

Traders Nabbed in Ninh Binh

Location: Ninh Binh

Date: February 19, 2004

Description of Events:

Ninh Binh Forest Protection Department (FPD) rangers stopped a public bus Friday in Highway One and confiscated 120 kg of turtles. The turtles, which included 50 *Indotestudo elongata* and 16 *Heosemys grandis* reportedly originated from Gia Lai or Kon Tum Province in central Vietnam. The trader was apparently not present on the bus, and only turtles were involved in the trade shipment.

Indotestudo elongata and *Heosemys grandis* are protected under Vietnamese Law Decree 48 (2001), category II prohibiting commercial trade. Both species are also listed in Appendix II of CITES, regulating cross-border trade.

The Ninh Binh authorities turned over a small number of turtles to the Cuc Phuong Turtle Conservation Center at Cuc Phuong National Park. The remainder were retained by the FPD pending a decision by provincial officials as to their disposition.

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