

Summary Findings

Wildlife Trade Survey Sa Pa Lao Cai Province

Introduction

Wildlife trade surveys were carried out by ENV in restaurants, hotels, and other commercial establishments in the popular tourist town of Sa Pa in Lao Cai province. The surveys were 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 on July 23 and 26th of 2007. The survey team included members of the ENV Wildlife Crime Monitoring Unit and ENV Mobile Awareness Team.

Methods

A total of six ENV staff participated in the survey in teams of two. Survey teams visited restaurants, hotels, bars, and cafes within assigned areas of the town, 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 town.



A leopard cat bag hanging in tourist boutique. The shop also offered serow horns, muntjac antlers, and several bags that the owner claimed were made from the hides of gibbons.

Survey Highlights

- A total of 68 restaurants, hotels, and cafes were surveyed in Sa Pa. The survey teams documented wildlife crimes in 46 of the 68 establishments surveyed (67%). Twenty-two establishments that were surveyed did not sell or advertise wildlife.
- Live animals were observed in only two establishments. Live animals observed included more than 20 monitor lizards at one restaurant and porcupines at another.
- Wildlife dishes were advertised on the menu at 38 restaurants (55%). The most common wildlife offered on the menu was “deer” (n=30) and wild pig (n=28). Serow, muntjac, porcupines, bamboo rats and monitor lizards were offered in roughly 7-8% of the establishments surveyed. .
- Bear bile and bear paw wine was advertised or displayed in six establishments. One establishment offered “tiger” tendon wine on their menu.
- Wildlife wines were displayed at 13 establishments (19%).
- Wildlife products were observed displayed as decoration or offered for sale in eight establishments. Products included leopard cat skin bags, wild pig skulls, and muntjac and serow antlers. A bag was observed in one tourist show that the owner claimed was made from the hide of a “gibbon”.
- Sa Pa town had a fairly large number of traditional Chinese (TCM) medicine shops (n=<30), mainly concentrated in the Sa Pa market and along a side street near the center of town. TCM shops offered pre-packed bags containing a variety of herbal medicines, as well as dried gecko and starfish. Snake wines, porcupine stomachs, and wild pig skulls were observed in several shops.

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Post-action Report

The Wildlife Crime Survey resulted in 18 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 Lao Cai 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. Immediately following the survey, a meeting was held with hotel and restaurant owners, and staff of tourism agencies to address the issue of wildlife trade in Sa Pa town.

Ongoing monitoring will continue utilizing the new Sa Pa group of the Wildlife Crime Volunteer Network.

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

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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!