



Green Grants Protect Nature & the Environment

In November, Education for Nature - Vietnam (ENV), in co-ordination with Toyota Motor Vietnam (TMV), awarded 'Green Grants' to six protected areas in Vietnam. The grants are aimed at supporting staff in carrying out environmental education activities in the buffer zones of their national parks or nature reserves.

In May and August 2009, ENV held two training courses for representatives from eleven national parks and nature reserves. After the training course, participants submitted proposals to a joint ENV-TMV Green Grant review board for consideration. The proposals were judged based on specific criteria such as creativity and design, practicality, capacity to achieve the stated objectives, conservation priorities, as well as other considerations.

Thus far, ENV has organized four training courses for staff from 22 protected areas, with 13 parks and nature reserves receiving 'Green Grants'.

Green Grants awarded in 2008 have supported 166 nature club meetings for as many as 5,000 students in secondary schools and 61 meetings in local villages for more than 3,200 local residents in communities bordering protected areas. The 2008 Green Grants have also supported 264 radio shows aired on local public address systems thus far in 2008 and 2009.

This year's Green Grants were awarded to educators from Lo Go Xa Mat, Can Gio, Pu Mat, Chu Mom Ray, Ba Vi National Parks and Muong Nhe Nature Reserve. Recipients plan to implement a range of environmental activities in local schools and villages, distribute awareness materials, and broadcast on local radio. "Through our partnership with TMV, we have been able to make significant gains in reaching out to likeminded and motivated park staff and educators throughout the country," said Dang Minh Ha, Director of Education and



Students in communities bordering Bui Doup Nui Ba National Park in Lam Dong province participate in outdoor activities aimed at exploring nature.

Training at ENV. "The Green Grant program goes beyond utilization of our expertise in training environmental educators," says Ha. "The seed grants provide direct support to the graduates that we feel can make the most difference, and we follow the grants with additional training and support in the field through our growing environmental education network."

Since 2000, ENV has carried out nearly 60 environmental education training courses for community leaders, teachers, forest rangers, and protected area staff at 37 national parks and nature reserves and 16 universities. ENV coordinates a national network of environmental educators comprising former graduates of ENV training courses and other practitioners working to raise awareness about the need to protect nature and the environment in Vietnam. Through this network, ENV distributes news and resources, and provides ongoing support, training, and technical assistance to network members.



Ending Illegal Bear Farming & Trade

Film urges action to preserve Vietnam's image & end illegal bear bile business

ENV has released a 12 minute film emphasizing concerns over the operation of illegal bear bile tourism businesses just a few kilometers down the road from Ha Long Bay, Vietnam's premier tourism destination and World Heritage Site. The short film contrasts the image of Ha Long Bay with the darker exploitation of bears on farms. The film features graphic footage of bear bile extractions, as well as undercover film from inside one of the Quang Ninh farms, and scenes from the October 2 raid by Environmental Police on one of the farms. ENV produced the film for distribution amongst members of the National Assembly, decision-makers in relevant ministries, and provincial leaders. ENV urges the authorities to take action to close illegal bear bile tourism operations in Quang Ninh and other provinces.

Link to film: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s45tk8OspjU> (Part 1)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZ181-6i5bo> (Part 2)

Quang Ninh authorities ask to have bears removed



Photo by SinhcafeTravel

The Quang Ninh provincial People's Committee has asked the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) to remove all 364 bears from the province in order to eliminate the illegal activities of a number of bear farms that have been exploiting and selling bear bile mainly to Korean tourists in direct violation of the law. The request follows a sustained campaign over the past two years that started in September 2007 with the discovery of 80 illegal bears at six farms in Quang Ninh and has involved countless hours of surveillance and investigation, campaigning through the media in both Vietnam and Korea, and the influence of key government leaders that have taken up the issue and urged relevant authorities to deal with the problem.

On October 2, Quang Ninh Environmental Police raided one of the illegal bear bile operations, catching staff in the act of extracting bear bile for a group of Korean tourists. The Quang Ninh Environmental Police have urged higher authorities to act decisively in this case to set an example for other illegal bear bile farmers.

"It is too early to celebrate," says ENV's Wildlife Trade Program Manager, Nguyen Thi Van Anh, who has worked closely with key government leaders on the issue since September 2007. "However, we remain hopeful that a decision will be made that will send a clear message to these criminal enterprises, and begin the process of change that will lead to an end of the illegal trade of bears into these farms throughout the country.



Bear crime statistics highlight need for stronger action to deter criminals

ENV has documented a total of 516 cases involving bear crimes since January 2005. Out of these 516 bear crime cases, 150 cases have involved live bears, accounting for a total of 862 live bears. Most other cases have involved bear bile being advertised or sold, or bear products, such as bear paw wine offered in consumer establishments. Out of the 862 live bears reported to ENV, 533 have been confirmed as registered by local authorities before the February 2006 registration cut-off date (after which all unregistered bears would be considered as illegal). There were a total of 59 cases involving 226 illegal unregistered bears discovered at farms or in trade since 2006. Of

these 226 bears, 34 were confiscated, 46 disappeared after discovery, and 118 were registered by local authorities citing recommendations by MARD that owners be fined but allowed to keep their bears. An additional 10 cases (22 bears) remain pending a decision by provincial authorities, 19 cases (104 bears) are under investigation, and the remaining bears were voluntarily transferred to authorities.

These facts were derived from the ENV Wildlife Crime Database and represent the current status of bear crime cases as of October 31, 2009.



Inspiring public action & raising awareness

ENV tells the public: Don't consume tiger products, protect tigers



In September, ENV began a new advertising campaign aimed at urging the public not to consume tiger products and to report tiger crimes to the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline. Banners and advertisements have been placed on a number of popular websites, blogs, and forums, and ENV's newest advertisement on the popular news site, vnexpress.net started running in November can be viewed at

<http://www.vnexpress.net/GL/Phap-luat/>

Since early September, viral advertising has resulted in 1113 visitors watching the Vietnamese version of the International Tiger Coalition film on tiger farming, and more than 500 people visiting our tiger trade website gallery.

Celebrities urge public not to consume wildlife

A new radio advertisement featuring national celebrity and actress Minh Vuong urges the public not to consume bear bile and to report wildlife crimes to local authorities or the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline. The advertisement began airing daily on the Voice of Vietnam in November.

Dozens of celebrities have joined ENV in efforts to protect Vietnam's wildlife, contributing their time at events or appearing on public service announcements on TV and radio. Amongst the long list of supporters is included music pop star My Linh, along with famous football players, comedians, and actors. Listen to our latest VOV advertisement (Vietnamese language):

<http://www.thiennhien.org/index.php?page=documentView&id=129>



Voice of Vietnam radio links

In November, ENV hosted its 50th radio show on Voice of Vietnam (VOV) focused on wildlife protection. Each month, ENV produces a 10 minute segment for national radio that is broadcast to millions of listeners throughout Vietnam. This latest show focused on the tiger trade in Vietnam, featuring an interview with Hanoi Environmental Police on the confiscation of two frozen tigers in mid-October.

Eleven of our more recent shows are now available to listeners through our Vietnamese language website. Connect to VOV: <http://www.thiennhien.org/index.php?page=document&catid=173>

TV Spotlight: Turn your thoughts into action

ENV Wildlife Program Manager Nguyen Thi Van Anh told audiences on a special television program to be aired on VTV6 that “everyone can help protect our wildlife. You need to turn your thoughts into action and do something!” Van Anh discussed ENV’s growing National Wildlife Volunteer Network currently with more than 1,200 members in 20 provinces helping protect wildlife by

monitoring restaurants and businesses and reporting crimes. “Our sights are set beyond making the public aware of the issues.” says Van Anh. “We want the public actively involved in stopping the illegal activities.” Van Anh notes that once the public takes a stand, the situation will change remarkably for the better and wildlife will “at last” have some breathing space to live and recover.

Mobile bear exhibition & wildlife protection campaign in central provinces

The ENV’s Mobile Wildlife Awareness Team spent two weeks in November in the north central provinces of Ha Tinh and Nghe An, carrying out wildlife awareness seminars at universities and hosting awareness activities in public forums.

Seminars at Ha Tinh University and Vinh University were followed by wildlife trade surveys of consumer establishments in both cities by student volunteers. “Say NO to bear bile” pledge campaigns were hosted in the Ha Tinh public market and at Vinh University with nearly 2,500

students and residents pledging not to use bear bile. The team then went on to host ENV’s mobile bear exhibit in Ho Chi Minh Square in the center of Vinh City.

The mobile awareness team travels throughout Vietnam raising awareness about the need to protect wildlife and actively encouraging public participation in protection efforts by promoting public reporting of wildlife crimes, volunteerism, and public action. Since March 2007, the mobile team has carried out wildlife awareness seminars at 33 universities and 34 major public events.



Students at Ha Tinh University sign up to become volunteers for ENV’s national Wildlife Protection Volunteer Network. Volunteers assist the ENV Wildlife Crime Unit with compliance monitoring of consumer establishments.



ENV mobile team leader Nguyen Duc Tho greets a full house at Vinh University for a seminar on how students can actively become involved in helping stop illegal wildlife trade.



Combating Wildlife Crime

Da Nang team links hunting to trade networks & consumer establishments

The new Da Nang-based Wildlife Crime Unit carried out a pilot hunting and trade survey in communities bordering Bach Ma National Park in order to test the survey methods before they are used to complete surveys in communities bordering five priority parks and nature reserves in the central region of Vietnam. Although the survey was intended only as a trial run for the new Da Nang team, surveys resulted in a wealth of intelligence about local trade networks in the province, identifying key traders in the local district and highlighting both species traded and source areas.



Hoang Van Chuong (center), team-leader of the new Wildlife Crime Unit team for central Vietnam and Hoang Van Thai (left) from the Cuc Phuong Turtle Conservation Center (TCC) process confiscated tortoises in Quang Nam following a major seizure.

In addition to the hunting and trade surveys, the Da Nang team will conduct urban surveys in five cities and establish a network of local volunteers to assist with compliance monitoring of local business establishments.

ENV plans to open a wildlife crime unit satellite office in Ho Chi Minh in 2010, establishing an active presence in the north, south, and central regions of Vietnam from which to enhance efforts to combat illegal trade of wildlife throughout Vietnam.



New criminal code to increase punishment & outlaw possession of protected species

A new law due to take effect January 1, 2010 will substantially increase penalties for violations involving protected wildlife. Violators face maximum fines of 500 million VND (about \$27,000) and imprisonment of up to seven years. More importantly, the new criminal code closes a loophole in the law, making possession of a fully protected species a criminal offense and subject to punishment.

The new law is expected to strengthen the hand of law enforcement agencies, particularly in cases involving possession of protected species such as tigers and bears.

Wildlife Crime Bulletin Released

ENV has released its second issue of the Wildlife Crime Bulletin in 2009 which provides critical information on wildlife trade policy and enforcement issues to leaders within the National Assembly, relevant ministries, and provincial governments, as well as frontline law enforcement agencies tasked with wildlife protection. Link to English version of the latest Crime Bulletin: http://envietnam.org/library/Wildlife%20Trade%20Bulletin/WLC_Bulletin_PDF_10Nov2009_resize.pdf



Wildlife Crime Statistics

The Wildlife Crime Unit had 50 new cases this month. As of the last day of November, a total of 616 cases were documented in 2009, bringing the total to 2155 for the number of cases since the WCU became operational in January 2005.

Period	Trade Operations	Smuggling	Selling	Advertising	Possession display	Other	Total
November 2009	3	7	23	4	12	1	50
Total 2009	26	105	212	101	145	27	616
Total since January 2005	120	452	871	175	497	101	2155



Wanted

We are a small Vietnamese organization with only about 25 staff throughout Vietnam that are working very hard to protect our wildlife.

As part of our efforts to build a stronger base of support both inside and outside of Vietnam, we are working to develop our membership.

If you think that you would like to support ENV or can contribute your time or expertise, please consider becoming a member. Visit our [membership page](#) or contact Ms. Binh at Membership.env@fpt.vn

Thanks for your consideration.
Ms. Nguyen Phuong Dung




Stop Wildlife Crime!

If you observe wildlife being kept, sold, transported, traded, consumed, or advertised, contact your local authorities or call the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline

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



Boo partnership with ENV aims to protect wildlife

ENV has teamed up with Hanoi fashion retailers, Boo Skate Shops and the London Center for Fashion Studies to help protect Vietnam's wildlife. During the spring of 2009, student designers were encouraged to come up with wildlife protection-themed designs on t-shirts, the best of which were produced and made available to the public through [Boo Skate Shops](http://www.booskateshop.com). Following a summer of sales, the Boo-ENV partnership succeeded in raising a total of 65 million VND (about \$3,600). The funds will be contributed to ENV's efforts to protect endangered wildlife and promote public awareness. Check out the cool designs: <http://www.booskateshop.com/env.html>



ENV co-directors Nguyen Thi Phuong Dung (left) and Dang Minh Ha (far right) receive funds from Boo Skate Shops that will be used to support *Green Forest*, a nature magazine distributed to students at schools bordering more than 20 parks and nature reserves throughout the country.

This month's Links

Link to TRAFFIC SEA Regional Wildlife Trade Species ID resource (English)
<http://www.traffic.org/home/2009/11/18/enforcement-officers-put-in-the-picture.html>

Join ENV's Facebook and keep in touch with ENV and our efforts to protect nature and the environment!
 Link: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?grid=47162312016>

International Tiger Coalition film on tiger trade (Vietnamese):
<http://www.thiennhien.org/index.php?page=documentView&parent=172&id=113>

Boo Skate Shop T-shirt designs: <http://www.booskateshop.com/env.html>



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