Pangolins and the law

Vietnam is home to two species of pangolin: the Chinese pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) and the Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*). Both species were recently listed as fully protected under Vietnamese law, making it a criminal offense to hunt, trade, or keep the creatures.

According to the law, pangolins may not be auctioned or sold by authorities, nor may farms be registered to keep or raise pangolins. The shy nature and wild ecology of pangolins make both species difficult to keep alive in captivity. There are several rescue centers that can receive confiscated pangolins including facilities at Cuc Phuong National Park, the Soc Son Rescue Center in Hanoi, and Cu Chi Rescue Center in Ho Chi Minh City. Pangolins that are confiscated must be transferred to a registered government rescue center, released, or destroyed.

**Types of crimes to report to local authorities or ENV at 1-800-1522**

- Pangolins soaked in wine for sale at restaurants and bars
- Pangolins listed on the menu of restaurants
- Pangolins or pangolin products advertised for sale on the internet
- Pangolin scales or products offered for sale at traditional medicine shops
- Traders or other criminals involved in smuggling or keeping pangolins

**Some encouraging achievements in 2015 toward winning the war against pangolin crimes so far:**

- ENV consumer crime enforcement campaigns have been carried out in six major cities. The number of violations at restaurants, hotels, bars, traditional medicine shops, and pet stores in the districts where the campaigns were initiated reduced by between 40% to 77% (an average of 66% overall).

- A pangolin crime enforcement campaign in 2015 targeting 170 restaurants nationally where pangolin crimes were reported has thus far resulted in a successful reduction rate of 83%
• A compliance campaign conducted in 2015 targeting 98 traditional medicine shops in Ho Chi Minh and Hanoi has thus far resulted in 61% of the shops halting sales of pangolin scales.

• Information reported through the Wildlife Crime Hotline in 2015 has resulted in a number of successful seizures of pangolins, arrests, and prosecutions.

• ENV’s policy and legislative team have successfully terminated the auctioning of pangolins following seizures in most provinces where the practice had been occurring.

• Our legislative team helped revise the national penal and criminal procedure codes to better protect pangolins and other wildlife in Vietnam. One of the many amendments will allow for the immediate release of pangolins into the wild following seizure, vitally important as pangolins do not survive well in captivity. The legislative team also successfully lobbied to have pangolin possession prosecuted under the penal code nationwide in accordance with the law, as opposed to being administratively sanctioned as had been done in the past.

• A campaign to eliminate advertisements for pangolins and pangolin scales on the internet resulted in an 86% reduction in crime through removal of links and agreements by website hosts and forums.