



Mayor of the City of Bern joins ENV in honoring National Assembly member for activism in efforts to protect bears

Hanoi, April 20, 2010 - The Swiss Embassy in Vietnam in cooperation with Education for Nature-Vietnam (ENV) organized an Award Presentation Ceremony for Mr. Nguyen Dinh Xuan, a member of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam at the Press Club in Hanoi. The award was given by the Mayor of the City of Bern to honor Mr. Xuan's outstanding contributions to the protection of Vietnam's bears.

The National Assembly member Mr. Nguyen Dinh Xuan, serving Director of the Lo Go Xa Mat National Park in Tay Ninh Province, and a member of the National Assembly Committee on Environment, Science and Technology, has significantly contributed to nature and environment preservation, in particular the protection of bears and other endangered wild animals. Mr. Xuan is actively involved in efforts to address illegal bear tourism in Ha Long City, Quang Ninh province. In May 2009, he accompanied the Environmental Police and ENV officers on an inspection of some of the bear farms in Ha Long City in order to assess this situation. Following the inspection, he requested that the relevant authorities in Vietnam investigate and deal with violations, which helped lead to the successful raid by Quang Ninh Environmental Police on a bear farm in Ha Long in October 2009 ([Link](#)). In addition, Mr. Xuan has made considerable efforts in raising awareness amongst Korean tourists about Vietnamese laws regarding the protection of bears by

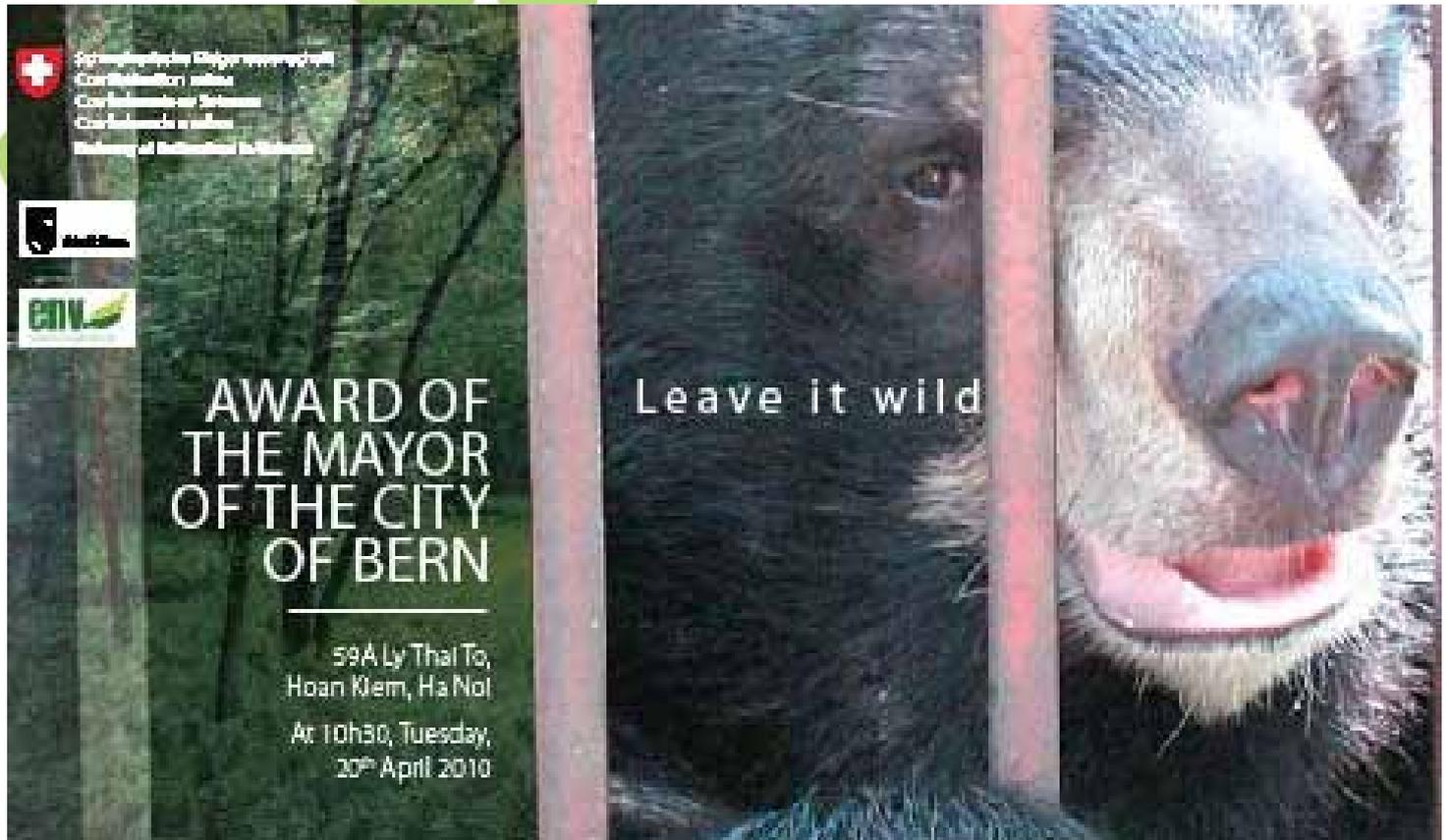


H.E. Mr. Alexander Tschaepaet, Mayor of the City of Bern, Switzerland gives National Assembly member Mr. Nguyen Dinh Xuan an award for his efforts to protect Vietnam's bears. More than 50 journalists, representatives from embassies, and NGOs were present for the ceremony.

fostering cooperation between the Korean Government, the Korean Embassy, CITES and the Environment Ministry. He is also continually raising the matter of illegal bear tourism and other endangered wildlife issues with the mass media, fellow National Assembly members and decision-makers and requesting their support to resolve the issues.

The City of Bern has a long history with bears. It not only carries the bear on its flag, features a bear on its coat of arms and derives its name from the animal, but is known internationally for its bear park in the city's outskirts. Through ENV's introduction, Mr. Xuan's outstanding contributions and dedication to Vietnam's bears were

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brought to the Mayor's attention. Mayor Tschaepaet wanted to recognize Mr. Xuan's dedication with an award in the hope that the work to protect Vietnam's bears will receive more public attention and provide further momentum to the cause.

"We highly appreciate Mr. Xuan's efforts and contributions to bear protection in particular, and wildlife conservation in general," said Mrs. Nguyen Thi Van Anh, ENV's Wildlife Trade Program Coordinator.

"Although illegal bear tourism in Quang Ninh hasn't yet been resolved, Mr. Xuan's efforts resulted in positive changes of public attitudes toward the issues and activities of enforcement authorities. Through this Award Ceremony, we hope for further contributions from law enforcement agencies and decision-makers to wildlife and nature conservation in the years to come."

ENV works hard to achieve an end to crimes against bears by carrying out many activities relating to bear protection, such as investigations and surveys of bear farms and tracking cases involving bears or bear products. ENV also works with government and authorities to build support amongst key government decision-makers and leaders to improve policy and legislation protecting Vietnam's bears and ensure current laws are enforced. Regular campaigns are conducted with the aim of raising public awareness about Vietnam's bears and reducing the consumption and use of bear bile and bear products.

Recent advertising campaigns include billboards on major highways, bus and magazine advertisements and Public Service Announcements (PSA) on television and radio.

According to government figures, there are about 4,000 bears in captivity in Vietnam. All but a few of these captive bears were illegally captured from the wild. The demand for bear bile poses a major threat to Vietnam's bears. Bears are hunted in the wild and sold live to commercial farms, where they are exploited for their bile to meet consumer demand. Another development in the illegal bear bile industry is bear tourism in Quang Ninh and other provinces. During visits, tourists witness bile being extracted, taste bear bile wine, and purchase bear bile products. These are all illegal activities under Vietnam's laws. Bears in Vietnam are also hunted for their meat and body parts, kept as pets, or displayed at business establishments to attract customers.

ENV's efforts to end bear farming and trade are conducted in close partnership with the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) and the Animals Asia Foundation (AAF). WSPA is working closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to strengthen monitoring of bear farms and prevent new bears from ending up on farms. AAF maintains a sanctuary for rescued bears at Tam Dao National Park and works closely with ENV on efforts to confiscate illegal bears and advocacy activities.

Raising Awareness and Inspiring Public Action

It seems that home is on the road for the ENV Mobile Awareness Team

ENV's Mobile Wildlife Awareness team has been running on full steam since March, hosting events from north to south in Ha Long City in Quang Ninh, Hai Phong, Hanoi, Quang Tri, Hue, Da Nang, and Ho Chi Minh City.

ENV's mobile bear campaign and wildlife trade exhibits have been carried out in busy markets, at universities, and major shopping centers, while seminars on the wildlife trade have focused on universities in Hai Phong and Ha Long in northern Vietnam. The team has also carried out eight recruitment and wildlife crime survey training meetings for ENV's National Wildlife Volunteer Network in cities in both the north and central regions.

"It's been a busy time for us running awareness activities all around the country, says Ms. Duong Thi Phuong, Mobile Team-leader. "One of the coming challenges will be to train the local teams in central and southern Vietnam to carry on with some of our regular public events so we can reduce our traveling back and forth between the north and south. Phuong says that this year's drive on strengthening the wildlife volunteer network means that she and her team will be holding more and more recruitment meetings and training in the coming months as local clubs become established, leaving less time for rest between missions.

Next month, the mobile team will return to Ho Chi Minh City to conduct further campaigns and establish an ENV satellite office from which local campaign activities, volunteer support, and compliance monitoring will be coordinated.

New TV PSA says "Bear bile is not a magic medicine"

A new public service announcement (PSA) produced by ENV began airing in late March warning consumers that bear bile is not a magic medicine. The PSA features a customer inquiring about bear bile in a traditional medicine shop. The doctor suggests that the customer seek alternatives that are safer and more effective.

View our new PSA: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p6KUD2lfVBU>

ENV has produced five public service announcements over the past few years aimed at encouraging the public not to buy or consumer bear bile. ENV's PSA's air on national television and are also distributed to provincial TV stations and aired locally.



A recruitment meeting in Quang Ninh bolstered the ranks of ENV's volunteers there. Volunteers help with monitoring of business establishments to ensure compliance with wildlife protection laws



A student in Da Lat poses a question during a university wildlife trade seminar held there. ENV has carried out similar wildlife trade seminars for students at 37 universities around the country since 2007



Volunteer recruitment focus on quality over quantity

ENV's mobile wildlife awareness team has conducted recruitment campaigns for the ENV National Wildlife Protection Volunteer Network in six major cities to date in 2010. The team has hosted 13 recruitment meetings and signed up more than 450 new recruits, bringing the total number of volunteers to 2472 as of the end of April. Although the numbers continue to grow, only about 20% of the volunteers that sign up are active in reporting new crimes and monitoring business establishments. A total of 1916 volunteers have received training on survey and monitoring methods since the program started in 2009. Active volunteers are present in 26 provinces, and recruitment drives in 2010 will focus on areas where additional monitoring is needed.



Volunteer coordinator Nguyen Hien Linh (center) shows new recruits in Hanoi how to complete monitoring report forms during a May recruitment and training session.

In order to help encourage activeness amongst volunteers, in 2009 an incentive system was put into place which rates volunteers at different levels based on their activeness. More active volunteers have additional support from ENV such as identification resources or posters and stickers to hand out to friends. ENV is also working to establish clubs throughout major cities in Vietnam and has devised a program to help establish Wildlife Protection Clubs in Ho Chi Minh City, Hue, and Da Nang, with other cities planned. The clubs are locally run and receive support in the way of training, resources, and assistance based on the activeness of their members. Local clubs will also carry out awareness activities in their respective jurisdictions following training by ENV educators. ENV also meets regularly with the clubs and provides monthly lists to club leaders of business establishments requiring compliance monitoring.

What is compliance monitoring?

Compliance monitoring is a vital part of ENV's success in stamping out wildlife crime. After a violation has been reported to the ENV Wildlife Crime Unit, the case officer responsible for the region will initiate a response which varies between contacting the business owner and securing voluntary compliance with the law to sending warning letters, coordinating a law enforcement response, or taking the issue up much higher in the provincial government. After a response is complete, it is necessary to check the business establishment several more times to ensure that the owner does not continue to violate the law. Informants and volunteers are essential in conducting follow up "compliance" monitoring to determine if the owner is in compliance with the law or if additional action is necessary.

New film to help recruit volunteers for national network

A new film produced by ENV is being used to help recruit volunteers for ENV's National Wildlife Protection Volunteer Network. The film was produced by ENV to use during recruitment meetings, featuring "A day in the life of the ENV Wildlife Crime Unit" to help potential recruits understand how their service links to ENV's efforts to stamp out wildlife crime. Also featured are testimonials from active volunteers that have demonstrated through their actions that volunteers can "make a difference."

The film was completed in April and was field tested in May during a series of volunteer recruitment meetings.

LINK to film:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v3V_EY10xko

Electronic tortoise and freshwater turtle training workshop

ENV has released two new important resources intended to support law enforcement agencies in their efforts to combat illegal hunting and trade of tortoise and freshwater turtles.

A short film produced by ENV on the Asian turtle crisis provides forest rangers and park managers with an introduction to turtles and an overview of the threats they face, as well as some basic information on dealing with confiscations.

In addition to the film, ENV has also produced a new electronic identification guide to tortoises and freshwater turtles of Vietnam which includes photos and identification indicators for all 25 native species in Vietnam as well as other important information such as “alerts” prescribing recommended actions for the most critically endangered species if observed or confiscated from the trade.

The resources were intended to expedite delivery of tortoise and freshwater turtle training to forest rangers and police that has been underway for more than 10 years throughout Vietnam, but is limited in reaching only small numbers of frontline officers at great expense.

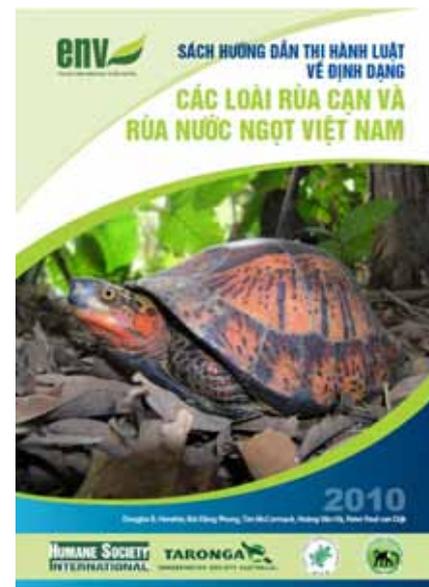
Although ENV recognizes that traditional forms of training allow interaction and higher quality results, such training carried out by ENV's partner **Asian Turtle Program** will focus only on critical areas, while the electronic resources can be copied and loaded onto computers by forest rangers with ease, down to the protected area and district level.

A total of 294 film and electronic ID book packages were sent out to forest rangers, parks and protected areas and police units throughout Vietnam.

The film and identification book were produced in cooperation with Cuc Phuong National Park and the Asian Turtle Program of the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

Turtle Identification book [Link](#)

Vietnam Turtle Crisis Part 1 [Link](#), Vietnam Turtle Crisis Part 2 [Link](#)



New Vietnam turtle crisis fact sheet

In conjunction with the opening of the Chelonian Visitor Interpretation Center at Cuc Phuong National Park in March, ENV has released a new fact sheet on tortoise and freshwater turtles of Vietnam aimed at raising awareness about the crisis facing Vietnam's turtles as a result of hunting and trade.

Turtle Fact sheet: [Link](#)

Turtle facts

Vietnam is considered one of the most important hotspots for turtle diversity in Asia with 25 native species of tortoise and freshwater turtles, including five soft-shell species and 20 other hard-shell turtle species. Vietnam also is home to at least two endemic species of turtles that are found nowhere else in the world, as well as the legendary Hoan Kiem turtle, *Rafetus swinhoei*, one of the most famous and rarest turtles in the world.

All of Vietnam's turtles are threatened by hunting and trade to meet the insatiable demand mainly from consumers in China, where turtles are consumed in special dishes or used to make traditional medicine. Evidence suggests that wild populations of most turtle species in Vietnam have declined significantly over the past 15 years leaving fragmented and degraded populations surviving in the wild.

ENV's Wildlife Crime Unit has documented 434 cases involving illegal hunting, smuggling, or trade of tortoises and freshwater turtles since 2005. These figures include 163 smuggling cases accounting for more than an estimated 25 tons of turtles or up to 30,000 individuals.

Given that only a small fraction of trade is believed to be apprehended, this would suggest that the quantity of turtles being smuggled to China is significantly higher.



New Tiger Task Force will enhance information sharing amongst law enforcement agencies in Vietnam

On Wednesday May 27, ENV hosted an interagency meeting for law enforcement agencies from across Vietnam to discuss the results of a 12-month investigation into the trade of tigers. The draft report maps out the mechanics of the tiger trade in Vietnam, highlighting the role of suspected major figures in criminal networks potentially responsible for much of the illegal trade coming into Vietnam.

Twenty-two representatives from Environmental Police, anti-smuggling forces, Customs, and wildlife protection authorities from critical "tiger trade" provinces discussed the investigation's findings and shared information with other agencies about their knowledge of the illegal tiger trade within their own jurisdictions during the closed meeting. The meeting was facilitated by Mr. Nguyen Dinh Xuan, an active supporter of wildlife conservation and member of the National Assembly.



National Assembly Member Nguyen Dinh Xuan and Nguyen Thi Van Anh chair ENV's tiger task force meeting in May for law enforcement representatives from key provinces and central agencies.

Following discussions with key law enforcement agencies, ENV agreed to create an "informal" task force consisting of all of the meeting's members and host meetings every three to six months to bring the group together. Members were further urged to contact each other directly to share intelligence and cooperate on investigations while ENV will continue to circulate information from its ongoing investigation to the group.

ENV plans to continue its investigation in cooperation with key agencies through 2010, while working to encourage law enforcement agencies to focus their efforts on investigating and prosecuting key figures in the illegal trade, as well as cooperating with neighboring countries to close down international links responsible for supplying most of the tigers coming into Vietnam.



ENV released a public summary report on the findings of a 12-month investigation during a press conference in March. In May, a classified and more detailed version of the report was released to law enforcement agencies and some key government representatives

ENV has been actively working since 2008 to protect tigers through an integrated strategy that involves:

- Investigation of tiger farming and trade in partnership with law enforcement agencies aimed at identifying key figures and criminal networks behind the tiger trade, facilitating cooperation between law enforcement agencies, and encouraging law enforcement to actively pursue investigations and outcomes aimed at eliminating tiger trade.
- Working with key members in the National Assembly and relevant ministries to strengthen policy and legal protection for tigers, and support effective enforcement measures to deter tiger crimes.
- Promoting awareness amongst the public through TV, radio, and awareness activities to reduce consumption of tiger products, and encourage public action in helping protect tigers.



Da Nang team launches first comprehensive urban survey

The ENV Wildlife Crime Unit based in Da Nang carried out the first of five major urban wildlife trade surveys focusing on the district of Hai Chau in Da Nang City. Unlike routine monitoring and volunteer surveys, the Da Nang team is conducting more comprehensive surveys of wildlife consumer crimes as an experimental first step of a project aimed at reducing trade of wildlife in the central region of Vietnam. The team is also carrying out hunting and trade surveys in five protected areas in central Vietnam.

Following the initial survey work, ENV will carry out a range of local awareness activities along with coordinating increased cooperation with local law enforcement and a series of discussions with provincial decision-makers and protected area stakeholders aimed at generating political willingness to address the problem of hunting and trade in their respective jurisdictions.

A total of 109 businesses were inspected over a seven day period resulting in violations documented in 62 establishments (56%). Businesses included all restaurants, traditional medicine shops, cafes, bars, and hotels within the survey area. A total of 40% of the violations involved advertising wildlife on the menu at restaurants and cafes. Wildlife wine crimes accounted for 14% of the violations. Live animals were observed in only two cases, and wildlife meat, mainly wild pig, was observed at 13 establishments (9%).

The most notable priority crime was a single wine shop selling a range of wines containing protected species

including tiger, bear paw, langur, pangolin, serow, and leopard cat wine. The team also collected intelligence about a tiger and wildlife bone glue-making operation in the city.

The Da Nang team has completed hunting and trade surveys at Bach Ma National Park (field testing of survey methods only), Song Thanh Nature Reserve, Chu Mom Ray National Park, and Phong Dien Nature Reserve. In June, the team will survey Dak Rong Nature Reserve and Kon Ka Kinh National Park in July. Additional urban surveys will be carried out at other major cities in central Vietnam starting in July.

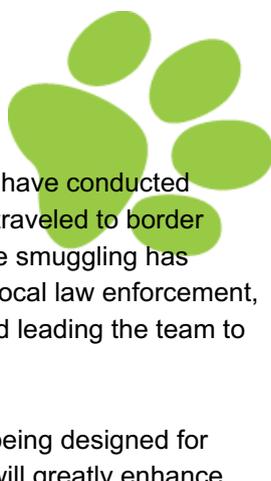


ENV's central Vietnam Wildlife Crime Unit interviewing hunters local residents in communities bordering Phong Dien Nature Reserve about hunting and wildlife trade

In the shadows of criminal enterprise

As a body is pulled from the local canal, local villagers tell our team that it is not an accidental drowning but a mafia-related murder. Our team is in the commune to conduct some preliminary research about a man residing there who is possibly a key figure in the wildlife trade network. Locals say that the man, who is both rich and influential, is not involved in smuggling wildlife, but may be a major connection with the drug trade from Laos. Other sources say that he made his money dealing in wildlife. As our attention is drawn again to the body being fished from the canal, our team understandably backs off. They will return in the coming weeks to meet with police with the hope of determining if the man in question is in fact linked to a trans-border wildlife trade network as suspected.

Over the past few months, ENV's field investigators and their government counterparts continue to work within the shadows of the illegal wildlife trade, pursuing leads and steadily filling gaps in information that are slowly exposing a picture of major criminal networks behind the illegal trade of tigers, bears, ivory and other wildlife in Vietnam.



Since March, investigators have conducted dozens of field interviews, traveled to border outposts where much of the smuggling has occurred and worked with local law enforcement, with each question resolved leading the team to others.

A new database currently being designed for ENV's Wildlife Crime Unit will greatly enhance the ability of ENV investigators and our counterparts to analyze information from field investigations and the case files of the Wildlife Crime Unit.

ENV's Wildlife Crime Unit and our field investigations are intended to assist our partners in law enforcement and encourage interest and focus in the pursuit of key figures and their criminal enterprises that are behind the illegal trade of wildlife.



Although smuggling and trade of tigers may be widespread, only a small number of people are suspected of controlling much of the trade into Vietnam

Note: ENV does not publicize the findings or contents of work with law enforcement partners due to the sensitive nature of the information and the need to not compromise ongoing investigations or alert key suspects that they are the subject of attention.

Gibbon cases review 2010

Between January 1, 2005 and April 30, 2010, the ENV Wildlife Crime Unit documented a total of 40 cases involving a total of 76 gibbons. All but three of the 40 cases were possession cases involving gibbons discovered being illegally kept in captivity. The three exceptions involved possession cases whereby the owner had permits issued by local authorities allowing him/her to keep the animals.



Thirty-two of the cases were confined to southern provinces compared to five cases in central Vietnam and three cases in the north. Ten cases involving 22 gibbons were reported in Ho Chi Minh City.

Examining the results of these cases, a total of 39 gibbons were confiscated by authorities or voluntarily transferred to rescue centers. In 13 cases (18 gibbons), the gibbons disappeared or were reported dead under suspicious circumstances before the animals could be confiscated. Enforcement is pending in seven cases (10 gibbons). A total of 28 of the 76 cases involving gibbons were reported to the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline resulting in eight successful confiscations (18 gibbons).

Major crime highlights

Cat Loc rhino dead

On April 29, forest rangers discovered the remains in Cat Loc forest of what may be one of the last rhinos in Vietnam. Researchers from WWF inspecting the skeletal remains found a bullet lodged in the bone of one of the rhino's legs, and noted that the horn, valued in traditional medicine, had been cut off.

Despite conflicting reports that the animal might have died of old age, experts from WWF highly suspect that the rhino was shot and killed for its horn. Although official estimates are that 3-5 rhinos remain in the area, experts with knowledge of the area privately fear that the dead rhino might have been the very last.

News of the death was a devastating blow to the conservation of wildlife in Vietnam where many of the country's most critically endangered species balance on the brink of extinction. "Millions of dollars have been invested by conservation organizations to protect the Cat Loc-Cat Tien rhinos", says Nguyen Thi Van Anh of ENV. "This suggests that the problem with protecting endangered wildlife in Vietnam has less to do with funding than it has to do with the attitude and will of those tasked with protecting species, including the conservation organizations to whom we entrust to succeed."

Multiple ivory seizures

In a little over a month, there have been three ivory seizures in Hai Phong Port. On April 29, Customs discovered more than two tons of ivory concealed under seaweed in two containers that were off-loaded from a ship originating in Kenya. The ivory was likely headed overland to China. On May 14, nine bags of ivory tusks weighing just over half a ton were discovered in a container from a ship reportedly originating in Malaysia. A third shipment discovered on May 26 totaled more than a ton and was reportedly hidden under snail shells. Meanwhile in Thai Binh province, 85kg of ivory was seized by police from a vehicle. ENV suspects that this smaller shipment originated in Thailand and was smuggled through Laos into Vietnam using the same network that brings bears and tigers into the country.

Bear season brings new bears to Vietnam

The spring has brought another round of bear cubs into trade in Vietnam with three seizures totaling six cubs since April 1st. Two cubs were seized April 14 in Nghe An province along with 25 bear paws and 130kg of turtles from a vehicle with a Laos registration number. Two more cubs were voluntarily turned in by a hunter in Lai Chau on May 7 after reportedly being "found" in the forest. On May 19 in Dien Bien province, police stopped a taxi carrying two cubs and other wildlife. All of the bears have been transferred to the Animals Asia rescue center at Tam Dao or are currently pending transfer.

Cubs generally are smuggled across the border into Vietnam from Laos during the spring season when they are collected from the wild. ENV suspects all three cases involved bears smuggled into Vietnam from Laos.

Three adult bears were also confiscated in Quang Ninh province April 3 as they were being transported to the Chinese border. This incident marked the second known case where live bears were confiscated while on route to the Chinese border.



Wildlife Crime Statistics

As of the end of the month, a total of 305 cases have been documented in 2010, bringing the total to 2522 cases documented since the WCU became operational in January 2005.

Period	Trade operations	Smuggling	Selling	Advertising	Possession	Other	Total *
April 2010	3	6	27	3	17	0	56
May 2010	1	15	9	5	16	3	49
Total 2010	26	43	143	18	68	4	302

* These statistics represent only a small fraction of the active illegal wildlife trade in Vietnam, and only account for those cases that are reported to ENV.



This month's links

Free subscription to weekly bulletin

If you have internet access and wish to be kept up to date with news relating to nature and the environment, subscribe to the FREE ENV weekly Nature and Environment News Bulletin for a recap on the top nature and environment stories appearing in more than 25 major newspapers and publications.

ENV has been producing Nature and the Environment in the News bulletin weekly since 2003. If you wish to receive it, please email us: env@fpt.vn

Resources to support awareness-raising activities available

ENV may be able to provide environment-focused educational resources to support your program. ENV has limited copies of educational resources available including posters, wildlife games for children, and Green Forest nature magazine. If you or your organization is conducting awareness activities in Vietnam, contact us and let us see if we can help you.

View some of our resources:

<http://envietnam.org/library/resources-publications.html>



Minh Vuong on stage

Link to news segment on the Green Space event with celebrity Minh Vuong

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qmFhzZ_EKAM&feature=related



VTV News segments (Vietnamese language)

Chelonian Visitor Interpretation Center opening
[Link](#)

Special program on tigers and trade in Vietnam
[Link](#)

Follow up news segment on Ha Long Bear bile business: Part 1: [Link](#) Part 2: [Link](#)
Protection of the Dong Mo giant soft-shell turtle
[Link](#)

Tiger investigation summary

A summary of a 12-month investigation of tiger farming and trade in Vietnam

[http://envietnam.org/library/Resource%20and%20Publication/Tiger%20summary%20\(ENfinal;%202013%20March%202010\).pdf](http://envietnam.org/library/Resource%20and%20Publication/Tiger%20summary%20(ENfinal;%202013%20March%202010).pdf)

Gallery



The bride and groom take a moment from their "special day" to sign pledges not to consume bear bile



ENV volunteer Sophia at this year's UNIS fair. Sophia is off to the UK to study. Thanks Sophia for all your help with the membership department



Drive-up pledges accepted! A woman pulls up on her motorbike to sign a pledge not to use bear bile. Since 2008, ENV has collected more than 55,000 signed pledges from residents throughout the country.



Above: A cartoon in the new Cuc Phuong Visitor Turtle Interpretation Center urges visitor to act now to protect turtles. A father sits with his son near Hoan Kiem Lake in downtown Hanoi sometime in the future and shows him a book about turtles, a strange group of animals that once lived on earth but became extinct due to the negligent and primitive behavior of mankind at the time.



Left: A new billboard along the highway to Noi Bai International Airport warns the public that it is illegal to trade wildlife and violators are subject to punishment under the law. The billboard was developed by TRAFFIC in partnership with the Freeland Foundation.



Unsung hero

At the end of May, Ms. Nguyen Thi Van Anh, ENV's Wildlife Trade and Policy Program Manager, left ENV and started a new position in the Biodiversity Conservation Agency of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MONRE). Van Anh worked for ENV for six years and was instrumental in establishing the Wildlife Crime Unit and national hotline. Over the past year, Van Anh took on new responsibilities running ENV's policy unit, also known as the "Capitol Group", and during that time she passionately advanced the cause of conservation amongst the higher ranks of government, fighting to put an end to the bear bile industry in Vietnam, trying to keep tigers out of commercial farms, and closing loopholes in the law that have thus far allowed the bad guys to do as they please.



Van Anh embodies the future of Vietnam in her passion to protect nature and work tirelessly to bring change that will transform the way government thinks and acts on behalf of protecting nature.

Her departure to MONRE, while difficult to swallow for those that continue the struggle at ENV, is most likely a great development for nature.

Van Anh will continue her role as a member of the ENV management board, providing advice and setting ENV's future direction. All of us at ENV wish her the best of luck in her new position, and will continue to support her in any way we can.

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ENV English Website: www.envvietnam.org
Wildlife Crime Gallery: www.savingvietnamswildlife.org

FacebookEnglish:
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?grid=47162312016>



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**