



Mobile Wildlife Awareness Team

Mission Ha Tinh August 2007

In August, the Mobile Team traveled to Ha Tinh province where they trained staff from Vu Quang National Park, carried out awareness activities in communities bordering the park, and encouraged students from Ha Tinh University to get involved in helping bring an end to the illegal trade of wildlife in their province.

Wildlife crime presentation at Ha Tinh University

On the afternoon of August 24, ENV's Mobile Team hosted a Wildlife Trade Seminar for students from the Faculty of Natural Science at Ha Tinh University. Around 200 students and faculty members participated in the event, which included an introductory presentation on the wildlife trade, a lively debate between students, a student performance of the ENV production, "Especially for Bears", featuring Ranger Bear, and a showing of the WWF film on the bear bile trade.

ENV also put to use for the first time our new mobile wildlife trade exhibit, which includes information boards to highlight key facts and messages, and graphic photos of wildlife in the trade.

Some highlights from the debate and an attitude survey involving 152 students from Ha Tinh University:

- 97% stated that they were opposed to hunting, trading, keeping, and consuming of wildlife and products made from wildlife. However, 24% of the students said that traditional medicine made from wildlife was important to them.
- 96% felt that trading and keeping wildlife was cruel to the animals.
- "I understand that some people use wildlife to cure diseases. However, there are many plant species that are even better cures, and can replace medicines made from wildlife."
- "Your health is irreplaceable, but wildlife is too."
- "No wildlife products can help you live forever."



New exhibit boards aimed at raising awareness about the wildlife trade were used in Ha Tinh for the first time as part of ENV's national mobile wildlife awareness program



Students sign up for the Wildlife Volunteer Network before joining ENV on surveys of Ha Tinh town.

Spotlight on Mobile Awareness

The ENV Mobile Wildlife Awareness Team was established in 2007. Each month, the Mobile Team carries out activities targeting specific audiences in different parts of the country. Activities range from campaigning in public forums, holding university seminars, training staff from government agencies, to working with protected areas staff and local partners in bordering communities. Mobile Team activities aim to increase awareness about the need to protect Vietnam's bears and other wildlife threatened by illegal trade and consumption.

Mobile Team and Volunteers Survey Ha Tinh City Restaurants

After the seminar at Ha Tinh University, 36 students signed up to become members of ENV's National Volunteer Wildlife Protection Network, and 23 of these students participated in a survey of restaurants in Ha Tinh city.

The survey followed basic training on survey methods, after which the combined ENV-student volunteer team inspected 30 business establishments. The results indicated that 16 of the 30 establishments that were surveyed were in violation of wildlife protection laws. Violations ranged from a bear being kept in captivity at one restaurant (where bear bile products were also advertised and sold), to live monitor lizards, bear paws in wine, and menus offering civets, pangolins, and other wildlife. The mobile team also followed up on information relating to the cross-border pangolin trade through Huong Son district in Ha Tinh, where traders allegedly operate an extensive smuggling network, bringing pangolins in from Laos and transporting them north to Hanoi and the Chinese border.

Training program at Vu Quang National Park

From August 27 to 30, five rangers and three staff from the Science Department at Vu Quang National Park participated in a short training course on environmental communication carried out by the Mobile Team. The training was aimed at providing park staff with an understanding of concepts in environmental communication, as well as key skills to assist them to carry out EE activities in local communities bordering the park. After the training, the participants practiced the Bear and Wildlife Trade lesson plans before actually carrying out activities for more than 220 students in eight separate sessions in a local secondary school. Vu Quang park staff plan to continue teaching the lesson plans in local schools when the new school year begins in September.



Vu Quang National Park staff teach the wildlife trade lesson plan in school following training with ENV

Community-based Awareness

Summer Program at Tam Dao National park

In August, ten sessions of ENV's Tam Dao summer program were carried out for local Youth Union groups. These sessions covered such topics as Protecting Vietnam's Turtles, the Environment Around Us, and the Value of Tam Dao National Park.

Tam Dao Program: A Classroom in the Community

The Tam Dao Awareness Program serves the dual purpose of raising awareness amongst communities bordering the park about the need to protect nature and the environment, as well as providing a field classroom for the ENV training programs carried out at ENV's National Training Center for Environmental Educators.

Action to Stop Wildlife Crime

Wildlife Crimes Hotline

ENV's Wildlife Crime Unit (WCU) logged 70 new cases in August, bringing the total number of cases documented and tracked since the Wildlife Crimes Hotline was established in 2005 to 745. New cases included eight wildlife trade seizures by the authorities, thirty-two cases involving restaurants, shops, or markets selling wildlife, twelve cases of unlawful possession of wildlife, and three cases involving the advertisement of wildlife products. Hot cases include a trade seizure of critically endangered turtles and pangolins in Da Nang, a case in which more than 20 bear cubs disappeared in Ha Tay, a number of public reports of bears in captivity in Than Hoa, gibbons on display at several resorts, and a loris rescued in Ho Chi Minh City.

Mo Market Campaign Showing Early Signs of Success

Efforts to bring an end to the sale of wildlife at Hanoi's Mo Market are showing early signs of success. In July, ENV organized a meeting between shop owners, Hanoi wildlife protection officers and market management authorities, in which owners agreed to stop selling wildlife, and market authorities warned proprietors that further violations would not be tolerated. Since the meeting, monitoring results indicate that shop owners have so far remained in compliance with the law. Prior to July, public reporting and ENV monitoring had revealed numerous violations involving the sale of a range of species, including critically endangered turtles, eagles and lorises. ENV and wildlife protection officers continue to monitor the market several times each week.

About ENV's Wildlife Crime Unit

Established in January of 2005, the ENV Wildlife Crimes Monitoring Unit runs the national Wildlife Crimes Hotline, a toll-free number that was established to provide a mechanism for the public to report wildlife crimes. Reports are quickly passed on to the appropriate functional agency by ENV, after which the monitoring unit tracks each case through to its conclusion, with special attention focused on the disposal of the animals or animal parts, and the punishment administered to the perpetrator in each case. Sources are contacted and advised in detail as to the outcome of the case that he/she reported. Cases are then documented and filed, and recorded on ENV's Wildlife Crimes Database.

The main aims of the program are to:

- Encourage public participation and support in efforts to combat the illegal trade of wildlife
- Support enforcement efforts by government agencies
- Document crimes and identify factors that contribute to the wildlife trade

ENV Gallery



Two of 27 bear cubs that disappeared from a bear farm in Ha Tay shortly after an inspection by provincial rangers



ABOVE: Students perform the "Especially for Bears" performance featuring Ranger Bear



LEFT: Vu Quang park staff lead a lesson on bears at Phan Dinh Phuong Middle School.

RIGHT: A ranger removes tape from a turtle seized in Da Nang from traders. The tape was used to restrict the turtles movement and prevent detection in trade



Students at Ha Tinh University participate in a seminar on the wildlife trade at their university



Stop Wildlife Crime!

If you see wildlife for sale 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

Reaching the Public on the Airwaves

Voice of Vietnam: ENV on the Airwaves

ENV aired its 26th monthly radio show on the Voice of Vietnam in August. The show is intended to keep listeners informed of news relating to wildlife crime cases over the previous month, as well as highlighting examples of cases where public involvement has helped stop crime.

This month's show highlighted the unfortunate results of a case involving a gibbon that was being kept in a cage at a resort in Nghe An Province, reported to ENV by a local resident. In this case, rangers from the district Forest Protection Department inspected the site but failed to find the gibbon, which was later confirmed by the original informant to still be present at the resort! When provincial rangers were called in to check the site, the gibbon was gone, and the resort manager later stated to the informant that he had sold the animal.

This month's interview featured the Deputy Chief of Binh Dinh Forestry Protection Department discussing a case in which a binturong that had been held in captivity for ten years by a local resident was confiscated and transferred to the Small Carnivore Program at Cuc Phuong National Park.

The last segment, "Wildlife Trade Forum", provides information urging people to obey the law and not to keep wildlife as pets or on display at their businesses to attract tourists.

In August, VOV aired 17 advertisements urging listeners not to use bear bile and other wildlife products, and ENV's bear bile public service announcements continued to air through the month on Vietnam's premier television station, VTV1.

Home Page

ENV welcomes Ms. Bui Thuy Duong as our new administrative assistant and Mr. Dinh Van Thang to our Wildlife Crimes Unit.

Thank You

ENV wishes to extend special thanks to all our friends and supporters who have assisted us in our efforts to protect nature and the environment in Vietnam.

These efforts are made possible thanks to the generous support of the following donors:

- Conservation International (CI)
- Global Environment Action (GEA)
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- World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)



ENV trainers pose with Vu Quang National Park staff during August training at the park.

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