



CHINA'S WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT NEWS DIGEST

November 2020

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Guangzhou Customs Unearthed Two Cases of Smuggling of Red Coral Products



News Release Date: 2 Nov. 2020

Law enforcement authority: Guangzhou Customs, Guangdong Province

Location: Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport, Guangdong Province

Detection method: Express Inspection Channel, Parcel Item Inspection Channel

Species: Red Coral Products, jewelries, 11 items in total, weight around 59.5g.

Way of Transport: Inbound mail

Reason for seizure: Smuggling

Case progress: Case transferred to anti-smuggling division

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Zhengzhou Postal Customs Seized Twenty-Eight Endangered Cactus Plants in Inbound Mails



News Release Date: 11 Nov. 2020

Law enforcement authority: Zhengzhou Postal Office Customs, Henan Province

Location: Zhengzhou Post Center, Henan Province

Detection method: Routine Inspection

Species: 28 plants, three species of Cactaceae

Way of Transport: Inbound Mail (False declared as "decoration", two mails with same recipient)

Reason for seizure: Smuggling

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Guangzhou Baiyun Airport Customs Seized Fifteen Scleractinia Items Carried by Travelers Unlawfully



News Release Date: 13 Nov. 2020

Seizure Date: 5 Nov. 2020

Law enforcement authority: Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport Customs, Guangdong Province

Location: Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport, Guangdong Province

Detection method: Machine Inspection (Abnormal Image)

Species: Endangered Species Scleractinia, 15 items in total, weight around 2.66kg.

Way of Transport: At the bottom of passenger's luggage

Reason for seizure: Smuggling

Number of offenders: One

Case progress: Relevant Case is under the investigation

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Yining Customs Seized One Red Coral Product in Inbound Mail



News Release Date: 14 Nov. 2020

Law enforcement authority: Yining Customs, Urumchi, Xinjiang

Location: Yining Post Office, Ili Autonomous County, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region

Detection method: Routine Inspection

Species: One Product of Red Coral

Way of Transport: Inbound Mail

Reason for seizure: Smuggling

Case progress: Item Detained according to law

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Chongqing Postal Customs Seized Tableware with Ivory Handel



News Release Date: 15 Nov 2020

Law enforcement authority: Chongqing Postal Office Customs

Location: Chongqing Post Office

Detection method: Routine Machine Inspection

Species: Hand Shanks of Knives and other tableware were made of ivory, 24 items in total, weight 914.2g.

Way of Transport: Inbound Mail

Reason for seizure: Smuggling

Case progress: Item Detained and processed according to procedure.

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Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport Customs Seized a Pack of Endangered Species through Inbound Traveler Inspection Channel



News Release Date: 17 Nov. 2020

Seizure Date: 11 Nov. 2020

Law enforcement authority: Guangzhou Customs, Guangdong Province

Location: Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport, Guangdong Province

Detection method: Abnormal image in X-ray

Species: Dried Seahorse Product weight 225g, Gallbladder tissue of Asian Water Monitor (*Varanus salvator*) weight 70g.

Way of Transport: Traveler's luggage (item sealed snack packs and placed in luggage)

Reason for seizure: Smuggling

Number of offenders: One

Case progress: Transferred to anti-smuggling division for further investigation

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Jiujiang Customs Unearthed Over Eleven Tons of Smuggled *Pinctada maxima*



News Release Date: 18 Nov. 2020
Law enforcement authority: Jiujiang Customs of Nanchang Customs Bureau, Jiangxi Province
Location: Jiujiang Port, Jiangxi Province
Detection method: Inspection at scene
Species: *Pinctada maxima* weight 11.1 tons
Way of Transport: Corporation Import Products
Reason for seizure: Smuggling
 Number of offenders: Declared value \$ 6500

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Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport Customs Seized Six Ivory Products from Three Inbound Traveler's Luggage



News Release Date: 21 Nov. 2020
Seizure Date: 4 Nov. 2020
Law enforcement authority: Hangzhou Xiaoshan Airport Customs, Zhejiang Province
Location: Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport, Zhejiang Province
Detection method: Abnormal Inspection Image
Species: Six Ivory Products, net weight 264.69g.
Way of Transport: Traveler's luggage (hidden in books, medicine boxes and jeans in luggage)
Reason for seizure: Smuggling
Number of offenders: Three
Case progress: The case is under further investigation

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Guangzhou Customs Seized Two Pairs of Shoes Made of Crocodile Skin



News Release Date: 24 Nov. 2020

Law enforcement authority: Guangzhou Baiyun Airport Customs, Guangdong Province

Location: Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport, Guangdong Province

Detection method: Open-box Inspection

Species: Tanned Leather Products of Endangered Crocodile, two pairs of shoes

Way of Transport: Inbound mail (Declared as "two pairs of shoes")

Reason for seizure: Smuggling

Case progress: Item transferred to anti-smuggling division for further investigation

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Guangzhou Customs Seized a Pack of Endangered Agarwood Products in Inbound Mail



News Release Date: 29 Nov. 2020

Law enforcement authority: Guangzhou Postal Office Customs, Guangdong Province

Location: Guangzhou Post Office, Guangdong Province

Detection method: abnormal x-ray image

Species: Incense Tree (*Aquilaria sinensis*), four bags, rough weight 1034.5g in total.

Way of Transport: Inbound mail

Reason for seizure: Smuggling

Case progress: Case Transferred to anti-smuggling division

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Court in Fuling Pronounced Judgement of the Illegal Logging Case of Spinulose Tree Fern



News Release Date: 16 Nov. 2020

Crime Date: From March 2019 to March 2020

Judicial authority: Fuling People's Court, Chongqing

Location: Protection Area of spinulose tree fern, Jiangdong District, Fuling, Chongqing

Species: 111 wild spinulose tree fern (*Alsophila spinulosa*) (Second Class National Protected Plant)

Reason for seizure: Illegal Logging

Number of offenders: Three

Case progress: Three offenders were sentenced to two years and three months to five years in prison, fined with 8,000 RMB to 20,000 RMB and were requested to plant 130 spinulose tree fern in the area they used to illegal logging

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Hongshi Forestry Court in Jilin Province Pronounced Judgement of a Major Case of Smuggling Saiga Antelope Horns



News Release Date: 20 Nov. 2020

Judicial authority/Law enforcement authority:

Local Court Hongshi Forestry Region/Linjiang Forestry Police Division of Jilin Forestry Police

Location: In a warehouse of a pharmacy group, Linjing, Jilin Province

Detection method: Information Collection and Investigation

Species: 5041 Horns of Saiga Antelope (*Saiga tatarica*), weight 1005.76 kg.

Reason for seizure: Smuggling, illegal trade

Estimated value: 403 million RMB

Number of offenders: Three

Case progress: First-instance Judgement

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2020.11

Six Villagers Were Suspected of Illegal Logging of Chinese Yew



News Release Date: 23 Nov. 2020

Seizure Date: 18 Nov. 2020

Law enforcement authority: Forestry Policy Detachment of Wulong Policy Bureau, Chongqing

Location: Luhong Village, Fengshan District, Wulong, Chongqing

Detection method: tip-off, investigation

Species: Chinese Yew (*Taxus chinensis*) (First Class National Protected Plant)

Reason for seizure: Illegal Logging

Number of offenders: Six

Case progress: Six suspects has been put under detention according to law.

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Rizhao Police Cracked a Major Case Concerning Endangered Wildlife Products



News Release Date: 24 Nov. 2020

Seizure Date: March 2019

Law enforcement authority: Forest Police Detachment of Rizhao Police Bureau, Shandong Province

Location: Multiple provinces/cities including Guangdong, Guangxi, Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, Shanxi, Shaanxi.

Detection method: Clues provided by anti-smuggling division, investigation

Species: over 1500 ivory products, four piece of tiger skins, over 120 pieces of lion bones, over 20 kg pangolin scales, others including numerous products of precious and endangered species products such as horns of Przewalski's gazelle (*Procapra przewalskii*) and saiga antelope, bear teeth and hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

Way of Transport: From Vietnam through Dongxing (Fangchenggang, Guangxi Province) to enter the country

Country of export: Vietnam

Reason for seizure: Smuggling, Illegal Trade (sell through "Moments" on WeChat)

Estimated value: The value of the items involved in the case is more than six million RMB, and the capital flow involved is as high as 189 million RMB.

Number of offenders: 23

Nationality: Vietnamese, Chinese

Case progress: During trial

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Xuchang Forest Police Cracked a Major Case of Illegally Purchasing and Selling of Precious and Endangered Wildlife Products



News Release Date: 26 Nov. 2020

Law enforcement authority: Xuchang Forest Police Bureau, Henan Province

Location: At suspect's home in Xiangcheng County, Xuchang, Henan Province

Detection method: Tip-off and investigation

Species: 29 wild parrots, including seven African grey parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*), Five White-bellied Parrot (*Pionites leucogaster*) and 17 monk parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*).

Reason for seizure: Illegal Trade

Number of offenders: Three

Case progress: Case has been transferred to examination for prosecution

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Lanzhou Police Cracked A Criminal Gang Committed Illegal Purchasing and Selling of Endangered Wildlife



News Release Date: 26 Nov. 2020

Law enforcement authority: Forestry Division of Lanzhou Police Bureau, Gansu Province

Location: Several places in Guizhou, Chongqing and Liaoning.

Detection method: Information and investigation

Species: Seized one common kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), six northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), two blue monk parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*) and five Chinese Bamboo Partridge (*Bambusicola thoracicus*)

Reason for seizure: Illegal Trade (Illegal online purchase and sale)

Number of offenders: Five

Case progress: Case is under further investigation and the rest of suspects are being traced with all force.

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Shaanxi Cracked Down 109 Wildlife Criminal Cases This Year



News Release Date: 25 Nov. 2020

Law enforcement authority: Shaanxi Police

Filed Wildlife Resources Criminal Case: 109

Number of Offenders: 181

Seizure of First and Second Class National

Protected Wildlife and its Products: 90 pieces

Seized Hunting Tools: 2261 pieces

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National Prosecution Authority Reached Significant Achievement in Fighting Wildlife Crime in the First Three Quarters

News Release Date: 9 Nov. 2020

Seizure Date: From January to September 2020

Government authority: Nationwide Prosecution Authority

Prosecuted Offenders of Destroying Wildlife

Resources: 15,154 (increased by 66.2%

compared with previous year), 6974 offenders

committed illegal fishing, 3769 offenders

committed poaching, 3007 offenders committed

illegal purchasing, transporting and selling of

endangered animals and their products, 1131

offenders committed illegal poaching and killing

of endangered animals and 273 offenders

committed smuggling of endangered animals

and its products.

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Hong Kong SAR

Hong Kong Customs makes suspected scheduled fresh totoaba fish maw seizure worth about \$44 million this year



Hong Kong Customs seized about 114 kilograms of suspected scheduled fresh totoaba fish maws with an estimated market value of about \$18 million at the Hong Kong International Airport on October 27, followed by the arrest of one man the day after (October 28). This is the second seizure of more than 100 kilograms of its type since the first was made in June, making a total seizure of more than 274 kilograms worth about \$44 million so far this year.

Through risk assessment, Customs officers inspected an air consignment declared as frozen squid that arrived in Hong Kong from Mexico. The suspected scheduled fresh Totoaba macdonaldi fish maws were found mix-loading with frozen squid in nine styrofoam boxes.

Follow-up investigation led to the discovery of an industrial building unit in Fanling one day after the seizure, which was suspiciously used as a storehouse. A 39-year-old man was arrested inside the unit.

Investigation is ongoing and the arrested man has been released on bail pending further investigation.

In June this year, Customs seized about 160 kilograms of suspected scheduled fresh totoaba fish maws with an estimated market value of about \$25 million at the airport. The haul breaks the past single seizure records of its type both in terms of weight and market value. It also surpasses the aggregate seizure quantity in Customs' records.

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INTERPOL

- [Wildlife and forestry crime: Worldwide seizures in global INTERPOL-WCO operation](#)

South Africa

- [Over R8 million worth of abalone seized in Cape Town](#)
- [Rhino killed, de-horned on farm outside Lephalale](#)
- [Kuruman stock theft, JTG highway patrol and Kathu SAPS seizes endangered species](#)

India

- [A man was arrested with an endangered scaly-skinned pangolin on the borders of Chhattisgarh and Odisha](#)
- [Tuticorin police seize four tusks, arrest two](#)
- [Ivory smuggling racket busted in Belagavi](#)
- [Five arrested for trying to sell elephant tusks](#)

Gabon

- [Malian trafficker arrested with 50 kg ivory](#)
- [An ivory trafficker arrested with 13 pieces of elephant ivory](#)

Mozambique

- [Victory for counter-trafficking K9 unit](#)

Republic of Congo

- [A group of poachers in possession of pangolin scales and ivory tusks were arrested](#)

Indonesia

- [Indonesia : Three arrested for alleged ivory trade in Riau](#)
- [Huge seizure of Helmeted Hornbill casques and other wildlife parts in Indonesia](#)
- [Dozens of parrots stuffed into plastic water bottles have been discovered on a ship docked in Indonesia's Papua region, authorities said Friday.](#)

Kenya

- [Two arrested in Samburu over illegal sandalwood trade](#)



Gambia

- [Gambia Navy Arrest 6 Fishing Vessels For Illegal Operation](#)

South Sudan

- [Vancouver philanthropist, Peake, rescues three young chimpanzees from traffickers](#)

Spain

- [Police bust traffickers smuggling reptiles into Europe under-their clothes](#)

United States

- [Endangered sea turtle shells disguised as blue plastic seized at Miami International Airport en route to Asia](#)

Benin

- [Industrial trawler nabbed in Benin IUU fishing crackdown](#)