

News from the front line

A brief summary of the activities of Education for Nature - Vietnam

Issue 8 - May 2013

www.envvietnam.org

Spotlight

Awards for Outstanding Service in Wildlife Protection

On April 22, 2013, ENV (under the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) ARREST Program) hosted Vietnam's first national awards ceremony to honor individuals for their outstanding contributions to wildlife protection.

The Outstanding Service in Wildlife Protection Awards ceremony, held at the Hilton Hanoi Opera hotel, recognized three law enforcement officers and two journalists, who were selected from more than 60 nominations received during 2012.

The five winners were selected by a panel of judges with representatives from the U.S. Embassy, ENV, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), People and Nature Reconciliation (PanNature), TRAFFIC, and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). The winners included Mr. Tran Thanh Binh, Head of Lam Dong Forest Protection Department, Mr. Nguyen Van Duong, Deputy Head of the Environmental Crime Prevention Force for the Quang Ninh provincial police, Mr. Hoang Hai Van, journalist with Thanh Nien Newspaper, Mr. Lam Hieu Nghia, Leader of Team Two, Division of the Environmental Police in Ho Chi Minh City, and Mr. Nguyen Duy Tuan, a journalist with VietnamNet Online Newspaper.

"We are very proud to recognize these five individuals," said Ms. Vu Thi Quyen, Executive



National wildlife heroes award winner Tran Thanh Binh, chief of the Lam Dong Forest Protection Department tells forest rangers nationwide that the best way for rangers to address wildlife crime is to be tough and decisive in dealing with violations, big or small, and administer effective punishment that will deter future crimes

Director and founder of ENV. "On any given day, the situation in Vietnam can look rather bleak for wildlife, but these award winners are some of our most valuable partners in the movement towards a better future for Vietnam's wildlife. It is important that we show our appreciation for their efforts, for their dedication and commitment to making a difference, and for helping to transform the way we protect our rich, natural heritage."

The event was a part of ENV's broader strategy to strengthen enforcement and widen public support for the protection of wildlife.

Short films on award winners with English subtitles: [here](#)





Huong Pagoda restaurant owners defiant in the face of the law

For the past three years, ENV has been addressing the difficult problem of restaurants openly selling wildlife at the Huong Pagoda, an important cultural and religious site that sees thousands of visitors each year.

People from throughout the northern region of the country visit the temple – located west of Hanoi –

during the period following Tet, the Vietnamese New Year. Each year, businesses establish a small city of restaurants at the entrance and walkway up to the temple, offering wildlife dishes including civets, leopard cats, deer, porcupine, and wild pig. Likewise, every year, ENV receives reports of wildlife crimes at the site. In the past, ENV has successfully worked with Environmental Police addressing more serious crimes at the site and resulting in the confiscation of a leopard cat at one establishment. However, even police have complained that the restaurant owners are never prosecuted, and law enforcement lacks support from local authorities needed to be effective.

In 2013, ENV embarked on a more substantial campaign, working with district authorities in advance, securing agreements for joint patrols, monitoring activities, and posting 15 banners at key access points urging the public not to buy or consume wildlife.

However sadly, most of these banners were pulled down within the first week, most likely by restaurant owners, as some banners were even observed being used by restaurants to help cover holes in the roofs of their temporary establishments.

Moreover, despite direct orders from the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Vietnam instructing local authorities to prohibit any violations of wildlife protection laws, 42 violations were documented out of 62 restaurants during the first day of inspections alone. Local authorities claimed that the wildlife sold at the restaurants was from farms, and thus of legal origin. However, restaurant owners





ENV monitoring staff and a forest ranger from My Duc district confront a restaurant owner over a violation during joint inspections of restaurants operating outside of Huong Pagoda

claimed otherwise, telling undercover ENV teams that the animals they hung in front of their shops were, in fact, from the wild.

ENV also brought media attention to the sale of wildlife at Huong Pagoda, with TV and print journalists conducting their own investigations and making similar findings. One journalist reported that local restaurant owners had rented the space from local officials each year, and chose to sell wildlife because “selling noodles” was not going to make them any money.

ENV confirmed that local authorities were unwilling to take decisive actions in the face of blatant violations, even after the Hanoi People’s Committee Chairman ordered local authorities to immediately address the open sale of wildlife at the pagoda. In the end, restaurant owners remained undeterred and civets, live turtles, squirrels, bear bile, and large quantities of wildlife meat of questionable or unverifiable origin, remained for sale at one of Vietnam’s most holy sites for the entire month following Tet.

As of the first week of April, more than 500 restaurant inspections had been carried out by ENV survey teams, some working undercover, and others operating openly in the presence of district inspection teams. On average, violations of wildlife laws were found in 72% of the restaurants inspected.

Overall, the campaign was unsuccessful, but not for lack of trying. The absence of firm action by local authorities in response to violations by restaurant operators resulted in continued violations recorded for the duration of the event. Even Ministry-level instructions and orders from the Hanoi’s People Committee failed to yield results. Restaurant owners remained defiant, perhaps understandably so, after reportedly paying a small fortune to rent their site from the same district authorities that were also tasked with overseeing and enforcing regulations.

Next year, ENV will approach the campaign more aggressively during the months leading up to Tet, when restaurant owners reportedly conclude their agreements with local authorities for rental and use of land near the site.



One of the few surviving banners urging the public not to buy or consume wildlife along the river traveled by visitors to the Huong Pagoda. Nearly all of the other banners put up by ENV were torn down, probably by restaurant owners

Ending bear farming, one farm at a time

In the first major operation in 2013 targeting hotspot communities in Phuc Tho district (west of Hanoi) where bear farms are concentrated, ENV's mobile team hosted awareness activities in local markets. During the campaign, local residents were urged to rid their community of bear farms and help end bear farming. The market events coincided with the broadcasting of announcements on the public address system throughout the commune, events in local middle schools (during which "end bear farming" stickers and posters were handed out), and visiting the neighbors of bear farmers (to distribute information and discuss their neighbors' illegal activities). ENV also hosted speech competitions in both high schools within the district.

Winning speech at Ngoc Tao and Phuc Tho High Schools: [here](#)

A poll of high school students living in Phuc Tho district, with the second largest concentration of bear farms in the country, showed overwhelming opposition to bear farming and the keeping of bears. Of 2,378 students that were asked whether they support a complete end to bear farming in their community, 2,214 (93%) said yes, suggesting that younger residents of communities notorious for bear farming activities, oppose this illegal business in their own community.

These hotspot missions are part of a broader campaign to pressure bear farmers and show them that they are the last vestiges of a dying and illegal



Many children have voiced their opinion on the issue of bear farming in their community. One child wrote, "I feel angry with bear farmers that keep bears for evil purposes like extracting bear bile. To all bear farmers I give this message: *Do not hurt these bears for your own benefit. Stop this evil action immediately!*"

industry that is quickly losing acceptance in society. ENV also sends monthly letters to bear farmers throughout the country and utilizes a team of volunteers to call farmers each month, and discuss the need to give up their business. Last year, more than 14,790 letters were sent to bear farmers nationwide, and 4,197 calls successfully reached bear farmers resulting in discussions.



Key facts on bear farming in Vietnam

- In 2005, there were an estimated 4,500 bears on farms in Vietnam.
- Bear farmers extract bile from their bears for use in traditional medicine.
- Bear bile is widely perceived to treat injuries and bruising, as well as a range of other ailments.
- The government embarked on a plan in 2005 to bring an end to bear farming, registering all bears on farms and inserting microchips for identification to ensure that no new illegal bears ended up on farms.
- In 2012, the government estimated that about 2,300 bears remained on farms, a reduction of nearly 50%, providing a clear indicator that significant progress was being made toward achieving the complete elimination of bear farming in Vietnam.
- According to ENV records, there are more than 1,100 bear farms in Vietnam, though inspections are showing that many of these farms no longer keep bears. Most farms are small, with only one or two animals.
- The price of bear bile has dropped considerably since 2005, with prices presently ranging between 20.000 VND and 230.000 VND per cubic centimeter (cc) and 55,000 VND/cc on average.

Bear crime stats

ENV has documented a total of 1,297 crimes relating to bears since 2005. These are classified as follows:

- 706 advertising and selling
- 4 hunting
- 498 possession cases
- 85 smuggling and trade operations
- 4 other
- A total of 45 cubs and 8 adults confiscated in trade (January 2005 thru March 31, 2013).



In April, ENV released two new puzzles that will assist in the battle to end bear farming. The puzzles are being distributed to residents and schools in hotspot communities where bear farms are concentrated in support of regular activities carried out by ENV's field teams in these targeted areas

Rhino horn PSA released



The rise in consumer demand for rhino horn in Vietnam has corresponded with an increase in legal live rhino imports to Vietnam. One farm outside of Ho Chi Minh City has ten rhinos, despite the zoo owner's involvement in illegal trade of other wildlife species and products

ENV has released a [new public service announcement \(PSA\)](#), which aims to influence rhino horn consumers by emphasizing the negative aspects of their activities.

The video clip describes rhino horn consumers as “foolish, ignorant, backwards, cruel and evil”, and emphasizes that rhino horn is not a status symbol or a magical medicine. It goes on to urge viewers not to consume rhino horn, and to report crimes involving rhino horn to authorities or ENV’s toll-free National Wildlife Crime Hotline.

The PSA will be broadcast on national and provincial TV stations, and will also reach audiences virally through websites, forums, and blogs.

Demand for rhino horn from Vietnamese consumers has already resulted in the extinction of the Javan rhino in Vietnam in 2010, and is considered to have been a significant factor in the unprecedented killing of 668 rhinos in South Africa in 2012.

Rapid economic growth and a rising standard of living since the late 1990s in Vietnam have increased demand for traditional forms of medicine made from wildlife. Many consumers of rhino horn believe that it is a magical cure for a range of ailments; others wish to flaunt their success in front of friends and associates by using exotic and expensive goods that are only available to the rich.

“Vietnam must share the responsibility of protecting the world’s rhinos by dispelling the myth of the medicinal value of rhino horn,” said Mr. Tran Viet Hung, Vice-Director of ENV. “We need to send a strong message to rhino horn consumers that this behavior is socially unacceptable, and the effects of this kind of consumption are being felt across the world.”

“The demand for rhino horn is driven by a very small segment of society and is not an accurate reflection of the attitudes or interests of ordinary Vietnamese,” Mr. Hung goes on to say. “We’re also pleased to see the Vietnamese government taking more action to stop rhino horn trade in Vietnam with the recent decision to ban rhino trophy imports, and the increase in rhino horn seizures and arrests.”

The new PSA is the first in a new series of television commercials to be released in 2013 targeting rhino horn consumers, and is the 16th public service announcement produced by ENV as part of our broader campaign to reduce consumer demand for wildlife in Vietnam.

Visit our rhino protection page [here](#)



ENV has partnered with the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), a South African NGO, to produce two new posters campaigning for rhino protection. The first poster encourages consumers not to use rhino horn, in order to stop the slaughter of rhinos. The second poster asks the viewer to consider the effect of rhino horn consumption on juvenile rhinos, which are often left orphaned by poaching. The posters are being used as part of ENV’s viral campaign to help end the killing of African rhinos

Dear Friends and Supporters,

In 2008, ENV established the National Wildlife Protection Network of volunteers to help monitor business establishments throughout Vietnam and ensure that they comply with wildlife protection laws. Volunteers serve as our eyes and ears out in the field, providing valuable assistance to help verify the results of enforcement measures that were undertaken, and ensuring that businesses do not engage in further illegal activities. "Compliance monitoring" by volunteers remains a critical component of ENV's national demand reduction strategy.

This year, we are calling on your support to help us bolster the volunteer network through massive recruitment and training focused on Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, where major consumer trade monitoring programs are currently underway or planned.

ENV's network of volunteers is presently composed of 3,728 members in 32 provinces, mainly in urban areas where violations are most concentrated. Nine clubs operate in the biggest cities and provincial towns, receiving monthly monitoring assignments from ENV's Wildlife Crime Unit, and reporting results upon conclusion of monitoring.

ENV unifies the network through an active Facebook page aimed at keeping our volunteers informed and motivated, as well as an electronic mailing list to disseminate information. Additionally, regular meetings are held by the volunteer clubs in most cities, with ENV providing additional training in the form of survey techniques, species identification, and background on topics relevant to the wildlife protection. Volunteers also have the opportunity to participate in wildlife protection activities by joining ENV's outreach events and other activities that are hosted regularly in major cities throughout each year.

Specific volunteer activities we would like to expand include:

- Increased support for volunteer club meetings
- Recruitment and training of additional volunteers
- Intensified monitoring of business establishments and additional surveys

Our target is to raise \$15,000 USD by July 15 in order to support these activities nationally through the second half of 2013, and into 2014.

Your donation can help us to mobilize public action and stop the illegal trade of wildlife! Thank you for any assistance you can provide.

Sincerely,



Vu Thi Quyen
Executive Director
Education for Nature – Vietnam



Wildlife Protection Network Coordinator Thao (right) working with volunteers on species identification skills development during a tour of Hanoi Zoo

Some highlights from ENV's campaigns and activities in 2013:

Reaching millions on the air

ENV's latest public service announcement (PSA) targeting rhino horn consumers, is the 16th PSA produced by ENV. ENV's PSAs are aired on national TV for up to several months before being distributed and aired on provincial television. About 28-32 provinces air each PSA, and the overall reach is estimated to be in the millions of people. ENV's PSAs are also aired on RailTV reaching passengers on trains traveling between central and southern regions of the country, as well as in locations such as shopping malls and airports. In 2012, several of ENV's PSAs were aired more 300,000 times.

ENV has also produced nearly 80 Voice of Vietnam (VOV) radio shows focused on wildlife protection to help get the wildlife protection message across to the public. These shows provide listeners with news about recent seizures, and include expert interviews on current topics such as rhino horn consumption, tiger farming, and other issues of importance. Additionally, ENV runs monthly 30-second public service announcements on VOV radio, with about 40-50 advertisements aired each month.



Going viral



Since the campaign began in 2012, more than 160 websites and forums have hosted banners produced by ENV urging the public not to consume wildlife and to report wildlife crimes. In addition to popular news sites and forums, many government websites have hosted campaign banners, especially provincial People's Committees and agencies. ENV campaign banner designs and messaging are changed frequently, keeping the look fresh.

Forging corporate partnerships for change

More than 80 companies have joined ENV's efforts to raise awareness amongst their employees and customers through our Corporate Alliance for Wildlife Protection. The initiative, started in late 2011, involves placement of standing banners in the lobbies and employee entrances of major companies, urging employees not to keep wildlife or consume products made from wildlife, and to report wildlife crimes to authorities or to ENV..

Employees are further encouraged to volunteer for the ENV Wildlife Protection Network. ENV also offers seminars for employees on wildlife protection, and enables partnerships with companies on specific activities, such as public awareness events or the production of public service announcements that promote wildlife protection on television.

ENV's Corporate Alliance for Wildlife Protection has attracted companies in Hanoi, Da Nang, and Ho Chi Minh City, including Cannon Vietnam, Standard Charter Bank, Unilever Vietnam, Viettel, Panasonic, and the Sofitel Plaza Hotel amongst many others



Government partners sign on to raise awareness amongst civil servants

Similar to ENV's corporate partnership program, ENV has forged partnerships with 23 key government ministries and agencies targeting awareness of government employees. Banners discouraging consumption of wildlife, have been placed in the lobbies and entrances to partner institutions such as the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MONRE), Ministry of Planning and Investment, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Construction, and other central or provincial government offices.



In late 2012, ENV expanded the Alliance for Wildlife Protection program to include placement of awareness banners in hospitals and pharmaceutical companies. So far, 26 hospitals and pharmaceutical companies in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, and Da Nang have joined the initiative.

Markets join campaign to educate consumers

As of the end of April, 41 major public markets in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh, and Da Nang have joined ENV in encouraging the public not to consume wildlife through the placement of banners at market entrances.



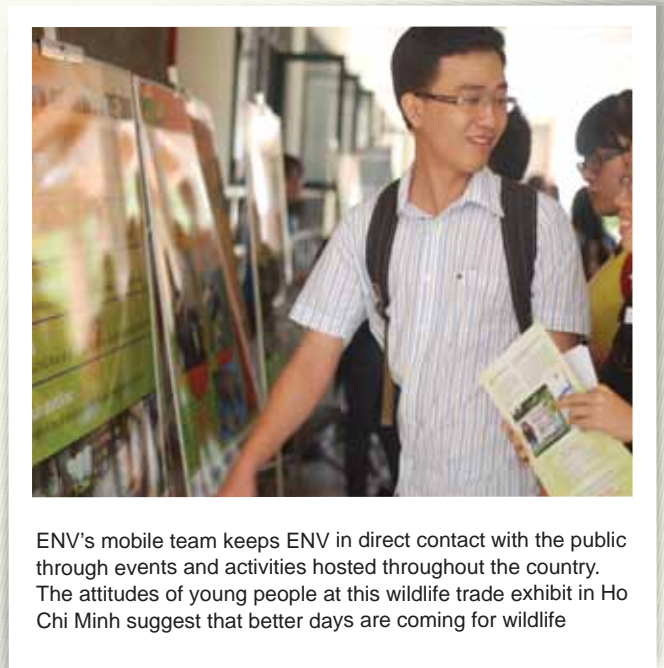
On the road with ENV

ENV's "mobile awareness" team travels throughout Vietnam hosting a range of activities at universities, shopping malls, parks, and other public forums, as part of ENV's wider demand reduction campaign.

More than 90 awareness events on wildlife protection have been hosted for the public as of the end of April 2013. Events include information panels and a range of activities to get the public involved, such as quizzes, public feedback boards, or opportunities to join ENV's National Wildlife Network of volunteers.

ENV's mobile team has also carried out more than 140 "End Bear Farming and Trade" events in public forums, and collected 112,883 pledges from the public not to consume bear bile.

As of the end of April, ENV had hosted 74 wildlife protection seminars at universities throughout Vietnam for more than 13,400 students and teachers. Semi-



ENV's mobile team keeps ENV in direct contact with the public through events and activities hosted throughout the country. The attitudes of young people at this wildlife trade exhibit in Ho Chi Minh suggest that better days are coming for wildlife

nars include a presentation and discussion on the wildlife protection, followed by a debate, film, and performance by students.

The word on the street

"In my opinion, law enforcement agencies do their jobs well, but not well enough. They call for the people to protect wildlife, but they do not fulfill their duties in wildlife protection. If they had done well, the last rhino would not have died. Hence, I wish that forest rangers and police would act more aggressively in protecting wildlife."

Ms. Dieu, Ho Chi Minh City

"I absolutely don't believe that rhino horn can cure cancer because, as scientific evidence has shown, rhino horn is made from keratin, the same as a finger nails. So, why would it cure cancer?"

Ms. Hanh, Age 23, Hanoi

"We should not use traditional medicine made from wildlife. Medicine from wildlife is not effective as rumors suggest. We should use modern medicine or go to a doctor if we have trouble with our health."

Mr. Nam, Quang Tri province



On the Radar

ENV's legislation and policy team focuses on strengthening policy and legislation in support of wildlife protection. The team also plays a crucial role in advocating supportive decisions by policy-makers on core issues relevant to wildlife protection, such as appropriate disposal of confiscated tigers or addressing bear bile tourism operations in Quang Ninh province.

A number of key laws are currently under review in preparation for revisions in 2013. ENV's role is to ensure that these laws are compatible with, and support, government efforts to protect wildlife, and will provide the legal foundation to further these efforts.

These laws, decrees, and regulations include the following for 2013:

- Revision of Decree 99/2009/ND-CP on administrative punishment for violations in forest management and protection.
- Revision of Decree 31/2010/ND-CP on administrative punishment for violations of fisheries protection. This law covers protection of marine and aquatic species.
- Circular 95/QD/2008 on the captive management of bears, originally scheduled for April, but now delayed until later in 2013.
- Decree 32/2006/ND-CP on protection of rare and endangered species. Decree 32 is Vietnam's principle endangered species and wildlife protection law. A revised version of the law is expected by as early as the end of the year.
- Revision of the law on environmental protection, scheduled for submission to the National Assembly in November 2013.



The ENV legislation and policy team also work on tough cases of national importance like the transfer of two confiscated live tigers from a private zoo where they were supposed to be kept temporarily. The zoo obstructed the efforts of authorities to transfer the tigers to a government rescue center in a bid to keep the animals. The ENV team worked with provincial leaders over the course of two months to successfully secure the transfer



Surveillance photo of Korean tourists returning to a bus at one of three surviving bear bile tourism businesses operating in Ha Long Bay. Groups of tourists are brought to the farms to witness the extraction of bile from a live bear before being sold bear bile. ENV is working with authorities to close these operations permanently and will do so in 2013



MARCH 2013 WILDLIFE CRIME BULLETIN VIETNAM

New circular will decide fate of our country's bears

A new circular currently being drafted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) will reinforce the government's commitment to phase out and end bear farming in Vietnam. *or will it?*

The new circular will replace Decision 95/2008/TT-BNN issued by MARD on 29 of September 2008, and includes many improvements that should benefit efforts to manage bears on farms. However, a single clause that is proposed for inclusion in the circular would permit bear farmers to breed and raise cubs born on their farms.

Experts are rightfully concerned about this provision of the revised new circular that would allow cubs to be born, registered, and kept on farms. Allowing bear farm owners to produce more bears on their farms is in conflict with MARD's commitment to end bear farming in Vietnam. It would also directly undermine the significant progress that has been accomplished over the past eight years by MARD, local law enforcement and authorities to phase out bear farming in Vietnam and bring an end to the illegal hunting and trade of bears.

Key issues relevant to this argument are as follows:

- The number of bears on commercial farms will increase as cubs are born and registered, and these bears could be exploited for bear bile in violation of the law. MARD's commitment to phase out bear farming in Vietnam will fail. Illegal commercial bear farming will continue indefinitely.
- Hunting, smuggling, and trade in wild-caught bears will also continue as owners claim to authorities that new cubs discovered on their bear farms were captive-born, not wild-caught. Authorities will have difficulty distinguishing between wild and captive-born bear cubs at farms, leading to a breakdown in enforcement and compromising Vietnam's wildlife protection laws, intended to protect bears and other endangered wildlife.
- More than 30 bear cubs have been confiscated by authorities since 2010. Wild-caught bears originate not just in Vietnam, but also Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, and other countries. Vietnam has a responsibility to help protect the region's bears by suppressing illegal activities, such as commercial farming of bears in Vietnam, that have had a devastating impact on wild bear populations in the region.

Photo: ENV

Download the English version of ENV's latest Wildlife Crime Bulletin, produced and distributed in Vietnamese language to more than 1200 decision-makers, National Assembly members, government agencies, police and forest protection departments at the central and provincial level

Understanding the law: Lawyer not included

ENV has launched a new version of its online library of key legislation and policy relating to wildlife protection. Included in the library are translations of primary laws relating to wildlife protection, relevant decrees, and some important circulars, as well as a reference to CITES. A Vietnamese-language version of the library is also available on ENV's Vietnamese-language website.

English law library [here](#)

VN law library [here](#)

Trying to understand the legal system in Vietnam? Download our diagram showing the relationship between laws, decrees, and circulars, and the governing bodies that generate laws and policy in Vietnam.



Tigers at one of Vietnam's nine private farms and zoos. Growth of tiger farming in Vietnam has been largely arrested, but farmers continue to push to open the legal trade. ENV conducts regular monitoring of farms to verify compliance with regulations and report violations

Counting tigers helps keep development of farms in check

ENV continues to conduct regular visits to all private zoos and farms in Vietnam that keep tigers and rhinos. Monitoring is carried out twice a year, during which animal inventories are compared with those from past visits. Discrepancies are documented and investigated fully. Visits are carried out in partnership with local law enforcement agencies as well as independently.

During the first quarter of 2013, ENV conducted inspections at three farms. These inspections are carried out as part of ENV's broader efforts to investigate tiger crimes and prevent the growth of commercial tiger farming in Vietnam.

There are currently nine private zoos and tiger farms operating in Vietnam holding 96 tigers. Three of these farms have been directly implicated in selling and trading tigers that were either born or passed through the farms. Violations regarding improper disposal of tigers that have died at tiger farms have been reported at three of the farms. All but two of the farms obtained their founding tigers in direct violation of criminal law.

Consumer trade surveys begin in Hanoi

In March, ENV initiated a new round of comprehensive consumer trade surveys in Hanoi that will initially encompass all restaurants, hotels, traditional medicine shops, and bars within four districts of the city.

ENV has been carrying out similar surveys in other major cities like Hue, Da Nang, and Vinh, but these are the first using a new methodology that geographically divides the city and focuses on intensive surveying of every restaurant, bar, and hotel within the district. Violations are documented and addressed through direct action by ENV in the form of written warnings for minor crimes, and immediate referral to law enforcement agencies for more serious cases. ENV also works directly with the district and city leadership to address violations collectively, and evaluates the effectiveness of responses in the following months, resulting in a report card detailing the performance of each district in addressing wildlife violations.

This method was tested in central Vietnam in 2010 and later trialed in Hanoi, and has proven successful in improving enforcement in these areas. In 2013, ENV will also work in partnership with the Biodiversity Conservation Agency (BCA) under the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment to address consumer crimes in Hanoi, and later Ho Chi Minh City, through provision of information on violations and a corresponding effort by BCA to address these crimes directly through government channels.

The Ho Chi Minh campaign is currently being prepared and is scheduled to begin by next month.

Wildlife crime fighters

ENV's Wildlife Crime Unit is composed of a small group of trained and dedicated professionals tasked with receiving reports on violations of wildlife protection laws from the public and other sources through ENV's National Wildlife Crime Hotline. This information is transferred to the appropriate law enforcement agency, after which each crime is followed up and tracked through to completion, including determining the disposition of wildlife and punishment of suspects that may have been caught or arrested in connection with the case. The crime unit also assists local authorities with guidance and advice on laws, identification of species, and help with placement of animals at rescue centers.

Case officers within the crime unit are assigned to regions of responsibility, and several senior officers work on major cases such as large pangolin seizures, tiger and rhino cases, and investigations. Case numbers are assigned to each case and incidents are documented on ENV's web-based Wildlife Crime Incident Tracking Database.

The ENV Wildlife Crime Unit is credited with helping bring transparency to wildlife protection efforts at the provincial level, and has provided critical information to law enforcement agencies and decision-makers on trends in the wildlife trade. It has also profiled major transnational smuggling operations involving tigers, rhino horn, and other endangered species of global importance.

Since 2005, ENV has logged more than 4,900 cases comprising 11,655 individual violations. The crime unit currently averages two new cases each day.

The ENV Wildlife Crime Unit is credited with helping bring transparency to wildlife protection efforts at the provincial level, and has provided critical information to law enforcement agencies and decision-makers on trends in the wildlife trade. It has also profiled major transnational smuggling operations involving tigers, rhino horn, and other endangered species of global importance.



A piece of rhino horn and block of tiger bone TCM at a private home in Hanoi during a March investigation with Environmental Police

Violations by classification are as follows:

- Hunting: 139
- Selling and advertising: 6,161
- Possession (live animals): 2,661
- Smuggling and trade: 2,624
- Other: 70

Wildlife crime investigations

A special team works exclusively on investigations providing valuable information and support to law enforcement agencies, and profiling major criminal networks behind the wildlife trade.

Due to the sensitive and ongoing nature of investigations, ENV's work in this area cannot be publicized. However, current investigations focus on networks supporting illegal transnational trade of tigers, bears, rhino horn, elephant ivory, pangolins, marine turtles, and douc langurs. Other ENV investigations are examining such complex issues as wildlife farming, and profiling some of ENV's top ten suspected wildlife traffickers.

Photo Journal



ENV Vice Director Hung gives a talk on tiger trade at the US Consulate in Ho Chi Minh City



Volunteers in Nghe An province participate in a club meeting in preparation for monitoring of business establishments in the city of Vinh



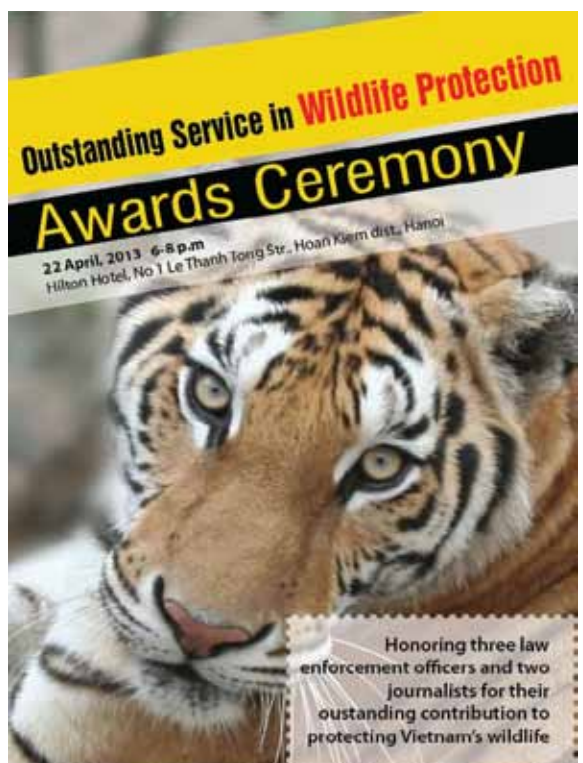
ENV Wildlife Ambassador and Superstar My Linh expresses her attitude on consumption of bear bile and other wildlife products at a recent national event hosted by ENV, "I have never used bear bile or any other wildlife product. There is no scientific basis to prove that bear bile is good for you. It's time for us to change our thinking and stop using wildlife."



Villain, hero, or lucky animal? A popular part of ENV wildlife trade campaign events is to pose for a photo with your friends as these students are doing at an event in Hanoi.



A mother gray-shanked douc langur and baby were transferred to a rescue center at Cat Tien National park after ENV received a call from a resident in Kon Tum province wishing to voluntarily turn in the critically endangered langur, endemic to the central region of Vietnam



Outstanding Service in Wildlife Protection
Awards Ceremony
 22 April, 2013 6-8 p.m.
 Hilton Hotel, No 1 Le Thanh Tong Str., Hoan Kiem dist., Hanoi

Honoring three law enforcement officers and two journalists for their outstanding contribution to protecting Vietnam's wildlife





EDUCATION FOR NATURE-VIETNAM

Education for Nature-Vietnam (ENV) was established in 2000 as Vietnam's first non-governmental organization focused on the conservation of nature and protection of 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 endangered 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 specializes in four major program areas that collectively form ENV's integrated and strategic approach toward achievement of our mission. These include:

- Reducing demand and consumption for wildlife products
- Strengthening and supporting law enforcement in dealing with wildlife crimes
- Mobilizing public support and participation in efforts to stop the illegal wildlife trade
- Strengthening legislation and advocating effective government policy in addressing the illegal trade

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)
- Humane Society International (HSI)
- Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)
- John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
- SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund
- Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- Freeland Foundation (ARREST Program)
- Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
- Save the Rhinos International
- The Lush Foundation
- Houston Zoo
- Auckland Zoo
- Columbus Zoo
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Contact Us

Education for Nature - Vietnam (ENV)
N5. IF1, lane 192 Thai Thinh Str, Dong Da Dist, Ha Noi
Tel/Fax: (84 4) 3514 8850
Email: env@fpt.vn

ENV Vietnamese Website: www.thiennhien.org
ENV English Website: www.envietnam.org
ENV Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/EducationforNatureVietnam>
ENV Twitter: <https://twitter.com/#!/edu4naturevn>

Report wildlife crimes: 1800 1522
hotline@fpt.vn