

ROBIN DES BOIS

ON_{the} TRAIL

Information and analysis bulletin on animal poaching and smuggling
n°2 / 1st July - 30th September 2013

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Introduction

Every three months, Robin des Bois wishes to present a universally open panoramic viewpoint into the poaching of animals protected by international conventions and national laws. The trafficking of animals, their parts, and their derivatives is shrouded in darkness; but just like the trafficking of arms, drugs, and counterfeit money, it is passing through all possible corridors and routes.

The aim of On The Trail is to shed some light on the transboundary movements of horns, ivory, feathers, scales, antlers, and live animals, these unwilling migrants taken out of their habitats.

On The Trail follows, step by step, the tactics and the techniques of poachers and traffickers. Hand in hand with other actors defending wild fauna, On The Trail will help unmask poachers and ruin their schemes.

After the publication of On The Trail # 1, encouragement and positive feedback was forwarded to us from different realms – CITES delegates, NGOs, Customs, researchers - all from countries where wildlife is endangered, near or far.

CITES* Appendices

Appendix I : species threatened with extinction. Trade in specimens of these species is permitted only in exceptional circumstances and under import and export permits.

Appendix II : export permit required in order to avoid utilization incompatible with the species survival. Import permit if required by national law.

Appendix III : species that are protected in at least one country, which has asked other CITES Parties for assistance in controlling the trade. In the case of trade from a State that included the species in Appendix III, an export permit of that State is required.

* Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. 179 Member States.

The Cyanide Channel

Hwange National Park, Province of Matabeleland North, Zimbabwe

On August 24, rangers on patrol heard gunshots coming from the edge of the Hwange National Park (15,000 km²). They reported to local police who escorted them to the area. 2 elephants lay dead, their tusks ripped off. This atrociously common case will lead to the discovering a criminal organization of a whole other dimension.

Following this event, a careful search of the park revealed several bodies of dead and decomposing elephants. Traces found on the crime scene led policemen to the home of 2 brothers, ages 53 and 46, Siphon Mafu and Misheck Mafu. 17 tusks are found in a hiding place revealed by the elder of the 2. A trap is set up and 4 accomplices were arrested.



The puzzle made up of information made public since August 24th partially paints out the cyanide network in Zimbabwe. Some elements still remain uncertain, unclear and sometimes contradictory. The first poisoning campaigns started a few years ago. In 2011, wild animals died after poisoning of ponds in the Gonarezhou, Mana Pools, Charara and Matuzadona Reserves. The Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force says that Chinese miners used poisoned feed to kill elephants. These facts were not confirmed by the National parks administration.

For the Hwange Park's cyanide channel, the Mafu brothers served as instructors and distributors. They were paid US\$ 900 for this job. A former schoolteacher is thought to have supplied the cyanide. He had been supplied himself by a suspect now on the run and who holds interests in a local gold mine. Mixed with salt, the cyanide was then poured into water spots, and placed in buckets or natural salt pools along trails favored by the elephant herds. Cyanide was given out to villagers of Pelandaba and Pumula in the District of Tsholotsho. At least 26 villagers were interrogated by police about this. 240 kg of cyanide were discovered. Villagers who would voluntarily turn in the cyanide would not face charges. Such tolerance has raised protest in the ranks of the opposition party. Inspectors in charge of the case estimated that about 500 kg of cyanide are still in circulation. The initial illegal stock in a home of Bulawayo could have contained up to 3 tones.

The main suspects have been in contact with each other for a long time. In 2008, the elder of the Mafu brothers sold 25kg of ivory to a wholesaler who then sold it in Harare. In 2010, that same person received 54kg of ivory from one of Mafu's accomplices that where at least for part turned into bracelets sold in the Cape in South Africa for US\$ 13,000. In 2011, the Hwange park killers are thought to have delivered 130kg of ivory. Transportation toward South Africa apparently went wrong and the convoy was victim of a hold-up. In August 2012, a new 240kg were delivered. This time the convoy was intercepted and searched by 4 policemen in Harare. The ivory was found. The policemen demanded US\$ 10, 000 to let the traffickers go with the ivory. The deal went through. **Trafficking seems to continue in 2013 (Cf. Seizure of 447 kg of ivory on September 23 2013 in Dubai Airport arriving from Zimbabwe).**

By the end of September, 16 members of the cyanide channel had been arrested. 3 are already sentenced to a 16-year prison term each for illegal possession of ivory and dumping of toxic substances into natural environment. Week after week the death toll from this elephant poisoning campaign rose: 41 on September 5th, 69 on September 16th, 87 on September 26th, 91 on October 1st. A global figure of several hundred is now mentioned. Lions, buffalos, antelopes, African wild dogs, hyenas and vultures were them also found dead, poisoned from the carcasses the water and the salt licks. Side effects on wildlife are evidently not circumscribed and the death toll is not closed. Many dead animals won't be found by guards (Cf. July 2013 - Elephant poaching and vulture mortality in Namibia).

The paradox is that this affair takes place in Zimbabwe, where CITES had in 1997 lifted the international embargo on ivory and declassified the elephant populations in Zimbabwe, Namibia and Botswana from Appendix I to Appendix II. The Zimbabwe government applauded an important victory that would bring forth financial resources benefiting local communities and the fight against elephant poaching. The Campfire program for fair distribution of the products of this legal elephant hunting, that was Zimbabwe's main argument to obtain declassification of the elephant, failed. Hunting actually did create important benefits that stayed in the hands of hunt concession's managers. A 3 week lion and buffalo safari costs US\$ 52,000. Hunting an elephant can be done for US\$ 30,000 plus US\$ 14,500 for the trophy. According to experts, the hunting industry in Zimbabwe brings in each year US\$ 30 million. Owners and managers of hunt domains are very rich but local communities are still in poverty and poacher organizations use that to recruit them.

Now, Zimbabwe claims it needs US\$ 30 million to reinforce means of preventing poaching. "We have only 40 rangers equipped with archaic weapons monitoring an area almost as large as Swaziland" comments the National Parks Chief.

Hwange Park is a contaminated chemical site. Robin des Bois has written to the United Nations Program for the Environment requesting that technical assistance be provided on ground to decontaminate the area to the extent possible and to dispose of the toxic carcasses.



Sodium cyanide is found in the form of white crystals, which are odourless in their dry form. Sodium cyanide mixed with salt is used by chemist, trapper hunters to trick and kill animals on the spot. Sodium cyanide is highly soluble in water. All animals without exception are poisoned by skin contact, by ingestion or by inhaling hydrogen cyanide vapors which slowly forms in contact with water and humidity in the air. The acute effects start by the breaking down of mucous membranes which evolve quickly into convulsions and finish with respiratory arrest. Nonfatal chronic effects include dizziness, behavioural disorders, vomiting and general fatigue. A man dies 30 minutes after the ingestion of 2g of Sodium cyanide. The equivalent lethal dose for an elephant is around 200g. According to certain experts the lethal dose for a sheep would be 4mg/kg. In this case the equivalent lethal dose for an elephant would be 20g and the 3 tonnes of cyanide hijacked by the Zimbabwe criminal network would be, -statistically speaking- enough to kill all elephants on the African continent. Considering

the context under which the cyanide is used and the countless transportations, mixes and handlings carried out by middlemen and locals, one cannot exclude the possibility that members of criminal networks, their families and children, have been or will be impacted. In nature the use of cyanide, particularly in enclosed aquatic environments such as ponds, lakes or marshes, burns the flora and intoxicates fish and other living organisms in the long term. These aquatic environments are also likely to poison animals that use them as water holes.

Both Sodium cyanide and potassium cyanide are used illegally in Asia to ease the capture of aquarium and reef fish for human consumption. The cyanide is usually in the form of a pill put into a nylon «stocking», hung from the end of a pole or stick in coral reefs or at the entrance of underwater caves. Due to the dilution of the cyanide with seawater the fish are simply stunned. They lose their ability to escape and are easily caught in nets and other traps.

Seahorses Sea

Seahorses (*Hippocampus spp.*) are all listed under Appendix II.



Common Seahorse © David R

Seizure of 164 dried seahorses
Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport, Province of Zhejiang, China
July 1st, 2013

The seahorses were hidden in the luggage of a passenger coming from Malawi. The origin is unknown. Dead seahorses are used in traditional medicine for alleged aphrodisiac virtues and in food products and alive for aquaria.

Seizure of nearly 10 kg of dried seahorses (about 1,000 specimens)
Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, China
July 2013

Customs officers seized the 1,000 seahorses in a parcel post.



1.000 ! © Xinmin

Seizure of 6 kg of seahorses
Khaprail, State of West Bengal, India
August 6, 2013

The seizure took place at an individual's home. The seahorses, probably taken from the Indian coast, were in the process of being illegally smuggled to China. About 600 individuals. Authorities had been warned of the trafficking by 3 suspects arrested while in possession of pangolin scales on July 31 in Siliguri.

Seizure of 14 kg of seahorses
Sindhupalchok, Central Development Region, Nepal
19th September 2013

The caravans travel from India to China via Nepal and through Tibet with scales, dried gall bladders, furs and claws and from time to time the customs officers hit lucky. The 1400 seahorses, so far from the sea, were hidden in little gas cylinders.

Queen Conch



© sea-kangaroo

Seizure of 300 kg of queen conch (*Strombus gigas*, Appendix II)
Port of Prêcheur, Martinique, France
September 26, 2013

Queen conch, known as lambis in the Caribbean islands, is listed in Appendix II of CITES in 1992. The snail eats vegetal waste, grass and algae. It is a waste regulator and contributes to the maintenance and overall productivity of seagrass beds. Its disappearance or simply its decline would have a considerable impact on the marine food web and on fisheries in the 25 countries or territories of the Caribbean Sea.

300 kg of queen conch were seized near the port of Prêcheur in Martinique following an intervention by customs officers, state police forces, maritime department forces and the DAAF (Department for Food, Agriculture and Forests). A warrant of infringement was issued for purchase and transport of sea products in prohibited size and weight. The accused are liable to a 22,500 euros fine.

Sharks

Seizure of 15 kg of shark's fins and 2.4kg of shark maw

Dalian International Airport, Province of Liaoning, China

July 11th, 2013

There have been others similar, but this is the largest seizure of shark fins ever carried out in this airport. The shark species concerned were not indicated. The listing of 5 of the species of sharks in Appendix II decided during the last CITES Conference of Parties had not yet entered into effect in July. The shipment was sent off again in the baggages of 3 passengers whose origin and nationalities were not given.

The fins represent no more than 3-4% of the weight of the animal. Shark fin soup is prized in Asia and in particular in China. Historically consumed for grand occasions, the fins have become a current dish. However, sharks have elevated levels of mercury in their bodies, which presents a risk for consumers.



© Chinese customs

Charge of the Executive Chairman of the National Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture

Puntarenas, Costa Rica

August 2013

The prosecutor suspects the Executive Chairman of INCOPECA, the National Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture, to be involved in shark fins traffic. An investigation was opened. A fishing vessel flying the Belize flag had received permission to enter the fishing harbor and land sharks that were sold on the black market or landfilled. The dorsal fins were missing. This would not be a legal fishing but poaching and illegal shark fin trade. If the charges against the Executive Chairman of INCOPECA were consolidated, accusations by Sea Shepherd on a Costa Rican channel would be confirmed. This is not the first time that Puntarenas Justice focuses on trafficking in shark fins. 6 complaints are being investigated. 2 years ago, the captain of a Taiwanese fishing boat, the *Hung Chi Fu 12*, was sentenced to 2 years in prison.



Unloading from the *Hung Chi Fu 12* (ex-*Yuh Shan*). Belize pavilion. Length 26,15 m. Built in 2002 in Hsi-nyuan (Taiwan) © NR6

Marine Mammals

Seizure of 250 sperm whale teeth

Real de Montroi, Valencia, Spain

July 2013

The Nature Protection Service of the Civil Guard had been worried about the sale of ivory over the Internet since June. 2 men, aged 48 and 73, had been questioned. They tried to sell 80 kg of ivory whale teeth. The price asked was 1,000 euro per kilo. The species has been registered under Appendix I of CITES since 1981. Japan, Norway, Iceland, and Palau entered a reservation.

Spain was part of the cartel of whaling countries, which opposed, right up to the last minute, the suspension of commercial whaling at the International Whaling Commission. At the Castillejos whaling station, near the Ceuta port in the Spanish enclave in Morocco, whalers returned and butchered hundreds of harpooned sperm whales caught in the Mediterranean or in the Atlantic Ocean in a large area around the Canary Islands. During the last 10 years of commercial whaling -1975-1985- Spain officially caught 3,245 sperm whales, which adds up to a lot of teeth to be put on the market. Is the 73-year-old Spanish seller an heir to this era? (Cf. *The Hard Currency of Sperm Whale Teeth* p. 77)



© Bruno Congar, Robin des Bois

Ganges River Dolphin meat sold (*Platanista gangetica*, Appendix I)

Lezai-Kalakhowa, State of Assam, India

August 2013

Dolphin meat was seen on the shop counter by the side of the road near Lezai-Kalakhowa. A picture was taken and sent immediately to 2 local organizations for the protection of nature and the case then presented to authorities. Investigations showed that the meat came from the dolphin from the Brahmaputra River. Despite rapid intervention from the repressive authorities the sellers were not found. All those who kill or hold Gange River Dolphins or their by-products are liable to 1 to 6 year prison term.

Dolphin meat is not rare in rural markets. In the summertime dolphins swim up to the tributaries and smaller rivers. They are then very easy to trap and poachers get to work. The species is frequently found in the river basins of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna. There are only 400 individuals in the State of Assam. They are threatened by the construction of dams, habitat destruction, pollution and poaching. They are hunted for their meat and sometimes their oil used as bait by fishermen. They are also bycatches of fishing practices.



© Education for Change

Seizure of 820 kg of bottlenose (genus *Tursiops*, Appendix II) and Risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*, Appendix II) meat.

County of Yunlin, Taiwan

17th September 2013

The fisherman from Taiwan had been selling dolphin meat to the local restaurants for 2 years. During the traditional autumn festivals the demand for dolphin sausage is the highest. The sale of dolphin meat and other cetaceans is illegal in Taiwan. It is punishable by a fine of between US\$ 10,000-50,000. Mr Huang is said to have bought the meat in the north of Taiwan for the price of US\$ 5 per 600 g and was apparently reselling it for US\$ 8. In 2 days, he had offloaded 180 kg. Seal meat was also found in the freezer. Off North-East of Taiwan there is a small population of fur seals.



Grampus griseus © A. Gannier -GREC

Bats

Trial for the trafficking 8 Marianas flying-fox bats (*Pteropus mariannus*, Appendix I)

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, United States
July 2013

The Senator of Roca pleaded guilty to air trafficking between Roca and Saipan. The facts took place in October 2010. His parliamentary assistant is also involved. The senator admitted to have attempted to disrupt the judicial process in November 2010 by asking his assistant to lie regarding their involvement. The flying-fox bats were found in luggage coming out of a Freedom Air Flight plane. The verdict is to be pronounced on the 8th of November and could be a prison sentence of 33 to 41 month. The species is considered part of gastronomic heritage on the Island of Guam and the North Mariana Islands.

The snake *Boiga irregularis* is a big threat for these bats. This invasive species could have landed on Guam Island off a naval ship. The *Boiga* snake numbered around 2 millions. The flying fox bats are also threatened by logging, typhoons and volcanic eruptions. Mariana Islands are under US administration. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has made investigation.



Pteropus mariannus © pacificislandparks.com

Birds

Appearance before the Court of 3 people for poaching the great Indian bustard (*Ardeotis nigriceps*, Appendix I) and the MacQueen's bustard (*Chlamydotis macqueenii*, Appendix I)

Jaisalmer, State of Rajasthan, India

July 6, 2013

They were on the lookout for great Indian bustards and MacQueen's bustard 2 endangered species. There are believed to be only a few dozen great Indian bustards remaining in Rajasthan. The hunters have been placed in custody. They had been hunting rare birds for over a decade. Just like the

condor hunters in Ecuador (see On the Trail No. 1), they liked to be photographed with their trophies. The CD-Roms were seized by police. Several other poachers are members of the gang.



MacQueen's bustard © Sergey Yeliseev

Seizure of a living eagle owl (*Bubo bubo*, Appendix II)

Bansthali, Katmandou, Central Development Region, Nepal

July 12th, 2013

The distribution area of the eagle owl is very large, extending from Asia to Europe through the Middle East. It can reach 75 cm tall, a wingspan of 188 cm and can live up to 60 years. The species is mainly endangered by poaching and the stealing of its eggs. Captures in its natural environment take place principally in Nepal and are destined to Pakistan and China. The eagle owl is the object of obscure "scientific research", is used as a pet or as interior decoration after being stuffed. The species is equally sensitive to the thinning of its habitat and to its prey becoming scarcer. 5 suspects have been arrested while negotiating the price of the bird, around 100 euros.



Seizure of 123 animals including 5 Eurasian eagle-owls (*Bubo bubo*, Appendix II), a Harris hawk (*Parabuteo hawk*, Appendix II) and an unknown number of falcons (genus *Falco*, 9 species listed under CITES in Spain), spotted eagle owl (*Bubo africanus*, Appendix II) and a lynx (*Lynx*, Appendix II)

Peniscola, Castellon Province, Spain

July 22, 2013

The animals were seized during the operation Chrysalis. The investigation began when 5 Eurasian eagle-owls and a Harris hawk were discovered at private homes. The main suspect is the manager of the Arte Halcon company, «The Art of the Falcon,» which has been operating for 16 years and offers services in controlling wildlife populations (birds, insects, rodents ...). At least 5 Spanish airports have employed the services of Arte Halcon which sends out its birds of prey to chase away other birds. Castellón Airport pays 90,000 euros per year to Arte Halcon for these services. The company also carries out exhibitions of birds of prey. The manager was arrested. He is accused of smuggling wildlife and forgery. He denies the facts. 20 animals were also found in a freezer.

Seizure of 143 birds including 30 Philippine hanging parrots (*Loriculus philippensis*, Appendix II), 2 luzon rufous hornbill (*Buceroshydrocorax*, Appendix II), 2 black-capped lory (*Lorius lory*), Appendix II) and 1 tarctic hornbill (*Penelopides Panini*, Appendix II).

Cebu city, Province of Cebu, Philippines

July 27, 2013

The majority of the seized birds are lovebirds (genus *Agapornis*) which are popular in private homes as pets. The Philippine hanging parrots, the luzon rufous hornbill and the tarctic hornbill are endemic species. The birds were taken to a shelter in Cebu.



Loriculus philippensis © R.D. Nabong

Seizure of the meat of 3 Darwin's rheas (*Pterocnemia pennata*, Appendix I or II) and 2 guanacos (*Lama guanicoe*, Appendix II)

Paso Cordova, Province of Rio Negro, Argentina
July 28th, 2013

The meat, along with a gun, a long-range rifle, and a knife were discovered in a truck during a routine control check. The driver could not justify the presence of the firearm or of the meat in his vehicle.



Darwin's rheas © Dagpeak

Sentenced to 5-year prison term and US\$ 3,250 fine for trafficking 75 Helmeted hornbills (7.7kg) (*Rhinoplax vigil*, Appendix I)
Zhuhai, Province of Guangdong, China
July 2013

The man had been arrested on January 19th 2013 in the Gongbei Port of entry. Helmeted hornbills are poached for their meat, their feathers and their skulls known under the name of «casques». The latter are sculpted to become items of interior decor if not turned into jewellery and sold to the public as ivory. Helmeted Hornbill casques are the object of many beliefs and traditions in South- East Asia. Each casque weighs 10% of the animal's weight, therefore up to 300g. The value of an uncarved casque is between US\$ 1,600 and US\$ 5,000. The species is threatened by deforestation and plantations.



© Aspire Auctions

Seizure of 2 blue-and-gold macaws (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II)
Puerto Quijarro, Department of Santa Cruz, Bolivia
July 2013

Puerto Quijarro is found in eastern Bolivia, next to the Brazilian border. According to the authorities, the man was probably taking the birds to Brazil where he could sell them for more money in the domestic animals market. The birds were transferred to a refuge and should be released back into the wild later on.

Seizure of 8 birds: 3 blue-and-gold macaws (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II), 2 scarlet macaws (*Ara macao*, Appendix I), 2 keel-billed toucans (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*, Appendix II), 1 mealy amazon (*Amazona farinosa*, Appendix II).

Ricaurte, Department of Cundinamarca, Colombia
July 2013

The seizure took place nearly 100 kilometers from Bogota. The birds are in bad shape. They were given to the Mesitas del Colegio Wild fauna Rehabilitation Center in the same department.



Blue-and-gold Macaws in prison.

© Corporación Autónoma Regional de Cundinamarca

Seizure of a blue and yellow macaw (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II),
Paraná, Brazil
7 August 2013

The specimen was recuperated along with 10 of other wild birds in the midst of 3 operations carried out at the homes of denounced or repented individuals.

Seizure of 14 live birds
Cuenca, Province of Azuay, Ecuador
August 7, 2013

The birds have been freed. They are in good health, young and vivacious. 13 of them are parrots (genus *Brotogeris* and *Agapornis*). 3 species of the *Brotogeris* genus found in Ecuador and listed by CITES: cobalt-winged parakeet (*Brotogeris cyanopectera*, Appendix II), grey-cheeked parakeet (*Brotogeris pyrrhoptera*, Appendix II), tui parakeet (*Brotogeris sanctithomae*, Appendix II). The 14th bird is an orange-winged amazon (*Amazona Amazonica*, Appendix II).



Soon free

© Ministry of the Environment of Ecuador

Seizure of 70 live Grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*, Appendix II)

Yaoundé Nsimalen International Airport, Central Region, Cameroon

17-18 August 2013

The parrots were packed in 3 wooden crates. The arrest took place near the International Airport of Yaoundé. The truck aboard which the 5 suspects were caught had a fake military vehicle license plate. Grey parrots given as breeding animals are sold for around 1,000 euros each in France. They are popular as a pet for their longevity - they live up to 60 years - and their ability to mimic human speech.

Seizure of 147 parrots (family Psittacidae), 422 turtles and 1,000 Java sparrows (*Lonchura oryzivora*, Appendix II)

Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, China

August 23, 2013

A newcomer to the Noah's Ark: Java sparrow, a small bird from Indonesia and India. 1,000 specimens in tight cages were landed on a beach on the east of Shenzhen. The Java sparrows feed the domestic birds trade. They are also hunted for consumption and to avoid predation on rice crops. The birds were accompanied by parrots and turtles of unknown species. Some of the birds died during transport. Surviving animals were given to Shenzhen Wildlife Rescue Center. The «commodity» was fraudulently introduced in Hong Kong before joining the mainland by sea despite the storm and typhoon Tan'mei. Chinese customs were acting on information.



Lonchura oryzivora © Mike Atkins

Seizure of 100 birds among which 2 yellow-headed amazons (*Amazona oratrix*, Appendix I), 3 white-fronted amazons (*Amazona albifrons*, Appendix II), 3 orange-fronted parakeets (*Aratinga canicularis*, Appendix II), one mealy parrot (*Amazona farinosa*, Appendix II), 2 olive-throated parakeets (*Aratinga nana*, Appendix II), 2 red-lored parrots (*Amazona autumnalis*, Appendix II), 5 monk parakeets (*Myiopsitta monachus*, Appendix II)

State of Campeche, Tlaxcala and Mexico, Mexico
August 2013

The Profepa- services of the federal attorney for the protection of the environment- seized on traditional market places 100 birds among which 72 in the State of Mexico.

Seizure of 25 live birds, among which 1 white-fronted Amazon (*Amazona albifrons*, Appendix II)

State of Chiapas, Mexico

August 2013

The birds were seized at an individual's home. He did not have any of the necessary documentation for their possession. The white-fronted amazon is poached for its flesh and to supply the pets market.



Amazona albifrons © Lou Hegedus

Seizure of 2 live red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*, Appendix II) and a live boa constrictor (*Boa constrictor*, Appendix II)

Tepic, State of Nayarit, Mexico

August 2013

The seizure took place in a leisure park named Parque de la Loma. The animals were found in a cardboard box. The wingspan of the red-tailed hawk can reach 133cm. It can live between 20 and 30 years. Its population seems to be augmenting in Mexico. The boa was around 2 or 3 months old. Boa constrictors can measure up to 4 m. They are poached for their skin, meat and to supply the pets market.



Buteo jamaicensis © Blair Wainman

Seizure of 60 live birds including the common hill myna (*Gracula religiosa*, Appendix II) and the alexandrine parakeet (*Psittacula eupatria*, Appendix II)

Madhyamgram, Kolkata, State of West Bengal, India

September 4, 2013

The smuggling of birds captured without a permit in the wild is developing. Numerous species of parrots and parakeets are targeted of which 3 are endangered species: Nicobar pigeon (*Caloenas nicobarica*, Appendix I), long-tailed parakeet (*Psittacula longicauda*, Appendix II) Derbyan parakeet (*Psittacula derbiana*, Appendix II). An ornithologist from the West Bengal State wildlife board noted that the majority of the trade of 3 to 4 week old chicks is from December to June. Adults are traded throughout the year. The seizure took place in a small pet shop on a Wednesday. "Nature-lovers alerted the appropriate authorities". Under similar circumstances, on the Sunday the previous week, twenty parakeets were seized. The accused were placed in judicial custody.

Seizure of 32 live birds including 10 Philippine hanging-parrot (*Loriculus philippensis*, Appendix II), 3 visayan hornbills (*Penelopides panini*, Appendix II), one blue-naped parrot (*Tanygnathus lucionensis*, Appendix II), one crested goshawk (*Accipiter trivirgatus*, Appendix II), one besra sparrowhawk (*Accipiter virgatus*, Appendix II), one Philippine falconet (*Microhierax erythrogenys*, Appendix II), one Philippine eagle-owl (*Bubo philippensis*, Appendix II), one brahminy kite (*Haliastur indus*, Appendix II), one Philippine hawk-eagle (*Spizaetus philippensis*, Appendix II), one crab-eating macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*, Appendix II)

**Liloan, Province of Cebu, Philippines
September 6, 2013**

The birds and the monkey were locked in cages, on display, as for sale. It took a neighborhood survey to find out who the owner was. Aristotle Binabay is supposedly expert in falconry. He presented a control services license issued to another person's name. An investigation is opened to verify the authenticity of the document. Animals, all in poor condition, were taken to a shelter.



Bubo philippensis © Irene Dy

**Seizure of 11 parakeets (order Psittaciformes) Pardi, State of Gujarat, India
September 7, 2013**

He was selling parakeets at a crossroads. «When we got there, he had already sold one» regrets a ranger. «Everything was seized, including his bike.»

**Seizure of 72 birds
Umbará, State of Paraná, Brazil
9th September 2013**

Wild birds were held in cages at a private home. The environmental police also seized weapons: 2 revolvers and 2 hunting rifles. Local residents gave the alarm. The man in his fifties was arrested for the illegal possession of weapons and also for holding wild animals in captivity.



© BemParaná

**Seizure of 151 birds of the Lonchura genus and 21 parakeets (Psittacidae family)
Calcutta, State of West Bengal, India
15th September 2013**

The Galiff market is held on Sunday. "Before" the police force said, "we used to intervene on site, the sellers disappeared into the surroundings and we were attacked by their associates". "Now, we intercept the vehicles as they approach the market". The birds were captured at least 500 km from Calcutta in the State of Bihar and the hills of the Himalayas. They were transported by train and then by car and finally hidden in the local area around the market. The seizure and the arrest of 3 suspects took place in a taxi.



© Amit Datta

**Seizure of 5 blossom-headed parakeets (*Psittacula roseata*, Appendix II), 7 elongated tortoises (*Indotestudo elongata*, Appendix II), and 2 Asian giant tortoises (*Manouria emys*, Appendix II) alive.
Yang Hak, Province of Ratchaburi, Thailand
19th September 2013**

Bird traps and other poaching paraphernalia were discovered in the premises of this wild animal dealer. A policeman pretending to be a buyer was negotiating the purchase of a red-whiskered bulbul, a species whose singing abilities are exploited in the south of Thailand in popular bird-singing competitions. The bulbul was going to change hands for US\$ 255 when suddenly the trafficker, informed by a telephone call from a neighbour of the trap he was about to fall into, took to his heels and fled deep into the forest. The police force then turned to his son and found 40 red-whiskered bulbuls and a parakeet at his home. The red-whiskered bulbul is not listed on the CITES database. However, in Thailand, it has been protected since 1992 under the Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act.



Psittacula roseata © Tarique Sani

**Seizure of 75 Alexandrine parakeets (*Psittacula eupatria*, Appendix II)
Palanpur, State of Gujarat, India
24th September 2013**

Under a pile of clothes at the back of the bus, there was a cage full of parakeets who were not singing. Each one sells for US\$ 32 on the market for song-birds imprisoned in golden cages.



Psittacula eupatria © Sudhanshu Kothe

**Sentencing of a man for having captured and killed an Oriental pied-hornbill (*Anthracoceros albirostris*, Appendix II)
Miri, State of Sarawak, Borneo Island, Malaysia
30th September 2013**

The hornbill had been killed with a slingshot. There

were witnesses at the scene. Michael, 20 years old, an employee in an electrical appliance shop, could not explain his action. Perhaps he had the initial intention of selling hornbill's casque. His 2 accomplices were not troubled. The hornbill who had been dumped in a landfill was very much admired in the area. The locals had given it the name of Faridah. The hornbill is the emblem of Sarawak. The 3 months in prison and fine of US\$ 619 to which the young man caught in the act was sentenced amount to very little in comparison with the maximum penalty that can be inflicted: 2 years in prison and a fine of US\$ 7,745.

**Seizure of 25 grey parrots of which 24 were alive (*Psittacus erithacus*, Appendix II)
Mpondwe, Western Region, Uganda
September 2013**

African grey parrots sell for up to US\$ 4,000 outside of Africa. That's enough to excite the greed in the Democratic Republic of Congo where civil war encourages and facilitates the traffic in wild animals. The cargo of parrots was seized at the Mpondwe border checkpoint. The captive songsters were previously confined in a refuge in Entebbe. If all goes well, they will be released into the forest. A few weeks ago, other African grey parrots were freed by Jane Goodall from the edge of the Ngamba Chimpanzee Sanctuary.

**Seizure of 19 birds including some macaws (*Psittacinae* sub-family)
Recanto das Emas, Federal District, Central West Region, Brazil
September 2013**

The birds were sent to a wild animal centre. Some were injured. 2 men were found guilty for environmental crime.

**Seizure of 3 yellow-naped amazons (*Amazona auropalliata*, Appendix II), a boa constrictor (*Boa constrictor*, Appendix II), a Northern crested caracara (*Caracara cheriway*, Appendix II) and a zone-tailed hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*, Appendix II)
Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas, Mexico
September**

Profepa environmental inspectors seized 22 wild animals, hogs and rodents, snakes and birds, with no legal documentation, some of which endangered and thus protected. An investigation must determine the final destination of the traffic.



Caracara cheriway © Manjith Kainickara

Seizure of 8 live parrots (Psittaciformes order) and parakeets (Psittacidae family)

Lisbon District, Portugal

September 2013

The seizure took place following a joint operation by the police and the Institute for the Conservation of Nature and Forests. The name of the species is not mentioned although it was specified that the animals are listed in the CITES database. The value of the seizure is US\$ 29,867.

Frogs

Seizure of 35 frogs: the flaming poison frog (*Oophaga pumilio*, Appendix II), the Marañon poison frog (*Excidobates mysteriosus*, Appendix II), the Ranitomeya frog (genus *Ranitomeya*) alive, and a small gecko

Kreuzlingen, Thurgau Canton, Switzerland
14th September 2013

In Europe also, taxi drivers don't only carry human passengers. This one, of French nationality, was caught by the Swiss customs officers at a border checkpoint near Constance coming from Germany. He could have to pay a fine of US\$ 2,200. Switzerland and Liechtenstein have expressed reservations about the listing in Appendix II of these protected amphibia.



Oophaga pumilio

© Encarna Sáez Goñalons & Víctor Martínez Moll



© AFP

Turtles and Tortoises

Total seizure from 1st July to 30th September

14,390 turtles and tortoises
1,776 eggs

Seizure of 76 live turtles

Windsor, Province of Ontario, Canada
July 6, 2013

Hong Xin Tong, a Canadian citizen, drove across the Ambassador Bridge which links Detroit USA to Windsor in Canada. He had hidden 76 live aquatic and terrestrial turtles with a total value of U.S. \$ 6,000 in plastic boxes. He was arrested by the Canadian border police. The different origins of the species are currently being investigated by experts. The individual has already been charged with a false declaration and tax fraud. He was released on bail and is to appear before the court at a later date. Despite CITES regulations and regulatory restrictions prohibiting the possession of exotic animals the market of smuggled animals persists in certain Canadian states. This was the case of Andrew Fruck who was sentenced to 6 months in jail and US\$ 7,500 in damage fines for trying to import 1,500 reptiles in the summer of 2012. Another Canadian citizen, Kwok Sing Lee was also sentenced to a US\$ 7,500 fine for trying to import 290 birds from China.



The Ambassador Bridge linking Detroit and Windsor

© Mark Spowart

Poaching of a 40 kg olive ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*, Appendix I)

Port of Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu, India
7 July 2013

6 persons were questioned for flagrant crime in the fishing port of Tuticorin by rangers of the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park. The poachers were cutting the turtle up into pieces to collect the meat. Locally, turtle meat is presumed to activate the male libido. When they are captured by fishing nets, the turtles should, in theory, be replaced in the water. The Park has an area of 560km² and is situated at the interior of the biosphere reserve of the Gulf of Mannar. It shelters, among others, 2 species of marine turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea* et *Chelonia mydas*), dolphins, hippos, anemones, and coral reefs. In order to diminish the anthropic effects on the biodiversity of the Gulf of Mannar (overexploitation of resources, illegal collection of coral), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the

state of Tamil Nadu created the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve, which endorses the diversification of the means of providing for local populations and managing in an efficient manner the resources of the coast. The program has provided positive results, allowing the coral reefs to grow.



Gulf of Mannar © Property Direction

**10,043 live turtles seized
Kolkata Airport, State of West Bengal, India
July 18th 2013**

The 10,043 live baby turtles were discovered in 3 bags. They belonged to different exotic species, including sea turtles. The seizure value is estimated to US\$ 100,000. The 2 smugglers based in Chennai arrived from Guangzhou, China, and were going to Singapore via Kolkata. The rescued turtles have been taken to the Centre for Wildlife of the West Bengal Forest Department in Salt Lake. More than 100 turtles died on the way to the centre. On April 30th 2013, 21 live Indian Star turtles (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix II) carefully packed for a long trip to Chennai were seized in that same airport. Their final destination is unknown.



A few of the 10 000 seized turtles © NTD

**GANG
8 people arrested on charges of illegal poaching
and trade of endangered sea turtles and their
parts for human consumption
State of Puerto Rico, United States
July 18th 2013**

The 8 accomplices, all residents from the 2 cities, were running a kind of butcher shop specialised in turtle meat. The string of arrests followed an inves-

tigation started in 2011 with undercover special agents. They took place in the cities of Arroyo and Patilla in the southwest part of the island. DNA analysis conducted on the meat showed that at least 22 endangered individual turtles, 15 hawksbill sea turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricate*, Appendix I) and 7 green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*, Appendix I) were on sale. This successful investigation was led by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), with assistance from the recently formed Puerto Rico Environmental Crimes Task Force, the U.S. Marshals Service, the Puerto Rico Police Department and the Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources. This seizure is the first achievement of the recently formed Puerto Rico Environmental Crimes Task Force, a new law enforcement entity of which purpose is to investigate environmental crimes on the island ensuring coordination between the different police services and prosecutors. Its aim is also to improve public knowledge of endangered fauna and flora species and environment protection legislation. Puerto Rico has the largest hawksbill sea turtles nesting site of USA.



© Bruno Congar, Robin des Bois

**Seizure of a live Indian star tortoise (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix II)
Train station Thiruvananthapuram, State of Kerala, India
July 21, 2013**

Thiruvananthapuram is Kerala's State Capital. 3 men were arrested. The Indian Star Tortoise was seized from the luggage of a passenger at the station's exit. The turtle weighed about 1kg. They had come to sell the tortoise. They allegedly found and poached the reptile during a swim in the Aliyar River near Pollachi, Tamil Nadu. The authorities doubt their story. This species of aquatic tortoise is highly prized by collectors. It is found in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. It can fetch up to US \$ 1,000 in the United States. In India, 21 tortoises of this species were seized at Kolkata airport on April 30, 2013 and 50 in Karnataka State on May 23.



© S. Mahinsha

Seizure of 43 kg of meat and 72 eggs of green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*, Appendix I) Barra del Tortuguero, Province of Limon, Costa Rica

July 31st, 2013

2 flippers were seized. A 40-year-old Nicaraguan man was questioned who was also in possession of 112 g of marijuana. The man had lived in the region for 11 years. His accomplice fled.

Arrest of 7 people for the murder of Jairo Mora Sandoval Costa Rica

July 31st, 2013

The 7 suspects are believed to be behind the assassination of biologist Jairo Mora Sandoval (cf. On the Trail #1). The facts took place out on May 31st on Moin Beach. Items were found which belonged to the people performing the surveillance patrol of the turtle's nests with the young biologist at the time of the attack. The suspects were known to the police, some of whom had criminal records for aggression and violation of environmental law. 2 of them were Nicaraguan, the others were Costa Rican.

\$10,000 REWARD

FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST & CONVICTION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO MURDERED JAIRO MORA SANDOVAL, A CONSERVATIONIST PROTECTING SEA TURTLE NEST SITES ON MOIN BEACH, COSTA RICA



CONTACT: PorJairoMoraSandoval@gmail.com



© La Republica.net

FAMILY AFFAIRS

Seizure of 194 live turtles Saint- Pierre- des -Lamps, Centre Region, France Murato, Corsica Region, France

August 8, 2013

A small family business- father, son and daughter-tied close Corsica, "the Beauty Island", to the deep French countryside. In the region of Balagne in Upper Corsica, the father would "pick" the turtles, mainly Hermann's Tortoise (*Testudo hermanni*, Appendix II), the son transported them by ferry and by car to Indre department of the Centre Region of France, and the daughter put them up for sale on specialised internet sites at prices from 50 to 300 euros depending on the species. 194 individuals from 6 different species were seized in Corsica at the father's home. The turtles were set free in their natural habitat. 52 Hermann's tortoises had already been seized in Corsica, in Ajaccio, in April 2012 following a joint investigation of border police, Officers from the Hunting and Wildlife administration and veterinarian services after findings of turtles in the regional postal sorting centre.



Seizure of the month of April 2012

Seizure of the remains of 2 green turtles and 4 live green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*, Appendix I) Moín, Province of Limón, Costa Rica

August 12, 2013

Detectives visited a person's home after a call from an informer. They found the turtles in the garden along with a bucket full of meat, remains of fins and eggs. There were also pieces of the shell. 3 weapons including a 9mm and 38 calibre rifle were found during the search. One more episode of the turtle war in Moín.

Seizure of 156 turtle eggs and 11 turtles Province of Limón, Costa Rica

August 15 to 18, 2013

An operation led by police and environmental authorities between august 15 and 18 allowed them to retrieve 156 eggs and 11 turtles still alive. In one of the 4 inspected buildings, 120 turtle eggs were discovered. 3 people were arrested. Other operations are scheduled, both by the Atlantic Ocean coast and the Pacific Ocean one.

Poaching of a hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*, Appendix I)

Moín, Province of Limón, Costa Rica

August 17, 2013

The turtle was killed in her nest. Along with the

eggs, the poachers took the scales from the shell. They are used for jewelry. Poaching of turtles is increasing in the area where Jairo Mora Sandoval was murdered. The species is threatened by destructing of nesting sites, pollution, consumption of their meat and eggs, the use of their shells for decoration. Hawksbill Turtles can measure up to 90 cm. Females lay 2 to 5 times per season. Each nest contains between 120 and 200 eggs.

Seizure of 1180 yellow pond turtles (*Mauremys mutica*, Appendix II) and 1446 yellow-margined box turtles (*Cuora flavomarginata*, Appendix II) Kaohsiung, Taiwan August 24, 2013

This is the largest seizure ever made of turtles on the island of Taiwan. A man was arrested. The turtles were in a container on a ship in the port of Kaohsiung.

Mauremys mutica is a semi-aquatic turtle. This is one of the favorite species of international trade. *Cuora flavomarginata* is semi-aquatic too.

In recent years, the value of wild turtles in Taiwan has increased by 5. Professor Wu Sheng-hai in Taipei University says that these species are rare on the island. «To gather more than 1,000 turtles, many hunters had to be mobilized.»



Mauremys mutica © Billy Hau

Seizure of 122 turtles (species non specified) Maharipokhari, State of Odisha, India August 27, 2013

The turtles were seized in the course of 2 operations. A passenger travelling the train between Puri (Odisha) and Howrah (West Bengal) raised suspicions of Railway Police. 81 live rare turtle were found in 2 gunny bags under the berth and their carrier was arrested. The latter admitted regularly delivering turtles to restaurants in Calcutta and using that train for transportation. The same day, rangers found 41 turtles in the basement of a house in Maharipokhari. One man was arrested. These turtles were also to be delivered to various restaurants in Calcutta.



Conviction of 2 people to 3-year prison terms for trafficking Indian tent turtle (*Pangshura tentoria*, Appendix II)

Haridwar, State of Uttarakhand, India August 2013

The poachers had been arrested in 2010. They were sentenced to a 165\$ fine. The Indian tent turtle is a land and clear water turtle. They are found in India and Bangladesh. One can be worth up to US\$ 675 on the legal market in France.



Pangshura tentoria © Global Twitcher

Seizure of 952 Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix II)

Tentulberia, Kolkata, State of West Bengal, India September 1, 2013

2 thieves of wild tortoise were heading, on foot, to cross the border between India and Bangladesh. They were seen by the Boarder Security Force. They dropped their bags and fled. Inside the haversacks were Indian star tortoises which are highly sought-after for international trade. It was the biggest seizure of the reptiles ever carried out by the boarder guards.

Seizure of 1548 turtle eggs from olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*, Appendix I) and green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*, Appendix I)

District of Tonosí, Province of Los Santos, Panama September 6, 2013

Turtles lay their eggs on the beach between June and December. This period is particularly convenient for trafficking eggs. In this case, the 1,548 eggs were hidden in bags. They were for sale, 4 eggs for 1 US \$. 3 people were arrested.



Lepidochelys olivacea © Dr Col Limpus.

Seizure of 115 live turtles, including 72 black pond turtles (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*, Appendix I) and 43 Indian narrow-headed softshell turtles (*Chitra indica*, Appendix II)

Tentulberia, West Bengal, India

19th September 2013

They spend most of the time in the sandy beds of rivers and the females lay their eggs in sandbanks.



© Shekar Dattatri.

Seizure of 220 live black pond turtles (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*, Appendix I)

Suvarnabhumi Airport, Bangkok, Thailand

September 22, 2013

Each one of them had been wrapped in black adhesive tape. The 3 suitcases were on the baggage carousel near gate 6 in the international airport. No one came to claim them and they had no address tags on them.



© Sutthiwit Chayutvoraken

Snakes

Poaching of an Indian python (*Python molurus* spp. *Molurus*)

Thiruvananthapuram, State of Kerala, India

July 19th 2013

7 people were arrested for killing and eating the reptile, the second largest in Asia after the snake reticulated python, harmless to humans. Authorities later found the snake's skin.

Seizure of 46 live reticulated pythons (*Python reticulatus*, Appendix II)

Abbotsford, Province of British Columbia, Canada

August 15, 2013

A replica of the python event that happened at the

beginning of the month of August in Canada (cf. Chapter multi-species reptiles) made the peaceful town of Abbotsford, near Vancouver in the Province of British Columbia, tremble. 46 reticulated pythons were found in a building of an evangelist mission. The longest measured close to 5 meter. Reticulated pythons live in tropical forests of South-East Asia. A safety parameter was set up around the snake house. "There is no reason to believe the snakes have escaped," said a police spokesman who didn't quite manage to convince local habitants. All the reticulated pythons were killed, no institutions had the means to take them in. At least 50 other snakes were seized among which a boa constrictor, gopher snakes and king snake (*Lampropeltis*). None of the snakes kept by the evangelist mission were venomous. The mystery remains full as to who was the owner what his motivations were.



Python's Avenue in Abbotsford © Google Street

Seizure of a live reticulated python (*Python reticulatus*, Appendix II)

Province of Nova Scotia, Canada

August 19, 2013

It seems to be confirmed that pythons are in style in Canada. A beautiful specimen of a reticulated python- 5.40 meter long, 90 kg- was seized in a pet shop that had received legal approval from provincial authorities. Yet the law in Nova Scotia forbids possession and sale of this species. On the same day, 40 pythons were seized in a motel room in Brantford, Ontario.

Seizure of 2 live king cobras (*Ophiophagus hannah*, Appendix II) – 9 kg

Ha Long, Quảng Ninh Province, Vietnam

August 22, 2013

Another live cobras traffic near Hai Phong. They were onboard a regular bus line approaching the Chinese boarder. In Vietnam and China, the flesh of the longest venomous snake and its alleged virtues of «sex machine» are quite appreciated.

FAMILY AFFAIRS

Seizure of a live Indian Sand Boa (*Eryx johnii*, Appendix II)

Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala State, India

August 31, 2013

The famous 2 headed boa was stuffed in a bag full of sand. 2 brothers and their accomplices were hoping to sell it alive for US\$ 800. Indian Sand Boas are found in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, and India.

It feeds off of worms and insects. Between shamanism and hoaxes, rumours and tall tales, supposed alternative medicine doctors and specialists of the occult take advantage of gullible clients to whom they prescribe mixtures using blood, organs, flesh or scales of protected animals. Indian press reminds readers that the Sand boa, just as other snake species, are part of these false panaceas. Some are taken away from the wild to enter the large panel of new pets for humans.



Eryx johnii © Ankit Vyas

Seizure of a boa constrictor (*Boa constrictor*, Appendix II) and 2 Central American agoutis (*Dasyprocta punctata*, Appendix III in Honduras) Rionegro, Santander Department, Columbia 18th September 2013

The suspects did not put up any resistance. Their neighbours are the ones who denounced them. A non-identifiable species of deer was also part of the seizure. Many deer are threatened with extinction in particular the North Andean deer (*Hippocamelus antisensis*, Appendix I).

Seizure of an anaconda Cartagena, Department of Bolívar, Colombia September 2013

What a surprise for a mother who received a strange parcel in the post. In the wooden box with Mazda car spare part written on it, she discovered a « small » snake measuring 1.50 m in length. Her son had ordered it for a mascot on the internet. He paid nearly US\$ 260. The woman, distraught, immediately notified the authorities to come and pick up the anaconda. An anaconda can reach 9 m in length and weigh up to 120 kg. According to the Director of the Environmental Police, smuggling of exotic species via the internet is booming. He recalled that a few weeks ago, an ocelot, which was also purchased on the internet, was found wandering the streets of Cartagena.



© Yomaira Grandett / El Tiempo

Seizure of 2 live Burmese pythons (*Python bivittatus*, Appendix II) Brookhaven, State of New York, United States of America September 2013

The local animal control officer was hiding 850 snakes of which 2 were pythons in his garage. In the state of New York a licence is required to own pythons. Along with the snakes were some tarantulas. The Brookhaven officer has 4 weeks to find a legal home for his boarders. The neighbours are worried. « The garage was a temporary transit station ». « My plan is to open a business ».

Seizure of 2 alcohol bottles, one containing a cobra and one a scorpion Basel, Basel-City Canton, Switzerland September 2013

Scorpion Gin and Cobra Vodka were the aperitifs that a French citizen was attempting to import into Switzerland. The 2 bottles were seized at the Basel/St Louis motorway customs station. The trafficker in venomous spirits had to pay a fine of several hundred Swiss francs. According to the Swiss customs authorities, trade in the 2 species concerned is subject to the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species.



© Keystone

Seizure of 2 live snakes : a boa constrictor (*Boa constrictor*, Appendix II) and a Burmese python (*Python bivittatus*, Appendix II)

Mérida, State of Yucatán, Mexico

September 2013

The seizure followed an investigation by the PROFEPA. Inspectors monitored Internet sales of wildlife and suspicious movements around the airport of Merida. The «stash» where reptiles were hidden was thus detected. The animals were to be sold and sent to the State of Quintana Roo. They were entrusted to the wildlife conservation unit of the local zoo.

Monitor Lizards



Varanus bengalensis © Arun Prabhu

Seizure of 2 kg of monitor lizard meat (*Varanus* genus)

Chandrapur, Maharashtra, India

2 July 2013

A restaurant owner and 5 police officers are implicated. The officers carried 2 kg of lizard meat to the establishment by night. With the owner, they were surprised red-handed and were able to escape. 4 policemen turned themselves in on August 1st and the fifth was arrested half way through the month. The 6 individuals were charged with poaching and commercialization of protected wild species. India shelters 3 species of lizards listed under Appendix I of CITES (*Varanus bengalensis*, *Varanus flavescens*, *Varanus griseus*) and one species listed under Appendix II (*Varanus salvator*).

Arrest of 7 monitor lizards poachers

Ramkrishnapur, Kulpi, West Bengal State, India

September 2013

The live monitor lizards were being smuggled between West Bengal and Saudi Arabia. The hunter/trappers came from Bengal and the organi-

sers of the smuggling operation from the State of Jharkhand.

Indictment of a man for trafficking in Iranian desert monitors (*Varanus griseus caspius*, Appendix I) Los Angeles, State of California, United States of America

September 2013

Donald Schultz had 2 faces.

1 – He presented television series such as Animal Planet as a wild animal and reptile specialist. In particular he set himself up as a fierce protector of the Iranian desert monitor.

2 – From May 2006 to June 2010, he had a licence to import wild animals into the United States. He had misused it to fraudulently import a batch of monitors from South Africa. After the expiration of his licence he continued an «online business» presenting a whole collection of reptiles offered for sale on Facebook. An officer from the US Fish and Wildlife Service presented himself as an interested go-between. After several discussions, the deal was done with a colleague of Mr Schulz and 2 days later, the final recipient, another US Fish and Wildlife officer, received 2 Iranian desert monitors in New York via Delta Air Cargo, for the negotiated price of US\$ 2,500 each, plus US\$ 10 for transport. In August 2010, not doubting the trap he had just fallen into, the television presenter had requested by telephone – the call was monitored - exceptional authorisation to film the US Fish and Wildlife officers in their investigations for a future programme for the Discovery Channel. Donald Schultz is to appear in court in October. He faces 1 year in prison and a fine of US\$ 100,000.

Following On the Trail # 1, Robin des Bois has received his message of congratulations. Let's bet he will be less satisfied with # 2.

Iguanas

Seizure of 81 live animals including 23 green iguanas (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II)

La Nueva Viga Market, San Lázaro, Mexico City, Mexico

July 2013

2 people were arrested for illegal trade in endangered species. As early in the first quarter of the year 130 inspections and half a dozen operations led to the arrest of 6 suspects charged with causing harm to the environment. La Nueva Viga Market is renowned for its fish and reptiles.

Seizure of 788 green iguanas (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II)

Mazatán, State of Chiapas, Mexico

September 2013

PROFEPA inspected the San Andres Ranch in Mazatán, where specimens of wild species were being bred. The inspectors wanted to check the management and safety of the ranch, the provenance of the animals and that they were being treated with dignity and respect. The owner of the ranch was operating illegally. In particular he was not able to certify the provenance of 1,086 specimens including 788 green iguanas. He also had 29 White-

tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*, Appendix III in Guatemala), 3 pacas (*Cuniculus paca*, Appendix III in Honduras), 3 Central American agouti (*Dasyprocta punctata*, Appendix III en Honduras) and 5 great curassows (*Crax rubra*, Appendix III in Costa Rica). He had 5 working days to prove that the origin of these animals was authorised by SEMARNAT (The Mexican Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources). If he does not do so, an administrative procedure will be launched and penalties may be applied such as a fine possibly amounting to between 50 and 50,000 times the current minimum salary in Chiapas and the seizure of the captives. Meanwhile, the undocumented animals were recorded but they were not removed from the ranch.



Ctenosaura pectinata © Don Loarie

Crocodylians

Seizure of 28 live baby Morelet's crocodiles (*Crocodylus moreletii*, Appendix II)
Mérida International Airport, State of Yucatán, Mexico
August 2013

They were arriving from the State of Tabasco, Mexico. They were on their way to a breeding farm or to be used as pets or eventually to be used by the leather industry.



© Progreso Hoy

Seizure of 4 live baby morelet's crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletii*, Appendix II)

Padilla, State of Tamaulipas, Mexico

August 2013

They were found at a fish and sea food store. They were exhibited in his shop. A call from an anonymous informant brought on the intervention. The crocodiles are in good health. They were taken in by the Tamatan zoo (Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas) and will be released into their natural habitat. An adult Morelet's crocodile can reach up to 4.7 m. They live in Belize, Guatemala and Mexico.

Seizure of a live Nile crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*, Appendix II)

Gothenberg Airport, Götaland Region, Sweden

September 2013

The Swedish barber said he had believed the young crocodile to be an adult monitor lizard. The Nile crocodile feeds on gazelles. Its bite is fatal.



Nile crocodile, Mara, Kenya © Ralph Reinhold

Seizure of 32 kg of bush meat, including American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II)

Ribeirão Preto, State of São Paulo, Brazil

September 2013

The owner of the house where the seizure took place cannot be found. The meat was frozen.

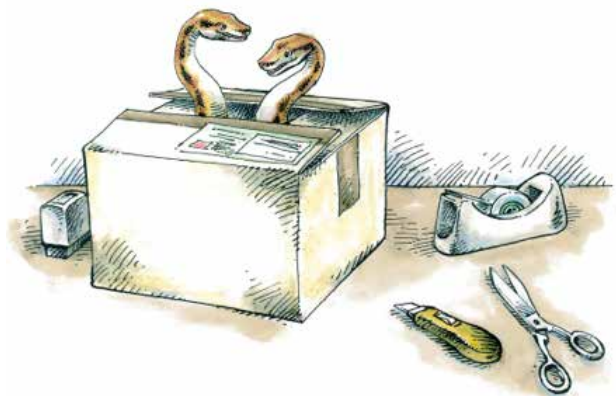


Alligator mississippiensis © Earl Nottingham

Multi-Species Reptiles

**Seizure of 4 live royal pythons (*Python regius*, Appendix II), one caiman and a stuffed turtle Blénod-lès-Pont-à-Mousson, Meurthe-et-Moselle, France
5 July 2013**

A postal service employee of Blénod-lès-Pont-à-Mousson in the east of France discovered the 2 royal pythons, the caiman and the turtle in a package. The authorities went to the home of the sender and found other royal pythons, 2 stuffed animals and 800 g of cannabis. The owner of the animals, who did not have the administrative licence, was arrested and the 4 serpents were collected by a zoo. Royal pythons are poached for their meat, their skin and to fuel the domestic reptile market. The price for a specimen on the black market is about 300 euros, but it varies depending on the patterns and colors of the animal. Python traffic is active in France, Belgium and Switzerland.



© Bruno Congar, Robin des Bois

**Seizure of 300 cobras (400 kg) and 569 turtles (1,200 kg)
Rattana-wapi District, Nong Khai, Thailand
July 13th, 2013**

The smugglers made a profit of US\$ 3,200 for the first trip between Thailand and Laos. During the second trip, their overloaded pickup truck was intercepted by a patrol of the Thai Royal Marines who have authority over the Mekong River and its banks. Thailand counted 5 species of cobras, all of which are registered under Appendix II. 2 species of turtles were part of the seizure – the *Siebenrockiella crassicollis* (Appendix II) and the box turtle of Western Asia (*Cuora amboinensis*, Appendix II). These were terrestrial and freshwater species. The turtles were poached for consumption and for sale as domestic pets.



© MCOT

On The Trail # 2. Robin des Bois

Sequestration of 147 live animals among them: Nile crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*, Appendix I except for 13 countries where it is listed in Appendix II), saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*, Appendix I except populations of Australia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea), Siamese crocodile (*Crocodylus siamensis*, Appendix I), spectacled caiman (*Caiman crocodilus*, Appendix II), Cuvier's dwarf caiman (*Paleosuchus palpebrosus*, Appendix II), Asiatic rock python (*Python molurus*, Appendix II), green anaconda (*Eunectes murinus*, Appendix II), yellow anaconda (*Eunectes notaeus*, Appendix II), monitor lizard (*Varanus salvadorii*), green oгуana (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II)

**Russia Exhibition Centre, Moscow, Russia
July 15, 2013**

The travelling "crocodile farm" was closed down as a precautionary measure during its exhibit in Moscow. The reason was due to the absence of proper documentation and CITES permits for several animals. Added to the count of 147 reptiles, are fennec foxes (*Vulpes zerda*, Appendix II) which were also exhibited in cages and did not have the necessary CITES documentation. The owner of the «crocodile farm» denies any illegal animal smuggling and puts it down to a "paperwork mix up».



All-Russian Exhibition Centre (VVTs)

© All-Russian Exhibition Centre

**Seizure of a monitor lizard carcass (genus *Varanus*), a python and an Asiatic softshell turtle (*Amyda cartilaginea*, Appendix II) and 5.5 kg of python meat
Serian and Balai Ringin, Sarawak, Malaysia
July 2013**

The animals were confiscated after 2 raids in the nearby towns of Serian and Balai Ringin. The python and softshell turtle were taken to the shelter for wildlife in Matang where they will be taken care of before being released into the wild. 4 species of Malaysian lizards are listed on CITES appendix (3 in Appendix II and 1 Appendix I). 4 species of Malaysian pythons are listed under Appendix II. The Asiatic softshell turtle is found in Southeast Asia. It measures up to 83 cm long. It is poached for its meat and according to CITES large amounts are illegally exported to China and Vietnam. This is the most commonly consumed turtle in Malaysia. It was listed in Appendix II in 2005. The state of Sarawak is infamous for the massive destruction of the rain-

forest and the expulsion of the indigenous peoples who live there.

Seizure of 17 dead pig-nosed turtles (*Carettochelys insculpta*, Appendix II), 2 dead reticulated pythons (*Python reticulatus*, Appendix II), a yellow anaconda (*Eunectes notaeus*, Appendix II), a hawksbill turtle's shell (*Eretmochelys imbricata*, Appendix I) and 37 live animals including 4 adult alligators

**Campbellton, Province of New Brunswick, Canada
August 5, 2013**

After the tragic death during the night of the 4th to the 5th of August 2013 of 2 children who were sleeping in the apartment just above the Reptiles Ocean pet shop searches were carried out inside the store. An administrative verification revealed that the licences had expired in April 2000 and March 2001 and the pet shop was therefore illegal. According to investigations, the 2 small victims were strangled by an African Rock Python measuring 4 meters long and weighing 45kg. He had escaped from the vivarium by a ventilation trap and accessed the first floor through the air pipes. This tragedy that was felt worldwide triggered in Canada a series of verification of rules regarding exotic pets and their enforcement. In New Brunswick, the Exotic Wildlife Regulation forbids owning African Rock Python with only exceptions made for accredited zoos.

Seizure of 31 animals including a cascabel rattlesnake (*Crotalus durissus spp. terrificus*, Appendix III in Honduras), 14 boa constrictors (*Boa constrictor*, Appendix II), 8 iguanas (Iguanidae family, species unspecified) and 2 veiled chameleons (*Chamaeleo calyptrotatus*, Appendix II)

**Cali, Department of Valle del Cauca, Colombia
District of Buenaventura, Department of Valle del Cauca, Colombia
14 August 2013**

A cascabel rattlesnake was found in the district of Buenaventura. He measured 10 cm in length. This sub-species is not present in Colombia. It is present in Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay and Argentina. His captor, a local charlatan, displayed him in the town centre. The other animals were seized in a pet shop in the town of Cali. They were entrusted to the town zoo. The veiled chameleons are natives of Yemen and Saudi Arabia.



Veiled chameleons © John Sullivan

One year and a half prison sentence for reptiles trafficking between the United States and Canada with more than 18,000 specimens involved

**Syracuse, State of New York, United States
August 23, 2013**

Mrs. Terrance trade worked well. Canadian demand was sustained, supply from the United States was too. At least 17 clandestine trips allowed the young American trader to introduce in Canada species which were not at all local like helmeted chameleons (*Trioceros hoehnelii*, Appendix II), American alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II), green iguanas (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II) and tree spotted monitors (*Varanus timorensis*, Appendix II). The last trip ended badly when, after a chase by helicopter, her boat was intercepted on the St. Lawrence River with a freight of protected and clandestine animals. It was in August 2012. His Canadian accomplice established in Ontario is indicted in the US as well as in Canada, but not yet sentenced. The investigation was conducted jointly by the US, Canadian and Mohawk Wildlife and Police departments.

Seizure of 670 animals including green iguanas (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II)

**State of Colima, Guanajuato, Hidalgo, Jalisco, Michoacán, Morelos, Puebla, Querétaro, Tlaxcala and State of Mexico, Mexico
August 27 to 31, 2013**

Between the 27th and 31st of August, inspectors of the Profepa inspected market places, shops, surveyed areas where animals are poached and set up road blocks. 562 plants and 670 animals including green iguanas were seized over the course of this first regional operation for which a dozen States of Mexico cooperated. Hundreds of officers participated in this operation.

Seizure of 7 kg of python meat (genus Python) and monitor lizard meat (genus Varanus)

**Gudalur, State of Tamil Nadu, India
September 22, 2013**

In the beginning they were wrongly suspected of belonging to armed Communist groups, referred to as Naxalites. The gang of 5 were wandering across a tea plantation. Python meat is sold at a very high price, «it gives you strength and virility». On site, the poachers made do with eating a monitor lizard.



© The New Indian Express

Seizure of a Burmese python (*Python bivittatus*, Appendix II), a python (genus *Pithonidae*), 3 boa constrictors (*Boa constrictor*, Appendix II), a green iguana (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II) and a spectacled caiman (*Caiman crocodilus*, Appendix II)

Gatineau, Province of Quebec, Canada

September 5, 2013

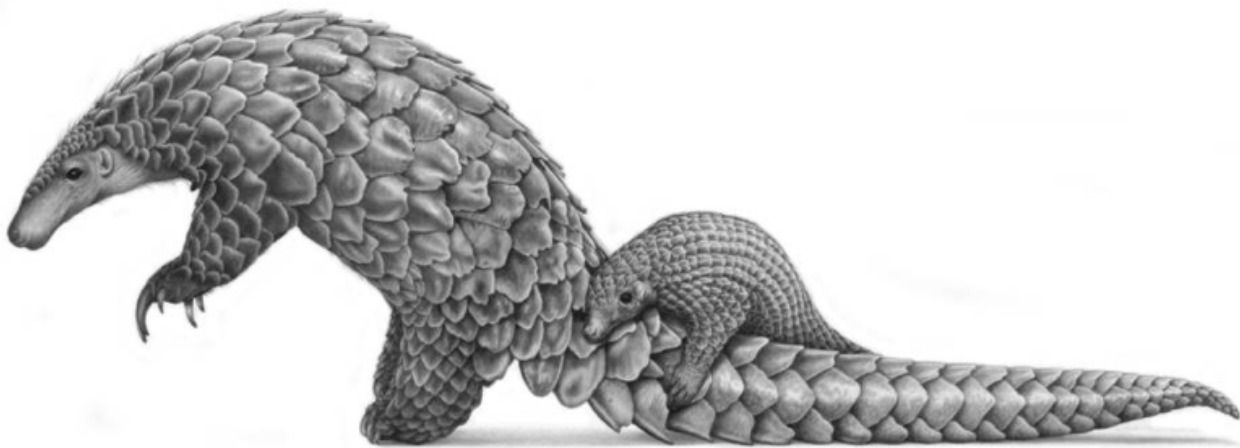
It's Quebec's turn to be the scene of the seizure of reptiles. The citizens are on the look-out. A search warrant was accorded when a complaint was received of a man leaving his home with a massive snake. All the reptiles were sent to a Little Ray's Reptile Zoo in Ottawa. It was not the first time that the home of the smuggler was drawn to the au-

thorities' attention. Until this date the police were confronted by a closed door and gave up a search warrant.



© Gatineau Police

Pangolins



<http://shop.davidshpherd.org/artist/David-Dancey-Wood/>
© David Dancey-Wood

**The 8 pangolin species
Manis spp. (4 African and 4 Asian)
are listed in Appendix II.**

**The seizure from 1st July to 30th September is
equal to 7.616 pangolins**

Taking the average weight of 3.5kg per animal
and 3 pangolins for 1kg of scales.

**Seizure of 26 living pangolins
Bukit Kayu Hitam, State of Kedah, Malaysia
8 July 2013**

Thanks to an informer, the Malaysian customs at the Bukit Kayu Hitam frontier with Thailand went directly to search for the pangolins in a compartment specially designed in the trunk of the vehicle of a couple in their 30's. 6 people have been recently condemned in Malaysia to one year of prison for the possession of 160 pangolins.

**Seizure of 40.28 kg of pangolin scales
Guangzhou Baiyun Airport, Canton,
Guangdong Province, China
July 8th 2013**

The nervous and non-cooperative behaviour of a passenger alerted customs agents and allowed them to discover the scales in his luggage. The specimens came from Africa via Doha, Qatar.

**Seizure of 3.9 kg of pangolin scales
Beijing Capital International Airport, China
July 16, 2013**

3 persons of Chinese origin carried the scales. They were quarantined and ticks of the species *Amblyomma compressum* were discovered on the scales. International trafficking in protected species also involves sanitary risks. Parts or live animals transported may carry diseases or invasive species.



Seizure of 233 live pangolins / Tien Yen District, Quang Ninh Province, Vietnam / July 17, 2013

Near the Chinese border, Vietnamese police intercepted 3 vehicles carrying 233 live pangolins.

Seizure of 85 kg of pangolin scales / Guwahati, Assam State, India / July 17th 2013

The seizure took place at a private flat in the Beltola area. The scales came from south India. They were supposed to be smuggled in China through Myanmar. Pangolin scales are worth up to 1,000 US\$ per kg on the international black market. The species concerned is the big Indian pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*). It is present in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. At the same time and place, 1,444 kg of pseudoephedrine tablets were seized. Pseudoephedrine is a decongestant that can be used in the fabrication of methamphetamine, included in the World Anti-doping Agency (WAA) list of prohibited products. Guwahati is Assam's biggest city.

Seizure of 137 pangolins / Province of Quảng Ninh, Vietnam / July 17th and 18th 2013

July 17th, police discovers 62 pangolins in Hai Ha district and the day after, 75 pangolins in Ha Long city. The animals were hidden in 2 cars, both heading for China. The mammals weighed a total of more than 620 kilos. 2 men were arrested. Some of the animals were dead and many others were in poor condition. They were transferred to Soc Son Wildlife Rescue Centre in Hanoi to be saved. Pangolins are generally kept alive during transport to sell them at a better price to Chinese restaurants. But the stress and dehydration in smuggling transport often cause death. 2 species live in Vietnam : the Chinese pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) and the sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*).

Seizure of 49 live pangolins / Bukit Kayu Hitam, State of Kedah, Malaysia / July 21, 2013

The pangolins were found in the trunk of a taxi car, in bags. The driver is a 57 year old man from Thailand. He was hired by an international criminal group to transport the pangolins to China via Thailand (approximately 2,700 km). The value is estimated at US\$ 15,753. In Thailand, pangolin meat is worth minimum 110US\$ per kilo, and 3 times more in China. This is the second seizure of pangolins in this town during the month of July. The sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*) is the only pangolin species found in Malaysia.

Seizure of 26 pangolins / Gangkou District, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China / July 25, 2013

Another routine traffic stop in China, this time in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, which ends with the turbulent seizure of 26 live pangolins.

Seizure of 15 live pangolins (70 kg) / Sabak Awor, State of Johor, Malaysia / July 29, 2013

The seizure is estimated at US\$ 14,000. Local authorities have warned of the presence of an unknown boat on the banks of the Muar River. Upon arrival, the Malaysian navy patrol arrested a suspect and got hold of 2 bags full of live pangolins. Malaysia is home to the Javanese or sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*).

Seizure of 49 pangolins (2 dead) / Near Guangzhou area, Guangdong Province, China / July 29, 2013

It makes you wonder if in 1 car on 2 rolling in China and neighboring countries there is not at least a pangolin taken hostage. Following an accident on a highway between a truck and a black Toyota from which 2 people ran away full speed. In the car trunk, the police officers arrived in a hurry to settle the traffic, found 67 false registration plates and 49 pangolins, 2 dead. The story doesn't tell if they died in the collision or from dehydration.

FAMILY AFFAIRS / Seizure of 2.05 kg of pangolin scales / Imphal, State of Manipur, India / July 31st, 2013

On board a Maruti Alto, a woman and her son were intercepted by a patrol of Assam Rifles troops with 2.05kg of pangolin scales. The highway controls were organized in the framework of a national campaign for the environment and the protection of biodiversity, locally filled in for by the "Women Skill Development Center" of the District of Thoubal.

GANG / Seizure of 70 kg of pangolin scales / Siliguri, State of West Bengal, India / July 31st, 2013

A group of 7 criminals was arrested in possession of pangolin scales. 2 of them were Nepalese and moved to India to help the 5 Indian citizens in the transport of scales by way of Nepal for the final export to China. 70 kg of scales implies around 300 pangolins being captured, according to the relevant authority of Baikunthapur. "We are dealing with an international network which does not only work with pangolins," the experts of West Bengal suspect. The scales would have been bought in the State of Haryana in the Mahananda Express. The corridor of Siliguri is the preferred escape route towards Nepal for animals and their by-products illegally captured in the Indian sub-continent.

Seizure of 8 pangolins (24.4 kg) / Province of Ha Tinh, Vietnam / August 3, 2013

Authorities tried to intercept the motorcycle transporting the pangolins on the highway. The driver got rid of them and escaped.



Seizure of 25kg of pangolin scales /

Davangere, State of Karnataka, India / August 12, 2013

The suppliers of the trafficker from Chinoga had been so far specialised in capturing snakes. The scales were to be sold to a wholesaler in Chennai, State of Tamil-Nadu. A Regional Police Official mentions the planned exportation towards China and what seems to be a new use that adds to the classic medical uses : the scales are used to make bullet proof jackets. A growing market that renews and expands ancient practices (Cf. On The Trail #1).

Seizure of 14 pangolins (105 kg) / Mong Cai, Quang Ninh Province, Vietnam / August 14, 2013

The drivers of the vehicles taking the pangolins towards China escaped.

Seizure of 28 dead Pangolins / Fangchenggang, Guangxi Province, China / 15 August 2013

After a chase, the 307 Peugeot was intercepted near West Bay Bridge. The driver fled. When the police officers acted on intelligence and opened the trunk, they were struck by an awful stench. In plastic bags, there were 28 dead pangolins with their precious scales.

Seizure of 33 pangolins / Sembawa, Regency of Banyuasin, Province of South Sumatra, Indonesia / August 21, 2013

Their final destination is unknown. The pangolins were bought from local trappers for 9.5 US\$/kg and sold again for 14 US\$/kg to a middleman in the Province of Jambi. The driver of the Toyota says to have been paid US\$ 21.5 per day to travel the 500km. He had made so far 5 deliveries.

Seizure of 60 pangolins / Fangchenggang, Guangxi Province, China / August 26, 2013

Another routine check in the Chinese province of Guangxi border of Vietnam ending with the pursuit of a suspicious car and a fleeing driver. Inside the vehicle trunk, police found 60 pangolins, some of them still alive.

One man sentenced to one-year prison term of which 6 months suspended sentence and US\$ 820 fine Nanjing, Province of Jiangsu, China / August 26, 2013

On the 5th of December 2012, 0.9 kg of pangolin meat had been found in a freezer. The hotel restaurant would prepare pangolin meat following customers' request.

Seizure of pangolin scales (weight unknown) / Vairengte, State of Mizoram, India / August 29, 2013

The abominable door to door of pangolin scales continues. Bought in Shillong, capital city of the State of Meghalaya, they arrived to this village of the State of Mizoram. They were then to be exported by road, air and sea towards China, Hong Kong, Taiwan or South Korea according to Indian border police who estimates the value of the seizure around US\$ 37,000.

Seizure of 104 pangolins (233 kg) / Hung Yen, Province of Hung Yen, Vietnam / August 30, 2013

The car was carrying 104 pangolins. Anti- trafficking services stopped it. The driver and passenger escaped. They were found soon after.

Seizure of 6.2 t of live pangolins / Hai Phong Port, Vietnam / August, 2013

The pangolins were hidden in a container declared to be carrying sea products and coming from Indonesia. The Company importing the container, Long Thanh Trading, is based in the town of Mong Cai (Province of Quang Ninh, Vietnam). The merchandise was in transit in the Hai Phong Port before it would have been re-exported. Authorities did not specify the number of pangolins. Nevertheless, in view of the seizure of 10 t (2,870 pangolins) on April 30 2013 in the Philippines, a close estimation would be 1500/2000. This is not the first such event. Border police have already seized 1.2 tonnes of scales and 10 tonnes of pangolin meat passing through the Ha Pong port.

Seizure of 300 g of Chinese pangolin Scales (*Manis pentadactyla*) / Lamatar, Central Development Region, Nepal / August 2013

He had captured and killed a poor pangolin in the mountains. The 300 g of scales had been found in his garden.

Seizure of 102 live pangolins / Khon Kaen, Province of Khon Kaen, Thailand / September 1, 2013

A pickup truck was spotted in a petrol station by a highway police patrol unit. Suspicions arouse due to a strong stench from the back of the vehicle. A search revealed the presence of pangolins in back compartment of the pickup. They were placed in 50 cages. The total value of the seizure is estimated at US\$ 31,400. Both the driver and passenger managed to escape in the car of an accomplice.

Seizure of 17 live pangolins / Shenzhen, Province of Guangdong, China / September 2, 2013

In the «laboratory», police found the 17 pangolins in a pitiful state next to bowls full of maize porridge and syringes. Before selling the live pangolins to restaurants, the 2 traffickers would force feed them to increase their weight and price. A live pangolin sells up to US \$ 2,000.

Seizure of 16 kg of pangolin scales / Kathmandu, Central Region, Nepal / September 8, 2013

On paper, the 5 suspects face a US \$ 1,000 fine and 15 years in prison, maximum sentences.

Seizure of 200 live pangolins / Province of Udon Thani, Thailand / 16th September 2013

The anteaters were discovered in 2 pick-up trucks checked by a patrol. The drivers fled.



Seizure of 13 kg of pangolin scales / Yaoundé-Nsimalen International Airport, Centre Region, Cameroon / 17th September 2013

Yaoundé International airport is a major hub for the smuggling of pangolin scales. Kenya Airways almost acted as the accomplice of a traveller who was flying to China. His red suitcase attracted the attention of the customs officers. Spot on! Inside he had 3 plastic bags packed with scales. It was the third Chinese smuggler of pangolin scales to be arrested in Cameroon in a few months.

Seizure of 23 kg of pangolin scales / Khudengthabi, State of Manipur, India / 18th September 2013

23 kg of pangolin scales in a car at the border between India and Myanmar.

Seizure of 3,040 kg frozen pangolin, 990 kg pangolin scales, and 16 kg dried seahorses (genus Hippocampus) / Port of Hai Phong, Province of Hai Phong, Vietnam / 23rd September 2013

Sentencing of a man to 3 months in prison for having facilitated the illegal export of giant pangolin scales Limbe, South-West Region, Cameroon / 25th September 2013

Jonathan Aneng Sama, president of SNEFCAM (Cameroon Association of Wildlife Operators), a tireless defender of the legal and sustainable use of animal biodiversity and a fierce opponent of poaching was sentenced to 3 months in prison for having facilitated the appalling business of a Chinese citizen, Wei Tao. Sama is awaiting another trial for trafficking grey parrots.

Sentencing of a smuggler to 6 months in prison for the « illegal holding of a licence and exportation of animal species » / Limbe, South-West Region, Cameroon / September 2013

Caught red-handed with 9 bags of pangolin scales in April 2013 in the port of Limbe, Wei Tao, who has also been implicated in the fraudulent delivery of scales seized in March 2013 at Douala airport, was sentenced to 6 months in prison for "the illegal holding of a licence and exportation of animal species" by the Limbe Court of First Instance.



© Báo Quảng Ninh, Rahmat Othman, Chen-Wang Shu, Hai Quan online, CNP, Cameroon-Info.Net, Douanes de Hai Phong

Primates



Pleated Gibbon, Khao Yai National Park

© Voyagesxrufray

FAMILY AFFAIRS

Seizure of 6 living gibbons (*Hylobatidae* spp. Appendix I) a pleated gibbon (*Hylobates pileatus*) as well as a stuffed gibbon.

**Binh Duong Province, Vietnam
3 July 2013**

The living gibbons were, according to the accused, destined for to be bred by a previous member of the local parliament. The monkey farming had been supplied by the family of her accomplice, to whom the authorities had previously refused permission to breed wild animals. The pleated gibbon populations are going to be extinct in Vietnam.

The specimen was without a doubt illegally imported from Cambodia or Laos. The seizure was a joint effort by the environmental section of the police of Bin Duang, forest rangers, the Vietnam Academy of Sciences, and the Wildlife Conservation Society.

Another wild animals farm received the same visitors. Once again, a well-known elected official was implicated in illegal breeding, concerning peacocks and spotted deer. Tran Van Loi claimed that he only ran the rubber tree plantation and that it is his brother in law who, for many years, has participated in activities relating to underground breeding.

**Sentencing of Ousmane Diallo to one year in prison and a US\$ 6,000 fine for the smuggling of chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*, Appendix I)
Conakry, Guinea**

July 29, 2013

He confessed to having sold more than 500 chimpanzees since 1994. He also used the fact that Guinea is a hub for wildlife smuggling to his advantage and dealt in wholesale with Brazilian aras parrots, Gabon grey parrots, Indian Passeriformes and Australian cockatoos.

Recordings made by the investigators from Interpol and GALF (Guinée-Application de la Loi sur la Faune) reveal some interesting details, in particular, a connection with a Spanish fishing boat based in Las Palmas which could have participated, on a regular basis, in the delivery of parrots and chimpanzees.

Ousmane Diallo who presents himself as the richest man in Conakry was probably not shaken up by the \$US 6,000 in fines to be paid to the Ministry of Envi-

ronment. Will he keep on carrying out his business behind bars? One of his partners is still on the run.



© Gaboneews

Poaching of 3 silvered leaf monkeys (*Trachypithecus villosus*, Appendix II)

Phu Quoc National Park, Province of Kiên Giang, Vietnam

July 30th, 2013

Rangers on patrol surprised the 4 poachers. 2 escaped and 2 were arrested. The silvered leaf langurs remains will be destroyed or preserved at the National Museum of Nature. They were hunted for their meat. Already in December 2012, 3 men were sentenced to 2 years and 4 months in prison for poaching 2 grey-shanked douc langurs (*Pygathrix cinerea*, Appendix I). The event took place 6 months before in the province of Kon Tum. Newborns silver langurs are coated with an orange fur. The Phu Quoc National Park is located on the island of the same name. It is the largest island of Vietnam. The park was established in 2001. It has 1,664 plant species (including 23 orchids) and 208 fauna species (loris, hornbill, crab-eating macaque ...).



Trachypithecus villosus © Ronald Orenstein

Seizure of 4 crab-eating macaques skulls (*Macaca fascicularis*, Appendix II)

Motu Uta, Papeete, Iles du Vent, French Polynesia

July 2013

The carved skulls were found in 3 packages thanks to searches done in the postal messenger center of the border police. The packages came from Indonesia via Air New Zealand flights. Skulls were sent to a Tahitian man who bought them on E-Bay. He decla-

red not to be aware of the judicial protection covering the species. When he realized the value of macaque skulls he decided to open his international e-business to this species. Searching of his home revealed a 3,000 item collection including Tuamotu green turtle shells (*Chelonia mydas*, Appendix I), insects, shells and butterflies from Guyana. It is all being examined for expertise. Carving of skulls is an ancestral tradition in certain tribes of Indonesia and Malaysia. Prices range from 400 to 500 euros per skull.



© French Customs

Seizure of 3 Geoffroy's spider monkeys (*Ateles geoffroyi*, Appendix II), 1 white-faced capuchins (*Cebus capucinus*, Appendix II), 2 American crocodiles (*Crocodylus acutus*, Appendix I) all alive San Miguel, Department of San Miguel, El Salvador

August 28, 2013

32 animals captured from the wild were there, mistreated and cramped into some sort of mini zoo by the side of an abandoned aquatic park.



© La Prensa Grafica

Seizure of a live Barbary macaque (*Macaca sylvanus*, Appendix II) Community of Madrid, Spain

August 2013

Relations between Spain and the English colony Gibraltar might be smoothed thanks to this episode: a Barbary Macaque appeared to have been stolen

from the rocks of Gibraltar. He was being driven in direction of Paris, France. For a routine control the Guardia Civil intercepted the vehicle on a highway around Madrid. The macaque was temporarily given shelter in a zoo in the Spanish capital. The species lives wild in Algeria and Marocco. It can be found in mountain areas and relict forests. Barbary macaques eat acorns, cedar pinecones, mushrooms, insects and occasionally fruit. Their natural range is more and more fragmented, in competition with livestock, farming and deforestation. Total population is estimated at a few thousand. The extent of trafficking to supply the pet market is underestimated and nothing proves that the macaque seized in Madrid did not actually come from North Africa. Since 2004, the Dutch ONG APP is leading a campaign towards tourists and North African workers to convince them not to come back in European countries with smuggled macaques.



© Guardia Civil

Seizure of a live Nigeria- Cameroon chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes ellioti*, Appendix I) Region of North-West, Cameroon August 2013



And what about the parents ? © Causes

The 2 great apes dealers were trying to sell them. The young chimpanzee was in a bag, inside a cardboard box. He was in very bad physical condition. Once healed, he should be introduced into a chimpanzee sanctuary. The *Pan troglodytes ellioti* lives in Nigeria and in Cameroon. It is the most endangered of the 4 known subspecies of chimps. Its population is estimated to be less than 6,500 individuals.

Seizure of almost 600 animals, including jungle cats (*Felis chaus*, Appendix II), doucs (*Pygathrix* genus, Appendix I), and gibbons (*Hylobatidae* family)

**Provinces of Yen Bai and Dak Nong, Vietnam
11th September 2013**

The local police were well-informed. They dropped in on 3 livestock holdings, in fact stations for the transit and sale of monkeys, felines, and reptiles caught in the wild. Alive or stuffed, all these wild animals were destined to join the national or international market in new companion and ornamental animals for humans. Amongst them were some douc monkeys. There are 3 species of douc monkeys found in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. In Vietnam, only a few hundred specimens of each one remain. The inspectors also seized accounting records bearing witness to transactions with brokers and similar establishments.



Pygathrix nemaeus © Save Our Species



© WCS Vietnam

Seizure of 2 live slow lorises (genus *Nycticebus*, Appendix I)

**Phuket, Phuket Province, Thailand
21st September 2013**

The singer internationally known as Rihanna saved 2 live slow lorises from slavery by tweeting a photo

accompanied by the following commentary: "Look who was talkin' dirty to me". Subsequently, the Thai police intervened to confiscate 2 slow lorises exploited by the photographers on the island of Phuket who encourage the tourists to pose with elephants, orang-utans and other animals under threat of extinction. In August, 26 elephants used for giving rides to tourists were seized in Phuket.



© Instagram

GANG

Seizure of a live white-handed gibbon (*Hylobates lar*, Appendix I)

**Thailand
September 2013**

The poachers were against the wastefulness. The 2 captured by the rangers admitted having killed and eaten the adult parents and were preparing to sell a baby as a companion animal. They also attacked tigers and elephants. 2 rangers and one poacher lost their life during the operation. 4 poachers escaped.



© Wildlife Conservation Society

Good news

The release of 70 long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*, Appendix II) in Vietnam

The monkeys also known as crab-eating macaques were released in August on Ba Mun island in the Bai Tu Long National Park (Quang Ninh province in Northern Vietnam). They had been seized in the center of the country by park rangers 3 years ago. They were placed at the wildlife rescue center in Hanoi before being released into the wild.



The Unknown Ranger

Each of the world's national parks, marine parks, wildlife sanctuaries, and nature reserves has its obvious beauty but also its hidden dangers. In every protected area are camouflaged heroes, known mostly, if one can say so, to the flora and the fauna they protect and care for. On any given day or night these rangers, wardens, game rangers, forest guards/guardaparques, but also field officers and maintenance workers, no matter what their job title, could be called on to perform heroic feats. A ranger's job description includes the safety of visitors, general upkeep of the area, the early detection of fire and disease, helping some animals out of a sticky situation, and last but not least to wage the war against poaching. Indeed, some of the most remote places of the planet where only the distant sounds of birds' singing, monkeys' laughing, elephants' crying and tigers' creeping could be heard, have been turned into modern battlefields.

The stakes are high to save the world's last natural wonders, the sharks, the lions, the tigers the bears etc... Last year alone 10 rangers were killed by the animals they were trying to protect, in the case of accidents emergency services are often far a field. Officially, around 100 rangers are killed every year while on the call of duty. The true figures are most probably closer to 300 and homicide is by far the greatest cause of death. The pace is accelerating. Ethologists have shown that mammals which have been subject or witness to the extreme violence and barbaric acts of poachers can develop aggressive and unpredictable behaviour. This is notably the case with elephants. In the last pristine habitats Asia and Africa, these unknown heroes, look more like soldiers than boy-scouts or girl-guides. The simple light equipment consisting of a compass, binoculars, a flask of water and maybe a rope or two, is now supplemented with heavy artillery. In what could be called the war to protect endangered species and habitats, rangers can be subject to remote and extreme working conditions, low pay, little or no training, lack of manpower and equipment. On the opposing side, poachers are often numerous, well equipped and well trained by organised crime circuits in search of considerable profits from 'white gold' and 'snake-oil' remedies.

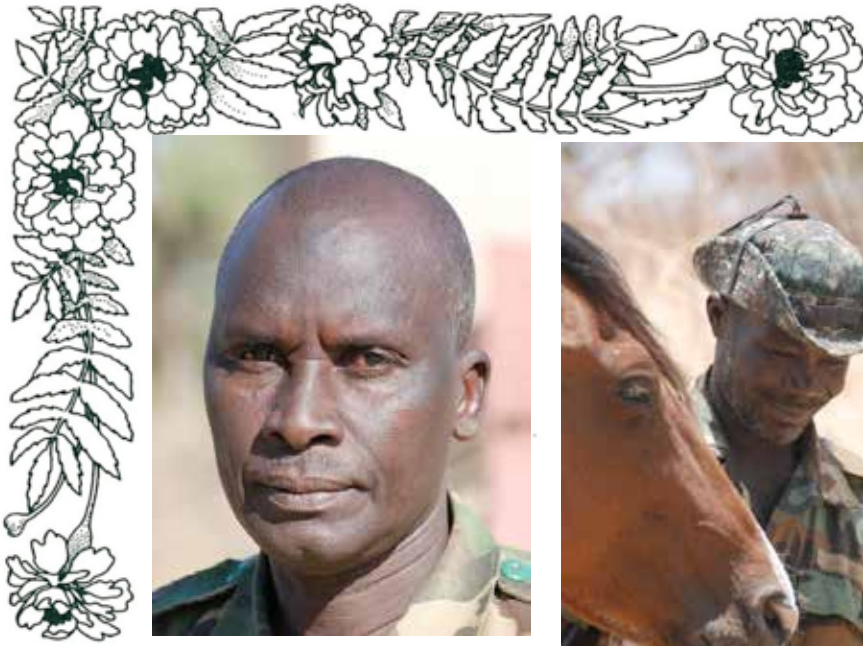
The growing Asian market has pushed demand and proceeds up so high that the power is with the poachers, a power that generates ills and sufferings. Bribed trained service men, the military with their helicopters and war equipment and corrupt officials all play their part on the bloody playing field. Sometimes the temptations are too high and the rangers find themselves on the other side of the green line. Locals hesitate to denounce corrupt rangers and officials as they are afraid of retaliations. The 2nd On the Trail tells of these sad stories which unfortunately are more and more frequent. In South America, Columbia a jewel of biodiversity, rangers find themselves in the cross-fire of the army, the paramilitaries, the guerilla and the drug cartels.

The solutions to help those on the field are well known. They start by providing regular and correct wages and with due regard to responsibilities and the incurring threats. It should also include decent working and living conditions for rangers and their families. To deter poachers and in turn protect rangers, sophisticated equipment up to the high stakes and the formidable enemy is needed. Examples include radio and GPS equipment and night-vision goggles and tracker units with vehicles and air patrols to spot and deter and if necessary fight back the poachers.

The right training has to be provided, learning how to investigate scientifically wildlife crimes can help to prosecute and convict criminals. With the right means, a strong determination and the benefit of cross-border information exchanges, rangers can contribute to stabilize, even strengthen scarce populations of endangered species. This is the case in the National Park Virunga in the east of the Congo Democratic Republic where the mountain gorillas seem to be less threatened by poachers and more by industrial activities.

In the 1980s in Thung Yai-Huai and Kha Khaeng Thailand, tigers were almost decimated from the area. Poachers had turned the area into a battle zone, at night the only sound that could be heard were the rounds of bullets. Today, thanks to the efforts made in equipping and training rangers the region houses one of the world's best tiger reserves. However on the 12th of September 2013, 2 rangers were killed in the Thung Yai, World Wildlife Sanctuary, this very sad event reminds us that the battle is far from over. The International Ranger Federation (IRF) was called upon to intervene. This organisation unites over 60 ranger associations in 46 countries, amongst other jobs, they work year round to raise awareness and support the families of the victims. Strengthening the capacity and training to deal with poaching is a priority and emergency for the security of the unknown ranger who provides the day-to-day protection and monitoring of our biodiversity.

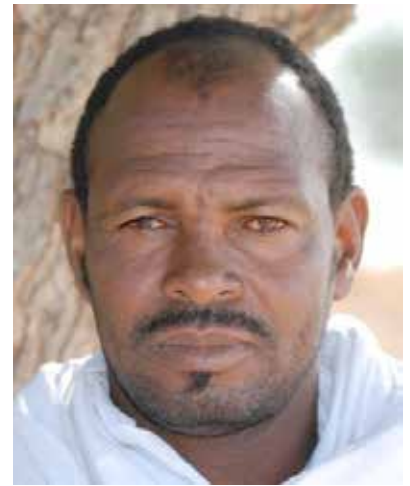
Beyond physical and legal protection the efficiency and security of rangers depend on the full awareness by public opinion of their useful mission, and of their merits. It is also tributary to a common will from law courts to punish in proportion to their crimes the poachers and the entire poaching networks. On one side of Kruger Park, in South Africa a poacher could be sentenced to many years in jail on the Mozambique side a poacher could get away with a slap on the hand.



RIP Zakaria Ibrahim



RIP Brahim Khamis



RIP Daoud Adjouma



RIP Djibrine Adoum Goudja



RIP Idriss Adoum



**Missing in action
Hassan Djibrine**



RIP Fiston Madawa



**RIP Octave
Kibela**



**RIP Badusi
Mugaotinikoni**



RIP Kamango Tambwe



RIP Ezoa Aderebho



RIP Atamato Madrandele



RIP Paluku Kighana



RIP Kasereka Kipako



© Jason Larkin

RIP Esnart Paundi



Kenya Wildlife Service



RIP Boonsri Inthapanya



RIP Anthong Ngamyng



RIP Taweesak Chomyong



© African Parks, Zakouma NP
© Okapi Wildlife Reserve (ICCN)
© Freeland Foundation

Chad - Zakouma National Park (ZNP)

On September 3, 2012, North of Zakouma National Park in Chad, central Africa, six park rangers were assassinated by 4 elephant poachers who shot at the team of seven during their morning prayers. **Zakaria Ibrahim** was 51 he was the team leader and had worked at ZNP since 2002. **Brahim Khamis** was 38 years old, he was a former gendarme. He started working for ZNP in 2008. He was a very good horseman, cared for his horse well and was always smiling and happy. He left behind 2 wives and 7 children. **Daoud Aldjouma** was 41 years old, he had worked at ZNP since 2002. **Djibrine Adoum Goudja** was 35 years old, he had worked at ZNP since 2002. **Idriss Adoum** was 62 years old, he started working for ZNP in 1982. Idriss was a committed conservationist and planted a number of trees in Zakouma. He left behind 2 wives and several children. **Hassan Djibrine** was 24 at the time of the attack, he is still missing in action. Only the cook survived the massacre. Wounded by a gunshot, he walked for 2 days to the closest village. The murderous attack was a response to a raid carried out by the rangers two weeks earlier. During the rangers' raid, the poachers managed to escape but the rangers seized equipment. A Chadian individual living in Sudan has been arrested. Clues, (including a photo of the leader on a mobile phone), leading to 3 Sudanese suspects have been gathered and the investigation is ongoing.

Democratic Republic of Congo - Okapi Wildlife Reserve (World Heritage Site)

On June 24, 2012 Mai Mai Simba rebels headed by the notorious elephant poacher Morgan raided the headquarters of the Congolese Institute of Nature Conservation (ICCN), the Okapi Wildlife Reserve and the nearby village of Epulu. The raid was a revenge attack following the authorities' efforts to stop elephant poaching and illegal gold mining in the Ituri forest. The attack left seven dead. Three rangers and a ranger's wife were among the victims. **Fiston Madawa** was Congolese, he became a ranger in 2010 and had been working as a ranger at the Okapi Wildlife Reserve since November 2011. He left behind his wife and his two young children aged 2 and 4. The young **Octave Kibela** was assassinated, shot at point-blank range while on patrol in the outer boundaries of the station. **Badusi Mugaotnikoni** was Head of the patrol post in Mamopi, he was nicknamed "the father" or "mupe" because of his rigorous professional attitude. He had been a ranger for many years. He is remembered by his colleagues as a smiling, calm person. During the June attack he was savagely burned alive with ranger Amizi's wife. During the two day siege twenty-eight women were kidnapped. The headquarters were burnt down. Two more rangers were also killed in the follow up of the attacks. **Ezoa Aderebho** was shot in November 2012 during an ICCN/FARDC operation to track down Morgan and his gang. Ezoa's wife was raped and taken hostage during the June attack. A conservationist stated that all the women had been released 12 months after the attacks. **Kamango Tambwe** was in charge of the Adusa patrol post. He was killed in January 2013 by Morgan's gang during an attack on Zungluka. He was tortured and his remains were defamed. He left behind 7 children, the youngest just 2 years old.

Democratic Republic of Congo - Virunga National Park (World Heritage Site)

Paluku Kighana was assassinated on May 9, 2012 he had served ICCN since 1995. Paluku worked with the elite team Advance Guards. He was killed when his team fell into an ambush on their way to help civilians in a mini-bus who were robbed and held-up on the national route.

Kasereka Kipako was 34 years old, he had worked at Virunga National Park since 2010. Kasereka left behind his pregnant wife, and three children. He was assassinated in August 2013 when his patrol post was ambushed while his colleagues were out on morning patrol.

Democratic Republic of Congo - Upemba National Park

Atamato Madrandele was assassinated on December 16, 2012. He was considered to be one of the great fighters for conservation. Atamato was a key figure in the management and plans of Upemba National Park, he was Chief at the Central Station at Lusinga. During his many years of service he had carried out numerous heroic feats, taken bullets and saved the life of his chief. He was shot in the back by Mai Mai rebels.

Zambia - Zambezi National Park

Esnart Paundi was 38 years old she had worked at the Zambia Wildlife Authority for 16 years. She left behind four orphans (her husbands are deceased). Her sister's children and her brother were also under her care. She was hacked to death by a bushmeat poacher. She was unarmed at the time, did not have handcuffs and the poacher who she had arrested with her colleagues was hiding a machete.

Kenya (Kenya Wildlife Service)

Kipini Conservancy in Tana River County, two separate gunfights with suspected poachers on July 18, 2013. The victims were a unit commanding officer and a ranger. The unit commanding officer was killed in an ambush when KWS rangers and Kenya police were trying to recover the slain body of the ranger killed in the earlier bloody gun flight with elephant poachers.

Thailand, Thung Yai World Wildlife Sanctuary and Pang Sida National Park

On September 12, 2013, two rangers were killed during a gunfight with poachers in Thung Yai World Wildlife Sanctuary in Thailand. **Boonsri Inthapanya**, was 51 years old. **Anthong Ngamyong**, was only 22 years of age he left behind his pregnant wife. A poacher was gunned down during the shootout whereas 4 others managed to escape. In another incident **Taweesak Chomyong**, on March 14 in Pang Sida National Park was shot dead by illegal rosewood loggers.



Please find below some links to donate support for victims.

Thin Green Line Foundation <http://www.thingreenline.org.au/donate>

Okapi Conservation Project <http://www.okapiconservation.org/donations/>

African Parks (Zakouma National Park (ZNP)) <https://www.african-parks.org/Donate.html>

CD The Official website of Virunga National Park <http://gorillacd.org/category/fallen-rangers-widows-fund/>

Freeland <http://freeland.org/eng/wildlife-trafficking/act>

Vicuñas

Seizure of 22 vicuña skins (*Vicugna vicugna*, Appendix II in this region)

Belén, Province of Catamarca, Argentina

July 2013

During a raid by authorities in Belén 22 vicuña skins and a 22mm caliber rifle were found. A man was arrested and the woolly skins will be incinerated.

Guanacos

Seizure of 270 kg of guanaco meat (*Lama guanicoe*, Appendix II)

120 km northeast of Las Plumas , Chubut Province, Argentina

July 2013

During a routine car inspection, 2 rifles and knives were seized at the same time as the guanaco meat. 2 people were intercepted by the police. They were also in possession of long-range communication systems. Argentina is home to 90 % of the guanaco population. Despite patrols, poaching continues in large numbers. An animal can weigh up to 120 kg. Guanaco and vicuña are the last camelids remaining in the American wild. The llama and alpaca are farmed animals.

Antelopes

The trial of 5 people for poaching 2 blackbucks (*Antelope cervicapra*, Appendix III)

Jodhpur, State of Rajasthan, India

July 6, 2013

Bollywood stars were accused of chasing in a vehicle and killing 2 blackbucks near Jodhpur on the night of October 1st 1998, on the set of the shooting of the Hum Saath Saath Hain movie. Trial began on June 19, 2006, but applications were filed by the defense then also filed by the governor of Rajasthan state which delayed proceedings. Reopening of court hearings on July 6 was dedicated to the first witnesses testimony. There are a total of 51 witnesses in this court case. The 5 stars are to appear in person before judges in October according to the Court order.



Salman Khan, Neelam, Tabu, Saif Ali Khan et Sonali Bendre.
© realbollywood.com, Namaste Times

Sentencing of 3 people to one year of prison and US\$ 33 fine for the poaching of a blackbuck antelope (*Antelope cervicapra*, Appendix III)

Vedaranyam, Tamil Nadu, India

9 July 2013

The 3 men arrested had been discovered possessing a blackbuck antelope hide and meat in September of 2003. One of them is the governor of the local community of Neivilakku. The poaching occurred inside of the Kodikkarai forest reserve. The reserve is a part of the Kodikkarai Wildlife Sanctuary for wildlife and birds. Established in 1967, the sanctuary of 377 km² protects the largest blackbuck antelope population in southern India (about 1000 specimens).

The blackbuck antelope is completely protected by Indian law and is listed under Appendix III in Nepal. Despite reintroduction attempts in Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan, the blackbuck remains extinct or on the brink of extinction in aforementioned countries. In India, it is threatened by the loss of its habitat, notably the expansion of agricultural zones that create problems with men and poaching. The twisted horns of the males are sought after.



© J.M.Garg

Poaching of 2 blackbucks (*Antelope cervicapra*, Appendix III)

Bhetanai, State of Odisha, India

July 12, 2013

A one-and-half year old female and a 2 year old male were killed near the Aska Forest. 10 days earlier, an 8 month old male was devoured by stray dogs.

Poaching of a blackbuck (*Antelope cervicapra*, Appendix III)

Muklawa, State of Rajasthan, India

July 18, 2013

According to local villagers, this magnificent antelope has recently been the victim of several poaching incidents in this area. The local villagers have been protesting the ineffectiveness and lack of action of local authorities. They alerted the forest rangers as soon as the carcass was found. The animal had been shot dead. The villagers have sent a formal letter to the First Minister of Rajasthan, Ashok Gehlot, asking him to take immediate measures against the poaching of blackbucks.

Seizure of 4,470 saiga antelope horns (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II)

**Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, China
September 5, 2013**

More than 2,000 male saiga antelopes were killed to fraudulently import horns into China. It is estimated by Chinese customs that the value is US\$ 22 millions. The truck was transporting horses. The horns were hidden under hay. The saiga antelopes have already disappeared from China, Poland, Moldova and Ukraine. The total remaining population is estimated at 50,000 individuals; though there were probably more than one million in 1970. IFAW is working with the help of local activists to deter poaching in the sanctuary of Stepnoy in Russian Astrakhan region near the Caspian Sea.



© Euronews

Deer

Seizure of a pair of red deer antlers (*Cervus elaphus*, CITES status varies depending on the subspecies)

**Huanggang Port of entry, Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, China
July 31, 2013**

The antlers are 30 to 40 cm high. A customs officer conducted a search of a luggage following the suspicious behavior of its owner. The red deer is present in Europe, North America and Central Asia. The main threat is hybridization between the subspecies. Other threats include habitat loss and hunting. In Mongolia and China, the «velvet» organic fabric that protects the antlers is used in traditional medicine. The antlers are worth between US\$ 60 and 100 per kg in Mongolia. The extract is used as a tonic, regenerative, aphrodisiac ... Other parts of the animal such as the reproductive organs, tails, tendons are also used in medicine. Red deer can also be poached for their meat and antlers are used in interior decoration.



© Luc Viatour

Seizure of 1.5 tons of red deer antlers (*Cervus elaphus*, CITES status varies depending on the subspecies)

**Erenhot, Inner Mongolia Province, China
August 10, 2013**

A forest of red deer antlers was discovered by Chinese customs under the fake floor of the empty trailer of a truck driven by a Mongolian citizen. In one year, the customs in Erlianhaote seized amongst others 101 wolf carcasses, 305 teeth and 15 jaw pairs of wolves and 306 gazelle horns.



© Chinese Customs

Barbary Sheep

Poaching of barbary sheep (*Ammotragus lervia*, Appendix II)

**Sierra Espuña Regional Park , The Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia, Spain
July 12, 2013**

Alerted about the presence of poachers in the area of Los Quemados , the police went to investigate and found the carcass of the barbary sheep on the roadside. The animal, aged 7, was killed by a shot fired from a vehicle. This type of poaching is common in the park. The animals approach the roadside to graze on fresh grass. Poachers return in the evening, once the animal is bled, to collect their trophy. Illegal hunting is facilitated through easy access to the park as there are no fences and few guards.

The barbary sheep is native to Maghreb and was first introduced to the Regional Park of Sierra Espuña, Spain in 1970. Originally listed in Appendix III by Tunisia, the species was transferred to Appendix II in 1983. A Spanish company offers hunting trips targeting different species in the Park including wolves for which this year's quota has been filled. A hunting expedition to kill one female barbary sheep costs 600 euros (800 for 2). Smugglers can be fined up to 14,000 euros.



© Demodragon

Wolves

Seizure of 645 wolf skins. 1,400 kg (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II)

**Beijing Capital International Airport, China
July 29, 2013**

200 m² of wolf skins to make blankets, rugs and fur coats. 645 wolf skins were packed in 30 bags labeled «fur scrapes,» with a declared value of U.S. \$ 2,800. The goods were sent from Athens International Airport. Chinese customs officers from Beijing International Airport estimate the goods to be worth around U.S. \$ 125,000, nearly U.S. \$ 200 per skin. The sender and the recipient identities have not been made public. The wolf population in Greece is inferior to the number of skins seized in China therefore the skins could not have originated from wolves killed in Greece.

On paper, the wolf is protected by international conventions and the European Union. The Berne Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats lists the species among those to be strictly protected. CITES lists the wolf in Appendix II which regulates international trade of live specimens or wolf parts. The European Union considers the wolf to be a species of “community interest” whose conservation requires the designation of special areas and strict protection.

In the wild, the wolf is threatened. The Berne Convention allows the killing for “humane» reasons, humanitarian, sanitary and to facilitate «construction”. Under this Convention, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Czech Republic, and Spain have expressed reservations about the protection of the wolf as well as Bulgaria, a neighbouring country of Greece. The Republic of Macedonia, another country that shares borders with Greece, has expressed reservations about the inclusion of the wolf in Appendix II of CITES. Under the framework of this Convention, Romania has the right to export trophies, skulls and wolf skins. Though limited to 30 units, it however opens a passage for illegal trade, possibly by the production of false documents. Kosovo which shares a border with the Republic of Macedonia has not signed the Berne Convention or CITES. The European Union allows «management» measures of wolves in Finland in the ranging grounds of reindeer herds, Spain north of the Douro and Greece north of the 39th parallel. In the Balkan Peninsula, the wolf is a victim of legal and illegal hunting and numerous poisoning attempts. Across Europe, the wolf is subject to the decline of prey and the loss of its preferred forest habitats. In Turkey, the wolf is considered a pest.

This massive fraudulent trade and export of wolf skins from Greece may be the work of an international gang in the heart of Europe and in surrounding countries. This delivery alone amounts to a tenth of the wolf population in the European Union which, in the blink of an eye, has flown off to China. On August 23 Theodoros Skylakakis, a Greek member of the European Parliament, called for clarification and information to be presented by the European Commission.



Red Pandas



Seizure of the skin of a red panda (*Ailurus fulgens*, Appendix I)

Kapan, Kathmandu District Region Development Centre, Nepal

July 2013

The 6 traffickers were trying to sell the skin for US\$ 1,800. They were negotiating the price with a client when the police arrested them. The red panda could have been poached near Solukhumbu (Eastern Development Region). A red panda weighs between 3

and 6 kg. In the Chinese province of Yunnan, offering a red panda skin is the omen of a happy marriage. The fur can also be used in the manufacture of hats. According to a CITES document from 1994, the majority of these red pandas in Chinese zoos were caught in the wild, especially Myanmar.

Seizure of 3 pelisses or sections of a pelisse made out of red pandas (*Ailurus fulgens*, Appendix I)

**Kathmandu, Centre Region, Nepal
September 2013**

An adult red panda measures 50 cm in body length and 30 to 50 cm for the tail.

Felines

Tiger (*Panthera tigris*), leopard (*Panthera pardus*), jaguar (*Panthera onca*) and ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*) are in Appendix I. Lion (*Panthera leo*) is in Appendix II.

**Total seizures from 1st July to 30th September
26 tiger, leopard and lion skins**

**Seizure of 2 leopard skins
Yaounde, Province of Centre, Cameroon
July 20, 2013-09-24**



© Causes

Investigations led police to intercept the vehicle of leopard skin traffickers. One woman and one man were arrested. They were headed to the home a client in the city's rich neighbourhood. They are part of a trans-border criminal network trafficking wild animals between Congo and Cameroon. The seizure took place with the technical assistance of the Last Great Ape Organisation -LAGA- NGO. A leopard skin is worth around 10,000 euros. The 2 leopards were poached recently. According to CITES, in 1992, the leopard population was estimated to be 1,500 in Cameroon and 730 in Congo. Without any recent inventory, it would seem reasonable to drop a zero from each of these figures.

**Seizure of 2 leopard skins
Udham Singh Nagar District, State of Uttarakhand, India
July 21, 2013**

The man who was arrested is originally from Pithoragarh (Uttarakhand).

**Seizure of a lion skin
Mbandjock, Province of Centre, Cameroon
July 23, 2013**

The man was arrested while trying to sell the skin. He got it in 2012 but it is not known how he did. It was 3 m long and 2 m wide. The skin was one of a young lion. The operation was led with the technical support of the LAGA. The last survivors live in the center and north Cameroon in the Waza National Park and the Benoué Biosphere Reserve. Development of human activity and the construction of a water dam in the park was cause of a rise in poaching activities and reduction of natural prey available for the lions.

Pricelia Tumenta, a professor at the Dschang University, applauds this arrest and the efforts it shows on the part of the Ministry of forests and wild fauna. "During research on in the Waza National Park, there were speculations and rumors of young lions or lion parts being traded to neighboring countries for various uses. However, there was no evidence as strong as this case at hand. This might be the beginning of an end to the trade in lions and lion parts." That is quite an optimistic declaration. If one can realistically envisage an ending, it would be that of the lions. From many thousands in Cameroon at the beginning of the years 2000, there were no more than 3 or 400 in 2007, and today are barely a few dozen. Lions on Appendix I of CITES ? That is an urgent goal !



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FAMILY AFFAIRS

Seizure of 8 tiger claws and 4 tiger teeth Mavanhallah, State of Tamil Nadu, India July 24, 2013

A mother and her son were arrested in possession of 8 tiger claws. They led to another man who had 4 tiger teeth with him. They allegedly took these items from a carcass in an advanced state of decomposition. The town of Mavanhallah is close to the Mudumalai National Park. Another person was arrested near Masinagudy in possession of leopard claws.



© The Hindu

Seizure of 3 leopard skins States of Uttarakhand and Kerala, India July 29, 2013

The 2 fleets and the skulls date back about 2 years. The canines have disappeared. It appears to be the remains of 2 old leopards that got into the habit of eating farming animals. One was shot dead, the second was poisoned with a piece of meat contaminated with Furadan, a highly toxic pesticide used normally against insects. Counterfeits are often produced and it is also used to kill wild animals. The same day, a third skin was seized in the Kollam district (Kerala).

Seizure of 78 tiger teeth (1.7 kg), 69 tiger claws (190 g), 8 bear gall bladders (300 g) Macau Airport, Special Administrative Region of Macau, China July 2013

The 50 year old Chinese citizen was arriving from Hong Kong. On the alert after the recent attempt to import ivory hidden in the packaging of chocolate bars, the Macao customs looked very carefully at the boxes of fried rolls that showed some abnormalities when passed through the X-ray. Once the covers taken off, it appeared the boxes contained 78 tiger teeth, 69 tiger claws and 8 bear gall bladders. A tiger has 30 teeth of which 4 canines. At least 4 tigers were killed- 20 if the teeth were all canines. Teeth and claws can be carved to become jewellery or use in traditional Chinese medicine to treat insomnia and fevers. The man is liable to a US\$ 13,000 fine.

Conviction of 3 years in prison and US\$ 166 fol- lowing the seizure of a leopard skin and a tiger skin

Haridwar, Uttarakhand, India July 2013

This affair goes back 23 years. The authorities have already charged 4 people. Finally, one of them has been sentenced. 2 other accomplices have passed away since the deed, while the third was acquitted. This late judgment was made following the multiplication of tiger and leopard skin seizures these last few months, as well as the increase of protests against the failure of convicting the guilty. The 2 species have been listed under Appendix I since 1975.

GANG

Seizure of 5 leopard skins Pithoragarh, State of Uttarakhand, India August 4, 2013

One man was arrested. It seems he had bought the remains from a local correspondent for US\$ 130 to 160. He is linked to nomads from the Kanjar ethnic community who regularly cross the Himalayan region. He also holds ties with traffickers in Kotdwar (Uttarakhand) and in Nepal. With time, he managed to build up a network of young people in village communities who killed animals and brought him the carcasses. Officially he is a farrier.

GANG

7 men and 2 women arrested for poaching a tiger Pune, State of Maharashtra, India August 11, 2013

The gang was arrested in the early hours of Sunday morning August 11 in the Puna- Mumbai Express. The leaders of the group are the well-known Lupustan and his son, specialists of tiger hunting and members of the Bahelia Community. Spears were found in their luggage. The gang apparently also deals in sandalwood, as well as involved in the capture of a bear and tiger in Ghatang (Maharashtra) in May 2013 (see On the Trail # 1). It mainly preys on tigers in Maharashtra and Mahdy Pradesh ; For the sale and export of products of his pillages, the gang has ties with other organisations in the State of Assam. At least 337 tigers have been killed by poachers in the last 10 years in India.

Interrogation of the 9 suspects allowed to some extent to dive into the backstage of Bengal Tiger hunting. One of the women was used as the « mule » to convey the bones and skins. There were 6 of them paid to killed and apart one tiger, and 3 to do the same to a bear. Despite surveillance of the forest guards and police forces following the alleged poachers, the woman, Minar, was able cover over 300km on side roads between Melghat et Nagpur, State of Maharashtra, with her packages filled with the tiger's skin, bones, claws and teeth. The lot was taken to a certain Sarju. From March to June, this same person, Sarju, received 11 tiger skins, some of which are thought to have been killed in Bhandarbodi, Akot and Tumsar. The Indian Department for the Protection of Forests denies information

according to which its agents had received help in the operation from the Non Governmental Organisation Wildlife Protection Society of India. « We have been on this case since March. » WPSI answers back that the under cover following was not very reactive, for many tigers were victims of the gang during the last few months.

Seizure of 2 leopard skins

India

14 August 2013

Twice victorious, one leopard skin was seized in the Baghpat (State of Uttar Pradesh) and another in Pithoragarh (Uttarakhand).

Seizure of a leopard skin and a bear galls bladder (Ursidae family)

Selaqui, State of Uttarakhand, India

August 20, 2013

During a control and surveillance operations, 2 people were seen suddenly running away after tossing a bag. In it there was a leopard skin, a gall bladder, a bharal skin, also called Himalayan blue sheep (*Pseudois nayaur*, unlisted by CITES). The men who are originally from the State of Uttarakhand were taking their loot 200km away to Delhi.

Seizure of one leopard skin

Punjikainha, District of Ganjam, State of Odisha, India

August 25, 2013

The man was carrying the 2.4 m long skin in a bag. He explained that he bought it in Daringibadi and by selling it in Digapahandi he would have earned some money. There are 80 km between those 2 towns.

Seizure of 2 pumas (*Puma concolor*, Appendix II) and one living yellow cardinal (*Gubernatrix cristata*, Appendix II)

Potrerillos, Province of Mendoza, Argentina

August 2013



It will not be possible to free him © SanLuis24

During the first crackdown, the authorities collected a puma 6 months old captured in the natural environment. The small family had chosen this species as a house pet. The parents began to worry about the proximity of the animal with their young children and finally asked for it to be taken away. The puma cannot be release into nature. It has

lost its ability to find food for itself, and if it were released, it would quickly become the prey to another animal.

The second operation also took place at an individual's home. For 2 years they had been in possession of a young puma. For precautionary measures, the "owner" had pulled out the puma's claws and fangs. The mutilated feline can no longer be released into the forest. A yellow cardinal was also found. The bird serves as a hunting call. The population of yellow cardinal is estimated between 1,500 and 3,000 specimens. They are present in Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay. They are on their way to extinction under the combined pressures of deforestation and domestication.

REPEATED OFFENSE

6 poachers convicted to 3 years prison term each

Kollegal, State of Karnataka, India

August 2013



Sumatran Tiger © Brian Mckay



© Planète Tigre

The convicted, among whom one woman had been arrested in July 2012 while leaving the Biligiriranga Swamy Temple Wildlife Sanctuary and Tiger Reserve carrying traps. In their tents planted in the surroundings, forest guards had got their hands on other traps, knives to skin the bodies, nets and other equipment used for hunting and tanning. Some of them were badly known of for damage to wildlife. They were on temporary release after being caught

holding dead otters but had never paid the bail. Jagdish Bawaria is the nephew of Bhima Bawaria, a famous tiger hunter multi-skilled poacher, who at the time he was arrested was surrounded by ivory, live turtles, a tiger skin and skeleton.

The trial was carried out rapidly thanks to the cooperation between official institutions and the support of NGOs. Rangers received judicial training in matters of collecting proof and legal procedures which help put together the dossier and a swift proceedings.

Bawarias have hunting in their blood. The name of the nomad community present in States of North West India comes from the word "bawar", collets used to trap wild animals. One of the favourite techniques of the Bawarias is to hide networks of leather collets in forest and on targeted animal's trails who are pushed towards these ambushed fields by tying cloths or pieces of metal to trees that act like scarecrows. The prey get their paws caught in the traps and are then killed without the use of firearms to avoid noise or damaging the trophies.

2 people convicted to 3 years prison term and US\$ 150 fine each for trafficking of 2 leopard skins

Pathankot, State of Punjab, India

August 2013

The arrest had taken place in November 2012. Justice took a remarkably short time to be made.

Seizure of a live baby ocelot

Antiguo Morelos, State of Tamaulipas, Mexico

August 2013

The Profepa intervened at a home in Antiguo Morelos where neighbours had reported the presence of a baby dwarf leopard. They were afraid that as he grew bigger, the animal might hurt someone. He has been taken to specialists who must determine if he can be returned to his natural habitat.

Seizure of 2 baby jaguars, one male and one female

Abasolo, State of Guanajuato, Mexico

August 2013

The Profepa has retrieved 2 baby jaguars found in the town of Abasolo. They were only days old. One of them, the female, did not survive despite care from specialists. Concerning the male, it is not sure he could return to his natural habitat.

2 people convicted for trafficking of 3 tiger skins, 29 leopard skins, 2 clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*, Appendix I), 5 crocodile skins (Crocodylidae family)

Delhi, India

August 2013

The seizure took place in 1992. Sansar Chand, a trafficker involved in other cases, had been found not guilty in 2008. The sentences are not known.

Trial of a man for poaching of an Amur Tiger (*Panthera tigris altaica*)

Primorsky Krai, Region of Far Eastern, Russia

August 2013

The 24 years old man from the district of Krasnoar-

meisky had been arrested in May. He tried to sell the skin of a female tiger to false traffickers really policemen for US\$ 6,300. The tiger ripper apparently threw the animal's body and the used weapon into the Bolshaya Ussurka river that marks the border between Russia and China. There are about 400 surviving Amur Tigers, most of them living in Far Eastern Russia (Khabarovsk Krai and Primorsky Krai). A few individuals could be found in China and North Korea. The man risks up to 2 years in prison.

11 people convicted to 3 years in prison and US\$ 150 fine each for trafficking of protected species

Barpeta, State of Assam, India

August 2013

The conviction is tied to a seizure that took place in March 2009. 4kg worth of tiger bones, 3 leopard skins, 1 elephant tusk, a piece of rhino skin, pieces of pangolins, of sloth bear (*Melursus ursinus*, Appendix I), of otter, of sambar (*Cervus unicolor*, unlisted by CITES), and hog deer (*Axis porcinus*, unlisted by CITES) were taken. Among the convicted some were in charge of hunting the species, others of selling them. Justice is catching up with environmental crimes and misdemeanours in India. The 11 suspects were brought to trial 5 years after the acts were committed. On the Trail # 2 contains cases of trials taking place 15 to 23 years after similar doings.

Arrest of 3 dealers and seizure of 3 tiger claws and seizure of US\$ 1,015

Margao, State of Goa, India

1st September 2013

The gogos, as the Times of India calls them, bought tiger claws from an exhibition stand for the price of US\$ 150 each. When worn in a bracelet or a necklace, they are supposed to drive away bad luck and attract good luck. The sale was interrupted by forest department officials bursting in. The tiger goods and US\$ 1,015 were seized.

Arrest of a poacher

District of Panchkula, State of Haryana, India

September 1, 2013

An alleged leader of a tiger hunter and trapper gang from the Bawaria community was arrested and put in custody. Another member of the gang was arrested in June. The breaking up of the Bawaria tiger hunting specialists is underway.

Seizure of 29 animals including 2 live ocelots

State of Paraná, Brazil

7th and 8th September 2011

In 2 days, the environmental police travelled across more than 5,000 km in the north of Paraná. 517 cars and motorbikes and 136 boats were inspected. Chainsaws and longlines were also seized.

Seizure of a Malayan tiger (*Panthera tigris jacksoni*) and 4 Indochinese leopards (*Panthera tigris jacksoni*) all dead

Tumpat, State of Kelantan, Malaysia

9th September 2013

The taxi driver was carrying some unusual passengers: the remains of 1 tigers and 4 leopard. He was heading for Thailand. Trap marks on the furs

proved that the animals were captured in the forests, no doubt in the Taman Negara National Park. According to a recent Traffic report, 1,000 traps were detected in 2010 and 2011 in the preferred habitats of Malayan tigers. The global population has been reduced by several hundred. The taxi driver was granted an interim release on bail of US\$ 15,200. On the black market, a tiger skin is sold for a minimum of US\$ 10,000.

Arrest of 2 people for the poaching of a Bengal tiger

Koltapu, State of Assam, India

16th September 2013

1 – Giving the tiger a bad reputation, spreading the fact that it preys on domestic herds for food.

2 – Transporting a dead cow into its path and sprinkling it with a toxic poison.

3 – Waiting for the tiger to come and take interest in the bait.

4 – As soon as the tiger was poisoned, butchering it, removing the principal bones, claws, ears, all items of significant value.

5 – Going to bury the fur in a hole while waiting for things to settle down and they were able to make it presentable and sell it to a wholesaler.

6 – Being picked up by the cops on the edge of the forest of Sonitpur.

Conviction of a person for poaching a tiger

State of Rajasthan, India

16th September 2013

A professional tiger hunter who had operated in May 2003 in the Sariska Tiger Reserve was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment and a fine of US\$ 1,200. Sariska was declared a wildlife reserve in 1955. In 1978 it was given the status of Tiger Reserve, thus making it part of the Project Tiger programme in India. It covers an area of 866 km². The population was estimated at around 16 tigers in 2000. In 2004, no direct observations of tigers were made. Even more worrying, no trace of their presence at that time such as scratch marks on the trees was detected. The Rajasthan Forest Department said that "the tigers had temporarily moved outside the reserve and would return after the rainy season". Project Tiger, now the NTCA (National Tiger Conservation Authority), supported this theory. In 2005 it is finally stated that there were no more tigers in Sariska. Poaching was blamed as one of the main reasons for this local extinction. A few individuals were reintroduced into the reserve. Several once more fell victim to poaching. In April 2013, the NGO Prayatna protested against the introduction of tigers into the reserve, given that they were not adequately protected.

Seizure of a Bengal tiger skin and bones

Gelephu, District of Sarpang, Bhutan

20th September 2013

Business was brisk in the hotel. It was going to finish with a local buyer. But the authorities acting on confidential information arrived before the potential buyer.



© The Bhutanese Expression



Seizure of an Indian leopard skin

Mandi district, State of Himachal Pradesh, India

27th September 2013

In the state of Himachal Pradesh, a leopard fur is seized and a man arrested. Himachal Pradesh is home to a wide variety of animals: leopards, gorals, moschidae or musk deer and the Himalayan monal. There are 2 national parks and 32 nature reserves covering a total area of 7,002 km².

2 live Bengal tigers sequestered

Ciudad Victoria, State of Tamaulipas, Mexico

September 2013

As part of the national circus monitoring programme, Profepa inspected the «Italian Circus» and identified an offence. The documents certifying the legality of the 2 Bengal tigers (a male and a female) could not be presented. This must be done within a period of 5 working days on penalty of the tigers being seized and transferred to the nearest zoo. Meanwhile, the 2 tigers have been left in the care of the circus.



© PROFEPA

**Poaching of a lion
Samburu National Reserve, Samburu County,
Kenya
September 2013**

Lguret, a male lion, was found dead and skinned, his head removed and burned. 24 hours earlier, he had been fitted with a radio collar by the NGO Ewaso Lions. Concerned that they could no longer see him moving, the rangers travelled to the site only to discover the carnage. It seems from elements from the crime scene that Lguret must have stopped for a rest under a tree. He was hit in the ribs by a large calibre bullet. He was decapitated and his head burnt in an attempt to destroy the radio collar which was worth US\$ 4,000. In the past there were stories of a lion attacking camels in the vicinity. Since it had been killed, no conflict between man and lion had been reported. Lguret's fur seems to have been the only motive for his killing. An elephant was also poached in this reserve in September.

The Samburu National Reserve is one of the places where Joy and George Adamson worked to reintroduce Elsa the lioness into the wild. This story told in the book "Born Free" published in 1960 was brought to the screen featuring Bill Travers and Virginia McKenna, parents of Will Travers, president of the Born Free Foundation and the Species Survival Network.



**Seizure of Bengal tiger parts: skull, bones, teeth and claws (18kg total)
Delhi, India
September 8, 2013**

The value of the seized tiger trophies is US\$ 78,700. The infamous Sarju (see August 11), who trapped or had trapped by others numerous protected animals was himself caught in a trap near a gym in Delhi with 18 kg of tiger parts in his possession. He was in a car with an accomplice nicknamed Lala. During their interrogation, they said they were employed by the head of the network, a certain Chacha to bring tiger derivatives into Delhi. They allegedly received an advanced payment of US\$ 8,960 for the job. Chacha whose real name is Surajpal was arrested a few hours later with US\$ 74,000 in his possession. Surajpal has been involved in illegal trade for over 20 years. He received supplies from hunter and trapper poachers from the Baheliya

community. Henceforth, details on the tactics used by poachers have been revealed. The poachers use domestic animals covered in poison to bait, attract and poison wildlife. A further 3 «big names» in smuggling were identified by Sarju. Following these accusations, another famous poacher, Ajit and his brother were arrested in Hyderabad early October. They allegedly killed 2 tigers and sold Sarju the skins.

Bears



Helarctos malayanus © Wildlife Extra.com

**Seizure of 16 black bear gall bladders and 100 g of pangolin scales
Tengchong, Kunming, Province of Yunnan, China
July 10, 2013**

The bear gall bladders were hidden in boxes under the wind shield. These food boxes had Myanmar writing on them, which attracted the Customs officers' attention. 100 g of pangolin scales were also seized. The town of Tengchong is close to the Myanmar border. There are 2 species of bears in Myanmar, the sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*, Appendix I) and the Himalayan black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I). Bear gall bladders are used in Asian traditional medicine to heal many illnesses such as convulsions, diabetes, heart problems, kidney stones... Both natural and synthetic substitutes have existed since 1954 and are much less expensive. In total, 75 alternative products (including rhubarb and peony roots...) can be found that replace bear bile. An estimated 20,000 bears in approximately 100 farms are thought to be raised in captivity for the production of the prized substance. Extraction of the bile, practiced on the live and conscious animals can be described as torture. A kilo of non-refined bile reaches prices between US\$ 30,000 and US\$ 50,000 on the legal market.

**Seizure of a bear gall bladder
Dharchula, State of Uttarakhand, India
July 24, 2013**

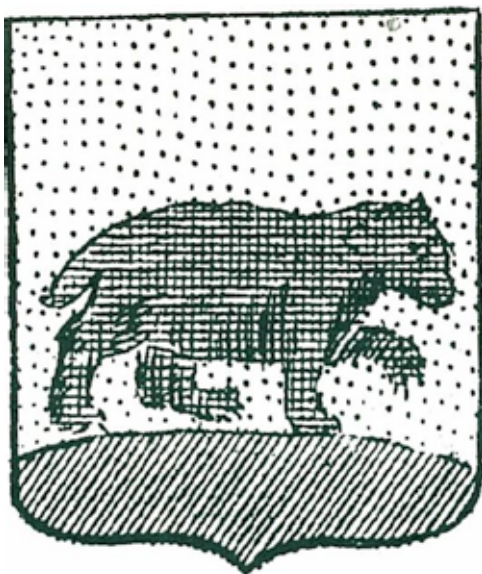
The Indian town of Dharchula is on the border with Nepal. The person arrested is of Nepalese nationality and lives in the district of Humla (North-West of Nepal), bordering Tibet. The gall bladder probably came from a bear in India and was destined for the Chinese market. In India live the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II in India) and the Himalayan black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I).

**Seizure of 169 brown bear paws (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix I or II) and 31 Asian black bear paws (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I)
Heilongjiang Province, China
July 2013**

Customs had been informed of the arrival in early June of an illegal delivery of bear paws in the city of Tongjiang, at the Russian-Chinese border. The cargo was supposed to be subsequently transported to the provincial capital, Harbin, on July 11th. Customs officers have arrested 3 suspects in Tongjiang, one in Harbin and a fifth one in the Raohe County. On the Trail Bulletin # 1 already recounted seizure of 213 bear paws on May 22nd. They came from Russia same as this new batch of 169 paws.

**Seizure of 3 live sloth bear cubs (*Melursus ursinus*, Appendix I)
District of Giridih, State of Jharkhand, India
19th September 2013**

The little sloth bears were kidnapped in India in a protected area. They were then taken to Nepal to be bred and tamed and finally resold in India to be exploited by bear-leaders. Dead and chopped up, sloth bears are used in the preparation of traditional medicinal potions and in obscure rituals. When the poachers and the bears were surrounded by the police force, a display of support from the villagers got out of hand and the police vehicles just escaped being torched. The eventful rescue of the 3 bears was supported by the NGO Wildlife SOS.



Rhinoceros

The white rhinoceros *Ceratotherium simum* and black rhinoceros *Diceros bicornis* ranging in Africa are listed in Appendix I, except for the white rhinoceros populations of Swaziland and South Africa which are listed in Appendix II for trade of live animals and hunting trophies.

The 3 Asian rhinoceros species are in Appendix I: *Rhinoceros unicornis*, *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*, *Rhinoceros sondaicus*.



© Bruno Congar, Robin des Bois

September 4, poachers at dawn arrived in a boat ...

**Poaching of a rhinoceros
Kukurakata Forest Reserve, Assam, India
1 July 2013**

The bullet riddled and de-horned carcass was found by a patrol in the Kukurakata forest reserve to the west of Kaziranga National Park. The rhinoceroses are moving into the hilled forests away from the park to avoid monsoon flooding. Poachers know that.

FAMILY AFFAIRS

**Conviction with 5 to 15 year prison sentence and from US\$ 520 to US\$ 1,035 for rhinoceros poaching and horn contraband
District of Chitwan, Nepal
3 July 2013**

A man, his 2 wives, his sister and his aunt were condemned for the poaching of 9 rhinos and contraband between 2006 and 2010. The head of the family denied the facts and presented himself as a simple transporter, employed by a famous smuggler: Raj Kumar Chepang, who fled abroad with false papers. Chitwan National Park with an area of 93,200 hectares has been inscribed on the list of UNESCO world heritage sites since 1984. It shelters one of the last populations of the one-horned Indian rhinoceros.

**3 suspected rhino poachers arrested
Hoedspruit, Limpopo district, South Africa
July 7th 2013**

The 3 suspects, a South African man and 2 yet to be identified Mozambicans, were on their way to the rhinos sanctuaries in Phalaborwa. They carried several guns and could be charged for illegal possession of firearms and ammunition and conspiracy to commit rhino poaching crime. The National

Environmental Biodiversity Act specifies that the fact to get equipped for, organize and plan rhino poaching is an offence. According to the South African Government News Agency, Limpopo police offers a reward up to US\$ 50,000 to any person who can provide information leading to the arrest and conviction in court of rhino poachers.

Conviction of 3 people to 6 year in prison each, one of which was a suspended sentence, for rhinoceros poaching
Makhado, Limpopo, South Africa
July 10th, 2013

The 3 convicted people, originally Mozambican, were arrested in May 2013 for poaching rhinoceroses near Polokwane (Limpopo) near Kruger National Park.

Poaching of 2 rhinoceroses
Rhenosterfontein Game Farm, Cullinan, Gauteng, South Africa
July 11th, 2013

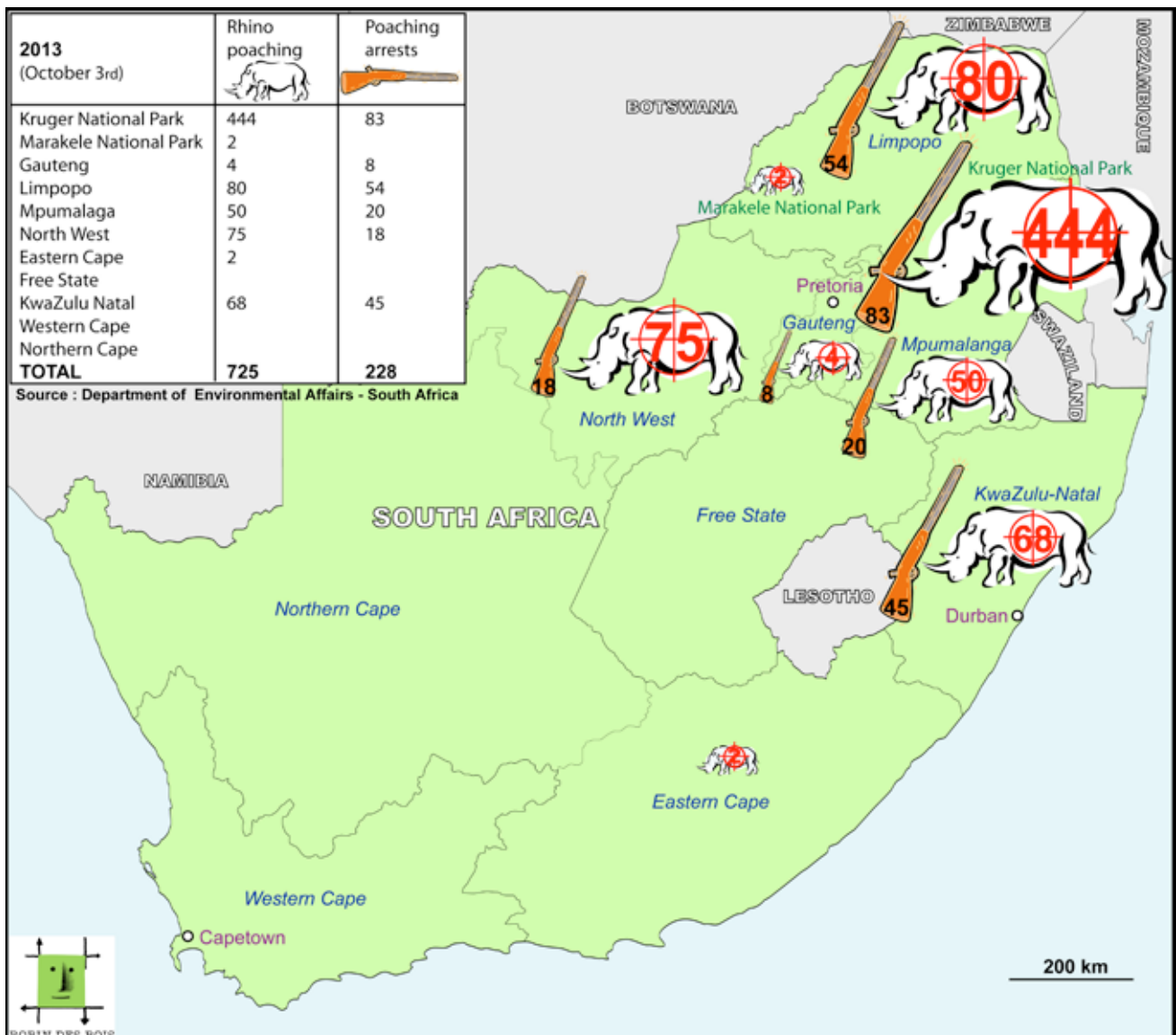
Early in the morning, the owners heard gunshots and immediately called the police. Despite searches, the poachers were not apprehended. Large calibre bullet casings were found next to the carcasses.

The total count at this point is of 480 rhinoceroses poached in 2013 in South Africa. To stop the carnage, the government just reiterated its intention to proceed with an official sale of 18 tons of rhinoceros horns that the country holds from seizures or retrieved in other circumstances. Many experts are sceptical about the capacity of this measure to pump out the black market on horns. The proposal could be discussed at the next full meeting of CITES that should take place at the Cape in South Africa in 2016.

Arrest of 4 suspects for rhinoceros poaching and possession of an unregistered firearm.
Maremani Nature Reserve, Province of Limpopo, South Africa
July 12, 2013

The Maremani reserve covers an area of 41,000 ha. The reserve is owned by the International Aage V. Jensen, Foundation for the "preservation of nature in all its diversity". Its mission is to restore the natural environment. Starting in 1999 the Foundation bought different lots of the reserve. Of the 4 arrested, 2 were released on bail set at US\$ 150. The police are still searching for the fifth accomplice who got away with the horns.

Poached rhinoceros and arrested poachers from 1st January to 3rd October 2013 in South Africa



**Poaching of rhinoceroses
Marakele National Park, Province of Limpopo,
South Africa
July 17, 2013**

Twitter message: «A fresh rhino carcass was found in the Northern section of Marakele National Park yesterday with its horn removed.» Marekele means sanctuary in the local Tswana language.

**Poaching of 2 rhinoceroses
Stella, Province of North West, South Africa
July 24th, 2013**

The rhinoceroses were domesticated, having been recovered by a family of farmers after their own mothers were poached in 2009 near Thabazimbi. The family named the female Savuka and the male Juluka. Savuka was expected a baby. Juluka was killed first. Savuka, who attempted to flee, was found 150m away. The poachers took the horns from both bodies. The farmers found them in the field and made a pyre. "Afterwards, we returned home so we wouldn't have to see the vultures finishing them off."



© Mientjie Erasmus

**Poaching of a male rhinoceros
Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, State of Assam, India
July 24, 2013**

The sanctuary is located in the floodplains of the Brahmaputra River. The floods force rhinoceroses to take cover in the hills where they are exposed to poachers during the transit.

Pobitora was declared a sanctuary in 1987 and covers 40km². It is home to many species of migratory birds and over 80 leopards and rhinoceroses; the number is too high for only 40km². Transfers to the Manas National Park (Assam) are carried out under the supervision of the Indian Rhino Vision 2020 programme. On April 2, 2013 a female who had been transferred under this programme was shot by poachers. She had given birth only 15 days earlier (see On the Trail # 1).



Rhinoceroses freed in Manas National Park
© Bibhab Talukdar - International Rhino Foundation

**4 poachers arrested
Kruger National Park, South Africa
July 24 and 25, 2013**

The arrests took place in 2 different areas of the park. The first event, on July 24, happened near the border to Mozambique. One man wounded during gunfire exchange was arrested. The other 2 fled to Mozambique. An A.458 hunting gun, ammunition and poaching equipment were found. The same day rangers found the remains of a destroyed poachers hut.

The second event was the arrest of 3 poachers. They carried hunting guns, AK 47, ammunition and 2 axes. The Parks Anti Poaching Patrol had spotted their camp fire. The chief of operations in charge of security in South Africa's national parks encourages his troupes to be especially vigilant during full moon periods, a moment when incursions, footprints and other clues of poaching activities are plenty. Since the beginning of the year, 67 alleged poachers have been arrested in Kruger National Park.

**Poaching of 4 rhinoceros
Gravelotte and Timbavati, Limpopo Province,
South Africa
July 25, 2013**

A rhino was killed in Gravelotte and another one in Timbavati. 2 other rhinos were killed in a reserve that's location was not revealed. In all 4 cases the horns were removed.

**Sentencing of 2 poachers to 6 years in prison
Makhado, Province of Limpopo, South Africa
July 29th, 2013**

The poachers, one of them a citizen of Mozambique, were apprehended in Kruger National Park in March 2013. They had 2 rhinoceros' horns in their possession and were equipped with 3 firearms (A.458, AK 47, and .375), ammunitions, 2 axes, and a knife.

**Arrest of 10 people
District of Magde, Province of Maputo, Mozambique
July 2013**

Of the 10 questioned, there are 3 policemen, 4 forest rangers, and a "healer" (a traditional herbalist). They are implicated in the delivery of automatic weapons and the poaching of rhinoceroses in South Africa. Rhinos are almost extinct in Mozambique. Since 2008, 279 Mozambique citizens have been killed by the South African police during poaching events, especially at Kruger National Park. Many among them were part of the Mozambique army or border police.

**GANG
Seizure of 24 rhinoceros horns
Prague, Region of Central Bohemia, Czech Republic
July 2013**

The inquiry opened at the beginning 2011. The operation led by border police and the Environmental Inspection Agency led to dismantle a criminal network. 15 of the 16 people arrested were kept

in detention. The network's organisers recruited hunters locally. Using the pretext of trophy hunting in South Africa, they would then kill rhinos with an official permit. Back home with their "trophies", they then sold the horns to Asia. Rhinoceros populations in South Africa and Swaziland are listed under Appendix II for live animals and hunting trophies. This new case of "pseudo sport hunting" proves once more that legal hunting feeds the illegal market of rhino horns. The estimated value of the seizure totals 3.85 million euros.

4 poachers arrested
Near the Pongola Game Reserve, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
July 2013

The 4 suspects were arrested on Route National 2 near the Pongola reserve carrying significant clues: a shotgun, ammunition and 2 silencers. Charges held against them are to be illegal possession of an unregistered fire arm and poaching of rhinos. The Pongola reserve is near the border with Swaziland. It was made a reserve in 1984 by Paul Kruger and is the oldest reserve in South Africa.

Poaching of 7 rhinoceros
Province de KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
End of July, 2013

2 rhino carcasses were found in Imfolozi on July 28th. Another was killed on July 24th in the Tembe Elephant Park. In that same park 4 rhino carcasses were found on July 30th. The number of individuals poached since the beginning of the year in this province mounts now to 51, against 66 for the whole of 2012. The Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park covers 360km². The Tembe Elephant reserve covers 300 km². Along with black and white rhinos, it is known to harbour a few dozen old elephants with long tusks, lions and leopards.

8 poachers arrested
Province of North-West, South Africa
July and August

This time it is the Province of North-West that was targeted by horn hunters. 8 poachers were arrested with weapons and saws. They were driving a stolen car. Surveillance operations are also on the rise on roads and sideways leading to the Highveld and Botsalano Game Reserves. The Botsalano Game Reserve covers an area of 5 800 ha. White rhinos, antelopes and giraffes live there.

Mutilation of 2 white rhinoceros
Schotia Private Reserve, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa
August 1st, 2013

The 2 rhinos, whose nicknames were Bonnie and Clyde, survived a hyper specialized poaching operation calling on both veterinarian and surgical skills. Carrying each a good-sized horn (around 7 kg), the 2 individuals were firstly targeted by darts poisoned with M99 (Etorphine). Then, while they were knocked out by the heavy anesthetic, the horns were cut with extreme precision, without causing haemorrhage. The 2 rhinos survived. M99 causes total paralysis and is used under strict

control as anaesthetic for large size mammals such as elephants. The feared side effects are cardiac arrest or lethal damage to the liver, kidney and lungs. It's possible that the bandits "in white coats" also injected to the animals other veterinarian substances in order to lessen the M99 side effects. Bonnie had a miscarriage after the mutilation. Clyde is half blind. Damage to vital organs is being treated by specialized veterinarians. According to the head of this medical group, specialists in rhinoceros anatomy and professionals are giving treatment to the 2 survivors. "This is the first time we've witness an M99 attack on rhinos."



M99 in orange and its antidote in blue
© etorphine.co.uk

Poaching of 11 rhinoceros
Kruger National Park, Provinces of Limpopo and Mpumalanga, South Africa
From August 1st to 8, 2013

A massacre. In one week, 11 rhinoceros carcasses were found in the park.

Poaching of a male rhinoceros
Manas National Park, State of Assam, India
August 4, 2013

This is the third rhinoceros killed in the Manas Park since the beginning of the year. The carcass was found near the Katajhar camp. He was 6 years old. Poachers took his horn, his ears, his nails and his tail. The animal had been transferred with his mother from the Kaziranga Park in 2012 in accordance to the Indian Rhino Vision 2020 program.

A coordination committee composed by 15 members has been recently created. Its object is to enable the exchange of information to ensure security in the park. An action plan is to be put in place. A local volunteer of the Indian Rhino Vision 2020 program is allegedly involved in this poaching operation. He is now wanted by police. His brother's home was searched and the meat, bones, teeth and skin of a rhino killed in January this year was found. A second man was arrested. At the foot of the Himalayas, the Manas National Park is listed by UNESCO as one of the Natural World Heritage Sites.

Poaching of 2 rhinoceros
Province of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
August 4 and 5, 2013

The carcass was found in the Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park. Rhinoceros may have been killed by a poacher arrested and wounded during a clash with police forces in the district of Zululand (KwaZulu-Natal). His accomplice escaped. In the same province, a black rhinoceros was shot in the Tembe Elephant Park. This is the sixth rhinoceros killed in this park within a fortnight.

2 poachers arrested
Zululand Rhino Reserve, Province of Kwa- Zulu Natal, South Africa
August 9, 2013

Authorities had received information and had set up a trap. 3 men from Nigeria drove to the edge of the reserve. 2 of them climbed the fence behind which the policemen were waiting. The first one, carrying a .303 shotgun with a silencer, was arrested. The second carrying an axe escaped. The driver was also arrested. The private reserve was founded in 2004 and is part of the WWF Black Rhino Range Expansion Project.

Poaching of a white rhinoceros
Nairobi National Park, Nairobi, Kenya
August 9, 2013

The last time poaching happened in this park dates back 6 years. With the Governmental Agency Kenya Wildlife Service's headquarters there, the park was considered to be safe. This sanctuary for rhinos is the ideal place for their reproduction. With transfers of some individuals, this enables re- population of parks throughout the country. It covers 117 km² and is almost completely surrounded by barriers. This is the only protected area in the world to be so close to a capital city. From January until half way through August 2013, 35 rhinos were poached in Kenya, against 29 for the whole year of 2012.

Poaching of a white rhinoceros
Ruma National Park, Migori and Homa Bay Counties, Kenya
August 10, 2013

The poachers managed to escape with the horns.

One man sentenced to 14 years prison term for poaching
Nelspruit, Province of Mpumalanga, South Africa
August 15, 2013

He is 21, and from Mozambique. He was arrested on the 19th of January 2013 in the Kruger National Park. He killed a female black rhinoceros and her baby and took their horns. A second man, let out on bail, disappeared. The third suspect, who owns the rifle, escaped during the arrest. According to the man condemned, he had been "invited" by one of the 2 on the run to come work in South Africa. It was only after their intrusion into the park that

he realised his companions' intentions- according to what he says. He pleaded for a fine but was sentenced to 4 years prison term for illegal entree into the National Kruger Park, 10 years for poaching of the adult rhinoceros and 8 for the baby, the 10 and 8 year will run concurrently.

Poaching of 2 rhinoceros
Area of Lephale, Province of Limpopo, South Africa
August 17- 18, 2013

That makes 576 victims of horn hunters since the beginning of the year.

Seizure of rhino horns
Crocodile Bridge, Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa
August 19, 2013

Kruger Park rangers in the area of Crocodile Bridge intercepted 2 suspected poachers. One was shot; the other managed to cross the border to Mozambique. A gun and rhino horns were seized, according to South African National Parks announcement.

Poaching of 2 rhinoceros
Kaziranga National Park, State of Assam, India
August 21, 2013

Poachers took the female's horn but were unable to retrieve the male's one. 4 empty AK 47 cartridges were found on the premises. Events took place near the Chirang forest, 50 m away from a control unit on route NH-37. The criminals waited until midnight, the end of the ranger's shift, to act.

3 poachers arrested
National Kruger Park, Provinces of Limpopo and Mpumalanga, South Africa
August 24- 25, 2013

The arrests followed a shoot-out between rangers and the culprits, 3 of whom were killed. 2 guns, ammunition and poaching material were seized. On august 24th, another poacher was shot near Crocodile Bridge (Province of Mpumalanga).

Poaching of a male rhinoceros
Great Kudu Game Reserve, Tshipise, Limpopo Province, South Africa
August 26, 2013

It was while accompanying a U.S. client on a hunt that Knott, father and son, owners of a private ranch, found the carcass of a male rhino killed several hours earlier. A rhino horn said to be 78 cm long and a value of U.S. \$ 100,000 according to the local press had been collected. It was not possible to follow the trail of fugitives «who wore socks over shoes». «We were victims of experienced specialists". The Knott family advocates for the immediate opening of an official market for rhino horns, which should, they say, pull the rug from under the poacher's feet. «If we wait for the next CITES [2016, South Africa] we have no more rhinos by then.»

**4 suspects arrested for alleged poaching
Kruger National Park, Provinces of Limpopo and
Mpumalanga, South Africa
August 27 and 29, 2013**

On August 27, the 2 suspects were arrested in the park. Investigations led to the arrest of 2 people on the 29th. Ammunition, a semi automatic hunting gun and special equipment were found.

In a different area of the park, rangers caught 3 poachers red handed. One of them was mortally wounded. The others escaped. A .458 shotguns and ammunition were seized.



.458 Rifle

**Poaching of 2 rhinos (one male and one female)
Central Province, Kenya
August 28, 2013**

The couple of rhinos was shot dead. Only the horn of the male was removed. No gunshots were heard. Police and judges say anonymously that the security officers of the wildlife reserve are sometimes poachers' accomplices. «They cover their ears and look elsewhere.»

**Poaching of a female rhinoceros
Kaziranga National Park, State of Assam, India
August 30, 2013**

She was 6 years old. The poaching happened near the Bagori area. Despite the rapid intervention of guards, the culprits managed to take the horn and escape.

**Conviction of 3 poachers to 16 years prison term each
Nelspruit, Province of Mpumalanga, South Africa
August 30, 2013**

The 3 men convicted are from Mozambique. They were arrested on May 10 2011 in the Crocodile Bridge area (National Kruger Park) with 3 rhino horns. The rangers chased the 4-person gang by helicopter as they tried to escape. One of the poachers was mortally wounded. They had shot a female rhino and her calf with an automatic weapon and chopped of the horn with an axe. During trial, the 3 men acknowledged the seriousness of their actions. They placed most of the blame on their dead accomplice. According to them, he was the one that hired them, and the one that killed the rhinos. He is said to have promised US\$ 193 to each of them for their participation. The court took no account of these explanations and they were decla-

red entirely guilty. The judge confirmed that hereon rhino killers of Mozambique nationality would be arrested in their country in the case they managed cross the border escaping South Africa and Kruger Park after committing their forfeit. "South Africa and Mozambique have decided to reinforce cooperation against this traffic."

**Conviction of a man to 30 years in prison for trafficking in rhino horns
Kempton Park, Gauteng Province, South Africa
August 30, 2013**

In November 2012, Lemtongthai had been sentenced to 30 years prison term, a sentence that is pronounced against those convicted of murder or rape. The convicted party, his lawyers and the general attorney in Johannesburg formed an appeal. They joined together to denounce a "disproportionate punishment". In appeal Lemtongthai was sentenced to 30 years prison. His lawyers were requesting 10 and put forward the fact that a long prison term for their client would cost the South African taxpayer about US\$ 350,000. The judge found, meanwhile, that «the sentence to 30 years in prison will help the Asian community understand that these traffics will not be tolerated anymore.»

Lemtongthai had admitted to having organized 2 biased rhino trophies hunts for the benefit of Xaysavang Trading, established in Laos. The network benefitted from flaws in South African law to spread dozens of kg of horn on the black market. Young Thai women were played US\$ 600 to pose next to the killed rhino. In fact the animals were killed by snipers recruited by a South African farmer, Marnus Steyl, originated from the Province of Free State, historically called the Orange Free State. M. Marnus Steyl is liable for 29 indictments and his trial set for end of October. He first was discharged along with his handymen. This judicial capitulation had caused much upset and sadness faced with the long whail rising to the sky from rhino mortally wounded by Marnus Steyl's mercenaries. The video published by the Killingforprofit.com site is overwhelming and deafening.



© Freeland Foundation

**Seizure of 2 pieces of rhinoceros horns (227g)
Sheffield, South Yorkshire County, England
August 2013**

The man arrested had tried to sell the pieces of rhinoceros horn to Chinese herbalists for several hundred £. One of the 2 denounced the man to the authorities. The pieces were buried in his garden, 6 feet under. 52 years of age, he was previously a goldsmith. His former boss had given him them when he left the company. Rhinoceros horn appears to traditionally be used in goldsmithing to shape the metal without leaving marks. Now a landscaper, the man has been condemned to 240 hours of community service, US\$ 23 in fines and house arrest from 8pm until 6am!

**2 men sentenced to 25 and 26 months in prison
for rhino horn theft**

**Waldshut-Tiengen, State of Baden-Württemberg, Germany
September 3, 2013**

The spectacular theft of 4 rhino horns took place on the night of May 5 in the Nature Department at the Golf-Welt Hochrhein leisure complex (Golf World Haut-Rhin) near Bad Säckingen (Baden-Württemberg) on the border between Germany and Switzerland. The 2 Polish horn robbers were sentenced on appeal to 25 and 26 months in prison, a reduced sentence compared to the first lawsuit. During the robbery, one of the thieves had broken a fingernail. The fingernail was found on the site by the investigators allowing, after a DNA search, the positive identification of one of the robbers. The duo was arrested in Denmark on August 2012, where they were planning to commit a similar crime. During their testimonies at the court of appeal, they both expressed regret. Despite long criminal records in Poland and Germany, they benefited from a certain leniency by the court. They claimed to have received 10,000 Euros for the theft whereas the value of the horns stolen, and never recovered, is estimated to be 300,000 Euros. Their links with the Rathkeale Rovers of Irish travellers origin, was not mentioned. Their tactics are the same. In 2011, the museums in Bamberg (Bavaria), Erfurt (Thuringia) and Hamburg had already been robbed and pillaged by horn "lovers". An ivory carving was stolen at the same time.



© Wildlife Museum

**Poaching of a rhinoceros
Kaziranga National Park, State of Assam, India
September 4, 2013**

Wednesday morning, at dawn, far off gun shoots coming from the flooded area of the park, poachers arrived in a boat from the northern banks of the Brahmaputra River with a .303 rifle. Such were the first elements of the investigation after another rhinoceros was killed in the Kaziranga National Park. 5 days earlier another attack took place. Activists from Karbi Anglong (a district in Assam) were involved. 200 protesters from the All Assam Student Union (Aasu) blocked the express highway 37 at Bokakhat to protest against the massacre of the rhinoceroses in Kaziranga and to demand the resignation of the Forest Minister of Forests "he should resign he has failed to protect the rhinos of Kaziranga".

**Poaching of a black rhinoceros
Ruma National Park, County of Migori and Homa Bay, Kenya
5th September 2013**

In the Ruma National Park, zebras have recently been introduced to attract tourists. Black rhinoceroses continue to attract criminals. Another individual was killed, a complete waste as the horn was found.

**Death of 3 poachers during an intervention by
Kenya Wildlife Service
Kyulu, Kajiado County, Kenya
September 8, 2013**

The terrible event occurred at night. A patrol ranger surprised 4 suspected poachers. Warning shots and an exchange of gunfire followed. The poacher was in fact an attendant at the Ngulia rhino sanctuary. Through his job, he knew the best way to enter into the park and locate rhinoceroses. In the recent past, 5 rhinos were killed and had their horns extracted. The second poacher was a former Kenyan army officer. The profession of the third is unknown. The fourth offender escaped. 3 pangas, an axe, 3 different types of poison, a pair of gloves and hoods were found at the scene of the violent event but also pineapples. Rhinos like to eat pineapples and so do elephants. Before feeding to pachyderms, poachers coat them with poison.



**Seizure of 2 white rhino horns
Hluhluwe Umfolozi Park, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
September 8, 2013**

The clash between rangers and poachers took place

around 6 am Sunday morning. Of the 3 poachers, 2 escaped and a third one of Mozambican nationality was injured. In his backpack an axe, a flashlight and a pair of rhino horns were found. The following day, the carcass of a white rhino was discovered in the park.

**Arrest of 4 poachers
State of Assam, India
September 8-9, 2013**

In 2 separate interventions, rangers arrested 4 poachers. To date the number of rhinoceroses killed in the Kaziranga National Park and Pobitora Sanctuary in 2013 totals 28.

**Arrest of nineteen people involved in rhinoceros horn thefts from museums
United Kingdom and Ireland, Operation Oakleaf
September 10, 2013**

At dawn 800 members of different British police forces and the Gardai (police forces of the Republic of Ireland) backed by the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA), carried out several searches, with warrants, in London, the county of Sussex, Cambridge, Essex, the West Midlands and Northern Ireland. Solicitors' offices and properties in Cork and Limerick in the Republic of Ireland were also «raided». Twenty people including 2 women and a child under 15 are in custody waiting to be interviewed by investigators.

This big bust was carried out under the framework of a Europol investigation on an important number of thefts of Chinese antiques and rhino horns in museums and auction houses. Some offenders had been arrested, tried and jailed in Britain but they were considered to be only «small fish.» The big fish of the gang whose total loot is estimated to be worth U.S. \$ 60 million are still on the run. The operation on September 10, 2013 failed to recover the stolen objects and horns but seized bank statements that will enable the Criminal Assets Bureau (CAB) and equivalent offices in Europe and across the globe to better understand the organization's network. The suspects are believed to be linked to the Rathkeale gang who have specialized in the theft and counterfeiting of antiques for 3 generations. In the 1970s and 1980s, the gang made their fortune robbing silverware from historic houses in Ireland and England and reselling it on the international market. Different branches of the underground organisation operate in Australia, North America, South America, Asia and South Africa. The Rathkealers or Rathkeale Rovers also dubbed the Dead Zoo Gang have adapted to the global market. Within the framework of "Operation Crash", the United States and more specifically the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are closely following the gang's movements ever since 2 Irish citizens were arrested in the United States while trying to buy 4 rhino horns. Officials in the U.S. are closely monitoring events in Britain and Ireland. They, however, note that the business of rhino horn in the United States consists of at least 2 branches:

1 – Rathkeale Rovers or similar gangs look for the good goods and sell them to Chinese correspondents in the United States.

2 – Other gangs look for horns and deliver them to Vietnamese correspondents who ship them to their country of origin.

Via the exchange of the information gathered by "Operation Oakleaf" in Europe and "Operation Crash" in the United States, it just might be possible to strike a fatal blow or at least a very serious blow to the international trade of rhino horns ... and ivory. Who steals a horn steals a tusk. To show the way the American administration decided to dry up the black market and to avoid any temptation decided to destroy all rhino horns, the raw and the carved ivory that their different agencies seized over the last 25 years. Cf. Septembre 14, 2013.



**Seizure of 2 rhinoceros horns
Matsapha, District of Manzini, Swaziland
September 10, 2013**

The 3 suspects were caught in the parking lot of a shopping center. They came there to negotiate very specific items: 2 rhino horns. The arrests came at a time when «Big Game Parks» unions had organized an information campaign offering a reward of U.S. \$ 4,900 to anyone who could provide information which would lead to the conviction of poachers.

**Arrest of 4 rhinoceros poachers
Bhekabantu, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
September 10, 2013**

A silencer, a 375 rifle, ammunition, an axe, the quartet were arrested near Tembe Elephant Park.

**Poaching of 6 rhinos
The Sabi Sands Reserve in the province of Mpumalanga, the province of KwaZulu Natal and the private Mafeking Reserve in North-West Province, South Africa.
September 11, 2013**

6 new rhinoceroses were slaughtered. The number of horns removed is unknown. To date the killing toll for 2013 is 627.

**Poaching of a white male rhinoceros
Oserian Sanctuary, Naivasha, County of Nakuru, Kenya
September 12, 2013**

The poachers shot the white male rhinoceros 12 times. The incident occurred near the scene where 2 of his male counterparts were killed 2 months earlier when the poachers did not have the time

to seize the horns. This time, they succeeded. The rhino's absence was noticed by the rangers who found his carcass several days later. A knife was found a few meters for the scene.

Arrest of 15 people for trafficking in rhinoceros horn

**Chitwan National Park, District of Chitwan, Nepal
12th September to 1st October 2013**

Nepal is taking action. Operation. «Unicorn» led to the arrest of Chepang, a well-known rhino horn smuggler. He is said to have killed 12 rhinoceroses since 2005. He has already been sentenced to 15 years in prison, but was on the run. 14 of his associates were also arrested.

The weapons were bought in India. The rhinoceroses were stalked in the Chitwan National Park, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. The Indian one-horned rhinoceros population is estimated at a few hundred. The rhinoceros horns were next collected together in Kathmandu and then exported to third countries by smugglers who were members of an international network.

Poaching of a rhinoceros

Walmansthal, Pretoria, Gauteng Province, South Africa

13th September 2013

A fifth rhinoceros was killed in the north of Pretoria, the administrative capital city of South Africa. "No shot was heard". The rhinoceros was hit by a poisoned arrow. "The horn was cut off down to the last millimetre using very sophisticated methods". The "techno" poachers are still on the run but all hope of catching them has not been lost.

Arrest of a man for trafficking 4 black rhinoceros horns

Brooklyn Federal Court, New York State, United States of America

18th September 2013

One of the Rovers from Rathkeale had travelled from London to Houston to buy 2 horns from a taxidermist. Noting that only Texas citizens were entitled to make the transaction, Michael Slattery had recruited someone else for the day's work. For a payment of US\$ 500, this person agreed to act as a front man. A little later, Slattery met a Chinese collector in the Queens District of New York to sell him 4 rhino horns, including 2 which were marked with the stamp of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. He sought to sell the batch for US\$ 50,000. The origin of 2 of the horns is unknown. The Irish citizen, was arrested at New Jersey's Newark Liberty International airport.

Poaching of a rhinoceros

Askari Lodge, Magaliesberg area, South Africa

16th September 2013

She was due to calf in 2 months. A rhinoceros's gestation period lasts 16 months. Her patience was not rewarded. She was cut down by a high calibre weapon and then paralysed by an axe blow to the back into the spinal cord. "Looking at her prints on the ground, you can see that she fought right to the end.»

Conviction of a person for having poached 2 greater one-horned rhinos and arrest of 4 persons suspected of rhinoceros poaching.

Bharatpur, Central Region, Nepal

16th September 2013

In 2008, he was sentenced in absentia to 15 years in prison. He had been found guilty of trafficking in horns in 2005. In 2013, he was roaming around the Chitwan National Park and arrested by a police patrol.

Poaching of a rhinoceros

Kaziranga National Park, State of Assam, India

17th September 2013

Around 8 am, shots rang out. This lasted for 1 and a half hours. Empty AK47 and 303 rifle cartridges were strewn across the ground next to the carcass with the horn removed. 31 rhinoceroses have died violent deaths since the beginning of the year. 9 have died naturally. The fate of the horns in these circumstances is not mentioned and 2 died in the flooding of the Brahmaputra River and its oxbows.

Seizure of rhinoceros parts

Cork Trust, Province of Mpumalanga, South Africa

17th September 2013

A man whose identity has not been revealed and who is said to have been sought for a long time by the South African police for his involvement in the trafficking of rhino horns has been arrested. A .308 rifle, 2 pistols and a wide range of ammunition was seized.

In another action, 3 other poachers were subdued. One of them was wounded. Firearms and the usual horn hunting gear were collected from the premises.

Seizure of 5 rhinoceros horns (20.1kg)

Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, Nairobi, Kenya

17th September 2013

The young Vietnamese was arrested at the airport. In his hand luggage he was carrying rhinoceros horns hidden amongst mattress cuttings. He was getting off a flight from Maputo, the capital city of Mozambique, and getting ready to board a Qatar Airways flight to Doha before returning to Hong-Kong.

Poaching of a white rhinoceros

Oserian Sanctuary, Naivasha, Nakuru County, Kenya

22nd September 2013

The poachers escaped into the dark. They were disturbed by the guards. The horn had been removed. The rhinoceros had been shot dead. The Maasai and the ranch and reserve managers have agreed to work together to limit the damage.

Poaching of 5 white rhinoceroses

Weenen Game Reserve, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

Week of 23rd September 2013

The 5 white rhinoceroses were hunted down in the week from Monday 23rd to Sunday 29th September

2013. The carcasses were found at the end of the week. If they had not been slaughtered, the 5 white rhinoceroses could have lived for 50 years. Their death was undoubtedly due to an overdose of M99, the drug used by the poachers to immobilise the rhinos. The arrows were coated in the anaesthetic substance which is manufactured particularly by Novartis.

2 other white rhinoceroses with their horns removed and covered in blood were found in the reserve a few days later. The vets will give their opinion in the coming days on the best option: either capture the wounded animals and transfer them to a specialist centre or take care of them and let them recover on site.

On 21st September, World Rhino Day, Edna Molewa, the Minister for Water and Environmental Affairs, asked everyone to get involved: "protecting the rhino is your responsibility», «protecting the rhino is my responsibility», "protecting the rhino is a joint responsibility".



© www.grln.net/

**Seizure of 3 rhinoceros horns
Dhoopguri, State of Assam, India
24th September 2013**

3 horns were discovered in the poacher's backpack. The overall weight was 3 kg.

Court appearance of 2 men suspected of poaching

**Nyeri, Nyeri County, Kenya
25th September 2013**

The police of Nyeri County suspect them of having intended to attack a white rhinoceros in the middle of the night. The 2 men, including one Tanzanian, were in possession of 2 high calibre firearms. They deny the allegations.

REPEATED OFFENCE

**Arrest of 6 poachers
In the vicinity of the Kaziranga National Park,
State of Assam, India
26th September 2013**

The 6, of which 2 were previous offenders, were taken by surprise in a villager's house, well-known for his shooting prowess. At first he managed to flee. A few days later, the police arrested him in a neighbouring village. His furtive presence had been announced. The police thanked the local communities for their cooperation. The house of the gang leader was ransacked by villagers unhappy about his complicity with the poachers. Weapons and ammunition and other rhinoceros hunting equipment were seized from the site. The gang was getting ready to go marauding in the Kaziranga National Park.



© UB Photos

**Arrest of a poacher
Niuland, State of Nagaland, India
28th September 2013**

The smuggler, a 65 year old veteran well versed in the trafficking of protected animals and their products between India, Nepal and Bhutan was being «hunted» by the Assam authorities. A large reward was announced for anyone who helped in his arrest.



Rati Ram Sharma © The Telegraph

**Arrest of 5 poachers
Rietvlei Nature Reserve, Province of Gauteng,
South Africa
30th September 2013**

On the point of entering the reserve, the 5 poachers attempted to flee in their car. The special Hawks squad shot the tyres of the 3 vehicles. The passengers fled on foot. They were joined by police reinforcements. Ammunition, 3 firearms and an axe were seized at the location.

The Rietvlei Nature Reserve is 18 km from Pretoria, the administrative capital of South Africa.

The white rhinoceroses had been de-horned in March 2010, after the first poaching campaign. The poachers came back for more. They know that horns regrow by 4 to 7 cm per year. One of the poachers had already been arrested for rhinoceros poaching at the beginning of the year and released on bail. At the end of September the toll had reached 725 rhinoceroses killed and 228 suspected poachers arrested.

3 numbers are available for reporting acts of poaching or passing on useful information: 0800.205.005, 08600.10111 or Crime-Line on 32211.

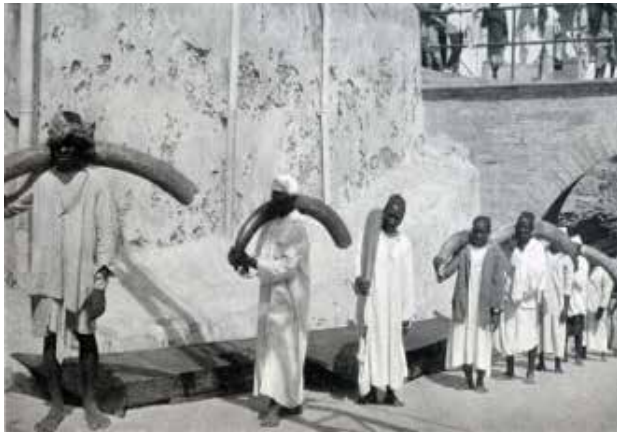


The Port of Mombasa



One of the most ancient city in Eastern Africa and the second largest one in Kenya, Mombasa lies on the Indian Ocean coastline, 400 km away from the capital city Nairobi. The old town was founded on Mombasa Island, a small 16 km² island at the confluence of the estuaries of Mwashu and Shimba, 2 rivers unsuitable to commercial navigation.

Mombasa has been a prosperous center in gold, ivory and spices trading for many centuries, even in the pre colonial times; its trading routes used to link Africa, the Middle East and the Far East. Owing to its strategic location on the sea route to India, the coast island has been coveted and successively ruled from the 16th century on by the Portuguese, the sultanate of Oman and the British. After the arrival of the Europeans, ivory caravans became the main economic contributor of the region.



1922, ivory loading



2013, ivory seizing

The laying of the first rail of the Uganda Railway, from the Indian Ocean to the Eastern shores of Lake Victoria, began in 1895. Steel and heavy equipment were imported in vessels with a deep draft; the old port had to be dropped and a new natural harbour was developed at Kilindini (“deep” in Swahili language) on the island’s west coast in 1896. Mombasa was then the capital of the British Eastern African protectorate and its main port. Today the city has been expanded to the mainland and is still the gateway to the East African region thanks to its bulk berths, oil jetties, container terminals and cruise terminals.



The early days of Kilindini-Mombasa Port



2013, container hub in Mombasa harbor

In terms of tonnage, Mombasa is the second largest port on the East African coast, after Durban, South Africa; it serves the markets of Kenya, Uganda, Southern Sudan, the East of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Burundi and Ethiopia. The cargo volume has doubled over the last 10 years. The first container terminal which began operation in 1979 was planned to handle 250,000 TEU (Twenty-foot Equivalent Units) but received more than twice this throughput in 2009. The port of Mombasa, victim of its success, is congested; it is a bottleneck for the regional economy of Eastern Africa, according to the World Bank. In 2010, the Kenyan Presidency launched the project of a new container terminal to increase the port capacity up to 1.2 million TEU. The project was mainly financed by Japanese loans. The first berth was delivered in 2013; dredging work in the main entrance channel has been completed by the Dutch Van Oord Dredging and Marine Contractors to reach 15 m in depth and allow bigger vessels carrying 4500 boxes against 2500 up to now. Transport infrastructure also has to be upgraded; Chinese companies have expressed their interest in the construction of a new railway track bound to smooth the flow of goods.

The port of Mombasa

On the security side, an ISS project (Integrated Security System) in line with the ISPS code requirements (International Ship and Port Facility Security code) will be implemented in the new terminal. This 21.4 million dollars project is jointly funded by the Kenyan Government and the World Bank. Will the fixed surveillance camera network, the long range thermal cameras and the recognition systems for identifying container and trucks be able to block the traffickers' plans? Seizures around the world point out East Africa as a major source for the illegal ivory trade and Mombasa, hub port in the region, is their favorite crossing point. So far, the traffickers have been able to benefit from a high level complicity. A former member of the KPA (Kenya Port Authority, managing the sea ports including Mombasa along Kenya's coastline) has just been charged with multiple facts of smuggling dating back to 2012; the ivory cargoes were bound for Thailand and Vietnam.

Despite the adversity, there are still righteous men in Kenya and Mombasa is the only African port where ivory containers are steadily discovered prior to the departure of the ships.

Elephants

The African elephant, *Loxodonta Africana*, is listed in CITES Appendix I, except populations from South Africa, Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe which are in Appendix II. The Asian elephant, *Elephas maximus*, is listed in Appendix I.

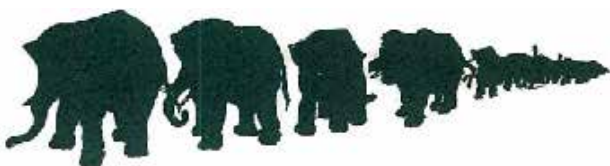
The seizure of ivory from 1st July to 30th September is equal to 2.147 éléphants

Taking the average weight of 4.5kg per tusk. The 907 seized ivory articles of which the weight was not communicated have not been included in the total.

Seizure of 775 pieces of ivory (1,292.2 kg of raw ivory and 194.2 kg of worked ivory)

**Mombasa, Kenya
2 July 2013**

The container originating from Uganda was tracked from its entrance to Kenya 2 weeks earlier. The Bajje Investments Uganda Ltd. Company expected its export to Port Klang, the principal port of Malaysia situated in the narrows of Malacca. The joint team of the Kenya Wildlife Service, the Kenya Revenue Authority, the Kenya Ports Authority and Port Police thwarted those plans. The declared merchandise mentioned swim bladders of dried fishes. Their odor perturbed the work of the sniffer dogs. The container was intercepted on the parking lot of a gas station at Jomvu. The value of the ivory is estimated at 250,000 Euros. The transport was Giesenya Freight Logistics Ltd of Nairobi. The port of Mombasa is a well-known place for contraband. The contraband ivory also hides beneath wood, fruit, electronics, tires...



© KWS



Dried fish swim bladders

**Seizure of 4 elephant trophies
Archers Post, Samburu County, Kenya
3 July 2013**

The pick-up transporting the trophies, hidden underneath the back seats, was intercepted on the road between Isiolo and Moyale at the border with Ethiopia. The agents from Kenyan Wildlife Service followed the vehicle from Isiolo. Although one of the 2 suspects fled, the second accomplice indicated to have been paid US\$ 57 for clandestine transportation in the rented vehicle. His "employer" regularly organized this type of smuggling, under the cover of mundane highway transport. The town of Isiolo is near the Buffalo Springs, Samburu, and Shaba National Reserves.

REPEAT OFFENSE

Seizure of 347 elephant tusks

Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

July 4th, 2013

On the Trail # 1 mentioned the seizure on May 23rd of a truck transporting bags of cement containing 781 tusks or pieces of tusks on National Route 1 in Malawi. The truck was intercepted by FAST (Flexible Anti-Smuggling Team). It was heading towards Lilongwe, the capital of Malawi. The cement came from a Mbeya factory in Tanzania. The director of criminal investigations in Tanzania thanked the Malawian police for having finished this contraband operation. July 12th, Selemani Isanzu Chasama, a member of the national fisheries agency, was arrested in Dar Es Salaam, the port capital of Tanzania, in illegal possession of 347 tusks, property of the Tanzanian government. The individual is strongly suspected of having also organized the attempted exportation of 781 tusks seized in May in Malawi. He may spend 15 years in prison.



Seizure of May 24, 2013. Malawi © Nyasa Times

Seizure of an ivory bracelet

Baltimore Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI), Maryland, USA

July 5, 2013

Customs and border police at Baltimore International Airport seized a bracelet from the wrist of an US passenger returning from Liberia. After the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) carried out an analysis it was confirmed that the bracelet was made from ivory. A collaboration between U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the USFWS aims to apply the decisions taken by the International Convention CITES on the American soil. In parallel to missions to control illegal immigration, the traffic of counterfeit goods, narcotics and stolen cars, the CBP intends to work hand in hand with the Port of Baltimore and airport authorities to strengthen the fight against illicit smuggling of animal derivatives and live animals.



© U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Seizure of 6 tusks (3 pairs)

Chandapura Market, State of Karnataka, India

6 July 2013

7 poachers of ages 20 to 49 were questioned as they had tried to sell tusks to police officers disguised as clients. The scene took place at a commercial fair. The authorities had equally found arms: 6 machetes and a helmet fitted with a search light. The accused admitted to having slaughtered 3 elephants 2 months ago in the forest of Anchetti in the state of Tamil Nadu.



© New Indian Express

Seizure of 3,287 kg of ivory

Port of Mombasa, Kenya

8 July 2013

The seized articles included 382 whole tusks and 62 pieces. Certain tusks weighed up to 60kg, indicating that the elephants slaughtered were elderly and had lived in the savannah in the parks protected inside Kenya or neighboring countries. They were hidden in a container and wrapped in synthetic gunny bags, while the official cargo mentioned 240 bags of peanuts. The investigation revealed that one Member of Parliament and the governor of the Rift Valley were implicated in this international traffic. One part of the intercepted ivory was stolen from the official and listed reserves in the Mombasa State House. The exporter indicated on the documents is a Nairobi based business, the Fresh Produce Company. The Malaysian importers company, Chuan Enterprises, the shipper and the forwarding agent are equally subjects of an investigation. On July 2, the authorities had already intercepted an ivory cargo of 1,488kg in the port of Mombasa.



© KWS

Poaching of an elephant
Rangchali River, Golaghat, Assam, India
July 9th, 2013

The elephant was shot and killed. He was a male around 25 years old. The poachers had followed him to the river before they tore off his tusks and ears. The trunk was found nearby. The violence of these acts, uncommon for this region, shocked the local population that dedicate themselves to the culture of tea and are sometimes face to face with incursions of elephants. The area is known for being a natural corridor between the Deopahar forest and the hills of Karby.



© Assam Times

Seizure of an elephant tusk
Cooch Behar, Western Bengal, India
July 10th, 2013

3 people from the state neighbouring Assam were arrested for possession of an elephant tusk.



Eléphant mâle d'Asie © AWF

A man sentenced to a US\$ 12,000 fine for the illegal importation of ivory.
Manukau, Auckland, New Zealand
July 10th, 2013

In September 2011, 2 ivory objects were intercepted in their packages coming from the United Kingdom and Portugal. Authorities discovered other ivory articles (statues, carved tusks, engraved letters) at the parcels' destination, the home of Jiezhen Jian, a 57 year old retiree of Chinese origin. After previously defending himself for knowing the value of ivory, he then admitted he favoured ivory objects due to their artistic and speculative worth. Over a period of 10 months, he had bought 299 objects made from precious materials and resold them in China over the Internet. This is the first time in New Zealand that someone has been convicted for illegally importing ivory.

Poaching of a male elephant
Aceh Jaya District, Province of Aceh, Sumatra, Indonesia
July 13, 2013

According to an old French proverb "when one wants to drown a dog one says it has rabies". An African and Asian proverb could be: "When one wants to kill an elephant one blames it for massive destruction". In Sumatra, a male elephant with a bad reputation was killed. However, the poachers did not forget to extract the tusks, 2 treasured souvenirs which in exchange for a lot of money will finish at the end of the smuggling chain in another Asian country. This is the third wild elephant killed around the Banda Aceh district.

The Sumatran elephant population is estimated to be less than 500 individuals. They have smaller tusks than elephants on the Indian continent. Sumatran elephants are victims of the loss of their natural habitat caused by deforestation and oil palm plantations. Deforestation has increased due to reconstruction works following the December 2004 tsunami. This incursion of human activities in the last natural habitat of the Sumatran elephant obviously causes conflict between humans and elephants.



© WWF-Indonesia

Seizure of 2 tusks
Loniak, Laikipia County, Kenya
July 15, 2013

The 2 tusks are suspected to be originated from elephant poaching carried out in the Mugie Conservancy. 4 suspects were arrested in the nearby village of Loniak. The inhabitants had notified the police. The accused had in their possession an AK 47, bullets, bows & arrows which were all seized.

2 men arrested for ivory trafficking
Xiamen, Fujian Province, China
July 15th 2013

The arrest took place after a seizure of 96 elephant tusks (197 kg) in June. Tusks fell out of a crate accidentally broken during handling in a logistic company. The recipient of the 6 tusks crates, named Wang, turned himself in after a few days claiming to be only the middleman unaware of the ivory smuggling. Police considered that Wang, an illiterate farmer, couldn't be the organizer of the smuggling and the investigation lead to the culprit: a man named Wu, owner of a furniture manufacture in Putian. Wu was arrested and finally confessed he was the final buyer of the elephant tusks. He claimed he bought them for US\$ 265,000 although the Chinese customs estimate the seizure value to US\$ 3,2 million

(about 16,000 US\$ per kg). The agreement between the 2 men included a compensation of US\$ 8,123 per year of imprisonment if Wang was arrested and condemned. The 2 men will be prosecuted for illegal buy and smuggling of protected species products. They risk up to 10 years imprisonment. Mr Wu wished to enhance his furniture with ivory.

Man sentenced to 5 years prison term for ivory trafficking

Ewo, Department of Western Cuvette, Republic of Congo

July 15, 2013

In the dilapidated courthouse in Ewo took place the animated trial of 37 year old Ghislain Ngondjo, known as Pepito. Suspected of being the god-father of ivory trafficking in the area of the Odzala-Kokoua National Park in North- West Congo, Pepito, sure of himself and prosperous has hired the services of 2 lawyers from Brazzaville. His many supporters, present at the hearings, gave their own version of support, mainly death threats aimed at the witnesses and applause when one of his lawyers castigated foreign influences in management of the national park.

Nevertheless, Pepito, his lawyers and his clan were severely shaken when on the second day of trial, 6 witnesses presenting themselves as former poachers denounced him as the leader of the network and provider of the necessary arsenal to track down and kill elephants. A seventh witness, former Eco-guard and provider of information to Pepito, also testify for the prosecution. Ghislain Ngondjo had been arrested on April 23 this year on a warrant of arrest issued by the Ewo county attorney. After 2 weeks of trial the judges sentenced him to a 5 year prison term, the maximum sentence, and he was immediately transferred 600km from Ewo to a secure prison in Brazzaville.

3 men condemned for illegal possession of ivory

Harare, Zimbabwe

July 16, 2013

They had been arrested on January 12th 2013 with the help of a tip off. The car in which the seizure took place was parked in Harare, in front of a shopping centre. In their possession were 18 elephant tusks (35kg). The value is estimated at US\$ 8,800. The tusks origin appears to be the Chikata area, near Guruve north of the country. Details about the sentencing are unknown. The average weight of the tusks seems to be 2kg. They were therefore removed from elephant calves.

4 people convicted for trafficking in protected species

Djoud, Southeast Region, Cameroon

July 16, 2013

2 men were sentenced to 2 years in prison, their accomplices to a year. They were arrested in September 2012 for possession of elephant meat and human bones. The investigation could not prove that the bones were the result of murder. They have been convicted of trafficking in elephant parts, desecration of grave and burial site.

Seizure of 583 ivory items (34 kg)

Macau, China

July 17th 2013

The sleuths custom officers at Macau airport were not tricked by the 2 South African tourists. The chocolate bars in 15 heavy boxes were in fact ivory bars coated with a tenacious chocolate color paint. It took soaking the fake candy in hot water to peel the coating and bring to light the fraud : 34 kg of ivory. The seizure is estimated at US\$ 72,500.



© Imagine China

Death of 2 officers from the Kenya Wildlife Service

Kipini Wildlife and Botanical Conservancy, Tana River County, Kenya

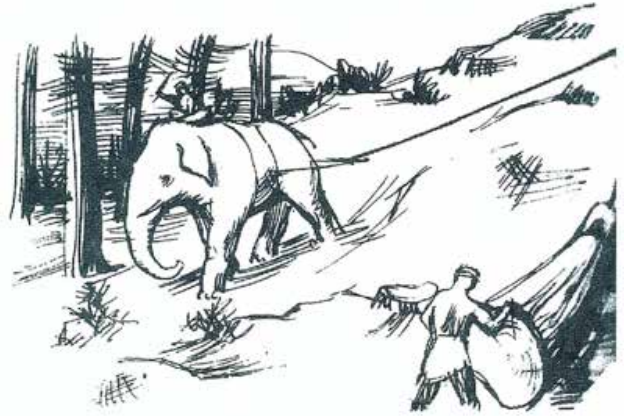
July 18, 2013

2 officers from the Kenya Wildlife Service were killed by poachers during 2 separate shoot outs. One ranger fell during the first shoot out when in the heart of the forest his team ran into a gang of poachers hunting down an elephant. The second incident occurred when the rangers reinforced by police were trying to recover the body of their friend. The poachers had remained in the vicinity and ambushed the rangers and police. The unit commanding officer fell. The bodies were eventually sent to Nairobi. At the scene of the crime, in the Tana River County, 400 km from the capital city, hundreds of cartridges and an AK47 were found. A poacher also died during the shoot outs.



**Seizure of 1,148 ivory tusks (2,183 kg)
Kwai Chung Port, Hong Kong, China
July 19th 2013**

The biggest part of the 1,148 tusks came from baby elephants. The estimated value is US\$ 2,25 millions. The tusks were hidden in a wood container from Togo. The Chinese customs discovered them because of irregularities in an X-ray check. There are not many elephants, a few dozens, living in Togo. Lomé is for West Africa what Mombasa is for East Africa. The Togolese port of Lomé is a smuggling hub for African countries of the area. Kwai Chung terminal is the main commercial port in Hong-Kong. This seizure of more than 2 tonnes of ivory is the biggest since 2010.



© DR. Archives Robin des Bois



The port of Lomé. © Norbert Geerardyn



The port of Kwai Chung, Hong Kong

**Domestic elephant poaching
Dhemaji district, State of Assam, India
July 20th 2013**

The carcass was found in the river Lali. The elephant had been killed a week before. He wore traces of bullet holes. The poachers had taken its tusks off. Police investigators believes that before being shot the elephant was domesticated and trained to transport wood in the hills, but the owner of the animal was yet to be identified.

**Sentencing to US\$ 460 fine for the possession of
2 pieces of carved ivory (3 kg)
Nairobi, Kenya
July 23, 2013**

The 28 year old woman who received the sentence had been arrested on June 10 in Nairobi. Police acted with the help of an informer. They then passed themselves off for potential buyers. The ivory in her possession was worth US\$ 3,500. The woman first pleaded not guilty before reconsidering and pleading guilty. If she is unable to pay the fine, she will face a 9 month prison term. She describes herself as a single mother with 3 children.

**Seizure of 4 pieces of tusks and a python skin
Region of Mwanza, Tanzania
July 25-27 2013**

In a series of joint operations in 2 regions of Inner Tanzania, Interpol and the Tanzanian police made 61 arrests linked to various crimes including trafficking in drugs, firearms and stolen cars. 4 pieces of tusks and a python skin were seized along with guns, cars and 40 cartons of counterfeit Cheers Spirit. Tanzania is home to the South African python (*Python natalensis*, Appendix II) and the African python (*Python sebae*, Appendix II)

**Seizure of 30 kg of Ivory
Nairobi, Kenya
July 27, 2013**

The 2 ivory suppliers were found out by policemen presenting themselves as clients. The total value of the seizure amounts to an estimated US\$ 34,500. Over the first 7 months of the year, 183 elephants have been killed in Kenya. In the meantime, Kenya's first lady, Margaret Kenyatta, wife of the President, launched a campaign entitled "Hands Off Our Elephants", a campaign to build awareness aimed at citizens of Kenya and the world on the necessity to protect elephant's future. The first lady highlights that elephants are a major source of touristic income and that ivory trafficking threatens 300,000 jobs in the country. Finally, Ms Kenyatta expresses great concern on the fact that at the present rate poaching is at there will be no more wild elephants in Kenya within 10 years.

Seizure of 28 kg of ivory
Bujumbura International Airport, Burundi
July 27th, 2013

The ivory was discovered in a handbag belonging to a Guinean man. The man, a resident of Burundi, was about to leave for Lomé. This tends to confirm suspicions that the Togolese capital holds a key role for dispatching ivory from Western Africa. The spokesperson for the national police explained that the "the individual was interrogated. The objective is to trace the entire network and to work together with the police of other countries in order to fight this international crime."

Seizure of an elephant tusk
Andheri, Central Development Region, Nepal
July 28th, 2013

The trafficker, a Chinese citizen, was arrested along the Araniko highway. His arrest followed the routine check of his vehicle. The authorities regularly carry out seizures of protected species along this route and its crossroads. The 6th and 18th of last May, pangolin scales were seized there. The man, coming from Kathmandu, was heading towards Tatopani (Central Development Region) at the Chinese border.

Seizure of 70 elephant tusks (305 kg)
District of Kisarawe, Region of Pwani, Tanzania
July 28th, 2013

Among the 9 people questioned, 2 were police officers. They were posted at the police post of Oyster Bay in Dar Es Salaam. The seizure represents the poaching of 35 elephants. The value is estimated at 525,000. Kisarawe is close to the Selous Game Reserve. The reserve is registered on the list of natural US\$ world heritage property by UNESCO. It covers 50,000 km² and is home to elephants, black rhinoceroses, giraffes, cheetahs, crocodiles... The reserve presents itself as the largest concentration of hippopotamuses and buffalos in the world.

Poaching of an elephant
Raja Nagar, State of Odisha, India
July 30th, 2013

The old solitary "tusker", around 60-70 years old, has been electrocuted by bandits after being pushed into a fence in a field of sugar cane during the night. The elephant ended up dying by dawn. Some farmers witnessing the scene gave the alert, and prevented the poachers from sawing off the tusks. Trying to protect their jobs, services in charge of the protection of the forest neighbouring the Athagarh suggested the animal died of old age. However no one from the public or the press believes this version of the story.

Arrest of 3 people suspected of intent to poach
Narok, Narok County, Kenya
July 30th, 2013

3 men were arrested in a lodge. The owner of the lodge informed the authorities of the presence of the armed men in his establishment. The suspects were equipped with a gun, an axe, 2 saws, and night vision goggles. They were most likely in the Maasai Mara Reserve to poach elephants.

One of the suspects was an old ranger with the Kenya Wildlife Service. He was fired from his position after an arrest for poaching rhinoceroses. A wanted notice against him was sent out after he failed to appear at his trial in Nanyuki (Rift Valley).

Seizure of 4 elephant tusks (35 kg)
Gatundu, Kiambu County, Kenya
July 31st, 2013

The fake buyers, real police officers, agreed with vendors for an appointment to negotiate and close the sale. Poachers then brought the tusks. The adult elephants may have been slaughtered in the Kinare forest, near the Aberdare National Park.

FAMILY AFFAIRS

Seizure of 50.2 kg of ivory
Noi Bai International Airport, Hanoi, Vietnam
July 31, 2013

The Vietnamese couple with 3 children landed from an airliner coming from Russia. In their luggage, 8 tusks of unequal size were accompanied by 2000 Marlboro packs.



© Thanh Nien News

Poaching of 2 elephants
Khorixas, Kunene Region, Namibia
July 2013

A dead elephant was found near a home. The owner claimed to have killed it in self-defence. However, a few days later in the same area, a second elephant was found dead without tusks. This macabre discovery revived the investigation into the death of the first elephant. Desert elephants of the Kunene region have been decimated by poaching in the 1980s. In 1998, the first herd of elephants came back. Today 7 groups are present in the area. The total population is about 600 specimens. The cohabitation with humans is a source of conflict.

Poaching of 4 elephants
Tsavo Conservation Area, South-East Kenya
July 2013

The rangers of KWS noticed an evolution in the methods of action taken by poaches. In order not to call attention to the gunshots, they were using poisoned arrows more and more. To return to these places, they rented boda-bodas. These bikes or stealthy motorcycle taxis waited in place for the end of the poaching operations to bring the thieves and their spoils to the Muangu and Mackinon townships along the Nairobi-Mombassa expressway. At least one boda-boda owner has been

killed by the poachers for fear he would tell the police. Finally, the deputy director of the Tsavo protected area expressed at this time his frustrations with seeing more and more KWS agents drawn into involvement with the poachers. At least a dozen cases have been reported. Rangers are on the trail of the poachers while a team of veterinarians struggled to save another elephant hit by a poisoned arrow.



Boda-boda is popular in East Africa
© Newvision et © Kikulacho



Trial held against 2 people for illegal possession of ivory
Tanzania
July

The loot of this 27 year old Tanzanian policeman and his accomplice is estimated at US\$ 75,400. They were held in custody in waits of their trial.

Seizure 2 pieces of ivory
Harugare, Region of Western Uganda
July 2013

A few days before the Migoul iman in Togo, pastors of the Rwenzori diocese in Uganda were implicated in ivory smuggling. It all began when Reverend Misiaki Maitene was accused of holding 2 tusks of dubious origin. A few weeks later, another pastor from the same diocese was tricked by pseudo buyers, who were in fact investigators. A middle man in the deal, Reverend Baguma led the undercover investigators to an accomplice. The initial offer involved 25 kg of ivory at a price of 118 U.S. \$ / kg. The reverend and the second suspect also mentioned another stock of ivory which «needed to dry.» Pastor Baguma said that it was a misunderstanding; he

was presented to the press in a rather ostentatious way by the authorities. The fall of the 2 reverends is to be credited to the new «Information and Intelligence» Unit of the Uganda Wildlife Authority.

Elephant poaching and vulture mortality among which lappet faced vultures (*Torgos tracheliotus*), hooded vultures (*Necrosyrtes monachus*), white-headed vultures (*Trigonoceps occipitalis*), cape vultures (*Gyps coprotheres*) and African white-backed vultures (*Gyps africanus*) all endangered and protected by Appendix II.
Bwabwata National Park, Regions of Caprivi and Kavango, Namibia
July 2013

Bands of vultures circling above the carcasses of the forest, savannah and desert, are benchmarks for rangers watching for poachers. Where there are vultures in the sky, there is often an elephant down. 600 vultures died after one or more elephants' carion was shared. 3 hypothesis could explain this raptors massacre.

- 1 - elephants were killed by poisoning and vultures were secondary victims;
- 2 - poachers spread a toxic liquid waste on the carcass to reduce flights of vultures and risks to be identified during their campaign inside the park.
- 3 - this massive mortality could also be due to live vultures feeding off the poisoned and dead vultures.

The poison has not been identified. All raptors have been gathered and summarily burned in the open. The carnage has probably hit several species, all vulnerable or endangered. IUCN vultures specialist estimates that at least 5 species of vultures were affected. Ivory trade kills more than elephants. On the Trail #1 relayed the news of a seizure on June 16, 2013 of 10 tusks at the border post of Singalamwe in Namibia found in a Zambian government official's car. The tusks are suspected to have originated from the Bwabwata National Park.



600 vultures ! ©Bruno Congar, Robin des Bois

Seizure of 447 kg of ivory

Dubai Airport

September 23, 2013

On September 23, 447 kg of ivory coming from Zimbabwe were seized at the airport in Dubai. The tusks were hidden among wooden sculptures. An employee in charge of customs clearance at the Harare airport was questioned by police. She protested her innocence and claims she did not know the ivory was there. Apparently the container had been brought to the airport by the manager of a travel agency in Harare. He also gave the names of 5 accomplices. Investigations are trying to further understand the relation between the seizure in Dubai and the massive poisonings in Hwange Park (cf. article on the cyanide channel).

Seizure of 6 tusks

Province of Nampula, Mozambique

August 1st, 2013

A Congolese man was arrested in possession of the tusks. He lived in a refugee camp in Nampula. He was an asylum seeker. Driving a minivan coming from Montepuez (Province of Cabo Delgado), he was supposed to go all the way to Nampula, about 250 km far. Police and boarder control agents led searches. In 2011, 126 Elephant tusks, 1 rhino horn and pangolin scales had been found aboard the Kota Mawar container-ship leaving Mozambique towards China.

Poaching of one elephant

Salu Reserved Forest, Region Bago, Myanmar

August 7, 2013

One of the wild elephants of Myanmar was found dead in the South of the country; his tusks were ripped off. His death seems to date back 5 days. The most recent count, dating back 7 years, mentions the figure of 4000 elephants. That must be taken with great precaution. Wild elephants continue to be captured and tamed then used to push and carry teck logs.

Seizure of 725.5 kg of ivory and the arrest of Emile N'Bouke

Lomé, Maritime Region, Togo

August 6, 2013

Emile N'Bouke, aged 58, aka «The Boss», was arrested at his home in Lomé. There were 700.5 kilograms of ivory. The investigation dates back to December 2012 when 24 tonnes of ivory coming from Lomé were seized in Malaysia. Elephants are counted only in tens in Togo but it is a transit country for raw or worked ivory from West Africa. An investigation carried out by the NGO Last Great Ape Organization (LAGA) and the Ministry of Environment has led to the dismantling of the network N'Bouke. The network was active in Gabon, Congo, Cameroon and Chad the ivory was sent to Nigeria then transits overland routes to Lomé. Another

branch of the gang then intervened and transformed much of the raw ivory into carved pieces to meet the Chinese market demands. It is highly likely, given the diversity of the ivory worked pieces that the task was carried out by laborers or at least tools from Hong Kong. A man from Guinea was also arrested while carving the ivory. 25 kg were seized. Emile N'Bouke is believed to be operating since 1976 and could be the cause of thousands of dead elephants. He has several bank accounts and could have helped fund poaching operations. He faces only one year in prison.



© LAGA

Poaching of a male elephant

Lemek hills, Province of the Rift Valley, Kenya

August 8 2013

The elephant ran several kilometres after being wounded. The poachers took his tusks at the end of this stag hunt. Agents from the Mara Elephant Project flew over the area. According to them, members of the herd had grouped around the corpse.

Seizure of 8 tusks

Minvoul, Province of Woleu-Ntem, Gabon

August 8, 2013

The ivory dealers were caught red-handed while making a transaction in a hotel. The Imam from the Minvoul Mosque is one of the quatuor. This operation in Gabon is somewhat of an aftershock of the seizure that took place last week in Togo. The EAGLE Network (Eco Activists for Governance an Law Enforcement) present in Togo, Congo, Cameroun and Guinea, participated in investigations. The imam and 2 of the accomplices were sentenced on September 18th to 5 months prison term and a 150 euros fine. During that same hearing, another ivory trafficker was sentenced to 5 months prison term and 230 Euros fine. In one year, 30 people were arrested for elephant poaching or ivory smuggling in Minvoul and the neighbouring town of Oyem near Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea.



© Conservation Justice

Seizure of 8 tusks or parts of ivory, 8 ivory masks, 15 belts made out of ivory, 20 lion teeth, 22 lion claws, a rhino head and a live parrot. Mbezi Beach, Region of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania August 9, 2013

The raid took place at the home of a 64 year old British logistics expert. The company for which he had worked, the Afrikaans Trans Logistics based in Johannesburg, had closed in 2012. The authorities also found pieces of ebony, precious stones and a hippopotamus skin that the accused was about to sell.



© Bruno Congar, Robin des Bois

Seizure of 2 tusks Ljebu Igbo, State of Ogun, Nigeria August 11, 2013

The 8 suspects were arrested. They were trying to sell the tusks around a hundred kilometres far from Lagos. 7 of them belonged to a local village. Orders appear to be taken from local « community leaders ». The elephant had been killed on August 8. He belonged to a group whose population is estimated to be of 348 individuals in 2006 (IUCN).

Seizure of 5 tusk pieces Nkararo, Masai Mara National Park, Narok County, Kenya 11 August 2013

The couple was arrested during the night of Sunday, August 11 carrying 5 unregistered elephant tusks estimated at US\$ 34,000.

REPEATED OFFENCE

Seizure of 93 kg of Ivory (10 tusks cut into 26 pieces) Franceville, Province of Haut-Ogooué, Gabon August 12, 2013

Obama is apparently one of the key men in trafficking of precious animal goods. He has been to prison already several times. The arrest took place thanks to sharing of information between Conservation Justice and teams from the forest and water preservation services. The 5 elephants were killed and mutilated in the forests of Haut-Ogooué. The tusks were driven to Franceville first, then to be sent to Libreville. In Franceville, Obama and Boston, his accomplice, were hidden, them and the tusks, by the Concierge at the University of Science and Technology of Masuku.

Seizure of 2 ivory vases District of Katmandou, Central Development Region, Nepal 13 August 2013

The group specialized in the creation of ivory vases. 2 of them were found at the home of one of the 7 suspects and in a craft store. 5 of the suspects were of Nepalese nationality, one of Chinese nationality, and the other of Indian nationality.

Seizure of 6.9 kg of worked ivory Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, Nairobi, Kenya 14 August 2013

The ivory was hidden in 15 bags and declared as macadamia nuts. A 31-year-old Chinese citizen had transported it. She first denied the charges before pleading guilty. On August 22, she was condemned to 8 months of prison for illegal possession of ivory, 15 months for contraband and 8 months for failure to declare. The prison charge of 31 months cannot be replaced by the payment of a fine.

Seizure of 10 pieces of tusks (26 kg) Mwanza, Region of Mwanza, Tanzania August 14, 2013

A 27-year-old man was arrested carrying the ivory. He was coming from Buhema (Mara Region) travelling on a bus that links Musoma to Mwanza. The ivory was hidden in a bag of coal.



Route Musoma – Mwanza © Nosala

FAMILY AFFAIRS

Seizure of 7 pieces of tusks (over 19 kg) Lambarene Province Middle Ogoué Gabon August 19, 2013

Another ivory hotshot was arrested in Gabon. Zico, Lambaréné city councillor, worked in ivory trafficking in family with his wife and son. It shone in the province of Middle Ogowe and neighboring provinces. Zico is the third major trafficker arrested in the region in August, after Minvoul imam and his accomplices and Rodrigue Messimo alias Obama. Wildlife services and Conservation Justice NGO remind at this occasion that it is forbidden to hunt, capture, hold, carry and sell all or part of the animal species receiving the highest protection status as does the elephant.



© Conservation Justice

Seizure of 26 elephants Provinces of Trat, Phang Nga, Phuket, Krabi and Chonburi, Thailand August 19 to 23, 2013

Tourists just love to ride the backs of elephants in south Thailand. An uncertain number of elephants were caught from the wild in neighboring countries, Myanmar especially, then tamed. Preferably, it is a custom to capture baby elephants who are easier to tame. They present a double economical advantage as they consume less feed and are well appreciated by children. After several years of domestication, they are presented to local authorities under false certificates proving their origin. 4 000 elephants are exploited by the tourist industry in Thailand. Only a few hundred still live in the wild. Control operations led this summer Thai authorities as camps were filling up with European tourists was a cause of discontent for the owners. The elephant Phunzup is an exceptional case. This ex-wild elephant around fifty years old was declared a domesticated elephant in a camp in Najomtien in the District of Pattaya. After his capture probably in the Province of Chaiyaphum, he was sold for approximately US\$ 13,000. Phunzup's mahout and the 2 owners were arrested. They had borrowed money from the family and promised to hire 2 of its members in the camp in exchange for the load. The deal dates back 7 years and there is now a warrant of arrest against the seller. By Thailand's law it is forbidden to capture elephants from their natural environment for recreational use.

On The Trail # 2. Robin des Bois



Phunzup © pattayamail

Poaching of an elephant Sipakuda, State of Odisha, India August 20, 2013

The elephant was 30 years old. The forest rangers found a piece of tusk near the carcass. He had no traces of wounds and was probably poisoned. He could be from a group of 7 elephants who migrated from the Chandaka Sanctuary; the 6 others have been killed in a collision with a train in December 2012.

The Chandaka Sanctuary was founded in 1982. It covers 172km². It is adjacent to the town of Bhubaneswar, capital of Odisha. It harbours 30 mammal species. The leopard had been reintroduced there in 1991. According to the NGO Conservation India, in 2012, only 20 elephants were counted in the reserve (against 80 in 2002). Proximity has generated human/pachyderm conflicts. Many herds have tried to seek better grounds, not always with great success.

Seizure of 2 elephant tails, a bag made of elephant skin, teeth, 2 shot gun cases made of hippopotamus skin (Hippopotamidae family), a leopard tortoise shell (Stigmochelys pardalis, Appendix II)

Amsterdam-Schophol Airport, Province of North-Holland, Holland August 21, 2013

The Belgian couple was returning from their honeymoon in Zimbabwe. It was a deadly honeymoon, from which they brought back bulky, illegal and seized souvenirs.



© Customs

Seizure of 158 elephant tusks
Phuoc Long port, Ho Chi Minh City, Province of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
August 22, 2013

The customs documents stated ox leather. The 2 first suspects were caught transporting the container illegally through the port. The alleged organizer of this trafficking, Ha Manh Giap, age 39, was rapidly localized in the Nghe An region in central Vietnam. But when police arrived at his home the man had already fled.

Seizure of 6 tusks (17 kg)
Shimba Hills National Park, Mkongani, Kwale County, Kenya
August 23, 2013

The tusks were taken from 3 elephant calves. The value of ivory is estimated at US\$ 6,800. The 2 suspects are well known by their KWS pursuers. KWS is threatening poachers in the area of immediate arrest and calling all inhabitants to cooperate to eradicate ivory trafficking.

Poaching of 2 elephants
Tsavo East National Park, Coast Province, Kenya
August 26, 2013

This is serious. In 2012, in Kenya, 384 elephants and 29 rhinos were killed. In 2013, already 190 elephants and 34 rhinos were killed. A significant number of rangers are retired, resigned or were resigned. Others were killed by poachers. No sunny spell in sight despite the good will of the government. From his trip to China, President Kenyatta came back with a Chinese proposal to contribute to a better protection of natural parks. To bring order and harmony in 22 national parks, 29 state reserves, 4 sanctuaries, 6 marine protected areas and 125 wildlife observatories, only 2,800 agents are available.

Poaching of 5 elephants
Laikipia County, Kenya
August 26 to September 1st, 2013

3 mutilated elephants were found in Loita forest, in the County of Laikipia. One of them was in a salt lick, the other 2 deep in the forest. They were killed at night time. In this area, poachers killed 7 elephants within 7 days. None were arrested.

Seizure of 43 tusks, 443 ivory bracelets, 360 ivory sticks
Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Ikeja, State of Lagos, Nigeria
August 28, 2013

A man originated from Mali was transporting the ivory objects in 2 bags. 2 men from Guinea were carrying the 43 tusks.

Seizure of 27 pieces of ivory (105 kg)
Suvarnabhumi International Airport, Bangkok, Thailand
August 29, 2013

The raw and semi worked ivory was seized in the luggage of a couple of Vietnamese in transit to Cambodia. The ivory was detected through X-rays. The ivory was in the shape of tusks, pearls and cubes.

The value of the seizure is estimated at US\$ 500,000. The couple said they were paid US\$ 1,500 to transport the goods. The ivory came from Luanda, Angola, where there are only a few hundred living elephants left.



7 poachers arrested
Tsavo Conservation Area, Eastern and Coast Provinces, Kenya
August 31, 2013

2 well known poachers were arrested along with 5 accomplices. Electric cables, collets, machetes, axes were confiscated and held as evidence. This KWS victory happened just days after the killing in Tsavo Park. One of the 2 elephants was killed close to a natural salt lick where wild animals frequently come.

Poaching of 2 elephants
Area of the Tsavo National Parks, Province of Coast, Kenya
August 2013

The elephants were killed with poisoned arrows early in the month of August. It is not known if M99 was used. The use of arrows is more and more frequent as it makes less noise. Around the same time, 2 other elephants were victims in a collision with a train in Ngutuni.

Seizure of 3 elephant tusks
Nairobi, Kenya
August 2013

Authorities intercepted the vehicle carrying the tusks in a neighborhood of Lang'ata. The men inside the vehicle refused to cooperate and opened fire on the policemen. 4 poachers died in the shooting and 3 tusks were found in their car.

Conviction of 2 people for the illegal possession of 6 elephant tusks (63,8 kg)

**Francistown, North-East District, Botswana
August 2013**

The affaire began December 1, 2009. The tusks have a value of US\$ 10,570. The 2 men, 29 and 41 years of age, were condemned to US\$ 1,775 or 3 years in prison if they didn't pay their fine before August 30th. The accused used their family responsibilities as an excuse asking the court to not impose a prison sentence.

**5 people arrested for setting up elephants traps
Ganjam district, state of Odisha, India**

August 2013

A new electric case for elephants, in India this time. 5 villagers were arrested after cables and electrical insulators have been discovered across a forest track used by 20 elephants divided into 3 herds. The villagers deny and say they have organized to fight against poaching in a Vana Sarankshana Samiti -VSS-, a forest management committee.

Poaching of an elephant

Arabuko-Sokoke Forest Reserve, Kilifi County, Kenya

August 2013

The elephant was found dying near a swamp in the forest. The killers had not had time to cut off his tusks. The pachyderm had been the target of poisoned spears. This is the first episode of poaching for ivory in the area. The locals had expressed concern on this issue since the a Chinese workers camp settled close by. The forest reserve is home to some 100 elephants in an area of 420 km².

Conviction of a man to 7 years in prison for selling fake ivory detectors

Cambridge, Cambridgeshire County, United Kingdom

August 2013

Ivory, drugs, tobacco and cash detectors were empty sealed boxes with handles and an antenna. They were worth up to US\$ 15,600 each and have served nothing except to enrich Gary Bolton's company, close to US\$ 5 million turnover per year, and eventually take him to court in Cambridge and prison for 7 years. In May, another English businessman was sentenced to 10 years in prison for selling 7000 fake ivory and bomb detectors.



UNPRECEDENTED

Sentencing of a Chinese Company to US\$ 3.5 million

Province of Cabo Delgado, Mozambique

August 2013

The Chinese Company Mozambique Tienhe Trading Development Ltd was sentenced to pay US\$ 3.5 million in damages to the Company Miti. The latter was demanding US\$ 5 million compensation. The case dates back to January 13th 2011. Miti rented containers to a Chinese partner to export wood towards China. The cargo was set aboard the container-ship *Kota Mawar* leaving Port of Pemba. An informer warned authorities of the presence of illegal goods on board. Searches led to the finding of 126 elephant tusks, 1 rhinoceros horn, and pangolin scales in one of Miti's containers. Such bad publicity cost them several clients and damaged its image. In addition to the US\$ 3.5 million compensation to Miti, the Tienhe Company was sentenced to the expenses of the legal procedure. Tienhe's representative has left the country and the sentencing will probably see its term. It is nevertheless a positive precedent and Robin des Bois encourages all shipping actors whose name soaks in trafficking business to protect their reputation in such a way.



Kota Mawar © Terry Hutson

Arrest of a poacher

Galana Ranch, Province of the Coast, Kenya

September 3, 2013

The duo was tracked for several days. One managed to escape. The other was arrested in possession of two AK47 submachine guns and 23 bullets.

Seizure of 21 kg of ivory

Isiolo, Isiolo County, Kenya

September 4, 2013

4 suspects were arrested in an estate house in Isiolo. The accused are from the neighbouring Samburu County. They were in the process of selling the tusks which they had hidden in charcoal sacks. Charcoal sacks are a common hiding place for ivory. The Isiolo County Commissioner regrets that youth aged from 18 to 25 are used by ivory traders.



© Bruno Congar, Robin des Bois

**Seizure of 10 elephant tusks (78 kg)
Zhanjiang, Province of Guangdong, China
September 4, 2013**

The vehicle seemed quite respectable. On the passenger seat was a woman with a baby. Everything was fine except that at the rear there was ivory packed in plastic bags. The same flying customs squad has seized in recent months 49 varans and 718 Siamese crocodiles (*Crocodylus siamensis*, Appendix I). In the wild, only a few thousand individuals of this species are probably left.

**Poaching of an elephant
Samburu National Reserve, Samburu County,
Kenya**

5th September 2013

Facebook: another elephant killed yesterday in Samburu, butchered and its tusks removed!!!

**Poaching of an elephant
Nyakweri Forest, Nyanza Province, Kenya
8th September 2013**

On the fringes of the forest, a young female elephant was riddled with bullets, 13 from the right side. Her tusks had disappeared.

**Man sentenced to pay a fine of US\$ 3,000 with
an 11 month suspended jail sentence
Plano, State of Texas, the United States of America
10th September 2013**

Mr Wan, based in the United States near Dallas, had tried to send 2 carved and sculpted ivory objects by post to 2 Chinese contacts. The goods were declared as wood carvings. The packages did not foil the suspicions of investigators specialised in the trafficking of wild animals.

**Seizure of 189 tusks (769kg)
Hong Kong, China
14th and 19th September 2013**

Raw and carved tusks were found by Hong Kong customs authorities in 3 different containers and container vessels. The sender also used 3 shipping

agents. The first discovery resulted from the intuition of the customs officers and their curiosity faced with an unusual cargo for Hong Kong, soya beans, especially when coming from the Côte d'Ivoire. The value is estimated at US\$ 1.5 million. The 3 x 20 foot containers had been routed through Malaysia. It's the third seizure of ivory in Hong Kong in 3 months. Some very long tusks possibly came from old stock. The origin of the tusks is unknown. In 1980 there were 4,000 elephants in Côte d'Ivoire, and today there are no more than 800.



© David Wong

**Poaching of elephants
Mount Peko National Park, Region of Guémon,
Côte d'Ivoire
Mid-September 2013**

We are Manchester City supporters. One of its players, Yaya Touré, who comes from the Côte d'Ivoire is involved in the fight against elephant poaching. "We must unite our efforts to put in place effective measures across Africa and across the world. Weighty words but still too isolated when the last Côte d'Ivoire elephants in the Mont Peko National Park are subject to night time attacks from poachers of indeterminate origin. Far removed from the usual information on the conflicts between poachers and elephants, the villagers are worried. "There are 3 left; they meet at night to drink in a clearing".



Yaya Touré wearing the strip of the Côte d'Ivoire national football team «the Elephants» © The Nation

Arrest of a poacher
Isiolo, Isiolo County, Kenya
17th September 2013

After returning from their work, the poachers fought amongst themselves in their van. A story about sharing or trust?

At the instigation of their leader, an Indian poacher who had moved to Africa, 2 of the accomplices set upon a 4th man, a former KWS officer apparently converted to stealing wild animals and tried to shoot him after tying him up. In the brawl, the driver lost control of the vehicle which toppled into the roadside. The police launched a manhunt and managed to catch the wounded former KWS officer and the Indian citizen. He was in possession of 400 cartridges. He was described by the Samburu Chief Superintendent of Police as "suspect n°1 in the poaching of elephants and rhinoceroses in East Africa".

Seizure of 33 pieces of ivory and ivory tusks
Avignon, Region of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, France

18th September 2013

Flea markets and car boot sales can be an opportunity for the curious to find objects whose origin is suspicious. Avignon International is seen as a «must» in the South of France for professional antique dealers and antique lovers. «Dozens of international freight forwarders deal with the removal of the antiques, packaging and customs formalities». The customs officers in the department of Vaucluse went straight to the source. The sellers of non-certified and seized ivory are liable to heavy fines.



© Customs Authority of Vaucluse

Arrest of 2 soldiers from the Republic of South Sudan army for trafficking in ivory
Kapoeta East County, State of Eastern Equatoria, Republic of South Sudan

18th September 2013

Elephants are dying in North Sudan and South Sudan. There were still 70 to 80,000 in the decade between 1960-70. Today there are perhaps 4,000, less the 5 which were killed this summer. 2 wildlife protection officers were caught red handed in the east of the country. The 2 suspects are members of the military staff of the SPLA (Sudan People's Liberation Army). In the bag were 2 "enormous" elephant's tusks.

Seizure of 4 kg of ivory
Wilaya (administrative division) of M'Sila, Algeria
19th September 2013

Has the Annaba, Guelma, El-Tarf triangle become a central component in the web of international trafficking in ivory and rhinoceros horns? That's the opinion of the Algerian press. The first signs go back to 2006 with 2 major seizures in Ghardaïa and Annaba. The latest signs are very recent. Filtering by the national gendarmerie on the route nationale 40 led to the questioning of 7 individuals in 2 different cars carrying almost 4 kg of ivory. In the space of 3 months, another 15 kilograms of raw ivory were seized in the North East of Algeria, where a kilo of ivory is said to be traded for around 10 billion dinar.

The Algerian press states that in recent years and since the outbreak of internal feuds in northern Mali ivory smuggling has developed in Algeria. In the 1st On the Trail bulletin, Robin des Bois expressed concern about the impacts of the war in Mali on the population of desert elephants. In response to Robin des Bois's letters the MINUSMA (United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali) replied: "the MINUSMA has sent out instructions to all personnel (military, police and civil) to "protect all wild animals and plants within the MINUSMA zone". These instructions include, among others, the protection of wild flora and fauna which are endangered (notably species protected by the CITES Convention)". Additional correspondence was carried out between Robin des Bois and the Environmental Officer from the United Nations Department of Field Support on the ranging ground of the elephants.

Seizure of 59 elephant tusks
Nakhon Ratchasima, Nakhon Ratchasima Province, Thailand

19th September 2013

The total value of the haul is estimated at more than US\$ 600,000. In their van they had 59 large tusks, evidently from old stock or from Tembe Park in South Africa. Caught in the net of a police patrol, the 2 ivory smugglers offered the police 1 million Baht (US\$ 32,000). Some of the tusks measured more than 2 m in length. Their role was to transport the cargo from the centre of Thailand to the border with Laos. They had been paid a little less than US\$ 1,000 for this task. The final destination for the white gold was China.



© Prasit Tangprasert

**Poaching of an elephant
Ghilalota, State of Assam, India
23rd or 24th September 2013**

The River Hohodi in spate carried the elephant carcass to the vicinity of the village. Dulu Bora a member of the Green Guard Nature Organisation and some children prevented several inhabitants from coming to chop up the carcass, particularly the trunk. The base of the left tusk was still visible. It had been cut off by the forest guards to avoid the elephant cremation and burial sites being desecrated by villagers. With the aid of a mechanical digger, chains and a lorry the dead male elephant was taken to an isolated spot.



© Assam Times

**Poaching of a male elephant
Nyakwere Forest, Kisumu County, Kenya
24th September 2013**

The solitary elephant was targeted by poisoned arrows. Its tusks had been cut off with an electric saw.

FAMILY AFFAIRS

**Sentencing of a man to 3 years in prison for having killed more than 100 elephants
Yokadouma, East Region, Cameroon
24th September 2013**

For people like the Sangha brothers, the Tri-National Sangha Reserve is nothing more than an ivory mine. Symphorien Sangha was sentenced to 3 years in prison and a fine of US\$ 43,000 for damages. Should he fail to pay, the sentence will be increased by 2 years. Symphorien Sangha has been blamed for the death of several dozens of elephants and suspected of acting as a guide to Sudanese fighters who came on horseback in 2010 to plunder ivory. He may soon be joined by René, his twin brother, accomplice and an ex-wildlife ranger who long ago turned to the bad.

**Poaching of 2 elephants
Amaka Ranch, Tsavo Conservation Area, Taita Taveta County, Kenya
25th September 2013**

The suspects were interrogated about the death of 2 elephants in the protected park of Tsavo. At the time of arrest shots were exchanged and a KWS officer was briefly admitted to hospital.

**Theft of a 55 cm elephant tusk
Wingham Wildlife Park, Kent, United Kingdom
29th September 2013**

The tusk had been seized by the English customs authorities and loaned to Wingham Wildlife Park in Kent. It was part of an educational exhibition explaining the causes of the massacre of elephants to children. It was stolen by 2 men at the beginning of a Sunday afternoon. This theft follows the attempt at the Natural History Museum in Paris by a criminal equipped with a chainsaw, the roar of which alerted the local residents in the night. After rhinoceros horns, it's the turn of elephant tusks. One more reason to destroy the stocks of illegal ivory and not tempting fate. Will France and Hong Kong who persist in retaining seized ivory for so-called educational purposes listen to this warning?



**Sentencing of a man to 8 years in prison and a US\$ 49,000 fine for smuggling 125.79 kg of ivory, 348 g of hippopotamus teeth and a carved ivory dragon
Province of Zhejiang, China
September 2013**

**Province of Zhejiang, China
September 2013**

He was sentenced to 8 years in prison. He was importing, by the post, ivory objects to China from a Japanese online auction website. He would then sell them in China via online transaction platforms. The parcels were accompanied by falsified customs documents. The smuggling was carried out from April to September 2011.



**Poaching of an elephant
Anchetty Reserve Forest, State of Tamil Nadu, India
September 2013**

The victim was around 8 years old and died in the middle of the forest, with its tusks completely cut off. "The work of a pro", according to the investigators. Several bullets right in the head. It's reminiscent of the infamous era of Veerappan, a sort of Robin Hood gone wrong to whom the violent death of around 20 elephants was attributed in the States of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. As soon as he was killed by the Indian police in 2004, a hiatus was perceived in the poaching of elephants. 5 inhabitants of the village of Anchetty were questioned. They were suspected of being accomplices. Several hundred of their fellow citizens blocked a

motorway for several hours to protest against the suspicions which they judged to be unfounded. The authority in charge of protecting the forest of Anchetty banned the media present from taking photos and videos of the elephant's carcass.

**Poaching of 3 elephants
Mbarangandu, Region of Ruvuma, Tanzania
September 2013**

3 elephants from Mbarangandu in Tanzania were killed and their tusks removed in an area where wildlife is managed with the participation of the village communities (Wildlife Management Area).

**Seizure of 2 leopard skins, 6 elephant tusks, 57 ivory products and 6 trunks
Weihai, Shandong Province, China
September 2013**

Ivory, the star of the show, is increasingly accompanied by elephant trunks as a supporting act.



© General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China

**Arrest of a man for trafficking in elephant tusks
Edea, Littoral Region, Cameroon
September 2013**

He was arrested by the authorities near Douala trying to sell elephants' teeth other than the upper incisors, i.e. the tusks.

**Seizure of 116kg of ivory objects and 2,5 kg of pangolin scales
Entebbe international Airport, Kampala District, Uganda
September 2013**

The 2 Chinese nationals pretended that they had bought everything in the street without realising that they were acting illegally. However, one of them had taken the trouble to stuff 100 to 200 pangolin scales in his socks. The worked ivory was in the form of necklaces and bracelets. A Ugandan observer remarked on the increase in the trafficking of carved objects. Is this because skilled workers from Hong Kong are basing themselves in Africa?

**Arrest of 14 Chinese nationals for poaching an elephant and a pangolin
Akana, Ogooué-Ivindo Province, Gabon
September 2013**

The Chinese employees of the Emirates Bois Sarl Forestry Company were not only interested in okoumé (*Aucoumea klaineana*) the main forest resource in Gabon. At breakfast, they enjoyed a stew of elephant's trunks. In their site facilities the Gabon National Parks Agency discovered fresh and smoked elephant meat, sections of tusks to be transformed into jewellery, ivory bracelets and necklaces, and pangolin scales. The tools used for transforming the raw ivory into carved ivory were not found. The

Chinese workers denounced a hunter from the village of Akana. Quite near, the eco-guards found a putrefying elephant carcass.



© ANPN



Trunk lovers © ANPN

In 2009, the Chinese company Honest Timber bought the French Company Plysolor that runs a factory for okoumé transformation and who owns a timber concession of 580 000 in Gabon. Honest Timber Gabon made pledged to guaranty the factory's future with investments and to obtain 500 000 more hectares from the Gabon government. In Gabon forests, there is okoumé, padouk (*Pterocar-*

pus soyauxxi), moabi (*Baillonella toxisperma*), there are also elephants, buffalos, antelopes, primates. The factory in France rapidly closed and the presence of Chinese companies spread just as quickly in Gabon without any setting of constraining guidelines concerning tree logging and protection of fauna. The okoumé logs are exported to China by the Gabonese port of Owendo.



M. Guoha Zang, President of Honest Timber Gabon, in front of an okoumé timber.



Seizure of 2 elephant tusks (11kg) Madikeri, State of Karnataka, India September 2013

He was in possession of 2 tusks. Estimated value US\$ 16,000. He was third in the marketing chain. All those involved in this affair tried to hide their tracks. The tusks were allegedly removed from an elephant in the forest after its natural death.

Conviction of a man for trafficking in ivory after being arrested with 28 elephant tusks and more than 200 ivory objects.

Mkukula, Central Region, Republic of Malawi September 2013

The courts had been lenient with this 24-year-old young man who 3 weeks ago had attempted to flee to China with 28 tusks, 126 bracelets, 2 necklaces and 80 ivory tablets in his luggage, the equivalent of 17 elephants. He had only received a US\$ 400 fine, to be converted into a 15-month prison sentence if he failed to pay. He did not fail and was at once set free. The Department of Parks and Wildlife criticised the judgement. Dixie Makwale, the Environmental Education Coordinator at the Nature Sanctuary in Lilongwe, the capital of Malawi, also deplored the court's leniency. The total value of the seizure is estimated at more than US\$ 36,000. "Appealing the case will show our commitment to the fight against ivory trafficking in Malawi".

Tusk Secret

The French Minister of Ecology possesses strategic stockpiles of elephant tusks. Under no circumstances can the inventories, when they exist, be diffused to the public. Security reasons are given. Ivory is likened to chemical weapons, it must remain top secret. Such is the essence of the reply from the French Minister of Ecology to Robin des Bois's e-mail which, among other subjects, requested the inventory of illegal ivory seized by the authorities. The response was dated October 2, 2013, Robin des Bois's e-mail was sent on July 19, 2013.

As for the destruction of stocks seized since 1975 and the entry into force of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, there is no need to hesitate. Europe needs a forerunner in the field. But according to the French Minister, it is not appropriate for France to take on such a lead. The destruction of illegal ivory stockpiles would be only undertaken by States with a dirty record summoned by the CITES Secretary to comply with the rules in place. «Structural reforms needed to effectively fight against illegal ivory trade are particularly difficult to implement in the countries concerned. It would seem that symbolic and highly publicized actions were preferred, at least initially, to true substantive actions ». The destruction of ivory stocks has simply been reduced to a smoke screen by the French government.

Fortunately, the United States see things differently. On September 24 they notified the CITES Secretariat of their decision to destroy the stockpile of illegal ivory seized over the last 25 years on their territory (5.4 tonnes). A partial inventory provided by French Customs reported 8 tonnes of ivory seized in France between 1998 and 2012. In their notification, the United States invited all CITES Parties to support their action "by destroying their own stockpiles of confiscated ivory" and to extend this destruction "to other illegally traded CITES specimens to demonstrate that all CITES Parties stand together in the global effort to combat poaching and illegal wildlife trade."

Some good reasons to destroy stockpiled ivory:

- Show the country's determination to fight against ivory related crime.
- Avoid theft or misappropriation of seized ivory.
- Eradicate any temptation for speculation of ivory trade awaiting the possibility of reopening legal ivory trade.
- Demonstrate solidarity with African and Asian countries fighting against poaching and which deplore many victims among wildlife guardians.
- Join in the recent movement of voluntary destruction (Philippines, State of Maharashtra in India, and the United States).
- Be consistent with destruction procedures of other seized substances and articles (drugs, medicines, Chanel bags or counterfeit Lacoste shirts).

Multi-Species

Seizure of 95 dead animals (5 crocodiles and 90 birds) and 14 living turtles

Manila, Tondo district, Philippines

3 July 2013

The authorities acted thanks to confidential information denouncing animal trafficking between the occidental part of the Isle of Palawan and Manila. Upon their arrival at the home of the trafficker, they found 2 dead animals. In all likelihood, the suspects had killed the animals, except 2 turtles, before fleeing.

The operation was led by the Philippine Operations Group on Ivory and Illegal Wildlife Trade (POGI), created in June of 2013. The specimens were destined to be presented in the markets of Manila which are reputed for having wild animals for domestic use for sale. Among the 14 turtles, some were of the Philippine forest turtle species (*Siebenrockiella leytensis*, Appendix II), endemic in the Philippines. The crocodiles were marine crocodiles (*Crocodylus porosus*, Appendix I). The seizure also contained 78 common hill mynah birds (*Gracula religiosa*, Appendix II) and 12 blue-naped parrots (*Tanygnathus lucionensis*, Appendix II).



Blue-naped parrots © Romy Ocon

Seizure of 72 parts and derivatives of wildlife Buenos Aires, Argentina

July 8, 2013

Authorities responsible for the protection of wildlife seized 72 parts and derivatives made from hides and skins of wild animals. The company did not have the legal documents required proving the legal origin of the goods.

Seizure and arrest

Sumatran tiger skin (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I)

Jaguar pelt (*Panthera onca*, Appendix I)

Leopard pelt leopard skin coat (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I)

Elephant ivory (*Elephas maximus*, Appendix I)

Whale teeth (sperm whale) (*Physeter macrocephalus*, Appendix I)

Whale bone (Order Cetacea)

Texas tortoise (*Gopherus berlandieri*, Appendix II)

Sea turtle shells

Bird mounts of species protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act: canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*), cinnamon teal (*Anas cyanoptera*), mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), western scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma californica*)

Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, United States of America (Los Angeles, California)

July 11, 2013

Operation Wild Web was carried out in the United States and in 3 Asian countries in August 2012. Charges started to be filed in California:

- A couple from Huntington Beach for selling a Sumatran tiger skin for US\$ 8,000 on the internet site Craigslist;

- A citizen from Hacienda Heights for selling a jaguar pelt (US\$ 15,000) on Craigslist;

- A man living in Encino for selling bird mounts of species protected by the historical international Migratory Bird Treaty Act ;

- An antique dealer in Los Angeles – East Meets West Antiques – for selling a pair of seal fur moccasins (US\$ 750) but also bags and a traditional doll made of whale teeth. He could be sentenced to up to 5 years in prison.

The final verdicts are expected before the end of the year, in the meantime, the cases of the accused will be heard and their lawyers will try to prove their innocence.

California is not the only state involved. 154 violations were exposed, notably in Texas and in Florida the list includes walrus ivory, clocks made out of turtle shells and a leopard skin coat. Gref Williford, head of the Texas Park and Wildlife Department criminal investigation unit sums up with a rather bitter tone "It is all about the bottom line and greed, if there is a way to make a dollar off it they will".

Seizure of 21 live animals, among which 4 white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*, Appendix III), 3 yellow-headed Amazons (*Amazona oratrix*, Appendix I), 1 highland guan (*Penelopina nigra*, Appendix III)

Department of Huehuetenango, Guatemala
July 18, 2013

The animals were retrieved in the course of 22 verification operations carried out in private homes by agents from the Nature Protection Division. One of the deer died of a heart attack during capture in the makeshift temporary enclosure. The other animals were brought to a shelter.



© Prensa Libre

Seizure of 16 live pythons, 7 lizards (3 of which were dead), 7 slender loris (*Loris tardigradus*, Appendix II)

Nanning, Autonomous Region of Guangxi Zhuang, China

July 19, 2013

The seized animals were found out back of a 10 m² shack, where lived a couple and a repulsive stench. The animals were taken to a shelter, the Guangxi Endangered Wildlife Research Centre. A 3.5m long python skin was also found, its exact species is unknown. The Asiatic rock python (*Python molurus*, Appendix II) and the Burmese python (*Python bivittatus*, Appendix II) live in China. The slender loris is an endemic species from Sri Lanka. Its population is estimated to be of 1,500 individuals. The main threat to this species is the destruction of its habitat. Poaching feeds the pets market and locally the animals are used for food. The lizard species has not been determined. 2 species that live in China are listed in CITES, the common water monitor (*Varanus salvator*, Appendix II) and the Bengal black lizard (*Varanus bengalensis*, Appendix I).



Loris tardigradus © Little Fireface Project

Seizure of 31 live animals including 16 South American yellow-footed tortoise (*Chelonoidis denticulata*, Appendix II), 6 pacas (*Cuniculus paca*, Appendix III), 2 white-lipped peccary (*Tayassu pecari*, Appendix II) et 1 boa constrictor (*Boa constrictor*, Appendix II).

Canton of Joya de los Sachas, Province of Orellana, Ecuador

July 24, 2013

The seizure took place at the home of an animal trainer. The owner did not have the require authorizations. The animals were kept in overcrowded and filthy cages and fences. Some showed signs of malnutrition. They were taken to a zoo and put in quarantine. They will be released into the wild once their physical condition allows it.

Seizure of 173 common hill mynas (*Gracula religiosa*, Appendix II), 3 blue-naped parrots (*Tanygnathus lucionensis*, Appendix II), 2 Palawan hornbills (*Anthracoceros marchei*, Appendix II), and 5 oriental small-clawed otters (*Aonyx cinerea*, Appendix II)

Dalahican, Province of Quezon, Philippines

July 28th, 2013

The animals were shut away in metal cages in an Isuzu. The couple and the 2 other passengers, all

Palawan residents, were kept in view, the objective being to know all sides of the traffic operation.

The common hill mynas were collected to be companion animals. The species has been registered under Appendix II of CITES since 1997. The population of Palawan Hornbills is estimated to be between 2,500 to 10,000. They are poached as trophies, for food, and for the domestic animal market. Oriental small-clawed otters are the smallest otters in the world, measuring only up to 90cm long and weighing around 5kg. The destruction and degradation of their habitat by domestic pollution, agricultural practices, deforestation, and human encroachment are all threats to this otter.



Oriental small-clawed otter © Dave Gunn

Seizure of 2 pacas (*Cuniculus paca*, Appendix III in Honduras), one brown-throated sloth (*Bradypus variegatus*, Appendix II), one keel-billed toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*, Appendix II)

Barra del Colorado, Limon Province, Costa Rica

July 29th, 2013

The animals were in bags. The sloth was around 2 months old. The toucan was around 3 years old. The illegal traffic of sloths is on the rise. They are poached as part of the domestic animals market. However, the biology of and diet particular to sloths make their survival at the homes of individuals improbable.



Brown-throated sloth © Daniel Hinckley

Seizure of 20 animals, including 4 Geoffrey's spider monkeys (*Ateles geoffroyi*, Appendix II), 3 Harris's hawk's (*Parabuteo unicinctus*, Appendix

**II), and 2 American crocodiles (*Crocodylus acutus*, Appendix I)
Campeche, State of Campeche, Mexico
Guasave, State of Sinaloa, Mexico
July 2013**

The animals were confiscated in 2 operations. The first took place in the form of a national program to inspect circuses. 2 Geoffrey's spider monkeys were recovered in a circus in Campeche. The owners did not have documents stating the legal origin of the monkeys. They were chained to cast-iron posts and could hardly move. The circus opened several years ago by receiving animals as gifts.

The second operation took place in a recreational park in Guasave and ended in the confiscation of 2 Geoffrey's spider monkeys, 3 Harris's hawks, 2 American crocodiles, 6 white tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*, Appendix III in Guatemala), and 5 wild boars (Genre *Sus*). The owners did not have the legal documents for their possession.



Harris's hawks can have up for a 124cm wingspan.
© Pablo Lăutaud

**Illegal trade of wildlife
Duque de Caxias, State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
July 2013**

2 adolescents aged 13 and 15 were apprehended. The traffickers in the making had 46 living birds and 10 turtles whose origins and species are not yet known, as well as 10 dogs. All of them would be for sale.

.....
● **Good news**
● **Release of 182 animals in Brazil**
● Species include: saffron finch (*Sicalis flaveola*),
● rufous-collared sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*), lined seedeater (*Sporophila lineola*) and
● red-browed amazon (*Amazona rhodocorytha*,
● Appendix I). Coatis (genus *Nasua*) and capuchin
● monkeys (genus *Sapajus*, Appendix II) were also
● released. This release was part of the 25th anniversary
● celebrations in July of the BPMA (Military
● Police Environmental Battalion) in the State of
● Espirito Santo. The release was carried out by
● BPMA and CEREIAS (Centre for the release of
● wild animals). It was the fourth release into the
● wild since March 2013. In all, 808 animals have
● been released into their natural habitat. The animals
● had been seized in operations carried out
● by IBAMA (Brazilian Institute of Environment and
● Renewable Natural Resources) and the BPMA.
.....

**Seizure of 163 animals
State of Paraiba, Brazil
1st week of August, 2013**

The animals were seized during the operation Orion. The Operation against wild animal trafficking took place in sales and market places of the State of Paraiba. Over a hundred birds were seized as well as primates. 10 animals in good health were set free immediately into the Caatinga Biosphere Reserve.

**Seizure of 1,120 elephant tusks, 13 rhinoceros horns, 5 leopard skins
Port of Hong Kong, China
August 6, 2013**

All these remains of precious and protected biodiversity were piled in a container supposedly transporting timber from Nigeria. The value of the cargo is estimated at US\$ 5.3 million. The total weight is 2,266 kg. Rising of Chinese presence in Africa couples with the rise in poaching. Exploitation of wood in Africa by Chinese companies and its exportation toward Chinese ports is making easier poaching, its financing and the illegal transportation to China. The question remains how many containers carrying protected species escape the vigilance of customs. Mombasa in Kenya is the only African port where containers filled with ivory are discovered before they departure towards Asia.



© Chinese Customs

Seizure of 43 animals, including 5 blue-and-gold macaw (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II), 1 hyacinth macaw (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*, Appendix I), 1 green-winged macaw (*Ara chloropterus*, Appendix II), 5 toucans (order of Piciformes), 1 black-capped Capuchin (*Cebus apella*, Appendix II), 4 red-footed tortoise (*Chelonoidis carbonaria*, Appendix II).

**Săo Caetano, State of Pernambuco, Brazil
August 7, 2013**

The animals were found in a farm. Their health is good. The owner is a doctor. He has to pay a fine of US\$ 60,200. 3 of the macaws were living in a tree on his land. Their wings had been cut to keep them from flying away. The other birds were kept in an aviary. Be it for trade or for his personal collection, the man's motive is not clearly established.

**Seizure of a live dwarf leopard or ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*, Appendix I), 6 boa constrictors (*Boa constrictor*, Appendix II) and 25 boa constrictor skins
Province of Santo Domingo de los Tsăchilas,**

Ecuador

August 12 to 16, 2013

During operations led between the 12th and 16th of August, environmental police seized 25 boa skins and 8 wild animals locked up in cages including a Central American agouti (*Dasyprocta punctata*). According to figures from the Ecuadorian Ministry of the Environment, 120 such operations were carried out in 2012 thanks to which 1,200 wild animals were saved, mainly turtles, parrots, macaws, monkeys and close to 680kg of bush meat were seized.

Seizure of 174 animals : 20 rock monitors (*Varanus albigularis*, Appendix II), 22 chameleon (Senegal chameleon *Chamaeleo senegalensis* Appendix II, crested chameleon *Trioceus cristatus* Appendix II, *Chamaeleo necasi* Appendix II, graceful chameleon *Chamaeleo gracilis*, Appendix II), 34 bell's hinged tortoises (*Kinixys belliana*, Appendix II), 98 home's hinge-back tortoise (*Kinixys homeana*, Appendix II)

Zaventem Airport, Province of Flemish Brabant, Belgium

August 19, 2013

A large size pet shop in the Brussels suburbs imported 700 reptiles from Africa among which many arrive dead at the Zaventem Airport on a flight from Togo. The Belgian border police's report of the seizure specifies that transportation conditions imposed by the IATA (International Air Transport Association) for live animals are not followed and many individuals are over the legal age for import. The CITES legal permit is withdrawn categorically for 174 individuals. As a Belgian press agency added, "The 526 other animals went through customs with no problem." The illegal immigrants were temporarily taken in by the Opplabbeek "nature help-centre".

Seizure of 20 live animals, including 1 white-lipped peccary (*Tayassu pecari*, Appendix II), 1 boa constrictor (*Boa constrictor*, Appendix II), 8 giant South American turtles (*Podocnemis expansa*, Appendix II), 1 spectacled caiman (*Caiman crocodilus*, Appendix II), 3 blue-and-gold macaws (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II), 1 green-winged macaw (*Ara chloropterus*, Appendix II), 2 orange-winged amazons (*Amazona Amazonica*, Appendix II).

Archidona, Province of Napo, Ecuador

August 2013

The animals were held in the storage rooms of a hostel. They were transported to authorised refuge centres. After verification of their physical condition and a quarantine period, it will be decided what must follow.

The giant South American turtle is the biggest freshwater turtle of South America. It can reach up to 107cm and 90 kg. Orange-winged amazons are poached for their meat and their eggs are collected to supply the pets market.

Seizure of 28 animals including 5 scarlet macaws (*Ara macao*, Appendix I), 2 military macaws (*Ara militaris*, Appendix I), 3 yellow-crowned amazons (*Amazona ochrocephala*, Appendix II),

2 mealy amazons (*Amazona farinosa*, Appendix II), 2 geoffroy's spider monkey (*Ateles geoffroyi* Appendix II), 2 white-faced capuchins (*Cebus capucinus*, Appendix II) and 6 rhinoclemmys areolata turtles (*Rhinoclemmys areolata*, not listed by CITES) and 6 doves (Columbidae family)

El Rancho, Department of El Progreso, Guatemala

August 2013

The animals were part of the private collection of a hotel. They were kept in cages as decoration for an ornamental garden.



Ateles geoffroyi

Seizure of 9 live animals: 1 jaguar (*Panthera onca*, Appendix I), 1 puma (*Puma concolor*, Appendix II), 1 white-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*, Appendix III au Guatemala), 3 American flamingos (*Phoenicopterus ruber*, Appendix II), 1 military macaw (*Ara militaris*, Appendix I), 2 Geoffroy's spider monkeys (*Ateles geoffroyi*, Appendix II).

Puerto Vallarta Zoo, State of Jalisco, Mexico

August 2013

The zoo did not have any documentation proving the origin of these animals to be legal.

Jaguars are tracked down and poached when in competition with Man. It is also hunted for its skin, teeth and claws and captured to supply zoos. Pumas are hunted and subjected to trapping to avoid possible attacks on livestock and because people are afraid of them. Population of military macaws is estimated between 10,000 and 20,000 individuals. Loss of habitat and poaching to supply the pets market are the main threats for the species survival. Poaching of the nests occurs particularly in the Mexicans states of Jalisco and Nayarit.



FAMILY AFFAIRS

Seizure of 2.95 kg of bear meat (family Ursidae), 1.2 kg of pangolin scales (genus *Manis*, Appendix II), 3 soft-shell turtles (family Trionychidae), 20 bats (order Chiroptera) and 7, 4kg of wild boar meat (genus *Sus*)
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
August 2013

On the menu, on special request, there was bear foot, tapir snout and a few other treats made of bats and turtles. The average price for a special meal was US\$ 18. The 2 bear species living in Malaysia are in Appendix I. The 2 restaurant managers, brother and sister, were arrested then released on bail of US\$ 4,500 each.



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Seizure of 70 live pangolins and 300 kg of snake skins
Island of Pangkor, State of Pangkor, Malaysia
20th September 2013

A fishing boat without a name or registration number is bound to attract the attention of the marine authorities, in Malaysian waters as elsewhere. «The fishermen» came from Indonesia and were attempting to fraudulently export dead and living protected animals which had nothing to do with the sea across the Strait of Malacca.



A snake fishing © Ikhwan Munir

Seizure of 14 live parrots (Psittaciformes order) and an oncilla (*Leopardus tigrinus*, Appendix I)
Loreto, State of Maranhão, Brazil
26th September 2013

The state police visited the man in his home after he had been denounced anonymously. An oncilla skin, 14 parrots and 35 chopi blackbirds (*Gnorimopsar chopi*) were found at his home. 2 birds were dead and the other 47 were in a bad way. They were taken to Mirador State Park. Also found were some lamps, one hunting rifle, ammunition and cages. The man was accused of environmental offence,

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mistreating wild animals and the illegal possession of weapons. According to an official the animal traffickers come from other Brazilian states such as Pernambuco and Ceara and rely on the help of local people to capture the animals.



Leopardus tigrinus © Geigy

Court appearance of 4 men for the poaching and trafficking of an elephant, a leopard (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I), a cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*, Appendix I), a buffalo (Bovidae), an eland (*Oryx*, Appendix I), a zebra and the shipping of 50 white pelican trophies (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*).

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
September 2013

The 4 Pakistani nationals were charged with poaching large mammals and birds between January 2005 and September 2013. The total value of this traffic in pelicans is estimated at US\$ 4,000. This bird population is not yet considered as endangered but if poaching and exportation of them to Asia increases, it soon could be.

The by-products of the elephant, a panther, the leopard, the eland, a zebra and an impala are valued respectively at US\$ 15,000, US\$ 4,900, US\$ 3,500, US\$ 1,700, US\$ 1,200 and US\$ 320. The traffickers will be brought before the Dar es Salaam High Court of Justice.



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Seizure of 500 turtle eggs (genus *Podocnemis*, Appendix II) and 75 chicks of the following species: golden-shouldered parrot (*Psephotus chrysopterygius*, Appendix I), monk parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*, Appendix II), red-mas-

ked parakeet (*Aratinga erythrogenys*, Appendix II) and blue-headed parrot (*Pionus menstruus*, Appendix II)

**Santa Cruz, Province of Andrés Ibáñez, Bolivia
September 2013**

The seizure took place in the markets of Los Pozos, Ramada, and the Cumavi fair. It's a surprise operation that the Colombian government carried out in this period when the fledglings are commonly found in the markets. It coincides with the parrots' mating season. 5 people caught in the act were not prosecuted. In fact it was the first time they had been inspected. If they are ever caught red-handed again, they will be taken to court. The birds are quickly sent to the Ser Fauna Foundation, which gives them all the veterinary care necessary and can reintroduce them into their habitat. According to a manager, the real surprise was the seizure of turtle eggs, «which in such a large quantity places the species in danger».



Psephotus chrysopterygius © Geoff Jones



Los Pozos market © El Deber

Seizure of stuffed animals: a lion (*Panthera leo*, Appendix II), a brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II), an elephant's trunk and a bison's head (*Bison bison*, Appendix II)

**Madrid, Community of Madrid, Spain
September 2013**

The seizure followed an inquiry being carried out since July. The police succeeded in locating the garage where the items offered for sale were being stored. The suspect was arrested and the garage and his home were searched. Another person connected with the matter was also questioned.



© La razon.es

Seizure of 20 animals: a siamang (*Symphalangus syndactylus*, Appendix I), several black-capped lorries (*Lorius lory*, Appendix II), some palm cockatoos (*Probosciger aterrimus*, Appendix I), white-bellied sea-eagles (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*, Appendix II), several peacocks (phasianidae family), eclectus parrots (*Eclectus roratus*, Appendix II), black eagles (*Ictinaetus malayensis*, Appendix II) and yellow-crested cockatoos (*Cacatua sulphurea*, Appendix I)
**Surakarta, Java, Central Java Province, Indonesia
September 2013**

The wild animals were seized by the National Resources Conservation Agency and the police in Sondokoro Park and in the bird market in Depok. The NGO ProFauna has considered for several years that Depok is a major centre for the illegal trafficking of birds. Solo is the capital of Central Java Province.



© Adi Isdiarto

Good news

The release of 31 animals in Colombia

5 monkeys, 3 frogs, 3 birds and 20 reptiles (turtles, caimans, iguanas and boas) were released into the wild by the District of Environment Bogota, Colombia. Before being released into the Tolima jungle the 5 titi monkeys (*callicebus genus*, Appendix II) were subject to rehabilitation tests to observe their natural reflexes to survive in the wild. They were first quarantined in suitable climatic conditions, males and females were then taught to observe social affinity and finally, when tensions between animals linked to the extreme stress of captivity had decreased, they were ready to live in society. The final phase was the most complicated: to assess the defensive instincts of titi monkeys in their natural habitat. In order to do so they were placed in the presence of a healthy boa constrictor. Ultimately the animals passed the stress test.

Pense-bêtes*

The Republic of Angola has become the 179th Party to CITES. The Convention will enter into force for Angola on December 31, 2013.

The draft agenda and documents for the Twenty-seventh meeting of the Animals Committee, Veracruz (Mexico), 28 April – 3 May 2014 are available on the CITES website: <http://www.cites.org/eng/com/ac/27/index.php>

Reservations concerning the listing of the following species in Appendix III have been submitted:**

Southern grey desert foxes (*Vulpes vulpes griffithi*), white-footed fox (*Vulpes vulpes pusilla*) and hill fox (*Vulpes vulpes montana*) – Appendix III in India: reservation entered by Poland.

Mountain weasel (*Mustela altaica*), stoat (*Mustela erminea ferghanae*), yellow-bellied weasel (*Mustela kathiah*), Siberian weasel (*Mustela sibirica*) – Appendix III in India: reservation entered by Poland.



Vulpes vulpes montana
© Mivart, St. George Jackson

The Gaborone amendment adopted in 1983 in Botswana shall enter into force on the 29th of November 2013. This amendment provides the possibility for Regional Economic Integration Organizations to accede to the Convention and its text. For the Gaborone amendment to enter into force two-thirds of the 80 countries party to CITES in 1983 had to deposit their instruments of acceptance. Currently, the only REIO with competence with respect to the matters regulated by CITES is the European Union.

On September 24, 2013, the United States of America notified other CITES Parties the destruction, by crushing, of approximately 5.4 t of elephant ivory which include raw and carved whole tusks, smaller carvings, and other elephant ivory items confiscated on their soil over the past 25 years. The United States invited other CITES Parties to support their action and stand together by destroying their own stockpiles of confiscated ivory or other illegally traded CITES specimens in the global effort to combat poaching and illegal wildlife trade. Initially scheduled to be carried out on October 8, the crushing was postponed due to the “shutdown” debit crisis.

Conservation of and trade in tigers and other Appendix-I Asian big cat species. Concerning the implementation of the Resolution Conf. 12.5 (Rev. CoP16) the CITES secretariat sent out a questionnaire in order to provide a standard approach and facilitate analysis of the reports.

Asian big cat species are: the tiger (*Panthera tigris*), the snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*), the clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*), the leopard (*Panthera pardus*), and the Asiatic lion (*Panthera leo persica*). The range States for Asian big cat species covers 37 States. Two of which, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, are not Parties to CITES. The questionnaire requires the compilation of information on: illegal trade in each country, conservation measures, measure to reduce demand for Asian big cat parts and derivatives used in traditional medicine and educational campaigns directed to raise awareness. An analysis of the responses should be ready for examination in July 2014 at the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee of CITES.

Training. The CITES secretariat notified all CITES Parties about the possibility for 30 students from across the globe to receive specialized training on the implementation and development of CITES, as well as on its relations and synergies with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). This specialized training is organized by The International University of Andalusia, Spain.

* Literally “think-animal” in French, which means “reminder”.

** A statement by a CITES member-State following which it is not bound to an amendment of the Appendices. Concerning Appendices I and II, reservation should be entered within a 90-day period following the Conference of the Parties, and can be withdrawn at any time. A reservation to Appendix III can be made at anytime.

The Hard Currency of Sperm Whale Teeth

Sailors and whaling crews used to carve sperm whale teeth with scenes of hunting, pictures of tropical islands, souvenirs from their life on the land, or ship's portraits. Scrimshaws- origins of the word are unknown- were part of life on deck and filled long hours of waiting.

Others would make dominos, pastry rolling pins, penholders, netting needles, sewing kits, checker pieces and dining sets, all the expression of an exotic and useful folk art by which whalers would overcome harsh exile and the cruelty of their task while selling or giving derived products of whale hunting. Work was not scarce, carving, sculpting, polishing and dying. The lower jaw of a sperm whale holds 20 to 25 cone shaped teeth of various sizes for a female and the double that for a male. The largest weigh 1kg. 1kg of ivory. The total number of sperm whales killed by hunting operations worldwide within 3 centuries is not far from a million. An international ban on commercial whaling was set in 1984.

The Fiji Islands in the middle of the Pacific Ocean are the only state in the world to possess a license to export sperm whale products. For the current year, they have the legal right to export 225 teeth. This legal curiosity follows from ancestral practices that predate the arrival of American and European whalers in the South Pacific around the Fiji Islands that rise out in the ocean and teams with a surprising abundance of octopuses and sperm whales.

At that time, the only sperm whales that seaside communities would encounter were the stranded ones. Their way of getting rid of these cumbersome and smelly carcasses is unknown but the teeth sunk in and took root in the Melanesian culture. They structured over centuries and maybe millennia political and social relations in the archipelagos. Tabua is the key insular word that refers to the management, trade and presentation of sperm whale teeth. European ethnologists and sociologists, Catholic missionaries, were intrigued and impressed by such a structural role played by Tabuas in collective life. « They are treated such as dolls, taken out of a basket, they are admired and their beauty is discussed » They are used as dowries, as « pipes of peace», blood-money in repair of acts of cannibalism, assistance to the Dead ; they are tokens of gratitude or dependency between people.



Marcel Mauss, a French sociologist, in his essay «The Gift » (1925) sees in tabua economy a form of circular economy, a cycle beginning with an initial gift, answered by an opening gift and closed by a “clenching” gift. The givers and receivers are connected and the teeth are not meant to be hoarded. Each one seems as part of a collective heritage brought by the sea and the initial gift from the whale.

It was only at the beginning of the 19th century that tabuas became a simple currency enabling trade between individuals from distant horizons or divergent interests. William Lockerby, the prospecting American navigator, exploring a village near a river opening where he had heard he would find sandalwood, was frustrated when the transaction was sharply refused. « The owners wanted in exchange a big sperm whale tooth and I had none to give. » This happened in 1809 and is recounted in his travel journal.

3 or 4 years ago, a 22 meter long sperm whale was beached on the Island of Mali, north side of the Fiji Archipelagos. Villagers rushed to the whale carcass to extract with pliers dozens of teeth. The smallest were sold for 300 \$ a piece to the owners of an Asian souvenir shop established in Suva, the capital village in the South. « We wanted teeth, especially these days when we all are in need of money. » « We had to use ladders to reach the jaws. » One of the tooth pullers was disappointed for « when he arrived the teeth of the upper jaw had already disappeared. »

Sperm whale culture is fading on Fiji Islands to the extent that inhabitants no longer know that the upper jaw does not hold any teeth. « Instead, on each side are lined up sockets where the lower jaws teeth come and lodge when the animal closes its mouth. The inside of the mouth is lined with a thin nacreous coat coat that is a sort of trap for the giant molluscs the animal feeds off: the confused squid is irresistibly attracted towards the extreme shining whiteness and lured into the Leviathan's throat. » (Mario Ruspoli – Italian moviemaker and writer. A la recherche du cachalot. Editions de Paris 1955).

A LA TRACE N°2 - 5 novembre 2013

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Special thanks to Rosmarie Ruf from Okapi Conservation Project (OCP), Robert Williams from Virunga National Park, Tim Redford from Freeland Foundation and Lorna Labuschagne from Zakouma National Park, African Parks.

V4



ON⁺ the TRAIL #2

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Maps and illustrations:

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Writing:

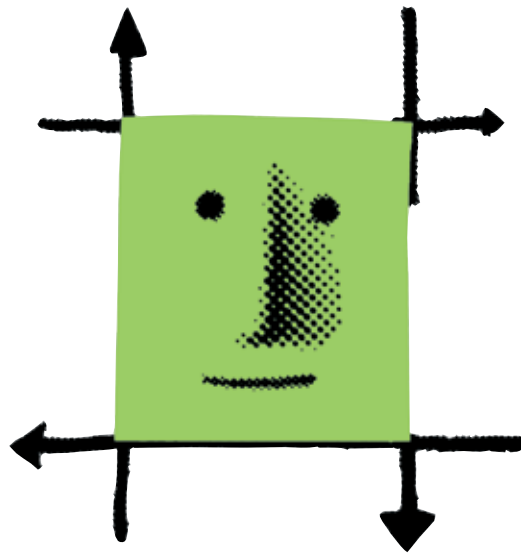
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Translation English edition « On the Trail »:

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Laurence de Bodinat, Brianna Morse,
Bethany Perkins and Jasmine Elbarbary



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