



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

### Domestic

#### Beihai border inspection seized National protected animal tridacna specimen

**2019-08-01, Beihai, Guangxi** — Beihai Border Inspection station police seized national level protected animals tridacna specimens weighting 41.84 kilograms when inspecting a Hong Kong cargo docked in TieShanGang wharf. The case has been handed over to Beihai Customs for suspected trafficking of national wildlife protection animals. [Read more](#)

#### Xiamen Customs seized a batch of endangered wood species products



**2019-08-02, Xiame, Fujian** — In April, a Fuqing trading company commissioned a customs broker in Xiamen to declare the export of two containers of wooden statues, furniture and iron products to Taiwan to Dongdu Customs. Although this batch of wood products and furniture are declared as common species such as walnut, sycamore and ebony, the Risk Analysis Department issued the control instructions after research and judgment. There was nothing abnormal while opening the container, but after

further inspection, the box was actually an "hidden museum" with several carving articles such as Avalokitesvara statue, smiling maitreya Buddha, flowers and wealth decoration, dragon turtle decoration, landscape decoration..... After inspection, 81 pieces of wood products were found in the two containers. In terms of color, it involved a variety of materials, many of which were placed in exquisite glass cases and smelled exotic. The certificate attached to some Buddha statues labelled "Malay OK agilawood". Dongdu Customs immediately decided to tally and send wood species for identification. A few days later, after professional appraisal by the judicial expertise department, the final determination of this batch of goods 29 are endangered wood products, among which, 19 wooden statues are *Aquilaria Lam.* belonging to the *Thymelaeaceae Juss.*, 5 wooden statues are the *Dalbergia cochinchinensis Pierre ex Laness*, 5 wooden statues are *Dalbergia hainanensis Merr. & Chun*. All the above three species have been listed in appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and are classified as second-class protected wood species. At present, the case has been handed over to the anti-smuggling department for processing. [Read more](#)



**Chengdu Customs seized 26 suspected ivory products and 119 grams of suspected pangolin scales**



**2019-08-05, Chengdu, Sichuan**——  
687 gram of suspected ivory products and 119 grams of pangolin scales were seized from the luggage of three Chinese passengers arriving in Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. [Read more](#)

**Rongcheng Customs seized 20.07 kg of endangered species and their products in total from postal channels in the last half year.**



**2019-08-07, Fuzhou, Fujian**——In the first half of this year, Rongcheng Customs Post Office detected 46 cases of illegal mailing of endangered species and their products, a year-on-year increase of 1.2 times. 185

endangered species and their products were seized, with a total weight of 20.07 kg, among which 49 pieces of ivory and its products, 4.82 kg. In addition, endangered species such as the *Astrophytum masterias* Lem and endangered *phalaenopsis* were intercepted in the mail channels for the first time. [Read more](#)

**Six black bear products seized in Hani and Yi autonomous county of Jiangcheng, Yunnan**



**2019-08-09, Jiangcheng, Yunnan**——At the end of July, police from the Jiangcheng Border Management brigade seized suspected wildlife products from a pickup truck. The suspect said they were red muntjac. Then the border management brigade handed over the case to the Jiangcheng County Forest Public Security Bureau. After careful examination and identified by the relevant institutions, it has been confirmed that in addition to a national third protection animal, dead red muntjac, there were national second protection animal, black bear products, including black bear limbs of the palm, also known as the bear paw, and bear mouth, bear whip, etc.. After trial, the suspect Gong, confessed that the wildlife products were bought from



people abroad. For suspected illegal purchase and transportation of rare and endangered wildlife products, the suspect has been taken criminal enforcement measures on by the public security department, and the case is still under further processing. [Read more](#)

### **A passenger was seized by Sanya Customs for carrying ivory products**

**2019-8-11, Sanya, Hainan**——On August 11, a Chinese passenger carrying a suspected ivory product was seized while the CI537 Taipei-Sanya flight was taking inspection at Sanya Phoenix International Airport. The elephant ivory bracelet, weighing 67 grams, was identified by a professional institute as the modern elephant ivory products of endangered species. [Read more](#)

### **Chengdu Customs seized 28 pieces of hawksbill shell products**



**2019-08-13, Chengdu, Sichuan,**—— The customs of Chengdu Shuangliu Airport seized 28 pieces of hawksbill shell products, including 2 fans, 9 combs and 17 bracelets with a gross weight of 746 grams, from the luggage of a Chinese passenger during the supervision of flights arriving in Chengdu from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. [Read more](#)

### **Endangered parrot eggs seized in Shenzhen 2019-08-15, Shenzhen, Guangdong**——

On the morning of March 19, a woman entered China in West Jiulong Port. After the X-ray machine inspection, 122 eggs were found in her luggage, which marked with different colors, different symbols, wrapped in paper and clothes. During the inspection process, the eggs hatched continuously, which were obviously not like ordinary poultry. Customs officers found Liu crossed Asia, Europe and North America, as far as North America Nicaragua in 6 days. And this unreasonable move attracted the officers' attention. They immediately asked for the anti-smuggling department's intervention. After receiving the report, the department quickly checked the relevant information of Liu, which showed that Liu had a fellow Su (male). And he has been to Xiamen by train in the morning of March 19 from west Kowloon station and Su was likely to carry parrot eggs either. The anti-smuggling department contacted the railway public security department for assistance. At 18:00, Xiamen railway public security captured Su in Zhangzhou city, Fujian province, and seized 122 parrot eggs he was carrying. At present, the case has been transferred to the procuratorate for review and prosecution. According to the identification of south China animal species environmental damage judicial identification center, 244 parrot eggs were mostly Yellow-crowned Amazon parrot eggs, and some were Scarlet Macaw parrot eggs, Red-lored Amazon and parrot and Mealy Amazon parrot eggs. These species are listed in the "Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) appendix I, appendix II.

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**Tianjin customs seized 60kg tridacna specimens**



**2019-08-20, Tianjin**——Recently, Tianjin Xingang customs seized the national protected animal tridacna specimen 1 piece, weighing 60 kilograms in a passenger ‘s luggage transported from Indonesia. It is reported that the customs inspection personnel at first found 12 items suspected of agate, wood fossils, and then found a 60 kg shellfish shell goods after unpacking all the internal package. After the appraisal of the endangered species scientific committee of the People’s Republic of China, the specimen was identified as the giant clam shells.[Read more](#)

**Xiamen Customs seized suspected ivory bracelets from Africa with a net weight of 280 grams**



**2019-08-23, Xiamen, Fujian,**——At about 2 PM on August 22, when Xiamen customs officers were carrying out the task of monitoring flight MI922 from Singapore to Xiamen. During the X-ray machine inspection, they found some suspected beads in the luggage of a Chinese male passenger who chose to go through the customs without declaration. After a thorough investigation, two pieces of ivory bracelets with a total net weight of about 280 grams were found. The passenger said the bracelets were bought in South Africa. At present, the customs has not released the above - mentioned items, which are sent to professional institutions for identification

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**Changchun customs seized 165 grams of ivory products**

**2019-08-25, Changchun, Jilin,** —— Changchun customs post office recently seized 165 grams of suspected ivory products in imported postal parcels by means of CT. Customs officers immediately opened the parcel and found five bracelets and a necklace whose color was yellow and white, with delicate lines, in a piece of clothing. Further tests showed they were ivory and animal bone products. According to the wildlife testing center of the state forestry administration, these ornaments are all ivory products. These ivory comes from Asian elephants or African elephants and is not allowed to enter China. At present, the case is under further investigation. [Read more](#)

**Tianjin Customs seized illegal ivory mailed into China**



**2019-08-26, Tianjin**——A few days ago, Tianjin post office customs officer found that there was a suspected ivory necklace in the mail sent from Italy, weighing about 13 grams, after identification confirmed as ivory products. At present, the case has been transferred to the relevant departments for further investigation [Read more](#)



## International

### Cameroon: 383 kg of pangolin scales seized by customs



**2019-08-20, Cameroon**—In Cameroon, the customs' mobile unit of Bamenda recently seized 383 kilograms of giant pangolin scales. According to the customs general directorate, the load seized has been handed to the ministry of forestry and wildlife, which will prosecute the traffickers from whom the products were seized. The seizure was realized during an operation baptized “Halte au commerce illicite” (Halcomi), French for “stop illicit trafficking,” initiated months ago by Cameroonian authorities. [Read more](#)

### Police in Malawi have arrested nine Chinese and four malawian citizens in a successful crackdown on wildlife gangs

**2019-08-26, Malawi**—After a three-month manhunt, police in Malawi successfully arrested Lin, the central figure of a wildlife criminal gang, in Lilongwe on August 16. Lin, 46 years old, Chinese citizen who is suspected of smuggling ivory, rhino horn, pangolin pieces, etc. He has been on the run since May, when nine other Chinese citizens, including his wife, and four Malawians, were arrested. Police launched a joint operation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service after receiving a tip-off that Lin was hiding in Lilongwe. According to police, Lin was involved in the purchase of a number of wildlife products, including three live pangolins, 556 pangolin pieces, 103 rhino horns, two hippopotamus teeth, ivory chopsticks and other processed ivory products. He has been remanded to Mullah Raza prison until his next hearing on Sept. 11. He faces multiple charges and the investigation is ongoing. [Read more](#)

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