

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Panama City (Panama), 14 – 25 November 2022

REPORT ON CITES IMPLEMENTATION IN VIETNAM IN 2019-2022 PERIOD

1. This information document is submitted by Viet Nam in relation to agenda items 66.1, 68, 71.1 and 75.*

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After CITES CoP18 held in Switzerland, Viet Nam has actively implemented various activities to carry out CITES and enforce wildlife management.

1. Revised and supplemented related documents and policies

To further promote the CITES implementation, the Government of Viet Nam has continued the improvements of legal documents including:

Decree number 84/2021/ND-CP dated 22/09/2021 of the Government on revising and supplementing some articles under Decree no.06/2019/ND-CP dated 22/01/2019 of the Government on the management of wild endangered, rare and precious fauna and flora and the enforcement of the CITES, including regulations on animal specimens confiscated from illegal trading which would not be auctioned for commercial purposes.

To ensure the legality of wild fauna and flora, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) is amending and supplementing Circular No. 27/2018/TT-BNNPTNT on management and traceability of forest products, in which regulating legal documents and marking commercial specimens.

Directive No. 29/CT-TTg dated 23/7/2020 on some urgent measures to control wildlife, in which the Prime Minister directs ministries, agencies and provincial people's committees to carry out measures to stop illegal trading, transporting, captivating, etc. wildlife.

MARD also issued Technical Guidelines on raising wild species under Asian big cat and bear families.

2. Bilateral cooperation

Viet Nam negotiated and signed a cooperation agreement with the USA on timber management, expressing Vietnam's commitments on stopping commercialization of confiscated timber; strengthening the control of imported woods via verification of origin and documents.

Identifying Nigeria is one of original countries of wildlife and timber coming to Vietnam, the two countries have completed negotiations on Cooperation Minutes on CITES implementation and control of illegal trading.

3. Legal verification and transfer of DNA samples:

Following Vietnamese regulations, all criminal cases have to be verified to identify wildlife samples confiscated. In 2020-2022 period, Vietnam CITES Scientific Authority verified hundreds of criminal cases, including 35 ones related to tiger, 19 ones related to rhinos, 24 ones related to ivory, 60 cases related to pangolin and 83 cases related to turtles.



Crafted ivories confiscated from illegal trading in Dak Lak Province

Vietnam also transferred over a hundred rhino horn DNA samples from illegally imported rhino horn cases to South African Embassy in Hanoi for forensic verifications in accordance with Resolution Conf 9.14 on conservation and trade in Asian and African rhino specimens.



Vietnam transferred 56 rhino horn DNA samples from 02 confiscations to South Africa

4. Enforcement results

Regarding pangolin: Implementation of the Resolution Conf.17.10 - Conservation of and trade in pangolin:

In 2018-2022, nearly 50 cases of pangolin trading were investigated and handled with over 40,000 kgs of pangolin scales confiscated. Courts at all levels have trialed and fined 38 offenders 4.55 years imprisonment on average. In July 2022, 04 offenders trafficking over 900kg of pangolin (*Manis tricuspis*) scales were trialed and punished by Hanoi City Court with total 18 years in jail showing the strictness of Vietnam's legality.

Regarding elephants: Implement elephant ivory and rhino horn action plans in line with Resolution Conf 10.10 on Trade in elephant specimens.

Vietnam is one of the most active countries implementing elephant ivory and rhino horn action plans. In 2018-2022 period, enforcement entities investigated and arrested many ivory trading cases with total confiscated ivories of nearly 20 tons. 53 offenders were prosecuted and trialed related to storing, trading and transporting ivories with 5.3 years in jail on average. One offender transported 207.3 kg of ivories was sentenced 12 years in jail by the Hanoi City Court.



Ivory confiscated in Tien Sa Harbour – Da Nang City in January 2022

CITES Management Authority with the support from WWF is implementing the project on reducing demands for ivory in 2022-2025, in which focusing on supporting the inter-agency steering committee of wildlife enforcement and protection and improving the awareness of tourists.

Regarding rhino: Implementing Resolution Conf 9.14 (Rev. 17) on Conservation of and trade in African and Asian rhinoceroses.

In 2018-2022, Vietnamese agencies investigated and arrested dozens of illegal imports and transport of rhino horn specimens in Vietnam, confiscated over 500kg of rhino horns and sentenced 26 offenders with 6.6 years of imprisonment on average. In 2021, Hanoi Municipal People's Court sentenced one offender of trafficking 126.5kg of rhino horns illegally via aviation with 14 years of imprisonment. Some big arrest of illegal rhino horn trade including: in July 2021, Vietnamese enforcement agencies arrested a shipment of 139kg of rhino horns, 457kg of ivories and over 3,500kg of lion bones transported from South Africa to Da Nang Port; In June 2022, Da Nang City Police arrested an offender considered as a king pin of illegal wildlife trade; On 22/12/2020, the Custom Office arrested an offender illegally imported 93kg of rhino horns at Tan Son Nhat International Airport.

Regarding Asian big cat species: Implementation of Resolution Conf 12.5 (Rev. CoP18) on Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species.

Regarding tigers: in 2018 - 2021, state management and enforcement agencies in Vietnam actively investigated, arrested, prosecuted and settled illegal trading and captive cases, for examples:

(i) Under the directions of the Prime Minister in Directive 29/CT-TTg dated 23/7/2020, with the cooperation of several non-governmental organizations, enforcement agencies investigated and arrested various illegal captive, transport and trading such as confiscating 17 individual tigers illegally captivated in Nghe An Province in February 2022; arresting 3 offenders transporting 1 tiger weighted 200kg in Lai Chau Province in 3/2022; arresting 3 offenders transporting 7 individual tiger in Ha Tinh Province in 8/2021. All offenders were prosecuted.

(ii) On 01/8/2021, Nghe An Provincial Police arrested 02 offenders transporting 07 individual tigers originated from Laos PDR to Vietnam.



(iii) On 26/3/2022, Lai Chau Provincial Police arrested 03 offenders transporting one tiger weighted 200kg.

All offenders of tiger trade were prosecuted, many of them were sentenced over 5 years of imprisonment, for example: on 05/01/2020, Hanoi Municipal People's Court sentenced 03 offenders of illegal tiger trade with total punishment of 16 years in jail; on 03/3/2022, Nghe An Provincial Court sentenced one offender of illegal tiger raising of 7 years imprisonment.

With support from the WWF, state management agencies conducted overall surveys of captive tigers, taking NDA samples of all captive individual tigers to develop a database on tigers to serve for settlements of violations, including prevention of tiger captive raising facilities from illegal trading of specimens from outside or trading with others. One comprehensive option for the management of captive tiger raising has been studied and will be submitted to the Prime Minister for consideration and decision making in the future.

5. Communication Program to reduce demands

Implementation of Resolution Conf 17.4 - Demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species.

In 2019-2022, we continued communication activities to reduce demands for wildlife conducted by state management agencies, non-government organizations and international entities at national park, regional and central levels.

6. Some obstacles and difficulties

Demands for illegal wildlife products still exist. Vietnam is on transit road of international wildlife transport to major markets in the region.

Cooperation with countries of origin, transit nations and consumption ones has not been close and there is a lack of jurisdictional support agreements between countries.

Capacities for law enforcement on wildlife protection, including verifications, crime-scene management, money flow investigation and digital evidence have been limited.

Trading activities on social media such as Youtube and Facebook have been very difficult to control without the cooperation from these corporates with state management authorities.

There are many institutions, international organizations and non-government ones participating in the control of wildlife trade, but there has been no regional coordination mechanism. As a result, information on illegal organizations and wildlife trading activities has not been shared timely.

7. Recommendations

In order to strengthen the control of illegal wildlife trade in Vietnam, apart from efforts of management authorities, domestic enforcement agencies need the support from international organizations via specific projects/programs based on national needs. Supportive activities and information sharing need to be conducted via a focal agency as Vietnam CITES Management Authority.

Annex: Wildlife Forensic examination of Scientific Authority

Year	Tiger		Rhino		Ivory		Pangolin	
	Case	Sample	Case	Sample	Case	Sample	Case	Sample
2020	10	18	3	33	12	393	18	91
2021	17	77	15	184	9	61	33	191
2022	8	28	1	6	3	14	9	33
	35	123	19	223	24	468	60	315

Rhino horn crime report

Seizures CP18	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	TOTAL
Rhino horn seizures	8	7	5	7	3	30
Weight of rhino horn seized	66.87	152.01	139.69	384.8	11.93	755.3
Rhino product seizures	0	0	0	1	0	1
Weight of products seized	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total seizures	8	7	5	8	3	31
Total weight	66.87	152.01	139.69	384.8	11.93	755.3
Last updated (ADJ date)	11/2/22	11/2/22	11/2/22	10/25/22	11/2/22	

Arrests and Prosecutions CP18	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	TOTAL
Total criminal rhino cases	8	7	5	7	3	30
No. of rhino horn cases with arrests	7	7	4	6	3	27
% seizures with arrests	88%	100%	80%	86%	100%	90%
No. subjects arrested	12	15	6	13	5	51
Prosecution/convictions (cases)	4	7	4	5	0	20
Pending prosecution (cases)	0	0	0	1	3	4
% cases prosecuted	50%	100%	80%	71%	0%	67%
Subject not caught or prosecuted	4	0	1	1	0	6
Cases resulting in prison sentence	2	6	4	5	NA	17
% cases resulting in prison sentence	50%	86%	100%	100%		85%
Cases resulting suspended sentence	2	1	0	0	NA	3
No. subjects imprisoned	4	8	4	10	NA	26
Sentence length	84-102	12-168	72-150	15-132		10-180
Total months	357	615	378	666	NA	2016
Average sentence length	7.44	6.41	7.88	5.55	NA	6.46
Last updated (ADJ date)	11/2/22	11/2/22	11/2/22	10/25/22	11/2/22	

Ivory crime report

Arrests and Prosecutions	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	TOTAL
Total criminal ivory cases	22	30	3	2	6	63
No. of ivory cases with arrests	19	25	3	2	4	53
% seizures with arrests	86%	83%	100%	100%	67%	84%
No. subjects arrested	42	51	4	2	4	103
Prosecution/convictions	18	20	3	1	0	42
Pending prosecution	0	0	0	0	3	3
% cases prosecuted	82%	67%	100%	50%	0%	67%
Subject not caught or prosecuted	4	10	0	1	0	15
Cases resulting in prison sentence	9	12	1	0	0	22
% cases resulting in prison sentence	50%	60%	33%	0%	0%	52%
Cases resulting suspended sentence	9	8	2	1	NA	20
No. subjects imprisoned	21	31	1	0	NA	53

Pangolin crime report

Date: November 3, 2022

					Thru 10/31/	
Pangolin scale seizures	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	TOTAL
Pangolin scale seizure cases	16	11	3	9	9	48
Weight of scales seized	16,822.10	22,449.43	3.20	2,017.18	6,287.36	47579.27
Last updated (ADJ date)	11/2/22	11/2/22	11/2/22	11/2/22	11/2/22	
					Thru 10/31/	
Pangolin scale Arrests/Prosecutions	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	TOTAL
Total criminal pangolin cases	16	9	3	7	8	43
No. of pangolin cases with arrests	8	1	3	7	7	26
% seizures with arrests	50%	11%	100%	100%	88%	60%
No. subjects arrested	24	1	3	22	7	57
Prosecution/convictions	7	1	3	5	1	17
Pending prosecution	0	0	0	2	6	8
% cases prosecuted	44%	11%	100%	71%	13%	40%
Subject not caught or prosecuted	9	8	0	0	1	18
Cases resulting in prison sentence	6	1	0	4	0	11
% cases resulting in prison sentence	86%	100%	0%	80%	0%	65%
Cases resulting suspended sentence	1	0	3	1	1	6
No. subjects imprisoned	20	1	0	17	0	38
Sentence range	12-156	18	NA	6-84	NA	7-156
Total months	1560	18	NA	498	NA	2076
Average sentence length	6.50	1.50	NA	2.44	NA	4.55
Last updated (ADJ date)	11/2/22	11/2/22	11/2/22	11/2/22	11/2/22	
Sentence length	18-156	18-144	18	NA	NA	18
Total months	1656	1722	18	NA	NA	3396
Average sentence length	6.57	4.63	1.50	NA	NA	5.34
Last updated (ADJ date)	11/2/22	11/2/22	11/2/22	11/2/22	11/2/22	

