

## Summary Findings

### Wildlife Trade Survey Vinh City

#### Introduction

Wildlife trade surveys were carried out by ENV in restaurants, hotels, and other commercial establishments in Vinh City of Nghe An 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 over a three day period on May 15, May 22, and May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The survey team members of the ENV Wildlife Crime Monitoring Unit, ENV Mobile Awareness Team, and technical support elements, as well as student volunteers from the Wildlife Volunteer Network Vinh City Group.

#### Methods

A total of nine ENV staff and approximately 11 volunteers participated in the survey comprising ten two-person teams. Survey teams 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.

#### Survey Highlights

- A total of 58 restaurants, hotels, and cafes were surveyed in Vinh City. The survey teams documented wildlife crimes in 34 of the 58 establishments surveyed (59%). Twenty-four establishments that were surveyed did not sell or advertise wildlife.
- Live animals were observed in seven establishments (12%). Live animals observed included monitor lizards, snakes, wild pigs, porcupines, and Asiatic soft-shell turtles (*Amyda cartilaginea*).
- Wildlife dishes were advertised on the menu at 23 restaurants (40%).
- The most common wildlife offered on the menu were porcupines (13), civets (10), monitor lizards (8), wild pig (8), and snake dishes (6). Sambar deer, muntjac, pheasants, and squirrel were also offered on menu at a few restaurants.
- Bear bile was advertised on signboards at six restaurants, and in the menu at four restaurants.
- One establishment displayed a variety of wildlife in wine including pangolin, macaque, bear paw, leopard (Bao Rung), and deer leg. Other wildlife wines consisted mainly of snake wines (6); *Bungarus fasciatus*, *Ptyas sp.*, and Cobras (probably *Naja sp.*).
- Live giant Asian soft-shell turtles (*Amyda cartilaginea*) were observed in three restaurants. This was unusual in that the commonly farmed species, *Pelodiscus sinensis*, that usually dominates the restaurant trade was notably absent, with no living specimens observed during the survey.
- 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.



A variety of wildlife wines offered at one restaurant included bear paw, pangolin, "forest monkey", "leopard" and other species

Continued from page 1

- There were at least (\*) seven cases involving possession of live animals, or wildlife parts and products listed under Group IIB of Decree 32. \*The number of Decree 32 violations involving snakes could not be determined except where the snakes were identified.

### Post-action Report

The Wildlife Crime Survey resulted in 20 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 Nghe An 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. Ongoing monitoring will continue utilizing the new Vinh group of the Wildlife Crime Volunteer Network.

ENV expects the success of this initiative to be measurable within three to six months once monitoring and subsequent enforcement responses have run their course.

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

For more information, contact:

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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!**