

Thông tin về Thiên nhiên và Bảo tồn

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Police net illegal wild-animal smugglers in northern province

HÀ NỘI— Police uncovered one of the largest wild animal trading rings in the country, finding over 2,600 snakes and tortoises, in the northern province of Quảng Ninh.

The anti-smuggling department, with environmental police from the Ministry of Public Security, seized a lorry driven by Trần Châu Lân from Nha Trang, in the central province of Khánh Hoà on Friday.

Lân was carrying a number of wild animals to export through Móng Cái international border gate.

The forces escorted the lorry, with 2,100 snakes and 524 tortoises, from Quảng Ninh to Hà Nội on Saturday.

The forestry department classified the animals and identified some as belonging to the precious 2B group, based on the Vietnamese Government's Red

List, which bans them from being traded.

All of the animals have been transferred to the Sóc Sơn Wild Animal Rescue Centre in Hà Nội.

According to the initial investigation, the cargo was worth US\$70,000 and belonged to the Móng Cái Investment and Development Joint Stock Company. Relevant authorities are continuing the investigation. — VNS