



MAJOR CHALLENGES AND AREAS FOR ENHANCED COOPERATION



Turtle egg seizures in Sabah

Hand signs that spell illegal egg trade

SANDAKAN: The "OK" hand sign where the thumb and index finger forms an "O" means different here. It means turtle eggs.

Walk along Jalan Pryer here during the day and groups of people standing on the sidewalk will show the sign indicating they have turtle eggs for sale.

The street touts keep the eggs, priced from RM1.50 to RM2 each, in cars parked in the vicinity, staircases or even in boxes on the sidewalk.

When approached recently, a seller claimed the eggs were from the Philippines and boasted of a regular supply if the demand arises.

"If you intend to re-sell them in KK (Kota Kinabalu) I can supply you about 100 eggs at least twice a week," said the seller, who identified himself as Jan.

On the risk of being caught, Jan pointed to a nearby police beat base at the adjacent Jalan Tiga and bragged: "I am still here. The authorities cannot catch us."

"As for the MPS (Sandakan Municipal Council) enforcement officers, they only check the market," he said of the central market located across the road.

Turtles are protected under the Wildlife Conservation Enactment 1997 in Sabah and the Fisheries Act 1985, Customs Act 1967 and Protection of Wildlife Act 1972 at Federal level.

In Sabah, two government bodies that oversee the management of turtles are the Sabah Parks and the Sabah Wildlife Department.

The ban includes consumption and sales of the eggs and those convicted under the enactment can be fined up to RM50,000 or five years' jail or both.

State Wildlife Department director Laurentius Ambu said turtle eggs were still sold discreetly in major towns across the state but most of the supply came from a neighbouring country.

"There is no total ban by our neighbours and that is one reason why the eggs could still be smuggled into the state. Our borders are too 'porous' when it comes to detecting the eggs."

"We do enforcement and patrolling but our numbers are small."

"In Sandakan, for instance, there was one time when an off-duty wildlife personnel was pushed into the sea at the market. Not that we feel threatened, but the fact that the turtle egg sellers do not fear us is what we are more concerned about."

Laurentius, however, believes that with cooperation from the police, the local authorities and even the Customs department, the problem could be curbed.

"Our tourism industry and our ecosystem are dependent on the survival of the turtles. We need to be more committed in protecting the species."



The hand sign used by turtle egg touts on the streets of Sandakan.



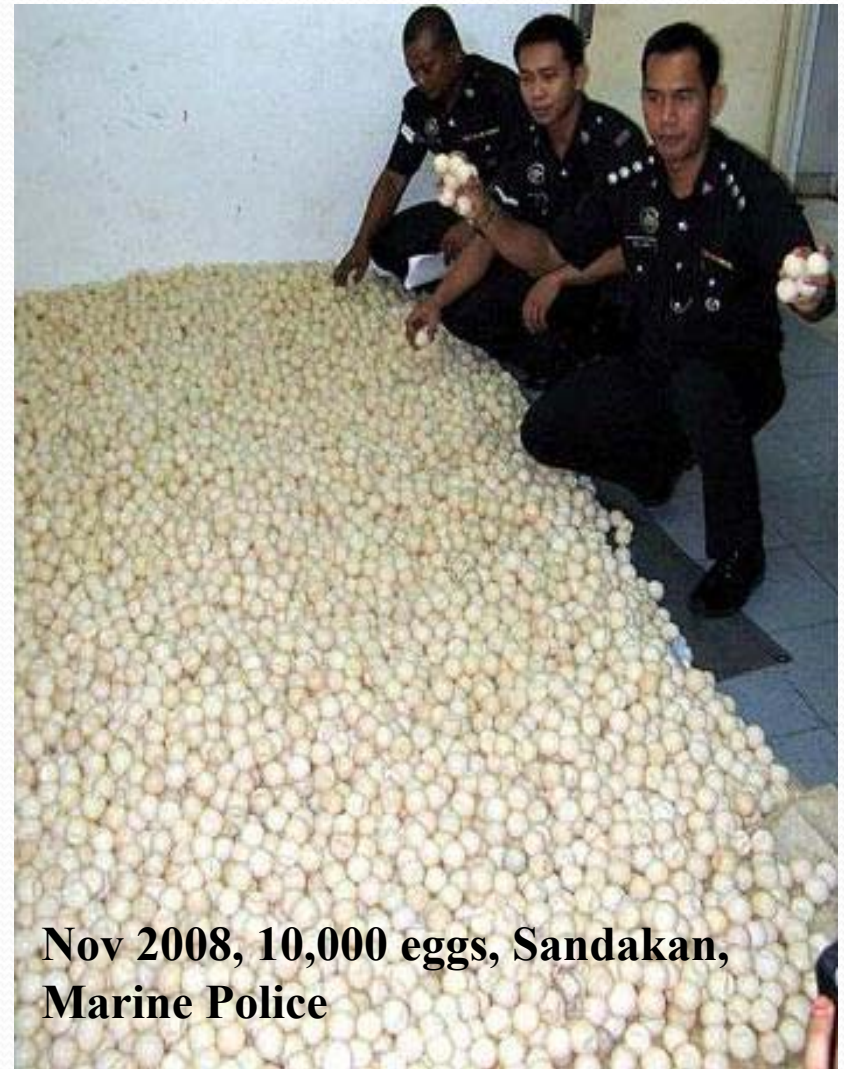
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From 1999 to 2013, 99 cases with 134,855 eggs. Hotspot location is at Sandakan with 47 cases.

Turtle egg trade in Sabah



- Reported eggs from Sabah and Sarawak are sold at Terengganu markets
- Send by post through agents



Hunting of adult turtles



May 2004

Chinese vessel, Sabah waters, 160 turtles

Jun 2005

150 turtles

21 Mac 2007

Marine Police stops a boat from Hainan (China), Sabah waters, 200 Green and Hawksbill

26 Mac 2007

Trawler, China, Sabah waters, 70 Green and Hawksbill

14 Nov 2009

11 turtles, Sandakan, Lankayan

April 2013

3 Hawksbill, Mantanani



Recent turtle cases in Kudat and Semporna



1. Over 60 carcasses was found at Pulau Tiga, Kudat, north of Sabah on March 2014
2. 3 Green turtles found in Semporna, southeast of Sabah on April 2014
3. Over 19 carcasses was found at Pulau Tiga, Kudat in Mac 2015



Turtle smuggling



Pangolin Hunting and Smuggling



Pangolin Hunting and Smuggling

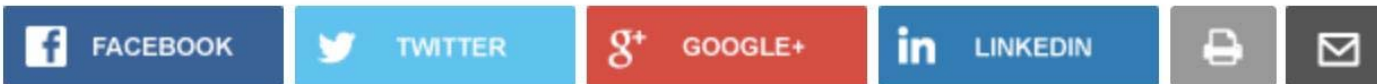


Pangolin Hunting and Smuggling

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Filipino jailed for smuggling pangolin meat

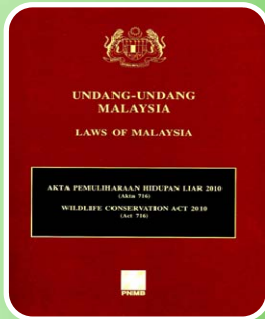


KOTA KINABALU: A Filipino will spend the next three years in jail after he pleaded guilty to smuggling pangolin meat worth more than RM700,000 in Sandakan last month.

Aivon Vencer admitted attempting to bring out 1,068 frozen pangolins weighing 4,988kg on Dec 7.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT 2008

[Act 686]



- There are 7 Management Authorities



- Impose punishment based on quantity/
volume.



CHALLENGES

- 1. Tricky traceability: false declaration and fake contact/address for illegal shipment.**
- 2. Lack of equipment with recent technology.**
- 3. New in intelligence work.**
- 4. Wide country border.**
- 5. Efficient logistics, modern infrastructure & road network.**

CURBING THE ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE



Establishment of Wildlife Crime Unit (WCU) and Intelligence Unit



The Wildlife Genetic Resource Bank (WGRB).



Collaboration with Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC).



Include wildlife crime under the Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorism Financing Act 2001 (AMLATFA).

CURBING THE ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE



Collaboration with Malaysian Army



Collaboration with Royal Malaysian
Police



Online permit system

WAY FORWARD

Strengthening through roadshow and capacity building programs to stakeholders

Coordinate joint enforcement operations with related agencies

Strengthen the enforcement linkages and network



WAY FORWARD

Continue the regional and international cooperation

On going trainings to enforcement officers, prosecutors, scientists and policy makers

Accredited National Wildlife Forensic Lab

Thank You

