

### Thai and Malaysia Enforcement Officers Meet to Beat Wildlife Trafficking



Thai and Malaysian delegates discussing cross border cooperation to counter wildlife crimes

From July 16-19, Malaysian law enforcement officials met with Thai counterparts to discuss recurrent cross border wildlife crime issues. Facilitated by Thai Interpol and held under the auspices of ASEAN-WEN, the international group discussed how to improve information and intelligence sharing among their agencies. They also reviewed cases involving smuggling of wildlife across borders, including incidents involving massive numbers of pangolins.

The group included Malaysian Police and Customs, as well as Thai police, Customs, and CITES officers. The meeting, the first bi-lateral under ASEAN-WEN, was deemed a success by all parties, who agreed to arrange a second meeting in Malaysia in 2008.

The event was hosted by Thai Police and sponsored by the Thai Government and USAID, with organizational support from PeunPa, Wildlife Alliance, TRAFFIC, and Eco-Asia.

### Sold Out campaign expands to Suvarnabhumi Airport

This week, anti-wildlife crime banners were placed next to all customs exit points of Bangkok's international airport. The banners part of the "Sold Out" campaign have been amended to remind thousands of daily visitors that "Illegal Wildlife Trafficking is Punishable by Thai Law" and that the public can report wildlife crimes to two government hotlines.

The "Sold Out" campaign, organized by PeunPa (a member of the Wildlife Alliance) was launched by the Thai Prime Minister and US Ambassador to Thailand earlier this year, as part of Thailand's commitment to ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN). The banners were produced by PeunPa, four Thai government agencies, and JWT Advertising Firm, with support from USAID. Thai Police, Customs, and CITES logos join USAID's as co-sponsors of this growing campaign, which has also been featured on billboards in downtown Bangkok's, bus stops and popular magazines. Supports also come from other NGOs and private companies including SSI, Care for the Wild, and A Taste of Thai.



Passengers arriving at Suvarnabhumi Airport will now be warned that illegal wildlife trafficking is punishable under Thai Law

The ASEAN-WEN Support Program is now exploring other opportunities for raising awareness additional airport venues.

### Beetle Bust: Thai Police Nix French Connection



Smuggled insects seized by Thai Police

On July 2, Thai Nature Crime Police confiscated almost two thousand dried beetles destined to be sold to international insect collectors. The seizure at Thailand's main international airport involved a parcel being sent by mail from Chiang Mai to France. It was confiscated for a lack of permit papers, but no suspect was arrested.

The seizure included 7 dried Long-arm Chafer (*Cheirotonus parryi* Gray) and 2 Ground Beetles (*Carabidae spp.*) which are protected species under Thai law. Additional smuggled wildlife seized included dried tarantulas and other spiders.

This latest raid is one of many recent actions tackling wildlife crime conducted by Thai authorities as the country is the principle lead in the ASEAN-Wildlife Enforcement Network or ASEAN-WEN.

### Customs Seize Pangolin Shipment

On July 3, Customs officials at Pranburi seized 102 live pangolins being smuggled in a ten-wheeled truck traveling from the South of Thailand. The seizure was made following inspection of the truck at Pranburi Customs Check-Point using a rapid scanning X-ray machine.

The pangolins were found in a plastic box hidden under a pile of banana fronds in the back of the truck. The truck driver escaped the arrest. However, the owner of the vehicle is being called in for further questioning.



Officers interdicting smuggled pangolins en route from South of Thailand