

## China's Wildlife Enforcement News Digest (July 2019)

### Domestic

#### Guangzhou Customs seized Nile crocodiles hidden in luggage



**Guangzhou, Guangdong, 5 July 2019**—At 7 o'clock on June 18, Guangzhou Baiyun Airport Customs officers found a baggage from Paris to Guangzhou with suspected live animals inside. The customs officer then intercepted the passenger and carried out an in-box inspection of the suitcase. It was found that a long strip of cardboard sealed with transparent tape was placed in the trunk, and the surface was covered with a white label, which is no different from ordinary express packaging. However, after the carton was opened, there was a living crocodile about 50 cm long with a blue lanyard attached to the tail. It has been identified as a Nile crocodile by the South China Wildlife Species Identification Center, a CITES Appendix I specie. At present, the case has been handed over to the private sector for treatment, and the Nile crocodile is temporarily raised by animal protection agencies. [Read more](#)

#### Shenzhen Customs seized 55 suspected sperm whale teeth



**Shenzhen, Guangdong, 5 July 2019**—On June 27, the Customs officers of Luohu Customs checked the X-ray machine and found that a passenger's suitcase was loaded with suspicious items that were too high in density to be identified. After unpacking, the customs found that the suspicious items were 55 large animal's teeth. Most of these teeth are about 5-10 cm long, beige, with the tail end hollow. But the hardness is high, which is suspected to be whale teeth. The passenger claimed that they were sperm whale teeth obtained from Japan. At present, the customs has detained these batches of teeth according to law and further identified them. [Read more](#)

#### Ivory disguised as wood products seized in Guangzhou



**Guangzhou, Guangdong, 11 July 2019**— On July 5 afternoon, a male passenger from Addis Ababa( capital of Ethiopia) entered Guangzhou. Three brown “wood” products including one bracelet and two decoration articles were found in his luggage. The bracelet feels heavy. “It doesn’t feel like wood texture and has conspicuous dye.” The custom officer rubbed the beads on the bracelet and soon dye fell off. Upon inspection, the three “wood” products were all dyed ivory products. 13 more not-dyed ivory products including bracelets, chopsticks and seals were then found in the man’s luggage. At present the case has been handed over to anti-smuggling department. [Read more](#)

**Chengdu Customs seized suspected ivory and tridacna products**



**Chengdu, Sichuan, 18 July 2019**—On July 17 afternoon, Chengdu Shuangliu Airport Customs found 9 suspected ivory products totaling 334 g and 5 tridacna totaling 416g in 6 Chinese passengers’ luggage. The flight was from Addis Ababa (capital of Ethiopia). According to the custom officer, the 6 passengers entered through non-declaration gate trying to evade customs inspection. [Read more](#)

**West Kowloon Customs seized passengers carrying ivory bracelets**

**West Kowloon, Hong Kong, 18 July 2019**—Customs officers carried out a random inspection and found a passenger carrying one ivory bracelet weighing 25g. At the same time, West Kowloon customs officers found one tridacna bracelet weighing 107.8g on a passenger in the entry hall. At present, the items above are handed over to relevant department for further processing. [Read more](#)

### Wuhan Customs seized 25 ivory products



**Wuhan, Hubei, 19 July 2019**—Recently, Wuhan Customs officers found an item in a luggage from Moscow suspicious during inspection. Based on the color and shape of the item, it is very likely to be ivory product. 18 ivory products were then found in the luggage. According to the suspect, these ivory products were purchased from overseas auctions and flea markets. These antiques, including ivory products, are brought into the market by people and then for sale. Subsequently, the customs anti-smuggling department has controlled suspects of the batch of ivory products, Wang and Leng. After investigation, the customs anti-smuggling department of Wuhan Tianhe Airport discovered that the suspects smuggled these products into the market to sale for profit, and further investigations showed that the entire chain of the industry was relatively clear. Customs officers successively seized 7 illegal smuggled ivory products in Changchun and Nanjing. At this point, the 25 ivory products smuggled by the gang were all seized and the total weight was over 6 kg. At present the case is being further investigated. [Read more](#)

### Qingdao seized 1.026 kg ivory carved figure statue

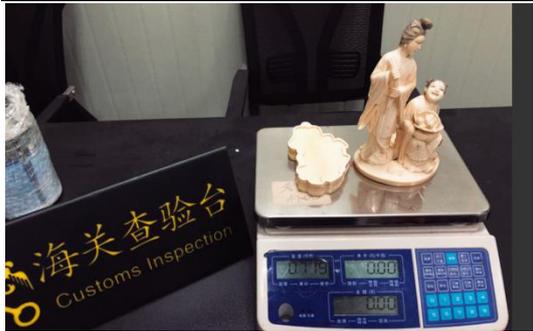


**Qingdao, Shandong, 22 July 2019**—Recently, Qingdao Post Customs officers found a package from Japan suspicious during CT machine inspection. The package was declared as toy but the machine image showed it was a human figure statue. Upon in-box inspection, an ivory carved statue weighing 1.026 kg was found. At present, the customs has detained the ivory products and the case is being further processed. [Read more](#)

### Huanggang Customs seized 1.2 kg of suspected ivory products

**Huanggang, Guangdong, 22 July 2019**—Recently, Huanggang Customs officers found a passenger's luggage suspicious during machine inspection. He then inspected the luggage as well as two other fellow passengers' luggage. 25 ivory products totaling 1237.2g were found in the three passengers' luggage. At present, the case has been handed over to relevant department for further processing. [Read more](#)

### Xiamen Customs seized 719 g of ivory statue in express delivery



**Xiamen, Fujian, 22 July 2019**—Quanzhou Customs affiliated to Xiamen Customs found an ivory statue weighing 719 g during machine inspection of a package declared as “Two Cows Adult Whole Milk Powder\*6”. The package came from Netherland. Upon in-box inspection, a statue of ancient Chinese lady and boy wrapped in silver paper was found hidden in a milk powder jar. The statue appears creamy white, has patterns on surface, and weighs 719 g. It is identified as ivory product. Xiamen Customs soon search for the package’s relevant information and hands it over to anti-smuggling department. [Read more](#)

**Huanghua Airport seized tiger bone product for the first time**



**Changsha, Hunan, 23 July 2019**—On June 20, 16 pangolin scales totaling 290g and 8 tiger bone products totaling 160g were found in a luggage. The passenger was worker in South Africa and flew from Hong

Kong to Changsha. The Customs will further investigate and handle these products according to law. [Read more](#)

**Xining Customs seized 2 ivory products**



**Xining, Guangxi, 25 July 2019**—Nanning Post Customs officers found a package from Japan suspicious when conducting X ray machine inspection on international mail packages. Upon in-box inspection, two suspected ivory products were found. They were identified to be ivory and elephant bone products. [Read more](#)

**Guangdong seized two cases of illegally carrying suspected ivory products**



**Shenzhen, Guangdong, 31 July 2019**—On July 19, Huanggang Customs carried out a random inspection and found one passenger carrying an ivory bracelet weighing 29.49g at



Futian Port. On July 22, Huanggang Customs seized a passenger carrying an ivory necklace weighing 61.97 g at Huanggang Port. On the same morning, a milky white necklace suspected to be ivory product was found during machine inspection of a luggage. The X-ray machine image shows "Fluorescent green" that is characteristic of ivory product. These evidence shows that it is very likely to be ivory. The cases above are handed over to Customs for further processing. [Read more](#)

and found that Shijiazhuang suspects purchased pangolin scales overseas and shipped them from Nigeria to Vietnam for smuggling. Following to Xiamen Customs' intelligence, on March 25 2019, Vietnamese Customs seized 8.25 tons of pangolin scales in a container declared to be imported plastic pellets (disguised as Cassia) in Haiphong, Vietnam. Subsequently, Xiamen Customs carried out a unified network-receiving operation and eventually destroyed the gang. [Read more](#)

### **Chinese and Vietnamese Customs jointly seized a large case of smuggling pangolin scales**



**31 July 2019** , A few days ago, Xiamen Customs successfully broke an endangered species smuggling network in Nanning, Guangxi, Shijiazhuang, Hebei, and Putian, Fujian with the assistance of other police departments . Eight suspects were caught. This is a transnational smuggling network that goes from Africa to Vietnam to China. The case is the largest case of pangolin scales smuggling jointly seized by Chinese Customs and Vietnamese Customs in recent years. In 2018, the Xiamen Customs Anti-smuggling Bureau conducted a study on the smuggling intelligence clues of an endangered species



## International

### Singapore seized 9 tons of smuggled ivory



**Singapore, 24 July 2019**—Three “wood” containers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo were seized while passing through Singapore, in which inspectors found nearly 9 tons of raw ivory. This is the largest ivory smuggling case ever seized in Singapore. CNN reported on the 23rd that the ICA (Singapore Customs, Immigration, and Checkpoints Authority) and the National Park Service issued a joint statement on Tuesday saying that the seized ivory was shipped from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and transited through Singapore. It is expected to be shipped to Vietnam. In addition to a large number of ivory, there are 11.9 tons of pangolin scales in this batch of illegal goods. This is the third batch seized in Singapore this year. [Read more](#)



**2019-7-28, Vietnam**—On Thursday July 25th, rhino horns hidden in plaster were seized at Hanoi Nei Pai International Airport. These rhino horns can sell as high as 60,000 dollars per kilogram in black market. At present it is no clear which African country these rhino horns are from. [Read more](#)

### Kenyan police disguised as buyers seizing 35 ivory

**Kenya, 31 July 2019**—On 30 July, the police presented 35 ivory that were seized in Rabai, Kenya. These ivories weighted around 183 kg in total and worth 18 million Kenya shillings (around 1.2 million RMB). It's reported that anti-poaching police disguised as buyers and caught two suspects in a village. [Read more](#)

### Vietnam seized 125kg of rhino horns

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Contact us:

**TRAFFIC** China

3rd Floor, Building #2,22 Baiwanzhuang Street,  
Xicheng District, Beijing, 100037, P.R. CHINA