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Published October 7, 2018, 4:52 PM

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CEBU CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Central Visayas filed a case of illegal trading of wildlife against an online wildlife trader.

(MANILA BULLETIN)

DENR regional wildlife enforcement officer Robert Santi Café bared that Rommel Trazona, 25, was caught in possession of a juvenile chameleon and a red iguana last week.

Trazona and his online trader group had been the subject of surveillance before they were busted by the DENR wildlife enforcement team.

“We were communicating with Trazona for almost two weeks to finally convince him that we are a legit buyer of the wildlife. The two recovered wildlife species were priced at P6,500 per head,” Café said.

Chameleons and red iguanas are listed as exotic wildlife by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Trazona failed to show legal documents to the team. He was detained at the Pardo Police Station, Café added.

Wildlife traders must have an original copy of the wildlife farm permit (WFP). “We are doing this to protect our threatened wildlife species,” he said.

Violation of the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act carries a fine of from P2,000 to P200,000 and a jail term of from one to two years.

DENR Regional Executive Director Gilbert Gonzales instructed all field officials and wildlife enforcement officers to crack down on online wildlife poachers.

Café said his team also confiscated 59 budgerigars/parakeets and four bird cages during a raid last September 28 at a store on Plaridel St., Cebu City.

Store personnel presented an WFP that expired August 14, 2016.

Administrative seizure proceedings were conducted for final recovery of the wildlife species and criminal charges were filed against the store owner. All confiscated wildlife species were turned over to the Wildlife Rescue Center, Campo Forestal, Kalunasan, Cebu City for temporary care and custodial safekeeping, Café said.

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