



NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2009/042

Geneva, 15 September 2009

CONCERNING:

Secretary-General's Certificate of Commendation

1. In 2002, the Secretariat advised the Parties of the introduction of certificates of commendation that would be issued, at the Secretary-General's discretion, to recognize exemplary actions related to enforcement.
2. The sixth such certificate is to be awarded to the Hai Phong city office of the General Department of Customs of Viet Nam. It is in recognition of the exemplary work conducted by Customs officers there who were able, through first-class intelligence gathering and risk-assessment activities, to intercept several separate shipments of wildlife contraband over the course of six months in 2009.
3. These interceptions resulted in the seizure of over 8 tonnes of raw elephant ivory, which had been smuggled from Africa, and significant quantities of turtle shell and pangolin scales, which had been smuggled from elsewhere in Asia.
4. The work of these Customs officers in detecting instances of smuggling is especially noteworthy, given that they do not have access to the type of modern scanning equipment that is deployed in many ports and must conduct searches manually.
5. The date and venue for the presentation of the certificate have yet to be decided.