

Wildlife Enforcement News Digest (Jan 2019)

Domestic

Yunnan Customs seized 2.8 tons of endangered plant Dendrobium



Ruili, Yunnan, 4 Jan 2019—January 2, Ruili customs seized an illegal export of endangered plant. They seized 2.8 tons of fresh Dendrobium. In the Ruili Frontier Exchange Market, a man named Shuai declared and exported a batch of food to the Customs. After comparing the weight of the loaded vehicle in the smart card port, the customs officer found that there was an anomaly in the weight. He asked Shuai to open the box for customs inspection. The customs officer found that the goods in the car were packed with green woven bags, which contained a bundle of green fresh plants. Under questioning, Shuai told that the plants were just weeds. However, they were identified as fresh Dendrobium. At present, the case has been referred to the anti-smuggling department for further processing [Read More](#)

Guangxi woman was caught with pangolin scales tied to her ankles



Guangxi, Nanning, 13 Jan 2019 — On January 9, a foreign woman entered Dongxing Port without a declaration. Her steps were stiff and her trousers were bulging with a lot of articles. The customs officer noticed that she was nervous and her eyes were dodging. Although her bag was empty, her pants pocket was stuffed as she passed through the aisle, which was very suspicious. the woman took out some brown animal scales from her trousers. After inspection, customs officers pulled out 385.4 grams of scales from the woman's trousers pocket, and seized 468.2 grams of similar items tied by stick band to the ankles of her feet . A total of 853.6 grams of similar items were seized, all of which were suspected to be pangolin scales. The woman claimed that she carried these scales to China by her body in order to make money. [Read More](#)

Zhejiang police crack a case of illegal trade of ivory products



Pujiang, Zhejiang, 16 Jan 2019——On May 9, 2018, the police of Pujiang County Public Security Bureau got clues that someone was illegally selling ivory products. Zhang et al. were found to have purchased ivory products from Guangzhou WeChat ID "Yang" since around 2016. And then they sold these products through WeChat , etc. On January 11, 2019, criminal suspects Tian, Yang, and He were captured by the police, and hundreds of ivory products, estimated value of more than one million yuan, were found in their room. Tian told that he purchased ivory products through different channels, and sell via Wechat and QQ. At present, the case is under further investigation. [Read More](#)

A woman took ivory jewelry into Changsha, customs destroyed according to the law



Changsha, Hunan, 17 Jan 2019——During the routine inspection of incoming passengers from Vientiane, Lao flying to Changsha, the customs staff seized seven

pieces of ivory jewelry in the bag carried by passenger Wang. Customs has informed Wang that the ivory jewelry has not obtained expert certificates. Classified as prohibited imports, it will be destroyed in accordance with the law, and Wang will bear all losses. She told that she spent more than 30,000 to buy these ivory products, the sellers told her they are fine to take into China. [Read More](#)

Guangxi Pingxiang Customs detects hawksbill smuggling case



Pingxiang, Guangxi, 19 Jan 2019—— On January 6, when a van was inspected at Puzhai Crossing Point, it was found that the trunk carried two specimens of hawksbill shell, a second-class protected animal of the State, with a deep brown shell and a golden shell, totally weighing 20.8 kg. Upon enquiry, the driver couldn't provide legal certificate for carrying the goods. Now the case has been referred to the Anti-smuggling Bureau. [Read more](#)

Customs seized Ivory bracelet hidden in shoes

Guangzhou, Guangdong, 19 Jan 2019,—— On January 7, customs officers in Baiyun Airport seized 51 pieces of ivory bracelets



and beads, weighing about 750 grams, wrapped by clothing in a middle-aged man's suitcase. On January 14, an inbound flight from Addis Ababa arrived in Guangzhou. The Baiyun Airport Customs officers seized an X-ray image of the baggage items and seized 4 pieces of ivory bracelet hidden in a shoe by a male passenger and weighed about 200 grams. On the same day, the customs officers seized 10 pieces of ivory products hidden in milk powder cans and pastry boxes and weighed about 680 grams when they checked the late baggage that also arrived in Guangzhou from Addis Ababa. On 11 and 15, the airport customs seized 17 pieces of ivory bracelets, bracelets and pendants, weighing about 434 grams. At present, the above-mentioned cases are in further processing. The five illegally carried ivory products that were seized in 9 days were all concentrated in the Addis Ababa flight; they all had obvious subjective hiding behavior and were highly deceptive. [Read more](#)

Eight ivory bracelets found in coffee boxes in Dongxing, Guangxi



Dongxing, Guangxi, 25 Jan 2019, —On January 24, a foreign passenger carrying a satchel and two woven bags entered Dongxing port. When the passenger put his

luggage into the customs X-ray machine, the customs officer found an abnormal image of one of the woven bags on the machine screen. Immediately, the office stopped the passenger and conducted a manual inspection. Eight white bone bracelets were found in this bag. The item identification device identified 8 bracelets as ivory products, weighing 577.1 grams in total. [Read more](#)

Nanning Customs seized smuggled ivory products

Nanning, Guangxi, 29 Jan 2019—At the site of import mail supervision at Nanning Post Office, a mail sent from New Caledonia to North Sea of Guangxi was found unusual by X-ray machines. As a result, officers asked for a thorough investigation of the mail and found a sculpture in the mail. After the detection, the sculpture was preliminarily identified as ivory product, weighing 122.2 grams. In another case, customs officers found an unusual image in the machine screen. Three suspected white cubes were preliminarily identified as ivory products, weighing 86.5 grams. At present, the Customs has detained the above-mentioned ivory products for further identification. [Read more](#)

Shenzhen and Xiamen customs seized hawksbill turtle and other endangered wildlife products

Shenzhen and Xiamen, 29 Jan 2019, —At around 13:00 of 21 Jan, a man entered China from Huanggang port entry hall. CT images showed that there were a large



number of spiral items of various sizes in his luggage. After opening the box, customs officers found 18 suspected nautilus fossils, 28 hawksbill ornaments, 20 *Gorgonacea* products and 201 piece of agate, in total of 267 pieces. The man told his friend asked him to take these products from Madagascar into China, his friend would sell in China. The case has been referred to the anti-smuggling department for further investigation. In another case, three commercial companies reported to Dongdu Customs, subordinated to Xiamen, to export a batch of bamboo tea plates to South Korea. Dongdu customs inspectors found in the cargo that 60 sets of wooden tea plates are *Pterocarpus erinaceus* products, which were listed in appendix II of CITES on January 2, 2017. At present, these goods have been transferred for further processing. [Read more](#)

Xiamen Customs seized 563 grams of ivory products



Fujian, Xiamen, 30 Jan 2019—— Xiamen Customs seized 292 grams of suspected ivory products carried by passenger Zhang and 271 grams of suspected ivory products carried by passenger Li. Zhang and Li, were Chinese people working in Cambodia, they bought the suspected ivory products at

Cambodian temple stalls. They did not hide the ivory products when they were entering China. At present, the case is under further investigation. [Read more](#)

2710 grams suspected of smuggling rhinoceros horns seized in Dalian, Liaoning Province



Dalian, Liaoning, 31 Jan 2019—— Recently, Dalian customs, in the supervision of a flight from Hong Kong, seized four suspected rhinoceros horn from the checked luggage of a passenger on the spot. The total weight was 2710 grams. At present, the case has been delivered to the anti-smuggling department for further investigation and processing. [Read more](#)



International

Customs intercept N8.4bn pangolin scales, others

Nigeria, 1 Jan 2019—Nigerian Customs said earlier this month that from November to December 30, 2018, it seized 195 bags of pangolin, weighing 7560.9 kilograms, with value of 8.4 billion Nigerian naira. So far, seven people related to the case have been arrested.

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South African Sniffer dogs intercepted 116 kilograms of rhinoceros horns



2019-01-10, South Africa—South Africa seized 116 kilograms of smuggled illegal rhino horns. The seized rhinoceros included 36 intact rhinoceros' horns and some rhinoceros horn fragments, worth about \$1.3 million. Rhinoceros horns were tightly wrapped in boxes and mixed with daily goods such as ornaments. The eight boxes were supposed to be sent to Dubai.

Customs officials at OR Tambo airport in Johannesburg say it was sniffed out by Lizzy, a detector dog. [Read more](#)

Illegal ivory seized in raid on Luang Prabang shop



Photo credit: Vientiane Times

Luang Prabang, 11 Jan 2019 — According to the Vientiane Times, Lao Forest Regulatory Department, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Lao Ministry of Wildlife Law Enforcement (lao-wen) and local authorities recently conducted a surprise inspection in a souvenir shop in Luang Prabang province. More than 3400 ivory products with a total weight of 73.8 kg were seized. All seized ivory products have been confiscated and will be used as evidence. The shop owner has been detained. [read more](#)

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