The Big-Headed Turtle (*Platysternon megacephalum*) is an endangered turtle species distributed in Northern and Central Vietnam and the neighbouring countries, Laos, Thailand, China, Cambodia. With a large head and elongated beak-like jaw, this species cannot retract its head into its shell. Instead, it is able to use these powerful jaws to defend itself from predators. Despite this fierce appearance and the fact that it is protected under national law, the Big-Headed Turtle is currently one of the most commonly trafficked turtle species in the illegal wildlife trade in Vietnam. Recently, the Asian Turtle Program (ATP) of Indo Myanmar Conservation (IMC) worked with Turtle Conservation Centre (TCC) of Cuc Phuong National Park to release 31 turtles back into the wild at the end of September 2018, but almost immediately, 46 more individuals were rescued by police and Thanh Hoa Forest Protection Department (FPD) on the 6th of October. Additional seizures took place in October and November 2018; 19 and 26 animals were seized on the 26th October and 4th November, respectively.

In one case, individuals from a confiscation in November in Kon Tum were returned to traders who had the required permits for keeping and transporting the turtles issued by the Tam Nong district FPD (Dong Thap province, southern Vietnam). However, CITES has not recorded any cases of successful breeding of this species in Vietnam. This seemingly simple case suggests that the enforcement of criminal relating to wildlife in Vietnam still needs to improve significantly.

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