

Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected pangolin scales (with photo)

Hong Kong Customs seized about 440 kilograms of suspected pangolin scales with an estimated market value of about \$2.2 million at Hong Kong International Airport, To Kwa Wan and Yau Tong from December 29 to today (January 3).

Customs officers inspected 12 express air parcels declared as containing mascara originating from Malaysia on December 29 and December 30. About 240kg of suspected pangolin scales were found inside.

After follow-up investigation, Customs officers arrested one man and three women, aged 43 to 63, in To Kwa Wan yesterday (January 2) and today. About 200kg of suspected pangolin scales were further seized in the district and Yau Tong.

Investigation is ongoing.

Under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance, any person found guilty of importing or exporting an endangered species without a licence is liable to a maximum fine of \$10 million and imprisonment for 10 years.

Members of the public may report any suspected smuggling activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk).

