baggage by machine and found that the image of the luggage was abnormal. After the inspection, a live green snake was found in the brown bag. After preliminary identification, the snake was a *Chondropython viridis* is a species that listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). At present, the case has been transferred to the forestry department for further processing. [Read More](#)

#### **Xiamen Customs seized 30 hawksbill products**



**Xiamen, Fujian, 7 Dec 2018**——On the afternoon of December 6, Xiamen Customs officers conducted a technical inspection of the baggage of PR330 flights from Manila to Xiamen, and found that the luggage of two Chinese male passengers was abnormal, and they opened the box thoroughly. The customs officer found 30 hawksbill products(390g) and other conch products in coffee bags in the luggage surrounded by real coffee bags. At present, the customs has already withheld the above items according to law. [Read More](#)

#### **Man in Guangxi Beihai sells 3 hawksbills is sentenced**

**Beihai, Guangxi, 14 Dec 2018**——At the beginning of 2016, May 2017, Mo sold 3 hawksbills to Yan through Wechat at the prize about 5000 RMB, and transported by intercity bus. On April 11, 2018, Yuexiu Court sentenced him to 6 months in prison and fined 3,000 yuan. [Read More](#)



**Jiangmen and Nanning Customs cracked a case of smuggling swimming bladder of *Totoaba macdonaldi***



**Guangdong and Guangxi, 25 Dec 2018**— Jiangmen and Nanning Customs recently carried out an action of cracking down a smuggling of swimming bladder of *Totoaba macdonaldi* in Jiangmen, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, and Dongxing, arrested 16 people involved. They seized swimming bladder of *Totoaba macdonaldi* is about 444.3 kilograms, valued about 182 million yuan. After preliminary verification, the smuggling gang purchased *Totoaba macdonaldi* in Mexico, then transferred from Mexico to other countries in luggage, and finally smuggled into China and sold for illegal profits. [Read More](#)

**Guangxi seized large number of wildlife products**



**Guangxi, 26 Dec 2018**—Since July 2018, Guangxi has successively cracked four cases of illegally acquiring, transporting and selling

precious and endangered wild animal products. 24 suspects (including 1 Vietnamese) were arrested and seized 11 pieces of tiger skin and 1595 snake, 81.49 kilograms pangolin scales, and etc. The total value of the cases involved is 29.715 million yuan. [Read More](#)

**Nanning Customs cracked a case of smuggling hippocampus**



**Dongxing, Guangxi, 27 Dec 2018**—Dongxing Customs subordinated to Nanning Customs seize a major smuggling of precious animal products in Beilun River in Dongxing. 22,082 suspect smuggling hippocampus were seized, the net weight was 37.06362 kg, and 4 suspects were arrested. A wooden ship involved in the case, along with the ship also seized 1295.2 kilograms of suspected smuggled crab. [Read More](#)

**Nanyang cracked important case of smuggling wildlife products**



**Nanyang, Henan, 29 Dec 2018**—Nanyang



Forest Police Bureau cracked a case of purchasing, transporting and selling endangered wildlife products, seized 315 kg ivory, 3 pieces tiger skin, valued 14,890,000 yuan. 16 Dec 2016 and 14 Feb 2017, Hou from Nanyang sold 3 piece of tiger skin to Ma from Lhasa in Beijing. After investigated with Lhasa anti-smuggling agency, Nanyang Forest Bureau kept investigating the case. They got the message that Hou was going to Viet Nam to purchase row ivory and send to Chen in Zhuhai, Guangdong. With a month of tracking, 310 kg of ivory, 3 pieces tiger skin, and Saiga horn, Helmet hornbill products were seized. 6 Aug 2018, the People's Court of Wancheng District of Nanyang City sentenced the case according to law. Hou, Ma and Chen were sentenced to 12 years, 10 years and 6 years respectively, and fined. [Read More](#)

endangered wild animals and their products, arrested one suspect and seized the national first-class protected wild anima specimens: wild yak, Tibetan antelope, Przewalski's gazelle, and scorpion; 20 second-class protected wild animal: bear, yellow sheep, rock sheep, vultures, eagle owls, prairie hawks, red deer, etc., and seized a large number of hunting tools and specimen making tools. Currently, the case is under further investigation. [Read More](#)

**A man from Bozhou wanted to purchase pangolin scales was arrested**

**Bozhou, Anhui, 29 Dec 2018**—22 Apr 2018, Li(a) wanted to purchase 1 kg pangolin scales from Li(b) for illness. They were arrested by the police when they were arguing about the price. Li(a) was sentenced for 7 months with fined 7,000 yuan for attempting purchase endangered wildlife products. [Read More](#)

**Qinghai cracked illegal acquisition and sale of wild animal products: seizure of animal specimens such as Tibetan antelope**

**Qinghai, 30 Dec 2018**—Recently, Qinghai Provincial Forest Public Security Bureau, with the assistance of the Provincial Public Security Department, cracked a mega-illegal acquisition, transportation, sale of precious and

## International

### Cambodia seized more than 3.2 tons of elephant tusks



**Cambodia, 17 Dec 2018**—Cambodia seized more than 3.2 tons of elephant tusks hidden in a storage container sent from Mozambique, a customs official said on Sunday, marking the country’s largest ivory bust. The discovery of 1,026 tusks at the Phnom Penh port followed a tip from the US embassy, the official said, and highlights Cambodia’s emergence as a key regional transit point for the multibillion dollar trade in illicit wildlife. “The elephant tusks were hidden among marble in a container that was abandoned,” Sun Chhay, director of the customs and excise office at the port, said. He said the ivory was sent from the southern African nation of Mozambique and arrived at the port last year. The unidentified owner of the shipment did not arrive to pick up the cargo. Pictures of the massive haul showed long rows of confiscated tusks spread out on the ground at the port. [Read More](#)

## Turkish authorities seize \$2.2 million worth of rhino horns at Atatürk Airport



**Istanbul, Turkey, 09 Dec 2018**—Turkish security forces seized 34 kilograms of rhino horns found in an anti-smuggling operation at the Atatürk Airport, officials said on Saturday. The horns were found in luggage belonging to a Vietnamese passenger traveling from Mozambique to Ho Chi Minh airport in Vietnam. According to the Ministry of Trade, the horns were worth some 12 million Turkish liras (\$2.2 million) and they were seized under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) laws. The ministry said the Vietnamese passenger's past travels triggered red flags in Intelligence Information System which prompted security forces to detain the passenger upon landing. An official investigation into the passenger was launched and the horns were handed to a local branch of Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock. [Read More](#)

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Contact us : ↕

**TRAFFIC China** ↕

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

Beijing, 100037 ↕

Tel: 010-68093666 ↕

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