

July 15, 2007

Summary Findings

Wildlife Trade Survey in Ho Chi Minh City

Introduction

Wildlife trade surveys were carried out in restaurants, hotels, and other commercial establishments in Ho Chi Minh City aimed at documenting wildlife crimes and establishing baseline information that will assist local authorities in combating illegal trade and use of wildlife.

The surveys were carried out on May 27th by members of the ENV Wildlife Crime Monitoring Unit, staff of Wildlife at Risk (WAR), ENV technical advisor team, and volunteers from the Ho Chi Minh group of the Wildlife Volunteer Network.

Methods

Eight survey teams visited restaurants, hotels, bars, and cafes within district 1 and district 3 of the city, 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.

Limitations

The survey teams were unable to visit all of the restaurants, bars, and cafes within districts 1 and 2 due to time limitations. Identification was limited to general species groupings (e.g. "porcupines").

Survey Highlights

- **Survey findings:** A total of 63 restaurants, hotels, cafes, and a street market site were surveyed in HCM city. The survey teams documented wildlife crimes in 31 of the 63 establishments surveyed (49%). Thirty-two establishments that were surveyed did not sell or advertise wildlife.
- **Live animals documented:** Live animals were observed in seven establishments. Observations included civets (2), butterfly lizards and water dragons (3), snakes (1), freshwater turtles (2), and porcupines (1). The freshwater turtles were observed for sale on the street outside of a pagoda, and were reportedly intended for release by pagoda visitors.
- **Menus and Advertising:** Wildlife dishes were advertised on the menu in 20 restaurants (32%). Menu items included wild pigs (12), porcupines (4), "deer" (4), civets (4), and snakes (5). Pangolins were observed on the menu in only one establishment.
- **Bear products:** Four establishments offered bear bile or bear wine products. Bear paw was observed on the menu in one restaurant. Bears are listed under Group IB of Decree 32.
- **Wildlife wines:** Only two of the restaurants surveyed displayed wildlife wines which included snakes and butterfly lizards.
- **Shark fin:** Shark fin soup was reported on the menu at five establishments that were surveyed. Sharks are not specifically protected under marine resource protection Decree 59 and the associated Circular 02 of marine species protected under the decree.
- **Soft-shelled turtles:** Soft-shelled turtles were observed on the menu at six establishments, advertised on a signboard at another restaurant, and observed live at one location. It is probable that most of the soft-shell turtles advertised on menus originated on farms and were therefore of legal origin.

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Conclusion

The Wildlife Crime Survey resulted in 18 new wildlife crime cases that were documented and are being tracked by the ENV Wildlife Crime Monitoring Unit (WCU). The WCU has reported serious violations documented during the survey directly to the HCM 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.

The HCM group of the Wildlife Volunteer Network will continue with monitoring efforts that will help determine how restaurant owners respond to enforcement and awareness measures.

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!