



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

### Domestic

#### **Qingdao Airport Customs seized 80 ivory products**

**Qingdao, Shandong, 1 May 2019** - Qingdao Liuting Airport Customs recently seized 66 undeclared seals, combs, cigarette holders, beads and other ivory products weighed 667 grams when conducting a baggage inspection on a Chinese male passenger. They also found 14 pieces of ivory products in the store he operates. The passenger took the flight SC8826 from Osaka, Japan to Qingdao. When checking the baggage at customs clearance, the customs staff found a large number of suspected ivory crafts through the CT machine. Customs officers immediately opened the package for manual inspection, and found 66 pieces of ivory products and 6 pieces of suspected red coral pendants, about 160 grams, in the lining of the suitcase, the side pockets of the handbag, and the decoration of the crafts. Qingdao Customs immediately started the customs police network, with the airport's Anti-Smuggling Bureau expanding the investigation and further seizing 14 pieces of ivory products weighed 242 grams as well as one suspected rare animal specimen weighed 56 grams from the shop operated by this passenger. [Read more](#)

#### **Guangxi Chongzuo Police seized over 50,000 living snakes and *Rana Guentheri***



**Chongzuo, Guangxi, 4 May 2019-** On 4 May around 18:20, the police found a suspicious truck on the patrol and called the vehicle to stop for inspection. When the police opened the door, they found that the car was full of white foam boxes with closed woven bags inside. There are dense living snakes inside, and large number of living frogs in other bags. According to the driver Luo, he was hired by a strange woman through phone to load and transport these live animals by the highway. At present, the woman's phone has been shut down. The police immediately detained the live frog and the snake for further investigation. According to the preliminary identification of staffs of Forestry Administration Station of Ningming County Natural Resources Bureau, there are around 5,000 snakes mainly consist of mud snakes (*Farancia Abacura*) and water snakes (*Enhydris Chinensis*), which are beneficial wildlife with important economic and scientific value. The 50,000 frogs are *Rana Guentheri*, which are Guangxi province protected animal species. [Read more](#)

**Nanning Custom cracked down a significant rare animal product smuggling case, seizing 70,000 dried seahorses**



**Nanning, Guangxi, 9 May 2019**—Recently, the Anti-Smuggling bureau of Longbang Customs (affiliated to Nanning Custom) has cracked a significant smuggling case of rare animal products according to provide clues. In Jingxi, Guangxi, Maoming, Guangdong, and Bozhou, Anhui, they seized a total of 78,528 dried seahorses, 1815 dried sea horses (*Syngnathus schlegelii*), and 3422 dried sea moths (*Pegasus laternarius*) which were suspected of smuggling into the country. They also found 2.13 kilograms of suspected ivory products, 31.15 kilograms of suspected tiger bones, 17 pairs of suspected animal horns, 6 small tridacna, 3 large tridacna, 1 pair of sika deer specimens, 1 dead pangolin body, and a group of suspected endangered species products including tiger teeth, tiger toe, tortoise shell, elephant skin, elephant bone, pangolin scales, etc., with 3 suspects successfully arrested. After preliminary investigation, they found that the gang smuggled the goods into the country through the non-landed trails on the Sino-Vietnamese border after ordering rare animal products such as dried seahorses in Vietnam, and then delivered them to Guangdong Maoming and Anhui Zhangzhou for distribution and sell. At present, the customs have filed a criminal case against the case, and the investigation work of the case is being carried out in a timely and orderly manner, striving to deepen the investigation and achieve more results. [Read more](#)

**Qingdao Custom seized several ivory products through mails**

**Qingdao, Shandong, 7 May 2019**—Recently, the Customs officers of the Qingdao Post Bureau found out that the image on the scan machine of an incoming mail containing calligraphy and painting was abnormal. After unpacking and checking, they seized 13 pieces of ivory products totaling 277 grams. The ivory products seized in this time are all decorations for scrolls. The recipients attempted to evade customs supervision by filling false item name, blurring recipient addresses, and thick packaging. At present, the case is being further processed. [Read more](#)

**Hainan village secretary suspected of involvement in gang was investigated and Hawksbill Turtle products as well as ivory products were seized**



**Haikou, Hainan, 6 May 2019**—On January 25th, the Hainan Provincial Public Security Department established an investigation group of Pan Haiwen, the secretary and director of Yongfan Village, Wancheng Town, Wanning City, after receiving clues on his suspected involvement in gang crimes. Based on previous investigation and evidence collection, Hainan Provincial Public Security Department organized a total of 200 police forces in the Longhua Public Security Bureau, Haikou Special Police Detachment and the Coast Police on the evening of May 3, 2019 to conduct a crackdown against Pan Haiwen's criminal gangs. From 19:00 to 22:00 that night, the task force carried out simultaneous and unified arrests of the members of the gang in the Wanning area. In



one fell swoop, Pan Haiwen and other 17 major gang members were arrested and brought to justice. After conducting searches on relevant personnel and places, 5 hawksbill turtles, 3 ivory, 11 pieces of agarwood pear products, and a large amount of other materials and cash were seized.

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### **A woman in Tianjin was sentenced due to selling illegal hawksbill turtle and helmeted hornbill products**

**Tianjin, 7 May 2019**-Ms.Han, a 54-year-old woman, is a native of Lixin County, Anhui Province who runs jade and antiques business in Tianjin. The public prosecutor accused that in September 2017, during the operation of an antique market in this city, Han got a hawksbill turtle jar and a burgeois vigil beak pendant through bartering. On November 16 of the same year, Ms.Han was caught on the spot by the police when she was selling the products an antique market. Appraised by the Scientific Committee of the Endangered Species of the People's Republic of China and the Forest Public Security Judicial Appraisal Center of the State Forestry Administration, the jar and pendant sold by Han are made of hawksbill turtle and helmeted hornbill. The People's Procuratorate of Nankai District of Tianjin filed a public prosecution for the crime of illegally selling rare and endangered wildlife products. After the trial, the court sentenced her to two months of criminal detention, suspended for three months, and fined 2,000 yuan. [Read more](#)

### **Beijing ivory smuggling family the Xin's was cracked down**



**Beijing 8 May 2019**-On May 6, 2019, Beijing Xicheng Court issued a first-instance judgment on the illegal acquisition and sale of precious and endangered wild animal products by four people including Xin Xiaomei (a pseudonym). Xin Xiaomei's father, Xin Daming (a pseudonym), smuggled African ivory knives into China 20 years ago. After the arrest, the police seized 12,400 kilograms of ivory worth of 560 million yuan, making it the largest domestic ivory smuggling case and shocking the global community. [Read more](#)

### **Qingdao Liuting Airport Customs seized 29 ivory products**



**Qingdao, Shandong, 9 May 2019**-On May 5, Qingdao Liuting Airport Customs seized 29 suspected ivory necklaces, bracelets and pendants with a net weight of 363 grams during the inspection of the inbound flights of Thailand. For ivory products. At present, Qingdao Liuting Airport Customs has temporarily detained for further



processing according to law. [Read more](#)

### Hangzhou Custom seized hawksbills from passenger



**Hangzhou, Zhejiang, 9 May 2019**-On May 8th, after appraised by Shanghai Wildlife Identification Center, two suspected specimens of endangered sea turtles seized by Hangzhou Custom at Hangzhou Xiaoshan Airport Custom were a green sea turtle specimen weighed 3.21 kilograms and a hawksbill turtle specimen weighed 0.55 kg respectively. The two species are Class II national protected wild animal and CITES Appendix I species. [Read more](#)

### Hengqin Custom continuously seized cases of passengers carrying ivory and agarwood products abroad

**Gongbei, Guangdong, 14 May 2019**- Recently, Hengqin Custom affiliated to Gongbei Custom has been seizing four cases of passengers carrying ivory and agarwood products abroad, including 1 ivory cross section and 3 agarwood bracelets. It was identified as the modern elephant ivory and agarwood products by the South China Wildlife Species Identification Center and the South China Institute of Botany of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. At present, the above cases are being further processed. [Read more](#)

### Seizing 17 kg ivory on the spot! Shandong cracked down transnational network that smuggles, transports and sells ivory



**Multiple places in China, 15 May 2019**-- Shandong Customs Anti-Smuggling Department and the Forest Public Security followed the clues by media and cracked down a transnational network of smuggling and selling of rare animal products after two or three months of negotiations, the network involves Vietnam and eight provinces across China. The forest police seized them when the suspect return his stock products back to Vietnam. The task force seized Gao's goods on the spot, including 17 kilograms of ivory and lots of other endangered animal products such as rhinoceros horn, tiger bone, tiger tooth, bear bile, pangolin scales and scorpion specimens. At the same time, the task force cracked down the network in several cities across the country, and captured a total of 15 suspects. These suspects, are either antique lovers or dealers who post pictures of antiques on Wechat. Now, the prosecution has already arrested the main suspects in the case. [Read more](#)

### Jiangsu cracked down a significant wildlife smuggling case



**Wuxi, Jiangsu, 21 May 2019**-Wuxi Anti-Smuggling Branch affiliated to Nanjing Customs and Wuxi Municipal Public Security Bureau jointly efforts on



action against the smuggling and sale of endangered wild animals, arresting 10 suspects and seizing 989 endangered wild tortoises as well as 502 endangered American green iguanas. It is now found that the gang is suspected of smuggling more than 60,000 tortoises and American green iguanas. In October 2018, the Wuxi Municipal Public Security Bureau police found clues and immediately set up a joint task force to investigate. After nearly three months of investigation, the task force discovered an illegal network that buys, smuggles and sells rare and endangered wildlife. In January 2019, the customs and the public security police jointly arrested 10 criminal suspects. According to the preliminary verification, the gang purchased a large number of endangered living animals from overseas suppliers. After being transported to the transit land, they hired smuggling personnel to use car or ship to smuggle into the country and earn 2 to 3 times of illegal profits. At present, the endangered wild animals involved have been handed over to the Wuxi Wildlife Rescue Center and other professional institutions for proper disposal. [Read more](#)

#### **Hangzhou Customs seized 15 endangered coral specimen**

**Hangzhou, Zhejiang, 21 May 2019**-On May 20, 15 suspected endangered coral specimens seized by Hangzhou Customs on the bank of Xiaoshan Airport in Zhejiang Province were confirmed as *Fungia* coral and *Acropora* coral specimens according to the Shanghai Wildlife Identification Center . Among them there are 12 pieces of *Fungia* coral bone specimens weighing 423.3 grams, and 3 pieces of *Acropora* coral skeleton specimens weighing 76.7 grams, both of which are endangered species. At present, the above items have been handed over to the customs anti-smuggling department for further processing. [Read more](#)

#### **Yunnan Dehong Border Management Team seized 673 wild snakes**



**Dehong, Yunnan, 21 May 2019**-At 21:00 on May 18, the Yunnan Dehong Ruili Border Management Team Huyu Border Police Station carried out border patrol duties in the jurisdiction. When patrolling to the Longrui Expressway extension line, the police found a suspicious van that drove at night without lights. Immediately, the police stopped the van for inspection. The driver Zhang was flustered during inquiry. When the police conducted a key inspection of the goods, they found a large number of suspected illegally transported snakes on the spot. The net weight is 596 kilograms, including 330 live vipers, 11 live cobras, 174 live *Ptyas mucosus*, 64 dead pythons and 94 dead *Ptyas mucosus*. There is no legal procedure so the police immediately arrested the suspects. At present, the case has been transferred to the Ruili City Natural Resources Public Security Bureau for handling according to law. [Read more](#)

#### **Zhakou Customs seized 200 dried seahorses**



**Gongbei, Guangdong, 23 May 2019**-Recently, Zhakou Customs officers affiliated to Gongbei Customs seized 232 pieces of aquatic animal products totaling 500 grams from a baggage carried by a Macao passenger, at the no declaration channel in Customs entrance hall of the Gongbei Port. As the passenger failed to provide relevant evidence, Zhakou Customs has handed over the above items to the customs anti-smuggling department. [Read more](#)

**Xijiulong Station Customs has investigated seven cases of suspected endangered species products**

**Shenzhen, Guangdong, 24 May 2019**- Xijiulong Station Customs affiliated to Shenzhen Customs seized 7 passengers carrying suspected endangered species in one day, and found 5 suspected ivory products, 5 suspected red coral products, and 2 pieces of suspected red sandalwood products. At present, the above-mentioned cases have been transferred to the customs anti-smuggling department for further identification and handling. [Read more](#)

**Nanning Customs seized 350 kg ivory**



**Nanning, Guangxi, 27 May 2019**-On May 22, Nanning Customs, in conjunction with the Public Security Department of Guangxi Autonomous Region, cooperated with Guangzhou and Fuzhou Customs to implement inter-regional and cross-police operations. Three people were arrested on the spot, 81 ivory original teeth totaling 349.59 kg and 3 vehicles involved were seized. A few days ago, Nanning Customs Anti-Smuggling Police conducted data analysis and clues to find out that a criminal gang engaged in smuggling activities of endangered species such as ivory at the Sino-Vietnamese border. The anti-smuggling police immediately carried out intelligence operations and quickly grasped a large amount of evidence of the criminal gang's smuggling of ivory, rhino horn and other endangered species and their products, and locked in the whereabouts of its main members. At the beginning of May, after grasping the information that the criminal gang would like to smuggle a large number of ivory in the near future, Nanning Customs formulated a detailed arrest plan and set up a number of levels in the most likely way for the smuggled vehicles to pass. On the afternoon of May 22, the private police officers successfully intercepted the smuggled ivory in Shangsi County, Fangchenggang City. After investigation, the smuggling gang purchased a large number of endangered species such as ivory and rhinoceros horn from Vietnam and its products, and then handed it over to the border bunker gang to smuggle from the



Sino-Vietnamese border, transport it to the territory, and then transport it to the territory. Fujian Xianyou was handed over to the owner. At present, the Nanning and Fuzhou Customs have set up a task force to speed up the investigation and investigation of the case hoping to achieve more results. [Read more](#)

Bureau found the inspection machine image of a mail declared as a clothing and shoe was suspected of possessing ivory products. The mail was opened for inspection. After verifying with the machine inspection image, two ivory bracelets hidden in the sneakers were found and weighed about 45 grams. [Read more](#)

### **A passenger carrying rare marine products was seized by Taiyuan Customs**



**Taiyuan, Shanxi, 27 May 2019** - When Taiyuan Customs supervised the inbound flight at Taiyuan Wusu International Airport, it was found by X-ray machine that one passenger had an abnormal object. Upon inspection, the passenger carried a "shell" bracelet, suspected of endangered species tridacna. Professional testing institutions confirmed it was tridacna and the net weight is 43.89 g. [Read more](#)

### **Ivory Bracelets hidden in sneakers mailed were seized at Customs**



**Qingdao, Shandong, 28 May 2019** - A few days ago, the Customs officers of the Qingdao Post

### **Dried Seahorses transformed into "instant noodles" : Guangzhou Customs seized illegal seahorse cases**

**Guangzhou, Guangdong, 28 May 2019**– On May 22, 15:43, when the customs officers of Guangzhou Airport supervised the inbound flights to Cairo to Guangzhou, a foreign man carrying 3 cartons entered the country Attention. "From the X-ray machine image, one of the three cartons contains two items with different compositions." The customs officer immediately conducted an out-of-box inspection. Upon inspection, it was found that the 6-fold yellow-packed "instant noodles" were placed in the carton. Two bags were taken from the surface and the bottom of the box and found to be one of the instant noodles, while the other package had about 30 yellow-brown dried seahorses. The whole box of "instant noodles" only has 2 layers of real instant noodles, and the bottom is full of fake instant noodles with dried seahorses and weighs 1 kilogram. On May 18, Guangzhou Customs subordinated Baiyun Airport Customs also seized three foreign passengers on the same flight illegally carrying dried seahorses into the country . They seized 2.2, 2.3 and 2.8 kilograms of dried seahorses. The above-mentioned four "instant noodles" carrying the seahorses are in the same package, complete in packaging, and the appearance is the same as ordinary instant noodles. There are suspicions of batch production and batch entry. The above cases are currently being further processed. [Read more](#)



**Jinan Customs seized 24 pieces of endangered wood products**

**Jinan, Shandong, 29 May 2019** - Recently, Jinan Airport Customs affiliated to Jinan Customs seized a passenger carrying 24 suspected endangered wood products in the inbound flight from Cambodia, including 19 suspected Pterocarpus santalinus L.f. products and suspected agarwood products totaling 13.32 kg. At present, the above products have been sent to relevant institutions for further identification. [Read more](#)

**Qingdao Liuting Airport Customs successively seized 14 pieces of suspected endangered animal products**

**Qingdao, Shandong, 30 May 2019** - Recently, Qingdao Liuting Airport Customs seized 14 suspected endangered animal products in passenger luggage and belongings during the supervision of the inbound flight from Bangkok to Qingdao. There are 3 suspected crocodile leather belts, 2 wallets, 8 suspected elephant leather belts and 1 wallet. At present, Qingdao Liuting Airport Customs has temporarily detained the above items and further processed them. [Read more](#)

**"Birthday Gifts" are actually a python and a monitor lizard: Shantou Customs seized the case of smuggling endangered wild animals**

**Shantou, Guangdong, 31 May 2019** - On May 24, the Shantou Customs Anti-smuggling Bureau carried out a search operation based on previous clues, arresting 2 suspects in Meizhou City, searching 2 warehouses, and seizing 30 ball pythons and 54 Savannah monitors. Custom officers opened the EMS express cartons and found that there were plastic film bags and plastic boxes in the carton. Larvae of ball pythons and Savannah monitors with length around 10- 15 cm were hidden in these plastic film bags and plastic boxes. The item name written on the mailing list

outside the carton is "birthday gift (doll)", and some toys were placed inside to cover the intent to evade the inspection, but the recipient has not gone through any relevant quarantine approval procedures. At present, two suspects have been subjected to criminal detention compulsory measures in accordance with the law, and the case is being further investigated.

[Read more](#)





## International

### **Vietnamese customs and anti-smuggling authorities seized 5.26 tons of pangolin pieces from Nigeria at the southern port**

**Vietnam, 24 May 2019**- Vietnamese customs and anti-smuggling authorities seized 5.26 tons of pangolin scales from Nigeria at the southern port. occurred 9 days after the Vietnamese authorities seized 8.3 tons of pangolin tablets. It is reported that these pieces are contained in two containers containing cashew nuts. [Read more](#)

million pesos (\$210,000). Customs officials and the Navy seized these shark fins in 509 crates.

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### **Customs officers in Manzanillo, Colima, Mexico confiscated a large number of illegal shark fins shipped to the Philippines**



**Mexico, 27 May 2019** - Customs officers in Manzanillo, Colima, Mexico confiscated a large number of illegal shark fins shipped to the Philippines. These shark fins total about 10.4 tons and are estimated to be worth nearly 4

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