



Recruitment drive bolsters ranks of volunteers protecting wildlife

During the month of January, ENV hosted five separate recruitment meetings in Hanoi to encourage students and young professionals to join ENV's national Wildlife Volunteer Network and 'get involved' in helping stop the illegal consumption and trade of wildlife.

The Hanoi recruitment meetings followed a series of similar meetings piloted in Ho Chi Minh City in 2009 aimed at recruiting active members. Participants were given an introduction about the wildlife trade in Vietnam and discussed the important role of volunteers reporting crimes and ensuring that businesses remain in compliance with wildlife protection laws. Each group then participated in training on survey methods and reporting, before conducting a practice survey in Hanoi...

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Rain or shine, Wildlife Protection Volunteers prepare to conduct surveys of business establishments in Hanoi

How the volunteers network works

The volunteer force works in close cooperation with ENV's Wildlife Crime Unit. After the WCU receives information about a crime, the crime unit initiates a response, the type of which is determined based on the nature of the crime reported. Responses range from coordinating with law enforcement agencies to sending warning letters or speaking directly to the violator in cases where minor crimes are reported.

Volunteers are utilized to evaluate the effectiveness of the response. For example, if the owner agreed to remove an advertisement posted in front of their shop, was it removed as promised? Volunteers also verify responses by local authorities to make sure that business owners remain in compliance with the law after the authorities have taken action.

Case officers in the WCU task volunteers with specific monitoring missions in their operational area. Volunteers then report back findings to the case officer, resulting in further action if needed. In most circumstances, a case officer will not close a case until compliance can be confirmed through a series of monitoring inspections.

Volunteers in the network serve as the eyes and ears of the WCU in their efforts to combat wildlife crime.

Volunteer testimonial: "One simple but very important way I can contribute to wildlife protection is to report new crimes, serving as 'the eyes of wildlife protection'. I'm very happy to be doing something and making an effort to preserve the future of Vietnam's wildlife."

(Nguyen Tuan Dat - Class K51KHMT, Environmental Faculty, Ha Noi University of Science, Vietnam National University)

ENV's Wildlife Volunteer Network was established in 2008. As of the end of January, there were 1,937 registered members active in 22 provinces. In January, volunteers reported four new crimes and monitored 56 business establishments in 11 provinces.

The Hanoi recruitment meetings resulted in 97 new volunteers signing up to join the network. Although ENV has been recruiting volunteers for the network since early 2008, the new methods are intended to enlist more active members. The new recruitment program is soon to be supported by a new volunteer recruitment film that will be put into use by the end of March, as well as an incentive program designed to encourage active volunteers.

Volunteers can sign up at public events hosted by ENV online or through recruitment meetings.



Raising Awareness and Inspiring Public Action

Getting businesses to comply with the law

On Saturday January 30, staff joined a unique group of active volunteers and a few representatives from the conservation community in conducting compliance monitoring of more than 120 business establishments in Hanoi. Teams spread out across Hanoi to check establishments where crimes had previously been reported over the past two years and determine whether businesses continued to violate the law, or had achieved compliance as required under the ENV Crime Unit's enforcement campaign requirements before a case can be closed. Of 122 establishments monitored, crimes were reported at 41 (34%) sites and one new location.

“Restaurants and business establishments represent a considerable portion of the cases we get”, says Nguyen Thi Phuong Thao, supervisor of the Wildlife Crime Unit. “Violations range from live animals to wildlife wines and menus or signboards advertising wildlife”. Thao notes that the crime unit has documented 1118 cases involving selling or advertising wildlife since 2005 or 50% of all cases handled by the WCU.



ENV's common trade species ID sheet is part of the packet of materials supplied to active Wildlife Protection Volunteers



In early February, ENV hosted bear exhibits at Hanoi's Ha Dong Market and Foreign Trade University. During the events, each lasting two days, 1663 pledges not to use bear bile were collected

In addition to the hundreds of animals and animal products confiscated, menus removed, and signboards taken down, Thao notes amongst the unit's successes is the closure wildlife markets like Dong Xuan and Mo Markets in Hanoi. Thao notes that a new campaign by WWF focuses on getting restaurants in Hanoi to agree not to sell wildlife. “This is an excellent initiative that should further strengthen the success of efforts already underway in Hanoi. We are hopeful that it can be expanded to other major cities where ENV is working too. We can use all the help we can get from other organizations that share our interest in actively taking measures to stop the illegal wildlife trade.

Students use their drawing skills to play for nature

A homegrown version of “Wildlife Pictionary” was produced by ENV in 2009 for use as an activity in various education and awareness programs. Similar to the popular board game produced by Hasbro, players compete in teams to move their piece to the finish by drawing cards with wildlife trade theme words on the back, and then attempting to get other team members to guess the word before the other team. The team that guesses the word correctly rolls the dice and moves forward.

The game has proven to be immensely popular amongst some of ENV's younger audiences, and although they are unlikely to admit it, older audiences too.



Participants at a volunteer recruitment meeting play a wildlife version of the game, Pictionary that was developed by ENV

Voice of Vietnam 51: Bear bile is not a magic medicine

This month's radio show featured Dr. Pham Due, director of the Vietnam Poison Center, discussing the potentially harmful effects of using bear bile. Dr. Due urged listeners to seek safer alternatives adding that “bear bile is not a magical medicine and could be dangerous to your health.”

LINK to show recording: <http://thiennhien.org/index.php?page=documentView&id=135>



Van Anh urged the public to help protect tigers in an interview for VTV2 welcoming the new “Year of the Tiger”. Van Anh highlighted some results from a 10 month investigation on tiger trade



In January, ENV carried out a second awareness seminar focused on protecting the environment with students from KOTO



Combating Wildlife Crime

Chu Mom Ray survey

The Da Nang-based team of the Wildlife Crime Unit carried out its second major protected area hunting and trade survey focused on Chu Mom Ray in Kon Tum province, lying along the southwestern border of the province with Cambodia. Over the ten-day survey period, the team interviewed 60 subjects ranging from hunters to knowledgeable local residents and wildlife traders.

Of interest, the team noted that local hunters report seeing tracks and evidence of tigers still in the national park, but that surviving numbers are estimated to be few at best. One hunter noted that the last two tigers hunted in the park were shot in 2005 by a border guard and sold to one of the traders interviewed by the team. Also hunted are bears, pangolins, and douc langurs, amongst many more common species such as wild pig.

The survey at Chu Mom Ray is part of a series of hunting and trade surveys being carried out in central Vietnam that will help ENV focus on enforcement, awareness, and advocacy activities on critical aspects of the trade. Consumer trade surveys are also planned for five major urban centers in central Vietnam.



Da Nang crime unit team leader Hoang Van Chuong during interviews of hunters and traders in communities bordering Chu Mom Ray National Park

Poor bear cub

Summary: This poem was sent to Green Forest from a Grade 6 student in Tam Dao National Park's buffer zone.

Oh, the little bear cub
Why does he appear like this?
In my mind
He must have a good life
With all his friends
Living happily in the jungle

Who knows that
Our poor bear cubs
Now live in iron cages
Far from the forest?
Dreaming of a time they can return
To their dream lives...
Poor bear cub
Who has to witness injustices
Endure a boring life
With thousands of sorrows

Hey, iron cage
Why can't you open
So the bear can go back
Enjoy life at home?
He has to suffer
A lot of misery and cruelty
From bad guys.
Bears are used for bile
And as food
But that is not all.
A bear has to suffer a silent pain
When his beautiful fur
Is changed into a coat
And his powerful paws
Are kept in large wine jars

Why are humans so cruel?
So, so cruel!
Shall we make a commitment
To protect bears, together?



The Wildlife Crime Unit logged a total of 79 new cases in January, bringing the total to 2281 cases documented since the WCU became operational in January 2005.



One of two otters that were advertised for sale on a website shortly before police raided the resident's home, confiscating both animals

January was a busy month for the crime unit. Top on our list...



- Two otters were confiscated in Ho Chi Minh City after ENV received information about a website offering the animals for sale.
- A red-shanked douc langur being kept by a resident in Hanoi was confiscated by police after a volunteer reported the crime.
- Discussions with business owners and monitoring resulted in six more bear bile advertisements being removed, and dozens of cases closed after monitoring showed that discussions in 2009 had resulted in subject compliance.
- Twelve yellow-headed temple turtles were transferred to a rescue center in Ho Chi Minh City after their owner contacted ENV wishing to surrender the animals.
- Ninety-six macaques confiscated in Phu Yen and initially transferred to a commercial farm were delivered to the Soc Son Rescue Center in Hanoi after intervention by journalists and ENV.
- Six macaques in Lai Chau made it to Hanoi via train with their ENV escort after they were confiscated from a private home. The macaques were transferred by ENV to the Soc Son Rescue Center.
- A marine turtle discovered at a restaurant in Da Nang and reported to ENV was confiscated and released into the sea after authorities inspected the site.
- Three gibbons being kept at a kindergarten in Vung Tau province were voluntarily transferred to the Dao Tien Primate Rescue Center. The case was first reported to ENV in August.

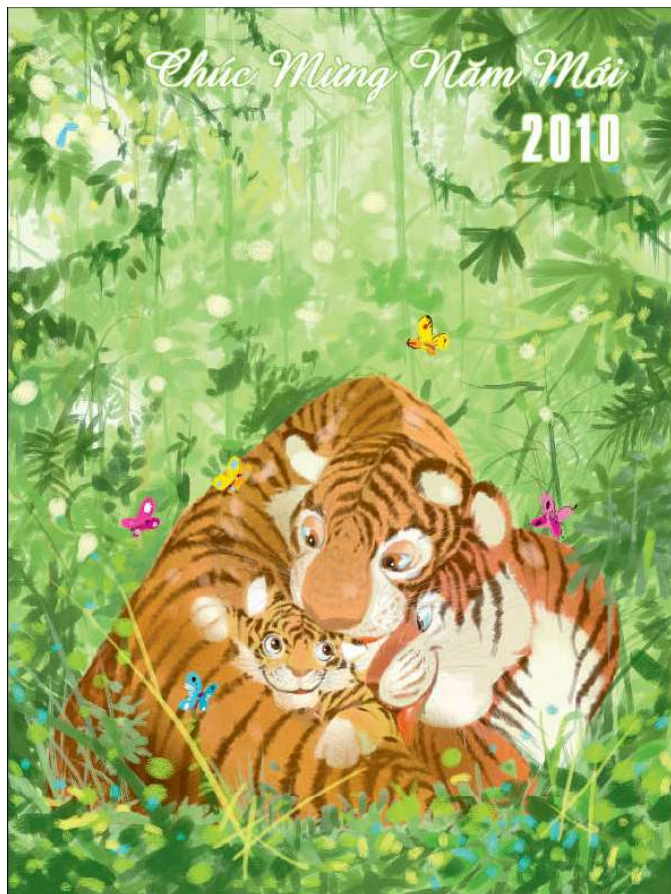
Period	Trade Operations	Smuggling	Selling	Advertising	Possession display	Other	Total
January 2010	4	11	50	2	10	2	79
Total 2010	4	11	50	2	10	2	79
Total since January 2005	123	414	997	163	507	97	2281

Correction: The total figures reported on the last newsletter were incorrect and mistakenly included cases documented prior to 2005. The figures above are based on an accurate count from the Wildlife Crime Database



Home Page

Happy New Year 2010, the Year of the Tiger!



ENV's Dang Minh Ha directs the filming of a new public service announcement that will begin airing in March urging consumers to seek alternatives to wildlife medicine



Members of the Wildlife Volunteer Network pose with ENV's Mobile Wildlife Awareness Team at a recent recruitment meeting



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Congratulation

MẠNG LƯỚI TINH NGUYỄN VIÊN BẢO VỆ ĐỘNG VẬT HOANG DÃ

CHUNG NIÊN

Nguyễn Thành Hưng

Điều tra viên

Điền tra viên

nguyên nhân nạn buôn bán động vật hoang dã trái pháp

Trung tâm Giáo dục Thiên nhiên

ĐANG MINH HA

Congratulation to Mr. Nguyen Thanh Hung, an active member of the Wildlife Volunteer Network in Ho Chi Minh City, for becoming a "Three Star" volunteer within the network. Hung joined the network in June 2009 and has since reported eight new cases and monitored a total of 14 business establishments.

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