



News from
FRONTLINES

December 2010

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illegal tiger trade
in Vietnam**



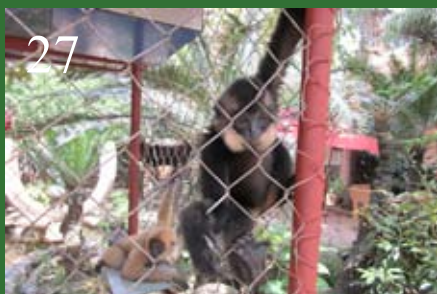
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Combating illegal tiger trade in Vietnam

Perhaps no other species has received as much attention and support as tigers, with hundreds of millions of dollars spent on their conservation and yet, governments and their conservation counterparts continue to document decline across the range of the species. Vietnam has seen its share of tiger dollars too over the years, but embarrassingly, most experts agree, including international NGOs which have been the recipients of much of these funds, that tigers are all but gone from the wild here, with a few animals perhaps living along the borders of the north and central regions of the country.

Following the 2007 discovery of approximately 60 illegal tigers being kept privately by businessmen, ENV embarked on a program aimed at arresting the growth and development of the tiger trade in Vietnam.

ENV's tiger strategy focuses on three components:

- Strengthening law and policy in relation to the protection of tigers and closure of tiger farms by working with key decision-makers at the central and provincial level
- Strengthening enforcement through promotion and support of the work of law enforcement agencies in investigating and combating illegal tiger trade, as well as monitoring existing tiger farming operations
- Raising public awareness to encourage greater public support in reporting crimes involving tigers and reducing demand and consumption of tiger products

This new program began with a major investigation of tiger farming and trade in Vietnam, the first such in- depth look at the illegal trade and the inner workings of tiger farms in this country, working in close partnership with law enforcement agencies at the provincial and national level. A year later, a confidential investigation report was produced highlighting the initial results of the year-long investigation. Amongst the findings were direct links between some tiger farms and commercial trade, as well as identifying a number of key figures in the tiger trade, and components of the trade network that smuggles tigers in from Laos to Vietnam on a regular basis.

In May 2010, ENV brought together key law enforcement agents for the first meeting of an informal “tiger task force”, representing law enforcement from tiger farming and trade provinces. The informal group met behind closed doors and shared information about their knowledge of the tiger trade network. One of the aims of the meeting was to encourage cooperation across provincial borders on tiger trade investigations, and to encourage law enforcement agencies, which included Customs, Forest Protection Departments, Environmental Police, and several other police agencies to prioritize efforts to combat illegal tiger trade.



Not surprisingly, little cooperation appears to have existed prior to the meeting between law enforcement agents in neighboring provinces in investigations concerning tiger trade. In fact, few provinces were aware of what other provincial authorities were doing, and each province or agency appeared to have key pieces of information on aspects of the tiger trade, but only a few representatives at the meeting had a larger picture of the trade.

In conjunction with the interagency task force meeting are ongoing efforts by ENV to promote effective government policy and strengthen legislation dealing with protection of Decree 32 1B fully-protected species, like tigers. These efforts involve advocating within relevant ministries and the National Assembly a complete ban on commercial tiger trade of any sort, with particular focus on arresting the development of tiger farming, presently in the early stages of its development in Vietnam, and encouraging provincial authorities to act responsibly in dealing with cases involving tiger farming and trade.

A recent example of such efforts includes the encouragement of Nghe An provincial authorities not to auction off two tigers that were recently confiscated, opting to place the remains in the National Museum, which after significant efforts, was the solution chosen.

Even more recently, Thanh Hoa authorities sought to auction off tiger bone glue from a confiscated tiger, and has proposed allowing a notorious illegal tiger trader in the province to sell two dead tigers that he allegedly raised on his farm and is currently keeping in a freezer. In this later case, the final disposition is not yet settled, though the province canceled the planned auction after ENV launched a major public campaign through the press, and ENV continues to discuss the issue directly with senior officials from the province.

ENV has since continued with its field investigation, armed with a better understanding of the trade as a whole, working with select police and local authorities investigating leads on specific cases, as well as leads identified as critical from the year-long effort. Since May, additional field investigations were carried out in Dien Bien province, another complete round of inspections of tiger farms have been completed, and significant progress has been made in ENV's investigation of key figures involved in most of the tiger trade into Vietnam.

In the coming months, ENV will hold a second meeting of the tiger task force to share new information and encourage law enforcement agencies to keep tigers high on their list of priorities.

A third arm of ENV's campaigning on behalf of tigers involves efforts to reduce demand and consumption of tiger bone Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), products that are mainly used by wealthy members of society. ENV has run special news segments on the protection needs of tigers on public radio, TV, and integrated tiger conservation messaging into all of its regular communications and public awareness activities including university lectures, meetings of decision-makers, volunteer activities, as well as ENV's viral communication program on the Internet (advertising and special tiger-focused webpage).

However, ENV's tiger awareness campaigning focuses mainly upon building support from decision-makers in regards to policy and legislation, recognizing the efforts of law enforcement when major tiger seizures have occurred, and encouraging the public to report crimes involving tigers. ENV is yet to develop an effective communications initiative aimed at urging wealthy consumers not to consume tiger bone TCM.



Authorities examine tiger skulls confiscated during a series of seizures in September 2010.

Photo: ENV



Authorities transfer frozen tiger from Nghe An province to The Vietnam National Museum of Nature.

Photo: The Vietnam National Museum of Nature

ENV is committed to eliminating the illegal trade of tigers in Vietnam, contributing to broader efforts to safeguard the world's last remaining tigers in the wild across Asia. While government leaders meet in Russia to confirm their commitment to protecting tigers, ENV has been quietly making headway on the ground in Vietnam.

The greatest obstacle to the future of tigers is the conflict within the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) between promoting farming of endangered species for commercial purposes and protecting critically endangered wildlife. If MARD cannot resolve this conflict, responsibility for protection of endangered wildlife should be transferred to a branch within the government that is tasked solely with protection of wildlife, without interests in farming or other commercial activities.

Efforts to save our tigers must focus on stringent protection of tigers in their habitat, as well as strict enforcement of laws prohibiting commercial trade of tigers and their parts. At the same time, measures must be taken to eliminate demand for tiger products through increased awareness, and actively encourage public support and involvement in tiger protection.

Tiger intelligence file

- Tiger farming: There are 100 known tigers in captivity in Vietnam. Eighty-one are kept on eight private farms, the remaining tigers are at government-supported zoos and rescue centers.
- Since 2005, there have been 21 reported seizures of frozen, whole or cut up tigers, tiger bones, or in one case, live tigers. A total of 36 tigers have been confiscated from these seizures.
- ENV has documented a total of 134 tiger cases since 2005 including mounted tigers and all forms of products and parts, as well as advertising of tiger products.
- At least three tiger farms are reported to be involved in commercial trade of tigers raised on these farms in direct violation of the law. Evidence is lacking from other farms, but tigers known to have died at these farms have been processed to make tiger bone TCM.
- Most tigers smuggled into Vietnam are sold to Vietnamese consumers, not smuggled into China.
- The ENV investigation resulted in the identification of a list of major criminals involved in illegal tiger trade and smuggling into Vietnam, including several key figures suspected to be major players behind much of the illegal tiger trade into Vietnam.
- Tiger bone glue is the primary tiger product in demand by Vietnamese consumers. It is made from tiger bone mixed with the bones from other species, and sold at roughly \$900-\$1200 per 100 grams.
- The cost of raising a tiger in captivity to an age that it can be sold is approximately \$3,455 USD. The value of this same tiger sold in the form of tiger bone TCM is approximately \$20,000 USD.*

**Based prices and estimates provided by tiger farmers and tiger bone TCM brokers (2010)*



Photo: ENV

ENV tiger update



One of four tigers recently observed at a new site in Ho Chi Minh City. All four tigers were legally imported to Vietnam, but ENV is concerned about commercial intentions of the owner, who also keeps and exploits bile from a number of bears.

Photo: ENV

ENV keeping a close eye on tigers farms

In July, ENV conducted its second annual inspection of tiger farms in Vietnam in cooperation with Environmental Police and local Forest Protection Departments. The inspection focused on four major farms in the south of Vietnam and one farm in the north. The other two known farms were previously inspected in 2010 by ENV investigators. Results indicated that breeding of tigers continues

in at least two farms, the Pacific Beer Company and the Dai Nam Private Zoo where additional tigers were documented.

In September 2010, ENV investigators inspected the Cu Chi Water Park in Ho Chi Minh City, the subject of repeated complaints by visitors about illegal bear bile extraction and sales carried out at this entertainment park. During the inspection, four new tigers were observed within a new

enclosure at the park, all reportedly imported from the Czech Republic. ENV confirmed through CITES both in Vietnam and the Czech Republic that the transfer was legal, but remains concerned about the intentions of the park owner to breed the tigers (based on information provided by staff of the park) and given the focus on the illegal exploitation of bears also maintained at this park.

Nghe An provincial authorities set positive example in tiger case

On June 22, 2010, Nghe An police raided the home of a Nghe An resident and discovered a frozen tiger and tiger skeleton, as well as two frozen leopards, bear bones, six bear paws, and other wildlife stored in two freezers. While initially functional agencies expressed their intention to auction off the confiscated wildlife, ENV immediately initiated a campaign working with senior Nghe An authorities to have the confiscated wildlife destroyed or transferred to the National Museum.

After many months of effort, and with support from the Finance Ministry and the National Museum, Nghe An authorities agreed with the proposed transfer of the confiscated wildlife to the museum. On October 28, 2010, the museum confirmed receipt of the tigers and other wildlife.

This case marked an important turning point for Nghe An province, and potentially other northern provinces that have poor track records of auctioning off fully protected wildlife after it is seized. ENV hopes that the positive example set by senior Nghe An authorities will serve to influence other provinces to uphold the ban on commercial trade of species fully protected under Group 1B of Decree 32.

“This type of problem is not new,” says Vu Thi Quyen, ENV’s founding director. “There have been cases of provincial authorities auctioning off fully protected wildlife species in the past too. Quyen explains that this problem most likely relates to the focus by authorities on the potential income derived from selling the products, as well



Thanh Hoa authorities ordered that two dead tigers discovered at the same farm in 2008 be incinerated.

Photo: ENV

as past practices, and in some cases, a limited understanding of the law.

“As Vietnam marches into the future, these practices illustrate remnants of past ways of thinking,” says Quyen. “In today’s Vietnam, selling critically endangered species that are fully protected under the law is completely unacceptable, particularly when done by the very hand of those responsible for their protection.”

The Nghe An incident was followed in October with a second incident in Thanh Hoa province, whereby authorities sought to auction off tiger bone glue that was produced from a tiger that was confiscated by local authorities in the province. In a related case, authorities in Thanh Hoa were considering what to do with the remains of two dead tigers being kept by a well-known tiger farmer, who is also suspected by police of being a major illegal trader of tigers and other wildlife into Vietnam from abroad.

In this second case, ENV launched a major public campaign in the national press, and solicited support from leaders in the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment to halt the sale. During a meeting and subsequent discussions with the People’s Committee Chairman, ENV was advised that the auction would not take place. However, the issue of dealing with the two dead tigers at the Thanh Hoa tiger farm remains unresolved, and local authorities are arguing that the suspected tiger trader should be compensated for raising the tigers if they are to be confiscated.

“The idea of compensating a tiger farmer that is connected to two or more illegal tiger seizures, who has a prior arrest record involving smuggling wildlife in Africa, and who is breeding tigers from animals he obtained illegally, is ludicrous,” says Nguyen Thi Bui Linh, ENV’s Major Crimes Officer who has been following cases involving the suspected Thanh Hoa tiger trader.

“Thanh Hoa authorities need to do their part and put a stop to illegal trade of tigers in their province by stopping this known illegal trader from any further breeding of tigers, confiscating tigers that die on the farm to prevent any commercial trade of the species, and demonstrating to the rest of the country that they accept and exercise their authority in protecting tigers in a serious, determined, and transparent way,” says Linh.

ENV is following the case closely and continuing to lobby for a sound and appropriate solution to the problem. In December 2010, ENV sent an official correspondence to all provincial governments and law enforcement agencies in tiger farming and trade provinces highlighting the positive outcomes regarding disposal of confiscated tigers in Hanoi and Nghe An province, and urging others to take similar appropriate action in dealing with future cases.

DNA analysis yields subspecies ID on confiscated tigers

As part of ENV’s law enforcement partnership program, ENV investigators have collected tissue samples from eight tigers seized over the last few years in trade in order to confirm the subspecies of tiger and assist in what ENV hopes will become a broader regional effort to map out the genetic origin of tigers that are seized. The testing which was carried out by the TRACE Wildlife Forensic Network based at the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland determined that the eight confiscated tigers that were tested included four Indochinese tigers, two Amur (Siberian) tigers, and two Bengal tigers. Until further genetic mapping is done of tigers throughout range states, it is impossible to determine if the confiscated tigers originated from farms or were from the wild. Samples are pending collection on recent seizures in 2010.



The remains of a tiger that was seized at the Lao Bao border gate in March 2010.

Photo: Quang Tri FPD

Tiger web page launched to reach online community



ENV’s tiger subpage was launched in October.

In October, ENV launched a new webpage focused on protection of tigers. The webpage includes information about the Indochinese tiger, as well as the International Tiger Coalition (ITC) film, photo gallery, games, a tiger quiz, and other activities for visitors.

The new Vietnamese-language webpage promoting tiger protection can be found here:
<http://www.thiennhien.org/BVH>



Photo: ENV

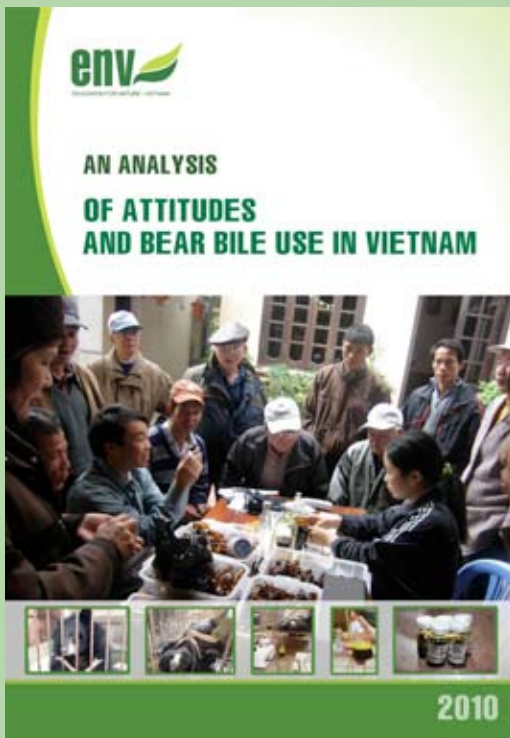
ENV has been working to end bear farming and trade in Vietnam in partnership with other members of the Vietnam Bear Task Force, which also includes the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), the Animals Asia Foundation (AAF), Free the Bears (FTB) and Wildlife at Risk (WAR).

Ending bear farming and trade in Vietnam

ENV's efforts focus on working with key decision-makers to strengthen policy and laws relating to the protection of bears, cooperation with law enforcement agencies to strengthen enforcement, and raising public awareness to reduce demand and consumption of bear bile and other bear products.

Ongoing activities include airing public service announcements on TV and radio, campaigning through the media, billboards and advertising on buses, and public events throughout Vietnam hosted by ENV's mobile awareness unit.

ENV's Wildlife Crime Unit works with local authorities to investigate, track, and deal with bear crimes reported through the hotline or discovered during monitoring and surveys.



Twenty-two percent of Vietnamese people said that they have used bear bile in the past according to the findings of the study by ENV on attitudes associated with bear bile use in Vietnam.

A total of 3,032 people were surveyed in three cities in Vietnam: Hanoi (north), Da Nang (central) and Ho Chi Minh City (south).

The participants were randomly selected and interviewed by telephone to analyze the motivation behind bear bile consumption and evaluate demographic differences between respondents in their attitudes toward the use of bear bile.

Vietnam cannot have its bears and bear bile too

The survey results suggested that:

- Bear bile is considered as a magic medicine that can cure a range of health problems including muscle complaints, bruises, digestive problems or even cancer. Bear bile is mainly used to treat specific health problems (73%). Bear bile is also used for general health improvement (24%) and entertainment purposes (14%).
- Hanoi has a much higher percentage of bear bile users than Da Nang or Ho Chi Minh City. Thirty-five percent of survey participants in Hanoi claimed that they have used bear bile in the past, while only 16% of those in Ho Chi Minh City and 15% in Da Nang said that they have used bear bile.
- The percentage of men using bear bile is higher than the percentage of women in all three cities. Almost 1/3 of all male survey participants (29%) claimed to have consumed bear bile in the past compared to 17% of all women surveyed.
- People with higher education levels (college degree or higher) are more likely to use bear bile than people with lower education levels (high schools or lower levels). Bear bile consumption also rises with age and the use of bear bile is different between age groups.

“We need to face a tough choice,” says Ms. Quyen, ENV’s founding director. “Vietnam can’t have wild bears and bear bile too.”

Vietnam’s bears are being pushed to the edge of extinction, mainly due to the illegal hunting and trade to support the demand for bear bile used as a traditional form of medicine. Bears are usually captured as cubs in the wild and sold to bear farms where they are raised and used to extract bile from the gall bladder. Currently, there are about 3,500 bears in farms in Vietnam, most of which originated from the wild.

Based on the findings from this study, ENV recommends following actions:

- A long-term and sustained awareness campaign must be carried out in order to dispel the belief that bear bile is a form of magic medicine. The campaign should promote medical alternatives to bear bile (both herbal and western medicine) and highlight its perceived ineffectiveness as reported by former users.
- Stronger laws and more effective law enforcement are critical to efforts to phase out bear farming and eliminating bear bile consumption. All unregistered bears discovered by authorities should be confiscated and the owners appropriately punished.
- Studies should be carried out to identify major wild populations of bears in Vietnam where protection and recovery efforts should be prioritized; an analysis of commercial farming of bears and other endangered species and its impact on species conservation should be conducted.

The results of ENV’s study will help authorities and conservation organizations to develop more effective measures to address bear bile consumption and trade in Vietnam and enhance protection for what may be Vietnam’s last remaining bears in the wild.

“We need to face a tough choice,” says Ms. Quyen, ENV’s founding director. “Vietnam can’t have wild bears and bear bile too.”

The full results of the study have been compiled in a report, *An Analysis of Attitudes and Bear Bile Use in Vietnam* ([Vietnamese](#) and [English](#) version). ENV wishes to thank the World Society for the Protection of Animals for supporting this important study.



At the Ha Long farms, Korean tourists witness the extraction and are offered to sample bear bile before being asked to purchase bile for about \$30 USD per cc. The tourists then smuggle the products back to Korea in violation of CITES.

Photo: ENV

Bear farm owners in Quang Ninh ignore law and continue serving Korean tourists

A recent investigation by a Korean TV station in late September and subsequent surveillance by ENV investigators reveal that Quang Ninh bear farmers continue to engage in illegal exploitation and trade of bear bile, targeting Korean tour groups.

Over the past few years, bear farm tourism in Quang Ninh has attracted a great deal of publicity. This illegal activity involves hundreds of Korean and other Asian tourists visiting the farms each week, where they witness the extraction of

bile from captive bears, taste bear bile wine, and buy bear bile and other bear products, which are then smuggled out of Vietnam when they leave the country in direct violation of the law.

ENV has been working to put an end to this illegal practice since 2007 when the bear bile tourism business in Quang Ninh was first discovered. Surveillance by ENV investigators has concluded that these business establishments receive dozens of buses full of Korean tourists each week.

Most recently in November 2010, after a Korean Broadcasting System (KBS) film was aired in Korea, field investigators observed Korean tour groups still entering Quang Ninh farms, confirming that it is “business as usual” for bear bile businessmen in Quang Ninh.

A news segment filmed in October 2010 by KBS Television shows Korean tourists visiting a farm and bile being extracted from a bear. Tourists are then shown purchasing bear bile to take back to Korea.

In October 2009, Environmental Police raided the Viet Thai Tourism bear farm and caught the Korean managers preparing to extract bile from a captive bear for a group of Korean tourists. Authorities later confiscated a total of six bears from two Quang Ninh businessmen and issued administrative punishment to the Viet Thai Company. However, these actions appear to have failed to deter bear bile business owners from further violations of the law.

“We highly appreciate the positive responses of Quang Ninh functional authorities in the case of the Viet Thai operation, however, these first steps haven’t been followed by more serious action to bring an end to this practice,” says Dung, ENV Co-director. “These bear bile businessmen are openly challenging the law. It is time that provincial authorities supported by relevant ministries step in and close this illegal form of business for once and for all.”

“This business casts a shadow over the image of Vietnam. It is time to demonstrate that we are serious about our efforts to protect bears and send a message to violators and the public that law is a requirement, not a suggestion, and it applies to all, including businessmen in Quang Ninh who may mistakenly believe that they are above the law,” Dung says.



There are about 3,500 bears in captivity in Vietnam. One major obstacle to ending bear farming is the fact that there are no facilities to receive such a large quantity of bears once confiscated.

Photo: ENV

Hotspot campaigns urge farmers to obey law

ENV investigators and members of the Mobile Wildlife Awareness Unit conducted inspections of bears in two priority “hotspots” as part of a new campaign to keep pressure on efforts to phase out bear farming and end illegal exploitation and trade of bears.

In October 2010, ENV investigators joined forces with TRAFFIC inspecting bear farms in Hanoi's Phuc Tho district, where bear farmers seem to operate openly in violation of the law under the eyes of local authorities without risk of penalty. A total of 16 establishments were visited and approximately 149 bears observed in captivity. In one establishment, several juvenile bears and a cub were observed, a clear violation of the government ban on bringing new unregistered bears into the trade that took effect in 2005. ENV's WCU immediately notified authorities of the incident, however the bears disappeared before action could be taken. ENV investigators suspect that the bear farm owner was tipped off, resulting in the bears being moved from the premises.

The inspection also highlighted the open sale and advertisement of bear bile in the district, with signs visible from the street, and evidence, including bottles of bear bile, equipment, and medication openly observed in some establishments.

ENV returned to Phuc Tho in August to test a new initiative targeting bear farmers in their own communities. The mobile awareness team carried out awareness activities in the district market with information panels and video, passing out materials, and asking residents to sign pledges not to consume bear bile. More importantly, the initiative involved engaging bear farm owners with inspections of legal farms, and discussions directly with owners about the laws, and specifically, the illegality of exploiting bear bile. The district public address system was used to reinforce the message to residents and bear farm owners.

Back in Hanoi, ENV has focused efforts on urging senior Hanoi authorities to put pressure on local authorities in Phuc Tho district to address the open exploitation and trade of bear bile in violation with the law.

In October 2010, ENV's Mobile Awareness Team and journalists conducted a similar campaign in another major bear center of trade, Quynh Luu district of Nghe An province, visiting 52 of 126 bear farms in the district and counting a total of 81 bears. Similar to the August 2010 campaign in Phuc Tho district of Hanoi, the team met with



A bear cub discovered at a farm in Hanoi disappeared shortly after it was reported to local authorities.

Photo: ENV

farm owners and passed out information clarifying the law. At the same time, information was disseminated throughout the district on the public address system urging citizens to help stop illegal hunting and trade of bears, and emphasizing that extraction and trade of bear bile is illegal. As part of the Quynh Luu campaign, the mobile team also held an event in the district's main market at Cau Giat, attracting hundreds of residents including some bear farm owners.

The Phuc Tho and Quynh Luu campaigns were aimed at combining the impact of independent inspections of bear farms, local awareness activities, and dissemination of information directly to bear farmers in order to place greater pressure on bear farmers to cease illegal activities and give up bear farming. In 2011, ENV plans to expand these activities to include bear farming hotspots throughout the northern region of Vietnam.



An adult resident of Nghe An's Quynh Luu district reads the recently released Ranger Bear comic series.

Photo: ENV

Quynh Luu intelligence file

- Bear bile sells for between 10,000 – 20,000 VND/cc (USD 0.50 – 1.00) at farms in Nghe An.
- Bear farm owners move bears around between farms making monitoring difficult for authorities unless movements are reported and documented.
- Some bear farm owners have sold their bears in direct violation of the law and in violation with their agreements with authorities when the bears were registered in 2005-2006.
- There has been about a 16% reduction in the number of bears at Quynh Luu bear farms since registration in 2010.
- Ten bear farms reported that bears had died on their farms as an explanation for the absence of registered bears.
- ENV recognizes that undocumented deaths may also mean that the bears were slaughtered, sold or transferred to other locations illegally.

Quynh Luu market gallery



Raising awareness and inspiring public action



Kids line up with wanted posters at a bear event at Big C supermarket in Ho Chi Minh City.

Photo: ENV



A mom breaks from her routine to sign a pledge not to use bear bile. ENV hopes that the child will grow up in a country where bears are still present in nature.

Photo: ENV

Mobile Awareness Team on the move

During 2010, ENV's Mobile Awareness Team has carried out a total of 75 public events, seminars, and special awareness activities throughout Vietnam. The team travels from province to province holding wildlife trade and bear pledge campaign events in public forums such as markets and at universities. The team also helps recruit volunteers for ENV's Wildlife Volunteer Network, hosts seminars at major universities on the wildlife trade, and works with volunteers and others to survey business establishments in urban centers.

The addition of the new Ho Chi Minh City and Da Nang ENV field offices and the presence of ENV volunteer clubs in these cities has allowed ENV to expand its public awareness activities to include events hosted by local teams. Both the Da Nang and Ho Chi Minh City teams carry out one major public event each month. In 2010, a total of 32 bear campaign events were carried out in markets throughout Vietnam by the mobile awareness team and ENV field offices in Da Nang and Ho Chi Minh City, nearly doubling the efforts of the previous year.

University seminars invest in future wildlife protection

Part of the Mobile Awareness Team's routine mission is to host seminars on wildlife protection at universities throughout the country. The seminars involve a graphic presentation on the wildlife trade, a debate about wildlife consumption amongst students, airing of the WWF bear film, a performance by student actors, and ENV's wildlife trade exhibition. Each seminar involves between 200-300 students, teachers, and lecturers.

One component of the seminar series involves a rapid assessment of student attitudes toward wildlife consumption and trade. Students are asked to complete a brief questionnaire during the seminar with five questions. The results are intended to assist ENV with designing campaigns, activities, and materials that target younger audiences. A total of 5,110 students have participated in the survey. The results were as follows:



A student in Da Lat University poses a question during a wildlife trade seminar. A total of 37 similar seminars have been hosted by ENV at universities around the country since 2007.

Photo: ENV

Questions	Yes	No
1. Traditional medicine made from wildlife is important to me.	573 (11%)	4537 (89%)
2. Hunting and trade of wildlife could result in extinction of some species.	4902 (96%)	208 (4%)
3. Trading and keeping wildlife is cruel.	4841 (95%)	269 (5%)
4. Wildlife belongs in nature, not in captivity.	4944 (97%)	166 (3%)
5. I oppose hunting, trading, and consuming wildlife and products made from wildlife.	4957 (97%)	153 (3%)

The informal attitude survey shows that most young people understand the relationship between hunting and trade, and extinction of species, and oppose consumption of wildlife, supporting the idea that wild animals belong in nature. It is also of interest to note that a majority of respondents felt that keeping and trading wildlife was cruel, suggesting that concern over the welfare of animals may be growing amongst younger generations of Vietnamese (scientific surveys of adults showed that welfare of bears

had no influence in their decision to use bear bile). The survey also indicated that more than 10% of the students felt that traditional medicine was important to them, suggesting that efforts to influence younger generations should target promoting alternatives and the ineffectiveness of wildlife TCM.

Note: This survey represents only a reflection of student attitudes and was not designed or intended as a scientific survey.

Since 2007, a total of 37 seminars have been hosted by ENV in 17 provinces ranging from Ho Chi Minh City to Quang Ninh in the north of Vietnam. More than 6,500 students have participated in ENV wildlife protection seminars at their universities.

No magic in bear bile



A new PSA by ENV depicts a young mother opposed to using bear bile when her son is injured, urging viewers to seek professional medical treatment for illness and injuries over traditional forms of medicine.

Photo: ENV

In December, ENV produced its sixth public service announcement (PSA) urging people not to consume bear bile. The 36-second PSA which will be aired on national and provincial television, features a mother tending to her son after a minor injury playing on his bicycle. The boy's grandmother suggests that bear bile be applied to prevent bruising, however the mother objects, telling her that bear bile is "not a magic medicine". The mother then turns to the camera and urges the audience to avoid using bear bile and to see a doctor when sick or injured.

The PSA also urges the public to report wildlife crimes to local authorities or to ENV's national toll free wildlife crime hotline. The PSA will begin airing in February or March of 2011.

Link: <http://thiennhien.org/index.php?page=documentView&parent=172&id=167>

On the Air with ENV

On November 6, 2010 the Voice of Vietnam's Environment and Development Program broadcast a live show called "Weekend Dialogue", which focused on the issue of how authorities should deal with wildlife confiscated from the illegal trade. Mr. Luu Dam Cu, Vice Director of the Natural History Museum of Vietnam, and ENV policy and legislative affairs officer, Ms. Le Minh Thi suggested that the most critically endangered species should be placed in rescue centers or zoos, and that parts and products from fully protected species should be either destroyed or transferred to the Natural History Museum of Vietnam, in accordance with instructions from the Prime Minister.

Ms. Thi went on to argue that when authorities auction off confiscated wildlife of any kind, as is commonly the case in some provinces, this practice conflicts with their roles and responsibilities to protect wildlife, further perpetuating the trade, and undermining efforts to protect endangered species and Vietnam's unique biodiversity.

Thi also brought up the idea of euthanasia as a possible solution for dealing with wildlife that cannot be returned to nature or placed in rescue centers. A recent informal survey conducted by ENV showed that the concept of euthanizing under most circumstances is considered unacceptable (see article in this newsletter).

ENV has been campaigning to encourage wildlife protection authorities to stop the practice of selling wildlife that they confiscate, and refocus their efforts on fulfilling their responsibility to protect endangered wildlife.

ENV produces and airs a monthly radio show on the wildlife trade, highlighting major cases, presenting important discussion topics, and hosting interviews with experts ranging from police and customs officials to law makers. Since 2005, ENV has aired 58 monthly radio shows on the Voice of Vietnam.

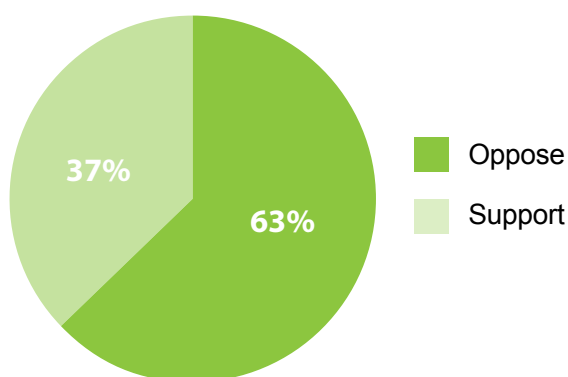
ENV's Voice of Vietnam radio on Vietnamese website:

<http://thiennhien.org/index.php?page=document&catid=173>

Poll suggests euthanasia option only in certain circumstances

In October 2010, ENV initiated an online poll to gauge public opinion on the issue of euthanasia as an option for dealing with confiscated wildlife that cannot be released back into nature or transferred to rescue centers and zoos. The poll was hosted on ENV's Vietnamese language website, www.thiennhien.org, and included six questions requiring approximately three minutes to complete. Participants were provided with a short background on the problems authorities face in dealing with confiscated wildlife prior to completing the questionnaire.

By the end of December, ENV had received 486 responses. The results showed that most respondents (63%) were opposed to euthanasia as an option for dealing with confiscated wildlife. However, when asked whether they would support euthanasia as an option to deal with



sick and dying animals that cannot recover, 74% of the respondents supported the idea. Moreover, when given the choices of auctioning off confiscated animals, allowing owners to keep them, or euthanizing the animals, 59% supported euthanasia as an option while 33% supported allowing owners to keep the animals, and 8% suggested that the animals be sold.

"If an animal is still healthy, destroying it would be very cruel, inhumane, and much worse than the treatment of those who adopt animals as pets, feeding, bathing and caring for them. Animals should only be destroyed in cases where they are ill, injured and unable to recover. As for the healthy animals, euthanizing them is not acceptable."

When asked whether this support should be extended to tigers and bears, 73% of the respondents stated that they were opposed to euthanizing tigers or bears that could not be received by rescue centers.

ENV then asked respondents who were opposed to euthanasia to rank the main reasons for their opposition and they were given five different options to choose from. The ranking exercise showed that most people that were opposed to euthanasia as an option for dealing with confiscated wildlife suggested that it was religiously unacceptable, followed by the suggestion that euthanizing live animals was like "burning money". Other reasoning ranked third (21%) with cultural unacceptability and inhumanity ranking fourth and fifth at 7%.

One comment by a respondent summed up feelings about euthanasia as reflected by others in the survey. "If an animal is still healthy, destroying it would be very cruel, inhumane, and much worse than the treatment of those who adopt animals as pets, feeding, bathing and caring for them. Animals should only be destroyed in cases where they are ill, injured and unable to recover. As for the healthy animals, euthanizing them is not acceptable."

ENV then conducted the same survey looking at decision-makers at the provincial level and National

Assembly (NA) members to see if attitudes were similar to those of the public. A total of 14 NA members and 13 provinces responded, including compiled responses from all relevant departments within the province. Nearly all the decision-maker responses were opposed to euthanasia as an acceptable tool for dealing with confiscated animals, citing inhumane treatment as the number one reason for their opposition and comparison with “burning money” ranking second. All of the respondents supported euthanasia as an option to deal with sick or injured animals that could not recover.

ENV has begun to introduce the concept of euthanasia amongst authorities and the public as part of a longer-term strategy to devise acceptable alternatives for local authorities in dealing with confiscated wildlife that cannot be returned to nature or placed at rescue centers.

Bear page launched on ENV's Vietnamese website

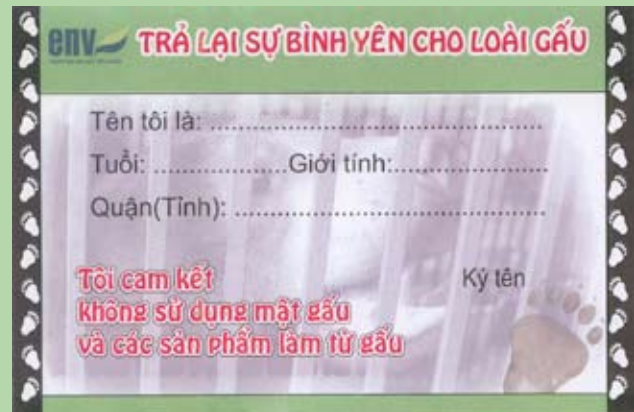


ENV has added another new section to its Vietnamese language website on bears. The new subpage includes information, activities, games, video, and photos about Vietnam's two bear species and the threats they face. Visitors can also pledge not to consume bear bile online.

The bear subpage is part of ENV's ongoing efforts to end bear farming and trade in Vietnam.

Visit our bear subpage: <http://thiennhien.org/CDBVG/index.php>

The public says “NO” to bear bile



ENV's bear pledge: “I commit not to consume bear bile and other products made from bears.” A total of 33,738 people signed pledges in 2010.

Since 2008, 79,672 people throughout Vietnam have signed pledges not to consume bear bile as part of an ongoing campaign by ENV to secure public support for ending bear farming and trade. Pledges are collected at public events, online, and by SMS message. ENV exceeded 2010 targets, accumulating a total of 33,738 signed pledges, including 23,237 at public events.



Visitors of the ENV wildlife trade exhibit at the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment meeting hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MONRE) in Hanoi, August 2010.

Photo: ENV

Training of environmental educators in Central Vietnam

ENV carried out its 69th training course for environmental educators working in and around national parks and nature reserves in Vietnam.

Nine protected area staff from three national parks and two nature reserves in the central region attended the intensive week-long course held at Bach Ma National Park in Hue province, which focused on developing teaching and communication skills. The participants are expected to use skills developed during the course to enhance their efforts to raise awareness within local communities bordering their respective parks and nature reserves.

The course follows a similar course held in May for participants from protected areas in the southern region of the country. In the May course, trainees included staff from five national parks, and was hosted in U Minh Thuong National Park in Kien Giang province.



Environmental educators from the 10-day May 2010 course in U Minh Thuong National Park show off their certificates. ENV has hosted a total of 70 training courses for environmental educators since 2000.

Photo: ENV

Both the May and November training courses were carried out as part of the “Go Green” initiative supported by Toyota Motor Vietnam. During the course, the participants are encouraged to submit proposals to ENV to receive “Green Grants” aimed at supporting small well-designed awareness activities they wish to carry out that will enhance protection of their park or nature reserve.

In September, Green Grants were awarded to educators to support nature club meetings, community village meetings, and other activities at Tram Chim National Park, Con Dao National Park, and U Minh Ha National Park, participants in the spring 2010 ENV southern region environmental education training course.



Local residents attend a village meeting outside Tram Chim National Park in September. The program was supported with a Green Grant. The ENV-Toyota partnership has awarded 15 Green Grants to help support local initiatives since 2008.

Photo: Tram Chim National Park

ENV and Toyota Motor Vietnam have awarded 15 Green Grants to educators at protected areas since the program began in 2008. In 2010, ENV carried out three major training courses for protected area staff and educators, bringing the total to 70 training environmental communication training courses hosted by ENV in the past decade for teachers, rangers, staff, and other stakeholders from 42 parks and nature reserves throughout Vietnam.

Course participants (May and November 2010 training sessions)

1. U Minh Thuong National Park, Kien Giang province
2. Con Dao National Park, Ba Ria Vung Tau province
3. Tram Chim National Park, Dong Thap province
4. U Minh Ha National Park, Ca Mau province
5. Mui Ca Mau National Park, Ca Mau province
6. Vu Quang National Park, Ha Tinh province
7. Ba Be National Park, Bac Kan province
8. Bach Ma National Park, Hue Province
9. Dak Rong Nature Reserve, Quang Tri province
10. Phong Dien Nature Reserve, Hue province

Training prepares teachers to lead lessons outside Kon Ka Kinh national park

In December 2010, ENV conducted a one-week training program for teachers from six communities bordering Kon Ka Kinh National Park. The training was aimed at helping 12 middle school teachers prepare to teach a series of lesson plans that were developed by ENV. The lesson plans focus on the values of and threats to Kon Ka Kinh National Park, endangered species, ENV's species-focused primate lesson plan, and other issues relevant to communities bordering the park. The training was carried out in cooperation with the Endangered Primate Rescue Center, which is currently involved in a long-term project at Kon Ka Kinh focused on protection of the endemic gray-shanked douc langur (*Pygathrix nemaeus cinerea*).



Volunteers from the Green Summer program deliver a lesson plan focused on protection of tortoises and freshwater turtles for students in former Ha Tay province. Similar programs were hosted in Hue and Thai Nguyen following training and certification with ENV.

Photo: ENV

ENV Environmental Communications Training at a glance

Established 2000

Total training courses completed: 70

Training courses have been carried out for staff from:

29 National Parks

13 Nature Reserves

16 Universities

20 NGO or project specific focus groups

6 international groups from three countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar)

Green Forest supports awareness in communities bordering protected areas

In September, 2010 ENV distributed its 31st edition of the popular student nature magazine, *Green Forest*, to schools and environmental education programs within the ENV's Environmental Education Network.

This newest edition featured stories on a number of relevant nature and environment issues in Vietnam, including the plight of the eastern black-crested gibbon, the destructive impact of discarded plastic bags on ocean-dwelling creatures, and coping with climate change and protecting our planet's bio-diversity.

Readers also take a discovery tour of Bu Gia Map National Park - the "green lung" of south-eastern Vietnam.

As usual, this edition of *Green Forest* includes contributions from readers from schools across Vietnam wishing to share their ideas and experiences through poems and stories. Also included are, cartoons, stories, games, and other interesting activities that provide children with hours of fun.

Green Forest is distributed free to schools and environmental education programs in communities bordering parks and nature reserves throughout Vietnam.



Awards ceremony for winners of national painting competition on air pollution



Nguyen Chau Hai My, a sixth grader from Loc Tri primary school in Thua Thien-Hue province, receives an electric bike as first-prize winner of a national art competition on the environment hosted by Karibon Facewear, Boo Skateshops, and ENV.

Photo: ENV



Previous issues of Green Forest.

In September, Karibon Facewear, Boo Skateshops and ENV hosted an award ceremony for the winners of a national painting competition on 'Air pollution'. The event was held at the Nguyen Du Secondary School in Hanoi, where sixteen winners received awards amongst over 350 entries by students from throughout Vietnam. Ms. Nguyen Chau Hai My, a 6th grade student from Loc Tri Primary School in Thua Thien-Hue province received the first prize of an environmentally-friendly electric bicycle. Two second prizes were awarded to students from Hanoi, and three third places were given to students from Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

See the winning paintings at:

http://envietnam.org/gallery/Hanoi_Air_pollution_painting_competition_award_ceremony.html

See press release for more details:

<http://envietnam.org/library/Sub%20parts%20of%20news-activities/ENV%20Boo%20and%20Karibon%20work%20in%20partnership%20to%20raise%20awareness%20on%20air%20pollution.html> (English version)

Volunteers:

The eyes and ears of wildlife protection in Vietnam

ENV established a national Wildlife Protection Volunteer Network in late 2007 for the purpose of assisting with monitoring of business establishments to ensure that owners remain in compliance with wildlife protection laws after enforcement measures have been taken. Volunteers also report new crimes to ENV and participate in local awareness activities. The volunteer network currently has about 2,700 members (November 2010) located throughout Vietnam, mainly concentrated in urban centers.

Wildlife Protection Clubs launched in four cities

In 2010, ENV initiated a pilot program, establishing locally led “Wildlife Protection” clubs in four major urban centers; Da Nang, Hue, Ho Chi Minh City, and Hanoi. The new clubs are aimed at facilitating more structured and regular monitoring of businesses in these major cities, and empowering local leadership to facilitate recruitment and retention of members.

ENV developed the structure and framework of the clubs for operation, tasking club members to elect their leaders to coordinate monitoring programs in their respective cities. Each month, clubs are given monitoring assignments by ENV’s Wildlife Crime Unit based on priorities and needs set by WCU case officers. At the end of each month, clubs are evaluated based on the results of the monitoring they conducted. As a result, ENV has been able to significantly increase the effective results of monitoring by volunteers.

The ENV club in Ho Chi Minh City was officially launched in July, followed by the Da Nang club and Hue club in August. The Hanoi club, established in December, was launched in January 2011.



Members of the Ho Chi Minh Volunteer Club undergo training on species identification and survey methods shortly after their launching of the new club.

Photo: ENV



Awards ceremony honors most active volunteers

On November 21, 2010, ENV's most active volunteers from throughout the country assembled in Hanoi for an awards ceremony to recognize their contribution to helping protect wildlife. The ceremony followed three days of training and discussions with volunteers as part of ENV's Annual Wildlife Protection Network meeting.

Link: http://www.envietnam.org/library/Press%20Release/Press_Release_Vol_Meeting_%28EN_21_Nov_2010%29Final.pdf

"Volunteers serve as the 'eyes and ears' of ENV's Wildlife Crime Unit," said Nguyen Thi Phuong Dung, Co-director of ENV during the awards ceremony. "Their role is essential in our efforts to stamp out wildlife crime."

Mr. Nguyen Thanh Hung, leader of the Ho Chi Minh Wildlife Protection Club received the "Most Active Volunteer" award based on the quantity of cases reported to ENV and volume of monitoring conducted by Hung since he joined the network in June 2009.

Mr. Luong Quang Chien of Hanoi received the "Greatest Volunteer Contribution to Wildlife Protection Award" based on his ongoing support and help in many areas of ENV's work from investigations to awareness activities. Chien joined the network in April 2008.

Ms. Le Thi Tra Giang of Ho Chi Minh City received the award for "Most Significant Single Case" based on a case in Dong Nai province reported by Giang involving four gibbons, a bear, and

some peafowl observed being kept at a vocational center. Thanks to the timely report by Giang, the animals were successfully confiscated and placed at a rescue center.

Mr. Le Van Son of Da Nang won the "People's Choice" award, selected by all the other volunteers for his enthusiasm and leadership.

In addition to a rowdy mix of volunteers and ENV staff, the awards ceremony, hosted in partnership with the Press Club of Hanoi, was attended by journalists, and guest speaker and outspoken advocate of wildlife protection as a member of the National Assembly, Mr. Nguyen Dinh Xuan.

"The activities of volunteers have a profound influence on nature conservation," said Mr. Xuan, praising the efforts of young people in the battle to protect Vietnam's wildlife.

Ho Chi Minh City club leader and award winner Nguyen Thanh Hung expressed his passion



Ho Chi Minh club leader Nguyen Thanh Hung receives an award from ENV as the year's "most active" volunteer at an awards ceremony in November to celebrate the contribution of active volunteers throughout Vietnam.

Photo: ENV

for the work he does as an ENV volunteer: “I initially became a volunteer to protect wildlife just because of my love for animals. But as I took part in monitoring business establishments and coordinating other volunteers’ work, I realized that I am part of solution and can contribute to the protection of wildlife.”

ENV hopes that the efforts of young volunteers like Hung will inspire others to take action either

by volunteering, reporting wildlife crimes to local authorities or to the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline, or simply by choosing not to consume wildlife or products made from wildlife. “The role of the public in stopping the illegal consumption and trade of wildlife should not be underestimated,” says Dung. “Mobilizing public support is the key to successful efforts to put an end to illegal wildlife trade in Vietnam.”



Active volunteers meet to contribute their ideas about improving the volunteer network, and encouraging others to “get involved”.

Photo: ENV



Volunteer club leaders and active volunteers participate in a special training program hosted by ENV at Cuc Phuong National Park aimed at building their skills and knowledge as leaders.

Photo: ENV



Active volunteers participate in one of the most popular warm-up activities designed by ENV; a wildlife trade version of “Pictionary”.

Photo: ENV

FEEDBACK: Why I joined the Wildlife Protection Volunteer Network

Ideas presented by volunteers during the annual meeting discussions:

- Help protect nature and wildlife, show passion for nature
- Improve my skills, experience, knowledge
- Connect with others and join active and enthusiastic group with a good social cause
- Encouraged by others to join
- Relates to my major at university

FEEDBACK: Underlying causes behind wildlife trade in Vietnam

Root causes presented by volunteers during the annual meeting discussion:

- Preference and demand for wildlife as a specialty food
- Economic benefits and profits from selling and trading wildlife
- Weakness of law enforcement, laws, and policy relating to wildlife protection
- Low awareness of conservation issues, appreciation for wildlife, laws, etc.
- Long cultural attachment and tradition to consuming wildlife
- Consumption of wildlife is stylish, emphasizes success, importance
- Values and perceived health benefits associated with traditional medicine made from wildlife

OF INTEREST: On traditional medicine

“Scientific knowledge and research associated with using traditional medicine made from wildlife is not good. Traditional medicine made from wildlife has little impact on improving health. Research should focus on discovery of effective medicines that work and can replace those made from wildlife.” Member of ENV’s Wildlife Volunteer Network.



Ms. Ninh Thi Phuong Thao is ENV’s inspiring Volunteer Network Coordinator and has the difficult job of keeping 2,700 volunteers throughout the country motivated!

Photo: ENV

ENV’s volunteers express their ideas on Facebook



ENV has launched a Facebook Page for volunteers that helps link volunteers throughout the country, keeping them posted on each other’s activities, and most importantly, highlighting the outcome of successful cases reported by volunteers. The Volunteer Network Facebook page also includes photos from volunteer events and activities. “Facebook is just one

way that we try to keep people informed and motivated,” says Ninh Thi Phuong Thao, ENV Volunteer Coordinator. “We operate a database of volunteers throughout the country too which helps us keep track of their contributions, and also use a Google Group to get things out to everyone.” Each club operates their own internal E-network to enable communication with specific clubs as well. “Keeping people connected and inspired is a full-time job,” says Thao.

Link to Volunteer’s Facebook page:

http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1546870834980&set=a.1546855234590.2070571.1331338044&ref=notif¬if_t=photo_comment_tagged#!/ENVvolunteers

Wildlife Volunteer Network ranks swell

Over the past few months, ENV hosted volunteer recruitment drives aimed at bolstering the ranks of ENV’s National Wildlife Volunteer Network in five priority cities, including Ho Chi Minh City, Pleiku in the central Highlands (Gia Lai), Vinh City, Dong Hoi City in Quang Binh, and Nha Trang City in Khanh Hoa. A total of 980 new volunteers joined the ranks of the network in 2010, which presently comprises more than 2,773 volunteers located in 32 provinces nationally. Volunteers are primarily tasked with assisting ENV with compliance monitoring of business establishments where crimes have previously been reported and enforcement measures have been undertaken. However, volunteers also help with other activities such as assisting with local events.

ENV provides basic training to volunteers joining the network. Training includes species identification, monitoring methodology, operational safety, and a field practice session whereby new volunteers survey a number of business establishments under ENV supervision, debrief, and complete monitoring reports based on their findings.

Roughly 12% of the volunteers recruited by ENV go on after their initial assignment to become active volunteers contributing to monitoring for a year or longer. Monitoring rates are significantly higher from volunteers involved in locally run clubs established in partnership with ENV.

Volunteer recruitment film:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v3V_EYI0xko

Combating wildlife crime



Two gibbons discovered by the HCMC Crime Unit during urban surveys were confiscated shortly after their discovery at a café, and transferred to the Cu Chi Rescue Center operated by WAR.

Photo: ENV

ENV establishes office in Ho Chi Minh to increase local impact on illegal trade

A new satellite office of the Wildlife Crime Unit was opened in Ho Chi Minh City aimed at strengthening ENV's efforts to address consumer crimes and improve coordination with local authorities in Vietnam's largest city. The local team will conduct regular consumer trade surveys, assist with monitoring priority cases, and conduct regular monitoring and inspection of private zoos and wildlife farming operations.

In Ho Chi Minh City alone, 324 cases have been documented by ENV. A recent survey showed that violations were recorded in about 49% of the establishments surveyed.

"Establishing an office in Ho Chi Minh City has been planned for several years", says ENV Co-director Nguyen Phuong Dung. "The Ho Chi Minh City team will provide a vital presence needed to deal with priority cases, work directly with authorities, and permit regular monitoring of tiger and bear farms, as well as other important sites for which owners are suspected of illegal activities.

The team is supported by the Hanoi-based headquarters of the Wildlife Crime Unit which includes a case officer specifically responsible for handling cases in the southern region of the country. A similar regional office covering central Vietnam was established in late 2009 in Da Nang.

In addition to conducting surveys and priority monitoring, the Ho Chi Minh City team will also work directly with volunteers and carry out monthly awareness activities in markets and public forums.

Hunting and trade surveys target protected areas in central Vietnam



A survey team conducts interviews with local residents in communities bordering Phong Dien Nature Reserve in Thua Thien-Hue. The team mapped out trade networks linking hunters to middlemen and consumer establishments.

Photo: ENV

In 2010, ENV carried out four major hunting and trade surveys in central Vietnam focused on mapping out wildlife networks linked to national parks and nature reserves. The surveys involved interviews with local hunters and other residents living in communities bordering the protected areas with knowledge of hunting and trade activities. The survey team also used information gained through interviews to identify and initiate interviews with local and district level traders, and the consumer establishments that many of them sold to.

Thus far, hunting and trade surveys have been completed for Song Thanh Nature Reserve in Quang Nam (2009), Chu Mom Ray National Park in Kon Tum province, Phong Dien Nature Reserve in Thua Thien-Hue province, Dak Rong Nature Reserve in Quang Tri province, and Kon Ka Kinh National Park in Gia Lai province.

Priority cases involving live animals were reported and pursued immediately upon discovery through the ENV Wildlife Crime Unit, while new cases were documented based on intelligence collected from interviews as well as observations of non-priority crimes that were recorded during the course of the surveys. ENV has completed internal reports on the findings of each survey, but plans in early 2011 to produce brief and concise hunting and trade profiles for reflecting the results of each survey that will also include ENV recommendations for specific actions aimed at shutting down illegal trade networks linked to these parks and nature reserves. These hunting and trade briefs will be used in conjunction with a series of meetings with provincial leadership, enforcement agencies, and protected area managers, to leverage influence in strengthening efforts to combat illegal hunting and trade of wildlife.

The Da Nang-based Wildlife Crime Unit has also been carrying out major consumer trade surveys in cities throughout the central region of Vietnam, which target immediate enforcement action where crimes are discovered.

Central Vietnam program at a glance

Target provinces: Quang Nam, Da Nang, Thua Thien-Hue, Quang Tri, Kon Tum, Gia Lai

- Hunting and trade surveys map out the problem
- Urban consumer trade surveys establish baseline data on availability of wildlife
- Hunting and trade briefing documents used to leverage attention on issue amongst leadership, key decision-makers, relevant agencies and managers, and the media
- ENV awareness activities target five provinces and protected areas
- Media campaign highlights issues, urges action; reduce consumption, report crimes
- Wildlife Crime Unit targets enforcement on cases reported by survey team, volunteers, and the public
- Protected area community-focused programs augment local enforcement
- Urban surveys replicated and show reduction in consumer crimes

Consumer establishment trade surveys in five cities

Since July, eight major wildlife trade surveys have been carried out in selected areas of five cities by ENV's Wildlife Crime Unit. The surveys, focused on consumer establishments, are part of ENV's ongoing campaign to reduce consumption and trade of wildlife. Surveys focused on priority districts in the cities of Hue, Da Nang, Dong Ha (Quang Tri), Ho Chi Minh City, and Tam Ky (Quang Nam), and aim to both address crimes that are discovered and establish baseline statistics that will allow ENV to measure change over time.

In total, 571 restaurants, cafes, bars, and TCM shops were inspected with violations documented at 223 (39%) of the establishments. Violations ranged from possession of live animals to advertising wildlife on menus and signboards. ENV responds to each incident in accordance with set procedures tracking each case through to conclusion. Minor cases are often handled by urging the owner of the establishment to voluntarily comply with the law, while more serious crimes are reported by ENV to the authorities. Volunteers continue to monitor establishments after initial action is taken by ENV to ensure that owners comply with the law and violations are not repeated.

Surveys of establishments for which previous violations had been reported and subsequent action taken by ENV or our law enforcement counterparts showed that 45 of 75 (60%) of these establishments are no longer violating wildlife protection laws.

ENV's Wildlife Crime Unit routinely carries out regular consumer wildlife trade surveys focused on major urban centers. These surveys are geographically defined and cover only a representative sample of the targeted city. Less formal surveys are carried out by ENV's mobile team in conjunction with volunteers. In 2009 and 2010, a total of 30 such surveys have been completed in 14 cities, mainly as part of efforts to train volunteers to conduct compliance monitoring.



Major wildlife trade surveys in 2010

Location	Dates	Establishments surveyed	New crimes reported	Establishments with priors	Violations recorded at Establishments with priors
Da Nang Thanh Khe and Lien Chieu districts	July 2010	172	77	10	4
Hue City	September 2010	110	35	27	10
Ho Chi Minh City District 10	September 2010	48	30	12	8
Ho Chi Minh City Phu Nhuan district	October 2010	32	25	1	0
Quang Tri Dong Ha Town	October-Nov. 2010	54	12	7	4
Quang Nam Tam Ky Town	Nov. 29- Dec. 3	75	18	6	3
Ho Chi Minh City Tan Binh district	Nov. 2010	54	18	10	1
Ho Chi Minh City District 11	December 2010	26	8	2	0

Wildlife Crime Unit statistics

During 2010, ENV's Wildlife Crime Unit has been busy at work logging more than 884 new cases, ranging from tiger and ivory seizures to intelligence on major trade networks, seizures of pangolins, and hundreds of consumer crime and possession cases.

During the last four months, the efforts of the crime unit have resulted in successful outcomes on a number of important cases, including seizures of live marine turtles, gibbons, binturong, leopard cats, lorises, gray-shanked douc langurs, otters, macaques, and other wildlife.

Four small-clawed otters that were advertised on a website and reported to the WCU were confiscated after ENV investigators identified the name and address of the owner, and Ho Chi Minh Environmental Police raided the home and confiscated the otters and other wildlife.

Five gibbons have been confiscated in three separate cases in Ho Chi Minh and Lam Dong provinces after being discovered at a hotel, café, and behind a church. One case was reported via the hotline, while a second case was discovered during monitoring. The last case

was reported by a government officer requesting assistance in dealing with the case. All of the gibbons were transferred to the HCM Cu Chi Rescue Center in cooperation with Wildlife at Risk.

Dozens of macaques have been confiscated in recent months, all of these linked to possession cases reported by members of the public. In December, seven macaques involved in five cases in Hue were confiscated by the Forest Protection Department and transported to Soc Son Rescue Center.

The Wildlife Crime Unit has documented a total of 3144 cases since it was established in January 2005. The WCU is tasked with promoting public reporting and encouraging greater public involvement in efforts to combat wildlife crime, while working closely with law enforcement agencies to assist and support positive outcomes in cases that further the aims of wildlife protection.

Wildlife trade gallery: <http://thiennhien.org/index.php?page=gallery>

Wildlife crime statistics

Period	Trade Operations	Smuggling	Selling	Advertising	Possession display	Other	Total
Total 2010	54	93	412	53	300	28	940

ENV wildlife trade gallery



An Asiatic black bear cub confiscated in Lai Chau in December 2010. The bear was most likely smuggled into Vietnam from Laos.

Photo: Lai Chau FPD



One of four young otters confiscated by Environmental Police in HCMC after ENV investigated a website offering wildlife for sale.

Photo: Cu Chi Rescue Center (WAR)



Hue authorities confiscate seven macaques from five locations in December. Dealing with macaque cases remains a substantial problem for authorities. Zoos and rescue centers do not have space to take them and releasing macaques back into the wild is rarely an acceptable option for animals that have been held in captivity.

Photo: ENV



A binturong confiscated in Quang Nam province in December 2010 following its rediscovery at a tourism area by the ENV Da Nang team.

Photo: ENV



Left: A gray-shanked douc langur discovered at a café in Gia Lai province was confiscated shortly after it was reported to ENV.

Photo: Nguyen Thi Tinh

Right: Authorities from Bac Lieu DARD prepare to release a marine turtle that was discovered at a restaurant in the province.

Photo: Bac Lieu DARD

Home page

Education for Nature-Vietnam (ENV) was established in 2000 as Vietnam's first non-governmental organization focused on the conservation of nature and the environment. Our mission is to foster greater understanding amongst the Vietnamese public about environmental issues of local, national and global significance, ranging from the protection of wildlife and natural ecosystems to climate change. We employ creative and innovative strategies to influence attitudes and mobilize Vietnamese citizens to live in balance with the natural world and to take action to protect Vietnam's precious environment.

ENV programs

ENV specializes in four major program areas that collectively form ENV's integrated and strategic approach toward achievement of our mission. These include:

- Combating wildlife crime
- Raising public awareness
- Working with key decision-makers to strengthen policy and legislation
- Strengthening protected area management through education and training

Links

Volunteer Network Recruitment film: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v3V_EYI0xko

Attitudes toward use of bear bile report:

http://www.envietnam.org/library/Resource%20and%20Publication/Bear_bile_report%28EN-final18Nov2010%29.pdf (English version)

http://thiennhien.org/userfiles/file/Bao_cao_phan_tich_thai_do_hanh_vi_doi_voi_viec_su_dung_mat_gau_o_Viet_Nam_2010.pdf (Vietnamese version)

Tiger investigation summary report: <http://www.envietnam.org/library/Resource%20and%20Publication/Tiger%20summary%20%28ENfinal;%2013%20March%202010%29.pdf>

KBS Quang Ninh bear investigation film: <http://thiennhien.org/index.php?page=documentView&parent=172&id=166>

Awards ceremony for winners of national painting competition on air pollution

- The winning paintings: http://envietnam.org/gallery/Hanoi_Air_pollution_painting_competition_award_ceremony.html

Awards ceremony honors most active volunteers

- Press release: http://www.envietnam.org/library/Press%20Release/Press_Release_Vol_Meeting_%28EN_21_Nov_2010%29Final.pdf

ENV Volunteer's facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ENVvolunteers>

Bear webpage: <http://thiennhien.org/CDBVG/index.php>

Tiger webpage: <http://thiennhien.org/BVH/index.php>

ENV Voice of Vietnam radio on Vietnamese website: <http://thiennhien.org/index.php?page=document&catid=173>

Wildlife trade gallery: <http://thiennhien.org/index.php?page=gallery>

Bear campaign TV Public Service Announcements

<http://thiennhien.org/index.php?page=document&catid=172>

ENV wishes to thank the following donors for supporting our efforts to protect nature and wildlife in Vietnam:

World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)
The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
Humane Society International (HSI)
Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)
Toyota Motor Vietnam
The Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation
US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
Auckland Zoo
Houston Zoo



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ENV English Website: www.envvietnam.org

Wildlife Crime Gallery: www.savingvietnamswildlife.org

Facebook–English: <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: **1-800-1522** Email: Hotline@fpt.vn