



## Press Release



February 16, 2022

## Joint Force Strikes Against Wildlife Traffickers

(Bangkok)-- Today, Thai authorities confirmed the arrest of 3 suspects linked to the trafficking of tigers and other endangered species following an undercover operation that ended yesterday in western Thailand.

Officers from the Royal Thai Police and Department of National Parks collaborated, with support from Freeland, to identify suspects possessing and offering to sell skins of tigers, leopards, clouded leopards, and other endangered species. Undercover buyers lured the suspects to a location in Kanchanaburi province where the arrest of 4 men and seizure of wildlife body parts was made during the morning of Tuesday February 15 (yesterday).

The undercover investigation was launched in mid January following the discovery of two newly poached tigers in western forests of Thailand. Two poachers were caught the next day. Days later, a Freeland camera trap set in the same general area showed a 3-legged tiger that is still trying to survive in the forest after falling prey to a poacher's snare.

Freeland provided investigation assistance to local police and is now working with provincial authorities to support mitigation measures to ensure local villagers refrain from killing the handicapped big cat and other tigers.

Investigations continue to determine the origin of the big cats found in the 3 suspects' possession.

“Congratulations go to Royal Thai Police and Department of National Parks for acting swiftly and professionally on clues that led to the suspects,” said Retired Police General, Petcharat Sangchai, Executive Director of Freeland-Thailand, whose team supported the investigation. “We must all work together like this to prevent more poaching. This successful cooperation among agencies and an NGO shows that Thailand will not tolerate wildlife trafficking.”

For more information or photos: [info@freeland.org](mailto:info@freeland.org)

For details of the investigation: please contact the Royal Thai Police Natural Resource and Environmental Crimes Division, Central Investigation Bureau.

Freeland: [www.freeland.org](http://www.freeland.org)