Wildlife criminals are

Driving species extinct across our planet
Spreading diseases to humans
Weakening the rule of law

Professional, organised, cooperating internationally, innovative
Five species globally

Four of which are Globally threatened species

Being driven to extinction by demand for their horn

Three subspecies declared extinct since 2008

Vietnam’s last rhino killed in 2010
Vietnam citizens are a major part of the problem
The law enforcement response of Vietnam to date has been limited:

19 cases since 2008:
- 1 person jailed
- Some fines
- Many cases still open
African forest elephant populations are also in rapid decline.
2002-2011 Populations crashed 62%

Over 20,000 killed each year for their ivory
Resurgence in global illegal ivory trade since 2009

Driven by increasing demand for ivory in China
Viet Nam has become a major route for illegal ivory trade flows from Africa.

Total: 18,429kg Ivory reported seized

21 cases of illegal ivory transport 2009-2011
How many jailed? How many given large fines?
Wildlife is one of the most valuable traded goods

- Rhino horn: $2000-$6000
- Tiger bone balm: $850
- Elephant ivory: $50-$700
- Golden Turtle: $300-$500
- Pangolin scales: $200-400

- Gold: $4800
- Heroin: $1500-2000
- Amphetamine: $100
- Opium: $50
- Beef: $0.75 - $1
One Golden Turtle (1.5kg):
$4500-$7500

One set of Elephant tusks (5-15kg/tusk):
$5000-$210,000

One Adult tiger skeleton:
$15,000-$20,000

One African rhino horn (2.8-3.7kg):
$56,000 - $225,000
The Viet Nam Penal Code gives low priority to wildlife crimes

Punishment levels:

- Gambling
- Bigamy
- Creating computer virus
- Tax evasion
- Disseminating debauched cultural products
- Receiving bribe - 500,000 - 10 million
- Procuring prostitutes
- Trafficking in women
- Participating in illegal motorbike/car racing
- Cross-border smuggling (non-wildlife)
- Illegal narcotic trade, storage, transport
- Rape and murder
- Manufacture/trade of fake medicinal products

Death

Life

6mth

3mth
Why should wildlife crimes be treated as serious crimes?
Wildlife crimes present a threat to human health

70% of infectious diseases which affect humans are originally sourced from wild animals
Wildlife criminals are organized, professional and often involved in other criminal acts

Article 103

Article 104

Article 153, 154, 155, 273, 274, 275

Article 161

Article 233, 234

Article 251

Article 289
Viet Nam is facing international criticism and exposure on its response to wildlife crimes.
The response of governments and civil society has improved in recent years, but remains insufficient.

Professional, organised, cooperating internationally, innovative.
WCS is committed to supporting the Vietnamese government strengthening its response to wildlife crimes.

Training programs
On-the-job support
Support for meetings and workshops