

## RHINOCEROSES

### REPORTING TO THE 74<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE VIET NAM

*Date of report: 01/2022*

#### BASIS

- Decisions 18.110, 18.111 on Rhinoceroses (*Rhinocerotidae spp.*), adopted by CoP18 (2019)
- Resolution 9.14 (Rev. CoP17) on Conservation of and trade in African and Asian rhinoceroses, in particular paragraphs 1 e) and 2 d)

#### MAIN CONTENTS

At the request of Viet Nam CITES MA on 12/2021, the Department of General Affairs - Supreme People's Court of Viet Nam, Department of Environmental Police – Ministry of Public Security, Administration of Customs – Ministry of Finance submitted their reports per required by above-mentioned decisions. Viet Nam CITES MA also consulted local NGOs for information as reference to the report. The report comprises of 4 sections, including: Data of seizures, forensic examination, investigation and modus operandi related to illegal rhinoceros horn trade as following:

#### 1. Seizures and criminal procedure

The data collected from the mentioned authorities does not represent national data in the meantime. However, the data denotes the situation of illegal trade of rhinoceros horns to Viet Nam, which is used to be analyzed by national management, enforcement agencies and judicial bodies upon relevant matters. Data on seizures and criminal procedure are listed in details:

- Statistics on seizures of rhinoceros horns carried out by Viet Nam Department of Environmental Police 08/2019 – 01/2022 is attached as **Table A1**.

- Statistics on seizures of rhinoceros horns carried out by Viet Nam Administration of Customs is attached as **Table A2**.

- Statistics on criminal procedure (resolved cases) of Article 244 of the Penal Code as Violation of regulations on management and protection of endangered, rare, precious animals from 08/2019 to 12/2021 are presented in **Table A3**. Article 244 regulates criminal penalty not only for rhinoceroses, but also other listed species fell under the same category. For rhino horn illegal trade, penalty is stipulated with a fine up to 15 billion VND, punishment up to 15 years in prison.

**Table A3** describes the total number of cases, including total number of defendants prosecuted under Article 244 related to animals under Group IB (List of domestic forest endangered, rare, precious fauna and flora) and Appendix I of CITES.

- Due to objective reasons, a complete statistics of seizures of rhinoceroses specimens in Viet Nam is not available. Viet Nam CITES MA instead requested for information from Education for Nature Viet Nam (ENV) on their recorded data from 2019 to 2021, attached as of **Table A5**. The provided information by ENV acts as reference along with this report, Viet Nam CITES MA is not responsible for its validity and accuracy.

## **2. DNA sample submission to range states**

Viet Nam CITES MA, in collaboration with Viet Nam CITES SA conducted the hand-over of 56 rhinoceroses specimen's samples to the Embassy of South Africa in Hanoi, 06/2021.

During 2019 - 2021, Viet Nam CITES SA has conducted a large number of DNA forensic examination based on collected rhinoceroses samples from domestic seizures. The number of examination carried out by Institute of Ecology and Biology Research (IEBR) has increased significantly overtime as 08 examinations in 2019, 11 examinations in 2020 and 19 examinations in 2021. This shows great efforts of Viet Nam CITES SA, in collaboration with enforcement agencies, to explore information for investigation procedure. The examination's results are presented in **Table A4**.

## **3. Joint investigations and operations aimed at addressing member of organized crime network across the illegal trade chain**

Per report of Administration of Customs, during 2019 – 2021, the Administration of Customs has actively participated and contributed to a number of regional, international operation in combatting illegal wildlife trade. The operations are listed as:

- Operation Praesidio (2019) launched by World Customs Organization (WCO),
- Operation Thunderball (2019) and Thunder (2020) co-organized by WCO and INTERPOL,
- Operation Mekong Dragon phase II (2020) and phase III (2021) co-initiated by Viet Nam Customs and China Customs,
- Operation Golden Strike (2021) launched by INTERPOL.

## **4. Analysis of modus operandi in illegal trade in rhinoceros specimens**

According to the Department of Environmental Police (01/2022), in the past years, the frequently used modus operandi by traffickers in illegal trade of rhinoceros specimens is to taking advantages of electronic customs declaration procedure, the customs risk management to falsely declare the goods; and to taking advantages of transit procedure in foreign countries to re-establish customs documentation to conceal its country of origin. In terms of seaway transportation, the most frequently used modus operandi is to transport through multiple ships and seaports via different countries before arrived to Viet Nam. Regarding to airway transportation, traffickers are found falsely declared in

customs clearance, with the purposes to be classified as green line, yellow line to avoid customs control in entering Viet Nam. Once detected, the suspects often rejected the receipt of the consignments by the reasons that foreign partners sent the goods by mistake, and falsed to complete the customs declaration./.

## APPENDIX

 TABLE A1. SEIZURES OF RHINOCEROSES HORNS BY VIET NAM DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICE  
 08/2019 – 01/2022

Data by Department of Environmental Police on 01/2022

No	Information source	Date of seizure	Type of activity	Location of seizure	Country of origin	Country of transit/re-export	Country of destination	Scientific name	Quantity, type of specimen	Mode of transport	Method of concealment	Documentation	Mode of detection	Status of the case
1	Department of Environmental Police	22/12/2020	Transit	Tan Son Nhat airport	N/A	Philippines/ Viet Nam	Cambodia	<i>Ceratotherium simum, Diceros bicornis</i>	51 pieces of horns	Airway	Concealed inside the consignment	Declared as common goods	Screening and checking	Transferred to Ho Chi Minh city Police
2	Department of Environmental Police	17/07/2021	Import	Da Nang seaport	South Africa		Viet Nam	<i>Ceratotherium simum, Diceros bicornis</i>	52 pieces of horns	Seaway	Concealed inside carton box in the container	Declared as wooden floor box	Checking	Transferred to Da Nang Police

**TABLE 2. SEIZURES OF RHINOCEROSES HORNS BY VIET NAM ADMINISTRATION OF CUSTOMS**  
**08/2019 – 12/2021**

*Data by Administration of Customs on 12/2021*

No.	Information source	Date of seizure	Location of seizure	Country of origin	Country of transit/re-export	Country of destination	Country of seizure	Quantity, type of specimens	Mode of transport	Method of concealment	Mode of detection	Status of the case
1	Can Tho port Customs Sub-department	02/03/2020	Can Tho international airport	Mozambique	Ethiopia, South Korea		Viet Nam	28.76 kg	Seaway	Hidden inside personal luggage	Screening	Handed-over to the Police to continue the investigation and handling as stipulated by laws
2	Tan Son Nhat international airport Customs Sub-department	06/03/2020	Tan Son Nhat international airport	Qatar			Viet Nam	6.1 kg	Airway	Hidden inside personal luggage	Alert information, screening	
3	Inter-control station Km15 BTDT	23/03/2020	Inter-control station Km15 BTDT, Mong Cai, Quang Ninh					3.12 kg	Road	Hidden inside personal luggage and body		
4	Unit 3, Department of Anti-smuggling and	21/12/2020	Warehouse of Saigon Cargo Service	Philippines	Viet Nam	Cambodia		93.96 kg	Airway	Hidden inside transit goods	Monitor through the Customs	

No.	Information source	Date of seizure	Location of seizure	Country of origin	Country of transit/re-export	Country of destination	Country of seizure	Quantity, type of specimens	Mode of transport	Method of concealment	Mode of detection	Status of the case
	investigation		Corporation								system and information collection	
5	Cam Pha port Customs Sub-department	26/12/2020	Van Don international airport	Angola			Viet Nam	7.8 kg	Airway	Hidden inside personal luggage		
6	Cam Pha port Customs Sub-department	31/03/2021	Van Don international airport	Angola			Viet Nam	55 kg	Airway	Hidden inside personal luggage		
7	Da Nang port Customs Sub-department	17/07/2021	Tien Sa port, Da Nang	South Africa			Viet Nam	138.78 kg	Seaway	Hidden inside container		
8	Hai Phong region 3 Customs Sub-department	18/11/2021	Warehouse CFS Vinabridge Hai Phong	Philippines	Singapore		Viet Nam	19.5 kg	Seaway	Hidden inside container		Processing

**TABLE 3. STATISTICS ON CRIMINAL PROCEDURE BY INDIVIDUALS**  
**08/2019 – 12/2021**

*Data by Supreme People's Court of Viet Nam on 01/2022*

CRIMES (as of the Penal Code)	TOTAL CASES		RESOLVED CASES						REMAINING CASES		DETAILS OF CHARGES								ADDITIONAL PENALTIES						
			Suspended		Returned to Prosecutor		Trial				Waived of criminal charge or penalties	Suspended sentence	Monetary fines	Non- custodial reform	Expuls ion	Imprison 3 year or less	Imprison 3 to 7 year	Imprison 7 to 15 year	Imprison 15 to 20 year	Confisca tion of property	Monetary fines	Expuls ion	Others		
	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D			
Crime no. 244. Violation on protection of endangered, rare, precious animals	384	552	0	1	26	31	342	491	368	523	16	29	1	220	7	3	0	153	68	37	2	0	7	0	0

**Notes:**

C: Case

D: Defendant

TABLE 4. STATISTICS ON RHINOCEROSES FORENSIC EXAMINATION 2019 - 2021

*Data by Institute of Ecology and Biological Research (Viet Nam CITES SA)*

No.	Location	Date of request for examination	Agency of request	Species common name	Species scientific name	Quantity		CITES Appendix	Status	Method of examination	
						Seized quantity	Submitted quantity			DNA	Morphology
1	Ha Noi	25/9/2019	Ha Noi Municipal Police Department	White rhino	<i>Ceratotherium simum sinum</i>	53		II	Specimens inside consignment	A	
				Black rhino	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>	2		I		A	
2	Ha Noi	08/11/2019	Ha Noi Municipal Police Department	Black rhino	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>	2		I	Piece of horn	A	
3	Ha Noi	21/8/2019	Ha Noi Municipal Police Department	White rhino	<i>Ceratotherium simum sinum</i>	3		II	Piece of horn	A	
4	Ha Noi	26/8/2019	Ha Noi Municipal Police Department	White rhino	<i>Ceratotherium simum simum</i>	2		II	02 samples of horn	A	
5	Ha Noi	22/8/2019	Ha Noi Municipal Police Department	White rhino	<i>Ceratotherium simum simum</i>	2		II	02 samples of horn	A	
6	Ha Noi	20/8/2019	Ha Noi Municipal Police Department	White rhino	<i>Ceratotherium simum simum</i>	2		II	02 samples of horn	A	
7	Ha Noi	20/8/2019	Ha Noi Municipal Police Department	White rhino	<i>Ceratotherium simum simum</i>	1		II	Piece of horn	A	
8	Ha Noi	31/5/2019	Ha Noi Municipal Police Department	White rhino	<i>Ceratotherium simum simum</i>	2		II	Horn	A	H
9	Can Tho	18/3/2020	Can Tho Municipal Police Department	White rhino	<i>Ceratotherium simum simum</i>	11	11	I	Horn	A	
10	Quang Ninh	24/3/2020	Mong Cai Municipal Police Department	White rhino	<i>Ceratotherium simum simum</i>	1	1	I	Conical-cylinder shape horn	A	H
11	Quang	24/3/2020	Mong Cai	White rhino	<i>Ceratotherium</i>	1	1	I	Sculptured horn	A	H

No.	Location	Date of request for examination	Agency of request	Species common name	Species scientific name	Quantity		CITES Appendix	Status	Method of examination	
						Seized quantity	Submitted quantity			DNA	Morphology
	Ninh		Municipal Police Department		<i>simum simum</i>						
12	Quang Ninh	24/3/2020	Mong Cai Municipal Police Department	White rhino	<i>Ceratotherium simum simum</i>	8	8	I	Animal horn	A	H
13	Quang Ninh	24/3/2020	Mong Cai Municipal Police Department	Black rhino	<i>Dicerors bicornis</i>	4	4	I	Small horn	A	H
14	Quang Ninh	07/07/2020	Mong Cai Municipal Police Department	White rhino	<i>Ceratotherium simum simum</i>	7	7	I	Piece of horn	A	H
15	Quang Ninh	07/07/2020	Mong Cai Municipal Police Department	Black rhino	<i>Dicerors bicornis</i>	1	1	I	Piece of horn	A	H
16	Quang Ninh	26/12/2020	Quang Ninh Provincial Police Department	Black rhino	<i>Dicerors bicornis</i>	5	5	I	Horn	A	H
17	Ho Chi Minh city	23/12/2020	Northern region Anti-smuggling Control Unit	Black rhino	<i>Dicerors bicornis</i>	1	1	I	Piece of horn	A	H
18	Ho Chi Minh city	23/12/2020	Northern region Anti-smuggling Control Unit	White rhino	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>	41	41	I	Piece of horn	A	H
19	Ho Chi Minh city	23/12/2020	Northern region Anti-smuggling Control Unit	Rhino	<i>N/A</i>	8	8		Piece of horn	A	H
20	Ha Noi	24/02/2021	Institute of Forensic Science,	White rhino	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>	2	2	I	Horn	A	H

No.	Location	Date of request for examination	Agency of request	Species common name	Species scientific name	Quantity		CITES Appendix	Status	Method of examination	
						Seized quantity	Submitted quantity			DNA	Morphology
			Ministry of Public Security								
21	Ha Noi	24/5/2021	Hoai Duc District Police Department	Black rhino	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>	1	1	I	Piece of horn	A	H
22	Ha Noi	26/5/2021	Institute of Forensic Science, Ministry of Public Security	White rhino	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>	2	2	I	Animal horn	A	
23	Quang Ninh	04/01/21	Quang Ninh Provincial Police Department	White rhino	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>	3	3	I	Animal horn	A	H
24	Quang Ninh	04/01/21	Quang Ninh Provincial Police Department	Black rhino	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>	2	2	I	Animal horn	A	H
25	Quang Ninh	04/01/21	Quang Ninh Provincial Police Department	White rhino	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>	3	3	I	Animal horn	A	H
26	Quang Ninh	04/01/21	Quang Ninh Provincial Police Department	Black rhino	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>	7	7	I	Animal horn	A	H
27	Quang Ninh	04/01/21	Quang Ninh Provincial Police Department	Black rhino	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>	3	3	I	Animal horn	A	H
28	Quang Ninh	04/01/21	Quang Ninh Provincial Police Department	White rhino	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>	5	5	I	Animal horn	A	H
29	Nghe An	09/10/21	Hung Nguyen District Police	Black rhino	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>	6	6	I	Animal horn	A	H

No.	Location	Date of request for examination	Agency of request	Species common name	Species scientific name	Quantity		CITES Appendix	Status	Method of examination	
						Seized quantity	Submitted quantity			DNA	Morphology
			Department								
30	Nghe An	09/10/2021	Hung Nguyen District Police Department	White rhino	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>	1	1	I	Animal horn	A	H
31	Ha Noi	24/09/2021	Hanoi Municipal Police Department	White rhino	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>	26	26	I	Animal horn	A	H
32	Da Nang	27/7/2021	Danang Port Customs Sub-department	Black rhino	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>	9	9	I	Animal horn	A	H
33	Da Nang	27/7/2021	Danang Port Customs Sub-department	White rhino	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>	43	43	I	Animal horn	A	H
34	Quang Ninh	11/01/2021	Mong Cai Municipal Police Department	White rhino	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>	7	7	I	Piece of horn	A	H
35	Quang Ninh	11/01/2021	Mong Cai Municipal Police Department	Black rhino	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>	1	1	I	Piece of horn	A	H
36	Hai Phong	18/11/2021	Hai Phong Region 3 Customs Sub-department	White rhino	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>	4	4	I	Rhino horn	A	H
37	Gia Lai	19/11/2021	Pleiku Municipal Police Department	White rhino	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>	2	2	I	Animal horn	A	H
38	Quang Ninh	29/11/2021	Pleiku Municipal Police Department	White rhino	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>						

**TABLE. DETAILS ON A NUMBER OF RHINO HORN SEIZURES  
IN VIET NAM FROM 2019 - 2021**

***Data by Education for Nature Viet Nam 01/2022***

***Disclaimer: The provided information by ENV acts as reference to this report. Viet Nam CITES MA is not responsible for its validity and accuracy.***

No	Incident Date	Incident Province	Rhino Horn Weight	Crime Log
1	07/03/2019	Hanoi	334 grams	On March 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2019, Nam Tu Liem police seized 334 g of white rhino horn and arrested two suspects at a coffee shop in Nam Tu Liem district. They were the buyer and seller involved in the rhino horn transaction. The seller got the contraband from an unknown Laotian in January 2019. He had been convicted for the violation of larceny in the past. On July 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2019, Nam Tu Liem District Court sentenced the seller to 12 months' imprisonment, and the buyer was sentenced to a suspended sentence of 12 months, applied Point C Clause 1, Article 244 of Criminal Code. The rhino horn was later destroyed (Case ref. 14016/ENV).
2	12/4/2019	Hanoi	14.6 kilogram s	On April 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2019, Hanoi Anti-smuggling Police at Noi Bai International Airport discovered 14.6 kg of rhino horn in the checked baggage of a South African passenger. The subject reportedly smuggled the rhino horns from South Africa, transiting through Singapore before arriving in Vietnam. The man confessed that he was hired to transport the rhino horn by a man in South Africa and intended to deliver the horns to a Vietnamese person. On October 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2019, the subject was convicted and sentenced to a prison term of 10 years. The subject appealed, but then withdrew his claim (Case ref. 14175/ENV).
3	30/5/2019	Quang Ninh	6.9 kilogram s	On May 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2019, National Criminal Police (C02), in cooperation with Quang Ninh Provincial Police, seized two white rhinoceros ( <i>Ceratotherium simum</i> ) horns weighing 6.9 kg from a home in Mong Cai. The subject was a woman who lived in Mong Cai, but originated from Hai Phong. During the subsequent investigation, two more subjects were arrested. On January 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2020, the three subjects were convicted by Quang Ninh Provincial Court. Two of the subjects were sentenced to a prison term of six years and seven years respectively, while the third subject received a three-year suspended sentence (Case ref. 14460/ENV).
4	11/7/2019	Ninh	0.83 kilogram	On July 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2019, Ninh Binh Economic Police seized 0.83 kg of rhino horn from a taxi outside a hotel in Gia

		Binh	s	Vien District. The rhino horns were brought to the hotel by a passenger in the taxi who reported intentions to sell to an unknown buyer at the hotel. After confiscating the rhino horns, the police checked the subject's house and found suspected animal bone TCM. On March 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2020, the subject was convicted by Gia Vien District Court and sentenced to a suspended term of 18 months, with 36 months of probation. The subject was also fined VND 50 million (Case ref. 14672/ENV).
5	25/7/2019	Hanoi	126.5 kilograms	On July 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2019, Hanoi Anti-Smuggling Police, Noi Bai Customs, and Hanoi Customs discovered 126.5 kg of rhino horn on a flight from Dubai. The cargo arrived at Noi Bai Airport on July 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2019, in two shipments with the same consignee. However, it remained unclaimed, and was subsequently inspected. The rhino horns were hidden in gypsum, in an effort to prevent detection from airport scanners. A subject was identified as the person responsible for trafficking the rhino horns. On December 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2021, the subject was convicted by the Hanoi City Court and sentenced to 14 years in prison – the highest punishment for a wildlife criminal in Vietnam to date. The rhino horns were destroyed (Case ref. 14737/ENV).
6	20/8/2019	Hanoi	612 grams	On August 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2019, Hanoi Environment Police and Hanoi Investigation Police arrested a man with 261 g of rhino horn, found in the consignee store area on bus company premises. After the initial seizure, police inspected the man's house and discovered another 351 g of rhino horn and 28 kg of ivory. The subject's wife was also arrested alongside three other accomplices. One of the subjects submitted CITES import documentation for the horns, although it did not correspond with the confiscated rhino horn. On February 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2020, all five subjects were convicted by a Hanoi Court of wildlife trafficking. Four of the individuals received prison terms ranging from 30 months to 5 years while the fifth subject received a 30-month suspended sentence and five years of probation (Case ref. 14889/ENV).
7	07/11/2019	Hanoi	1.865 kilograms	On November 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2019, the Control Customs of Noi Bai Customs and Imported Luggage of Noi Bai Customs, in cooperation with Hanoi Anti-Smuggling Police and Hanoi Economic Police seized 1.865 kg of black rhino ( <i>Diceros bicornis</i> ) horn in the carry-on luggage of a passenger on a flight originating from Angola. On June 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2020, the subject was convicted by a Hanoi Court and sentenced to a prison term of five years. The rhino horns were destroyed (Case ref. 15293/ENV).
8	02/03/2020	Can Tho	28.7 kilogram	On March 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2020, Can Tho International Airport Customs seized 11 pieces of rhino horn weighing 28.7 kg,

			s	which were found in the luggage of a Vietnamese man arriving on a flight originating from Mozambique. The flight was redirected from Tan Son Nhat International Airport in Ho Chi Minh City, due to the Covid-19 epidemic prevention policy. On December 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2020, the subject was convicted by Can Tho City Court and sentenced to a prison term of 12 years and six months. The subject also received an additional fine of VND 100 million. The rhino horn will be destroyed. The subject later appealed. On April 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2021, the High People's Court in Ho Chi Minh City decided to turn down the subject's appeal (Case ref. 16018/ENV).
9	06/03/2020	Ho Chi Minh City	6.1 kilogram s	On March 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2020, Tan Son Nhat International Airport Customs seized 12 pieces of white rhino ( <i>Ceratotherium simum</i> ) horn weighing 6.1 kg. The rhino horn pieces were hidden in two check-in bags belonging to a Vietnamese man arriving on a flight that originated in Mozambique. One subject was arrested. On November 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2020, the subject was convicted by Tan Binh District Court and sentenced to a prison term of six years. The rhino horn is to be destroyed. On March 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2021, the People's Court of Ho Chi Minh City opened an appellate trial of the case, based on the subject's appeal to reduce the penalty, however, the court upheld the initial judgment (Case ref. 16037/ENV).
10	23/03/2020	Quang Ninh	3.135 kilogram s	On March 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2020, after receiving a tip from the public, Dan Tien Wharf Customs in Quang Ninh province, in cooperation with Mong Cai City Economic Police, checked a passenger bus and seized 3.135 kg of rhino horn. One subject was prosecuted. On August 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2020, the subject was convicted by Mong Cai City Court and sentenced to a prison term of six years (Case ref. 16398/ENV).
11	22/12/2020	Ho Chi Minh City	31.24 kilogram s	On December 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2020, Tan Son Nhat International Airport Customs, in cooperation with Tan Binh District Police and Ho Chi Minh Environment Police, seized 25 suspected rhino horns weighing 31.24kg and 26 suspected rhino horns, weighing 62.74kg of two B/L both wrapped in many layers of transparent nylon and black nylon (Case ref. 18531/ENV).
12	26/12/2020	Quang Ninh	7.8 kilogram s	On December 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2020, Van Don International Airport Customs in Quang Ninh province seized five rhino horn pieces, weighing 7.8 kg, hidden inside a welded cylindrical-shaped iron pot, painted white on the outside, within black baggage. The subject flew from Angola to Van Don International Airport on December 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2020 but due to Covid quarantine restrictions, the Customs opened the baggage on December 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2020. On June

				22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2021, subject was convicted by Quang Ninh Provincial Court and sentenced to a prison term of seven years. The subject appealed. On November 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2021, Hanoi High Court opened the trial and decided to turn down the subject's appeal. The rhino horn was transferred to the State Reserve Agency under the Ministry of Finance ( <i>Case ref. 18737/ENV</i> ).
13	30/01/2021	Hanoi	301 grams (real rhino horn pieces)	On January 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2021, Hanoi Environment Police confiscated three suspected rhino horn pieces weighing a total of 380 g, a tiger heart, a tiger liver, 200 g of tiger bone TCM, and 100 g of rhino horn TCM during a sting operation undertaken in cooperation with ENV. One piece of horn was later identified as cow horn, while the two other pieces were positively identified as rhino horn. The wildlife products were advertised for sale on the Facebook page of a car showroom owner in Hanoi, who was asking VND of 50 million/100 g of rhino horn, VND 22 million/100 g of tiger bone TCM, and VND 32 million/100 g of rhino horn TCM. The car showroom owner and his supplier were arrested ( <i>Case ref. 18914/ENV</i> ).
14	31/03/2021	Quang Ninh	54.5 kilograms	On March 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2021, Quang Ninh Provincial Economic Police, in collaboration with Cam Pha Customs, inspected four pieces of checked baggage from a rescue flight from Angola and seized 54.5 kg of rhino horn, six suspected rhino horn cups, 176 leopard ( <i>Panthera pardus</i> ) canines, 64 leopard ( <i>Panthera pardus</i> ) claws, 23 lion canines, and 84 lion claws. Three subjects were arrested and were prosecuted in two separate cases, since the subjects were hired to transport the goods by two different people. On November 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2021, one subject was convicted by Quang Ninh Provincial Court and sentenced to a prison term of 10 years. On November 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2021, the two remaining subjects were also convicted by Quang Ninh Provincial Court and sentenced to 10 and 11 years in prison, respectively. All evidence was pending transfer to a scientific agency specializing in wildlife ( <i>Case ref. 19547/ENV</i> ).
15	17/07/2021	Da Nang	138 kilograms	On July 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2021, Da Nang Port Customs, in cooperation with a number of other law enforcement agencies, seized 138 kg of rhino horn and 3.1 tonnes of suspected lion bone hidden in nylon-wrapped cardboard boxes, from a container at Tien Sa port in Da Nang city. The container originated in South Africa, and the owner had declared the goods as wood ( <i>Case ref. 20572/ENV</i> ).
16	09/09/2021	Nghe An	0.711 kilograms	On September 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2021, Hung Nguyen District Police searched a subject's house and seized seven rhino horn pieces weighing 0.711 kg, which had been stored in the

					fridge. Police also seized 0.03 kg of drugs, two cars, a gun, and 25 bullets. The subject – the owner of a well-known public bus transportation company – was arrested (Case ref. 21061/ENV).
17	24/09/2021	Hanoi	9.3 kilograms		On September 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2021, Hanoi Anti-Smuggling Police, in cooperation with Noi Bai International Airport Customs, seized 9.3 kg of rhino horn from the luggage of two subjects. The subjects boarded their flight in Mozambique and transited through Qatar (Case ref. 21295/ENV).
18	18/11/2021	Gia Lai	100 grams		On November 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2021, Pleiku City Police in Gia Lai province confiscated two rhino horn pieces, weighing 100 g, and arrested a subject during a sting operation undertaken in collaboration with ENV. The rhino horn pieces were advertised for VND 30 million on the Zalo account of another subject, who had hired the arrested subject. However, the arrested subject was also an online supplier who advertised rhino horn pieces, tiger heads, and tiger skin products for sale (Case ref. 22082/ENV).
19	18/11/2021	Hai Phong	19.5 kilograms		On November 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2021, Hai Phong Customs seized four rhino horns, weighing 19.5 kg, in two carton boxes at Nam Hai Dinh Vu port transported from Manila, Philippines. The shipment arrived at the port in February 2021 but nobody came to claim it (Case ref. 22072/ENV).