

Summary Findings

Wildlife Trade Survey Dong Hoi City, Quang Binh Province

Introduction

Wildlife trade surveys were carried out by ENV in restaurants, hotels, and other commercial establishments in Dong Hoi City of Quang Binh province aimed at documenting wildlife crimes and establishing baseline information that will assist local authorities and the ENV Wildlife Crimes Unit in combating illegal trade and use of wildlife.

The surveys were carried out on May 17 by members of the ENV Wildlife Crime Monitoring Unit and the ENV-based Asian Turtle Program.

Methods

Two teams of two persons visited restaurants, hotels, bars, and cafes within assigned areas of the city, and recorded whether wildlife and wildlife products were advertised, offered, displayed, or sold within the establishment. The teams also documented the name, address, and contact details of each location surveyed, including establishments for which no crimes were observed. Pho and other fast food establishments were not surveyed, and the survey teams did not survey all districts within the city.



A frozen civet thaws at a forest specialty restaurant in Dong Hoi town

Survey Highlights

- **Survey findings:** A total of 21 restaurants, hotels, and cafes were surveyed in Dong Hoi town. The survey teams documented wildlife crimes in 9 of the 21 establishments surveyed (43%). Twelve establishments that were surveyed did not sell or advertise wildlife.
- **Live animals documented:** Live animals or wildlife meat were observed in five establishments (24%). Observations included a civet kept in a freezer and wild pig meat, six macaques maintained behind a hotel, sea snakes, and hard-shelled turtles. One establishment possessed two stuffed large Indian civets (*Viverricula indica*).
- **Menus and Advertising:** Wildlife dishes were advertised on the menu at five restaurants (24%). The most common wildlife offered on the menu were muntjac and sambar deer (3), wild pig (3), and hard-shelled turtles (3). Civets, monitor lizards, and porcupine were offered on the menu at a total of two establishments.
- **Bear bile:** Bear bile advertisements were not observed at any of the restaurants surveyed.
- **Wildlife wines:** Only two restaurants offered wildlife wines. Bear paw wine was observed for sale at one location, which also included hard-shell turtle wine.
- **Hard-shell turtle consumption:** A live *Manouria impressa* was offered at one restaurant while *Indotestudo elongata* were observed at another establishment. Hard-shell turtles were observed on menus and in wine. The presence of hard-shelled turtles in restaurants was unusual when compared with surveys in northern provinces where hard-shell turtles are largely absent from the consumer trade. No hard-shell turtles were observed in a survey of 58 restaurants in Vinh City, 120 km north of Dong Hoi several days earlier.

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- **Crimes involving Decree 32-listed species:** Only one crime was documented involving possession of wildlife or wildlife products protected under group IB of Decree 32. This case involved the sale of wine that contained a bear paw. There were two cases involving possession of live animals, or wildlife parts and products listed under Group IIB of Decree 32. These included possession six macaques behind a beach-front hotel and two elongated tortoises (*Indotestudo elongata*) at a hotel restaurant.

Conclusion

The Wildlife Crime Survey resulted in five new wildlife crime cases under the management and tracking of the ENV Wildlife Crime Monitoring Unit (WCU). The WCU has reported serious violations documented during the survey directly to the Quang Binh Forest Protection Department and/or other functional agency/government bodies. For smaller cases involving menus and advertising, the WCU is working with restaurant owners to raise awareness and encourage owners to voluntarily comply with the law.

This summary version of the report was compiled from the original survey report.

ENV Wildlife Crime Monitoring Unit

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Stop Wildlife Crime

If you see wildlife in restaurants or other business establishments, contact your local Forest Protection Department or the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline

Hotline: **1800-1522** Email: **Hotline@fpt.vn**

You can make a difference!