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Announcement

Online species ID to strengthen public’s role in reporting wildlife crimes

Hanoi May 24, 2012 - Education for Nature - Vietnam (ENV) has launched a new and user-friendly online species identification resource aimed at encouraging greater public participation in protecting Vietnam’s wildlife.

The Vietnamese-language and web-based species identification resource allows members of the public to identify wildlife species that are commonly observed in trade using key characteristics that distinguish the animal from other similar species. The resource also includes references to the current legal status of each species, and links to ENV’s online wildlife crime reporting system so that users can easily report crimes that they have observed directly from the webpage or through ENV’s national toll-free Wildlife Crime Hotline.

At present, 19 species have been selected for the trial run of the new resource, with additional species to be added during the remaining months of the year.

“Vietnam’s appetite for illegal wildlife meat and demand for traditional medicine is devastating animal and plant species within and beyond its borders,” says Mr. Tran Viet Hung - Vice Director of ENV. “Getting the public involved in efforts to combat illegal hunting and trade of wildlife is critical to any hope of putting an end to this madness.”

According to ENV, each day, hundreds, if not thousands of wild animals are taken from their natural habitats and sold to meet the rising demand of Vietnamese consumers for exotic foods and traditional medicines made from wildlife.

ENV’s new online wildlife identification resource will aid the public in identifying and reporting wildlife crimes. The resource will also be used by ENV’s growing army of young volunteers spread throughout the country, mainly in urban centers, who assist in monitoring business establishments and reporting violations.

ENV wishes to thank The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) for supporting ongoing development of this important resource.

The online identification resource can be accessed through the following link: http://www.thiennhien.org/dinhdangloai.php
For further details, please contact:

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About Education for Nature – Vietnam
Education for Nature-Vietnam (ENV) was established in 2000 as Vietnam’s first non-governmental organization focused on conservation of nature and the environment. Our mission is to foster greater understanding amongst the Vietnamese public about environmental issues of local, national and global significance, ranging from protection of wildlife and natural ecosystems to climate change. We employ creative and innovative strategies to influence attitudes and behavior, not only highlighting the need to protect Vietnam’s rich natural heritage and the living world around us, but also encouraging greater public participation in achieving this important and challenging task.

About ENV’s Wildlife Crime Hotline
ENV maintains a toll-free national Wildlife Crime Hotline to facilitate reporting of crimes by the general public. Trained case officers from ENV receive calls and transfer information about wildlife crimes to appropriate local authorities. Each case is then documented and tracked through to conclusion. Members of the public are kept informed of the results of cases that they report to ENV.

So far, ENV has documented more than 4,100 wildlife crime cases resulting in confiscation of hundreds of animals, closure of wildlife markets and restaurants, removal of advertisements, and punishment to violators, as well as voluntary action by hundreds of violators after initial warnings were issued by ENV.

About ENV’s Nation Wildlife Protection Network
ENV also works in close cooperation with more than 3,300 volunteers in our National Wildlife Protection Network that is active in 32 provinces. Members assist with the monitoring of business establishments to ensure they are complying with wildlife protection laws.