



INTERPOL

# Regional Priorities and Challenges Fighting Wildlife Crime

INTERPOL National Central Bureau Bangkok

สำนักงานกลางแห่งชาติตำรวจสากลกรุงเทพมหานคร

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Royal Thai Police/Head of NCB**



The **ASEANAPOL** deals with the preventive, enforcement and operational aspects of cooperation against transnational crime.



## **VISION**

" TOGETHER WE KEEP THIS REGION SAFE "

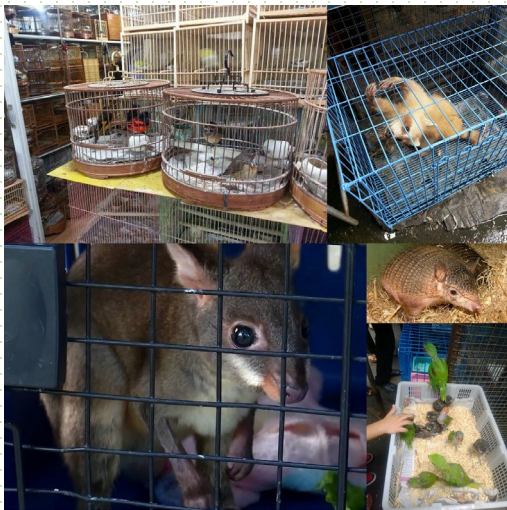
## **MISSION**

" PREVENTING AND COMBATING TRANSNATIONAL CRIME THROUGH A GREATER NEXUS AND CREATIVE POLICING COLLABORATION "

# Fauna and Flora Trading Situation in Thailand

## DOMESTIC

- The illegal movement within the country will take place in the National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary or various natural resources to sell in Bangkok.



- Chatuchak Weekend Market
- Samam Luang Market
- Metropolitan Area

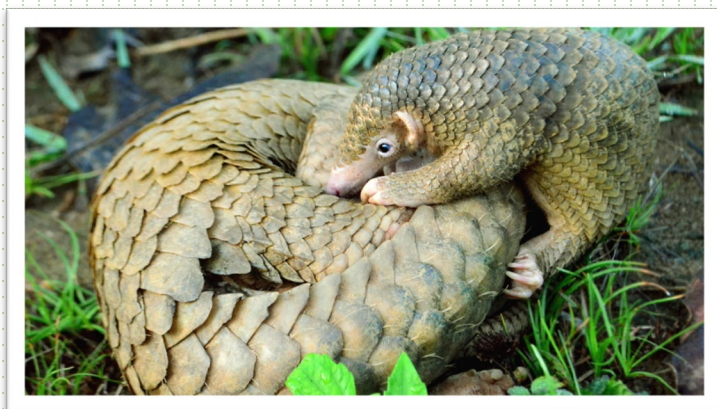
## INTERNATIONAL

- Large multinational wildlife trade by using Thailand as a route to smuggle wildlife to third country via airlines at Suvarnabhumi Airport.



- Macaques were smuggled from Cambodia to the United States and China through Thailand.

Thailand often facing with smuggling of endangered wild animals such as pangolins, monkeys, to be used as drugs, to consume or vaccination testing as well as other types of reserved wild animal such as tigers, cobras, turtles, and softshell turtle.



# Fauna and Flora Trading Situation in Thailand

## ONLINE PLATFORM

According to TRAFFIC's report or Trading Faces: a rapid assessment on the use of Facebook to trade wildlife in Thailand, it is a summary of research and survey data on the illegal wildlife trading market via social media 'Facebook' in Thailand shows that Thailand is the fastest growing online wildlife smuggling market in Southeast Asia. Furthermore, Thailand has long been known as a center for illegal wildlife trade.



## Investigation Challenges

- The process of investigating and arresting the accused is complicated.
- The local police station was unable to operate effectively because lack attention and advance equipment.
- Smuggling into the airport is difficult to detect because each day there are many passengers coming in, it is necessary to have an intelligence.
- Other relevant agencies even some police officers that made the arrest lack of cognition, failure to seize electronic devices of the accused for further investigation of related network processes.

# Prosecution and Legal challenges

- The relevant laws in Thailand are outdated and not updated enough to keep up with the current situation and there is also a low penalty rate.
- Natural Resources and Environment Crime Suppression Division will introduce the Money Laundering Act to take further action to break the cycle and seize the assets of the smuggling movement.
- The delay from the responsible agencies with determining whether or not an animal species is in protected list to use as evidence for litigation cause the prosecution filed against the accused within the timeframe specified by law.





## Prosecution and Legal challenges

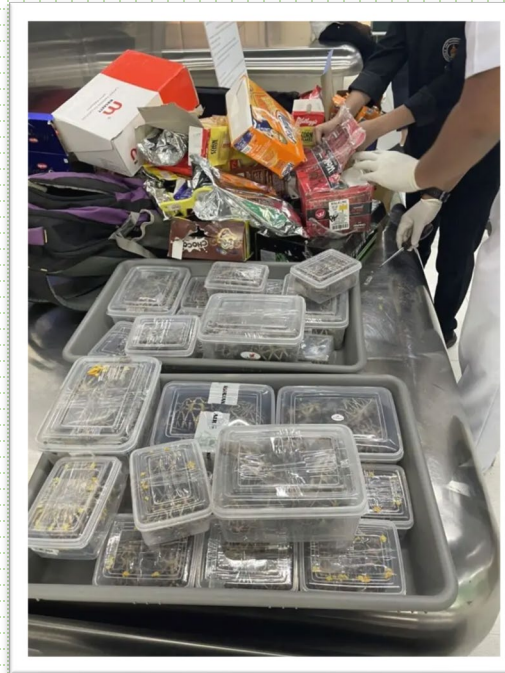
- Courts often release the accused on bail, especially the foreigners and most of these suspects will escape, by bail out processes to the court.
- The law governing the postal transport system (The Thai Postal Act) is applicable only to State-owned transport companies such as Thailand Post, but do not cover other private carriers, so it is difficult for officers to investigate and suppress.





# Sample Cases

# Tortoise Case, Suvarnabhumi Airport



Criminal Case no. 126/2565

On July 4, 2022, customs officials Suvarnabhumi Airport Has searched and arrested 34 years old suspect, Ukrainian nationality. Inside her luggage are 14 Radiated tortoises, 98 Pancake tortoises, 4 Aldabra Giant Tortoises.

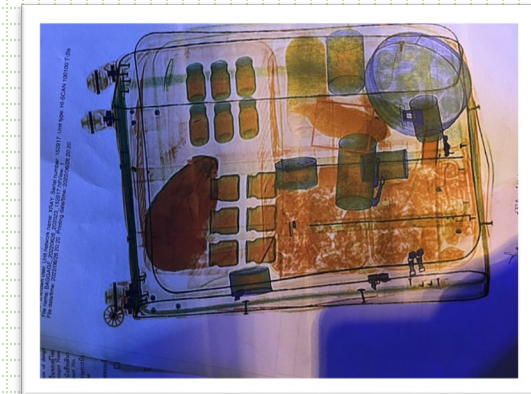
Suvarnabhumi Airport Police have taken suspect to be deposited at the Samut Prakan Provincial Court and prosecute the law.

# Tortoise and Lizard Case, Suvarnabhumi Airport

Criminal Case no. 123/2565

On Jun 26, 2022 Division of Wild Fauna and Flora Protection officials Suvarnabhumi Airport has searched and arrested 2 suspects, India nationality. Inside their luggage are 2 Armadillo , 35 turtle, 50 Common green iguana, 6 rough Plated Lizard 2 porcupine, 8 iguana.

Suvarnabhumi Airport Police have taken suspects to be deposited at the Samut Prakan Provincial Court. and prosecute the law



# Tiger Cubs and Restricted Birds Case, Nakhon Ratchasima

On 13<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department,  
Protected Area Regional Office 7 (Nakhon Ratchasima) and  
Non Sung Police Station jointly arrested, 67 years old  
suspect, along with the following items:

1. Two Bengal Tiger Cubs
2. Six Great Hornbill
3. Two Wreathed Hornbill

At Than Prasat Subdistrict, Non Sung District, Nakhon  
Ratchasima Province.





These wild animals are traded by a group of capitalists smuggling tigers and restricted birds which hunted from the forest of Khao Yai National Park, Nakhon Ratchasima Province. The Investigation team had investigated and found there will be wild animal trading in the incident place , so they set up lure plan and able to seize all the exhibits cost 940,000 Bath.

## Bengal Tiger Case, Kanchanaburi

The suspects was charged for jointly in possession of firearms and ammunition without permission, carry firearms in cities, villages or public places without permission, carry firearms with no urgent necessity as appropriate for the circumstances, collecting forest items which deteriorates the condition of the national forest reserve without permission, together to lure or take out wild animals or cause harm to wildlife in any way in the national park, together to operate any business for profit in the national park, together bring tools for hunting animals or capture any animal or weapon into the national park, fire a gun to cause an explosion or setting firework in national parks, disposing of fuels that may cause fires in national parks, hunting conserved or protected wildlife without permission and together have the remains of protected wildlife in their possession without permission



# Royal Thai Police Arrest the suspects along with wild animals and carcasses of protected wildlife without permission in the area of Kanchanaburi Province.

Circumstances : Police Team investigated and found that there were collections of Tiger skins and other wild animal parts were taken from neighboring countries to keep and sell to investors, so the investigation team set up lure plan and make an appointment with the suspect at the resort and able to catch the suspects and seize all the exhibits as follows :

1. Three Leopard Cats (5,000 Bath each)
2. One Sheet of Bengal Tiger Skin (1,500,000 Bath)
3. Three Sheets of Clouded leopard Skin (100,000Bath each)
4. Two Sheets of Leopard Skin (200,000 Bath each)

The exhibits cost 2,215,000 Bath





Charge for :

Violation of the Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act B.E. 2562

1. Section 17 on the charge of jointly possessing protected wildlife and carcasses of protected wildlife without permission from the Director-General, imprisonment not exceeding 5 years or a fine not exceeding 500,000 baht, or both.
2. Section 29 on the charge of jointly trafficking in protected wildlife and carcasses of protected wildlife without permission from the Director-General, imprisonment of not more than 10 years or a fine of not more than 1 million baht, or both.

In addition, the staff will conduct an investigation. If evidence is found that wildlife or carcasses of wild animals (tigers), which are controlled animals smuggled from abroad, may be guilty of a charge. import of protected wildlife Controlled wild animals (CITES) such carcasses without permission, imprisonment for not more than 10 years, or a fine of not more than 1 million baht, or both, under section 23



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## Macaque Case, Saraburi

The officers was informed that villagers found monkey confined in the abandoned house, Initially at the scene, the monkey was found trapped in a nylon mesh bag and in a plastic bucket box. The total number of living monkeys was 30, 6 of them died, but the offender was not found, but because it was during the night. which can not verify evidence of other important objects.



Later, officials found a Facebook user, posted a video clip showing the monkey being locked in a box and hung in a bag in the area of the abandoned house, but from the investigation from the owner of Facebook account, he did not know who brought monkey to this abandon house.

The circumstance at the scene was an offense of the Wild Animal Preservation and Protection Act B.E. 2562, Section 17 and Section 62 on the charge of possessing protected wild animals according to List No. 154 in possession without permission from the Director-General, shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years or a fine not exceeding five hundred thousand baht or both



Total of 24 surviving macaques delivered to Wildlife Rescue Center 1, Nakhon Nayok Province and for the remains of the other 6 macaque monkeys, it is approved for further destruction.

## Ivory Case, Tak



Forest police apprehended the suspects after seizing two branches of elephant tusks weighing 15.8 kilograms, valued 600,000 baht.

The arresting officer filed a charge of offenses under the Ivory Act of 2015

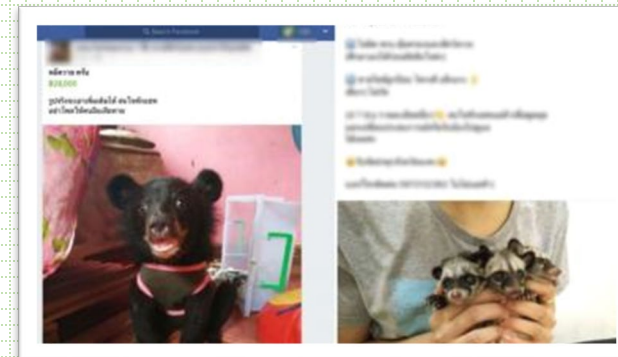
- Section 4 of "jointly possessing ivory tusks without permission".
- Section 6, of "to trade in ivory without permission"

Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act, B.E. 2562

- Section 17 "base" joint possession of conserved wildlife protected wildlife or carcasses of wild animals without permission"
- -Section 29 bases of "conserved wildlife trade" protected wildlife or carcasses of wild animals without permission."

# Targets to combat wildlife trafficking in Thailand

1. Bangkok area smuggling protected wildlife in the following areas:
  - Chatuchak Weekend Market (Bang Sue)
  - Chatuchak Weekend Market 2 (Minburi)
  - Sanam Luang 2 (Saladaeng)
  - Thewet Market (Samsen)
  - Online Platform
2. Natural Resources and Environment Crime Suppression Division, Sub-Division 6
  - Online Platform, sting operation in Region 9
3. Natural Resources and Environment Crime Suppression Division, Sub-Division 5
  - Online Platform, sting operation in Region 7 and 8
4. Natural Resources and Environment Crime Suppression Division, Sub-Division 2
  - Suvarnabhumi Airport



**THANK  
YOU**



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