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NEW CEC IN SAWEN

Mr Krishna Prasad Acharya has been appointed as the Director General of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Nepal and by the current provision of SAWEN, Mr Acharya is the new Chief Enforcement Coordinator (CEC) of SAWEN from May 25, 2016. This is the second time that he has been the CEC of SAWEN. Earlier, he has already been the CEC from December 2011 to September 2012.

Mr Acharya has more than 20 years of experience in forestry and wildlife sector.

UPCOMING EVENT

Third Meeting of SAWEN
26- 27 October, 2016
Dhaka, Bangladesh

PRESS RELEASE

Kathmandu, 29 August 2016

This is to share that the Federal Cabinet of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan endorsed the Statute of SAWEN on 15th July 2016. This endorsement makes Pakistan the fourth formal member of SAWEN after Sri Lanka, India, and Nepal. With the endorsement by the four member countries, the SAWEN Statute now comes into effect as per the provision of the Statute approved by the 2nd Annual Meeting of SAWEN held in Kathmandu in 2014.

The SAWEN Secretariat acknowledges the commitment of the member countries to combat wildlife crime by enhancing regional cooperation and anticipate continuous support in the future.

Krishna Prasad Acharya
Chief Enforcement Coordinator

TRAINING FOR BORDER SECURITY FORCE

SAWEN in collaboration with Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPWC) and National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) successfully organized a three day "Wildlife Law Enforcement Training for Armed Police Force (APF) Nepal" from June 13-15, 2016 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The major aim of the training was to provide a comprehensive understanding of wildlife crime and wildlife parts identification to help curb the transnational illegal wildlife trade as the APF works in border areas. Thirty one APF officers from various border areas of Nepal took part in the first ever training on wildlife crime.



The training was funded by Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Wildlife Protection in Asia Project of the World Bank through PCU-NTNC. SAWEN will continue enhancing capacity of enforcement agencies working in border areas across South Asia in view of controlling the increasing trans-border trafficking in wildlife parts.

Editorial Note: This bulletin contains wildlife crime related news compiled from various online sources. The news contents are not verified by SAWEN Secretariat and hence the Secretariat is not responsible for any inaccuracies. Please contribute to the bulletin by sharing wildlife crime news or any other reports pertaining to wildlife crime from your country.

TWO HELD FOR POSSESSING LEOPARD SKIN

Two people were arrested on charges of possessing a nine feet long leopard skin in Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal. The accused identified as Kalu Singh Biswakarma, a poacher, and Arjun Kumar Rasaily, an agent, are of Bhutanese origin. Acting upon a tip-off, forest officials of Balecoba range apprehended the accused in the nearby Alipur-dar district when they were trying to smuggle the skin to Nepal.

Source: <http://videos.oneindia.com/watch/219810/two-held-for-possessing-leopard-skin.html>

93 KGS OF PANGOLIN SCALES SEIZED

AIZAWL, June 3, 2016: About 93 kgs of pangolin scales were seized from a person in Champhai town along Mizoram-Myanmar border, police said on 3 June. The scales were recovered from one C Thanga (38) yesterday and he was arrested. The seized pangolin scales are worth around IRs 20 lakh in the local market and were suspected to be smuggled to China through Myanmar, a police official said.

Source: http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/93-kgs-of-pangolin-scales-seized-116060300561_1.html

ILLEGAL MULTI MILLION DOLLAR LIZARD TRADE CONTINUES IN NORTHERN WEST BENGAL

SILIGURI, June 9, 2016: High value illegal trade of a lizard, 'Tokay Gecko' is going on unabated from NE region and adjoining Indo-Bhutan border region. Starting from deep North East to Indo-Nepal border in northern West Bengal, entire region frequently witnesses seizures and apprehensions of people trading the animal.

But its final destination or purpose is not yet clear. According to security agency intelligence, high price tag of over USD 2 million for each living one of over 300 gram weight makes the animal too vulnerable. "Many times, low weight Geckos, are injected with mercury to increase weight though that eventually kills the animal after some days," said an official.

Source: <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/illegal-multi-million-dollar-lizard-trade-continues-in-northern-west-bengal/articleshow/52674250.cms>

INTERNATIONAL SMUGGLER AMONG SEVEN CONVICTED

KURNOOL, July 19, 2016: **India:** International red sanders smuggler Fayaz Shariff (40) and six other smugglers were sentenced to undergo three-year imprisonment and pay a fine of IRs. 10,000 by the Judicial First Class Magistrate of Pulivendula, Srinivasa Naik, on 18 July. Kadapa Superintendent of Police P.H.D. Ramakrishna said Fayaz Shariff, a native of Katiganahalli in Karnataka, an accused in 83 cases, including 45 cases in Kadapa district and 38 cases in Chittoor district, was arrested by the Kadapa police in October last. Six other red sanders smugglers of Vempalle -- Yemineni Krishna Reddy, Chinnanagireddy Sridevi, Boreddy Ramakrishna Reddy, Kathireddy Kesava Reddy, Srinivasulu Reddy, and Udumu Srinivasulu -- were also convicted, the SP said.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/international-smuggler-among-seven-convicted/article8867720.ece>

4 INDIANS HELD IN MALAYSIA FOR POSSESSING PROTECTED TURTLES

KUALA LUMPUR, July 26, 2016: Four Indians have been detained by Malaysian authorities for investigation after seizing more than 1,000 exotic turtles during a sting operation in Malaysia. "A total of 1,011 Star tortoises and 23 Indian Roofed turtles were seized," Natural Resources and Environment Minister Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar said. Two suspects were detained in the first raid at a house in the suburb of Petaling Jaya on 25 July while other two suspected were picked from a budget hotel on following day.

Source: http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/4-indians-held-in-malaysia-for-possessing-protected-turtles-116072600873_1.html

DUO JAILED TWO YEARS FOR CRUELTY TO INDIAN SPOTTED TURTLES

PETALING JAYA, Aug 2 –Two of the four suspects detained in raids by the Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia Department last week have been sentenced to two years jail each at the Kuala Lumpur Sessions Court. Indian nationals Nagoor Kani Kamal Basha, 34, and Nizamudeen Shamshudeen, 39, pleaded guilty to three counts of possession without documents and causing pain to 36 Black Pond Turtles under the Wildlife Conservation Act 2010 (Act716).

Source: <http://www.themalaymailonline.com/malaysia/article/duo-jailed-two-years-for-cruelty-to-indian-spotted-turtles>

CHINA-BASED RED SANDERS SMUGGLER, AIDE ARRESTED; 190 LOGS SEIZED

KURNOOL, August 21, 2016: An international smuggler based in China, K.A. Dawood Jagir alias Jakir (52) involved in 57 cases in India, and his cousin and aide Firoz Dastagir were arrested with 190 red sanders logs. Kadapa district police arrested them at Akepadu Crossroads on Rajampet-Rayachoti Road on 20 August. Jagir, a key aide of international smugglers Kollam Gangi Reddy and Sahul Hameed alias Sahul Bhai of Dubai, also has links with international smugglers Chen Chengai, Santhan Meeran, Jang Yang and Wang Li Fa of China, Jimmy of Hong Kong, Hanif and David of Singapore and Shanmugan of Myanmar, said Mr. N. Sridhar Rao, Inspector-General of Police, South Zone. Besides the logs, two cars, a lorry, a mini-van, two mobile phones, one tab and IRs.10,000 were seized from them.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/chinabased-red-sanders-smuggler-aide-arrested-109-logs-seized/article9013241.ece>

RS 7.7 LAKH WORTH PROCESSED SEA CUCUMBER SEIZED

RAMESWARAM, July 28, 2016: Seventy-seven kg of processed sea cucumber worth IRs 7.7 lakh, meant to be smuggled to Sri Lanka, was seized by coastal marine police at a village near Mandapam this on 28 July in the morning. The sea cucumbers were seized from Marakaiyarpattinam village and one person was arrested in this connection, police said.

Source: http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/rs-7-7-lakh-worth-processed-sea-cucumber-seized-116072801245_1.html

INDIAN TRAFFICKING TORTOISES AND BIRDS FOR CHINA VIETNAM CUISINE ARRESTED

KATHMANDU, June 17, 2016: Nepalese authorities have arrested an Indian national in Kathmandu for the third time for allegedly smuggling 109 tortoises and 162 birds of different species from India to be supplied to restaurants in China and Vietnam. Police arrested Mohammad Usman, hails from Patna in Bihar, on 16 June after a raid in his house. They recovered the reptiles and birds kept in boxes and cages. The tortoises, which weigh three to five kilogrammes each, and the birds, including several varieties of parrots, were smuggled to Nepal from India, police said. The seized animals were supposed to be illegally transported to China and Vietnam for the purpose of feeding on restaurants and in the markets for reselling them. .



Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/nepal-kathmandu-indian-trafficking-tortoises-birds-china-vietnam-cuisine-arrested-2859275/>

NATIONAL NEWS**BANGLADESH****TWO HELD WITH TIGER BONES IN KHULNA**

July 20, 2016: In an operation, members of Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) arrested two alleged smugglers with tiger bones from Ferryghat near Betbunia Bazar in Paikgachha upazila in Khulna on 20 July evening. The arrestees were identified as Golam Rasul (45) of Baghba village and Khalil Gazi (32) of Betbunia village in Koyra upazila. RAB sources said they contacted the arrested smugglers in the guise of tiger bone buyers.

Source: <http://en.prothom-alo.com/environment/news/112991/Two-held-with-tiger-bones-in-Khulna>

6 HELD WITH TIGER SKIN IN KHULNA

August 25, 2016: Police arrested six people along with a tiger skin during a raid in a house of Abul Kalam and recovered a pipe gun and three bullets from Koyra upazila of Khulna on 24 August night. The arrestees were identified as Abul Kalam (44), Sohrab (42), Abdur Rab (63), Jamal (33), Masum Billah (29), and Golam Rabbani (24) from Koyra. They were preparing to smuggle the skin out of the country.

Tipped off, a team of Detective Branch of police raided the house of Abul Kalam at Chakratala village around 8.00pm and arrested the six along with the tiger skin, said Akkas Ali, officer-in-charge of Khulna Detective Branch.

Source: <http://www.thedailystar.net/country/6-held-tiger-skin-khulna-1275295>



POACHER KILLED IN KAZIRANGA

GUWAHATI, May 28, 2016: Authorities of Kaziranga National Park foiled rhino poaching attempt by killing one of the poachers on 28 May morning. The poachers opened fire first then forest team responded and one poacher got injured during the exchange of fire, later succumbed. The two other poachers however, managed to escape. One .303 rifle and live ammunition were recovered from the spot.

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/Poacher-killed-in-Kaziranga/articleshow/52482435.cms>

FOREST OFFICIALS SEIZE 160 PARAKEETS, 300 MUNIYA BIRDS FROM FOUR WOMEN

TRICHY, June 20, 2016: Forest officials seized 160 parakeets and 300 muniya birds from four women in the city on 19 June. The women were arrested when they were trying to flee to Chennai. Acting on a tip-off, a team of forest personnel were patrolling the Central Bus Stand from yesterday night. Around 4 am, four women in possession of 160 parakeets and 300 muniya birds came to the bus stand to catch a bus to Chennai. Forest personnel immediately spotted them and seized the birds. Ayyammal, 46, Rajamani, 71, Rajeswari, 61, and Pavunammal, 75, all hailing from Kuruvikaran Street near Palakkarai in Trichy, were booked.

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/trichy/Forest-officials-seize-160-parakeets-300-muniya-birds-from-four-women/articleshow/52826185.cms>

TIGER MORTALITY IN INDIA		SEIZURE OF TIGER BODY PARTS IN INDIA	
2015	As of August 2016	2015	As of August 2016
69	68	08	15

Source: <http://www.tigernet.nic.in/Alluser/Default.aspx>

TIGER, LEOPARD SKIN SEIZED

Skins of tiger and leopard seized

AMRITSAR, June 30, 2016: Skins of a tiger and leopard were confiscated by the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) in Amritsar on 30 June. The SPCA team conducted a raid at Ranjit Avenue after they received input that a man sitting in one of the parks was carrying tiger and leopard skin. The smuggler fled from the scene but left the skins behind. It was yet to ascertain the source and investigation was underway.

Source: <http://www.hindustantimes.com/punjab/tiger-leopard-skin-seized-in-amritsar/story-mNac82uhxYdAiEJUH2rWoL.html>

Earlier, A special team of forest officials seized a tiger rug (skin) at Kannivadi Range Division during a surprise raid on 17 June. Five persons – Kribanath Junius, Ponraj, Then Pandi alias Meenakshisundaram Haleel Rahman and Satya Kumar, were arrested in this connection.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/tiger-skin-seized-in-dindigul/article8748239.ece>

Poacher nabbed

DEHRADUN, July 13, 2016: The staff of Haridwar forest division and NGO, TRAFFIC India nabbed dreaded poacher Amarnath who is wanted in three cases related to tiger killing in the state on 13 July.

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/Dreadened-tiger-poacher-nabbed/articleshow/53196763.cms>

Son of top tiger poacher held

NEW DELHI, July 13, 2016: Akash Chand (33), a son of Sansar Chand – known as the Veerappan of the North for having poached wild animals for over three decades, was arrested from Delhi on 11 July night. After Sansar's death in 2014, Akash was running the interstate racket with his mother Rani. In all these years, Akash and his mother Rani were running their operations from Delhi.

Source: <http://www.hindustantimes.com/delhi-newspaper/son-of-top-tiger-poacher-held-for-wildlife-trade/story-FP2aBoO67s2Am3RQ1gy6DP.html>

RHINO HORN SEIZED, SMUGGLERS ARRESTED

JORHAT, July 23, 2016: Two rhino horn smugglers, Amit Modi and Mahesh Bhuyan, were arrested in a joint operation by police, CRPF and forest staff in the Sungajan area of Golaghat district on 22 July. A rhino horn and a 9 mm pistol were seized from them.

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/Rhino-horn-smugglers-arrested/articleshow/53350511.cms>

ASSAM, July 24, 2016: Five poachers were arrested from Biswanath district on 24 July and a rhino horn was recovered from them. Four rhino poachers arrested in the morning from Gohpur along with a 650 gm horn while finalising a deal worth IRs 50 lakh for the horn, the price of which in the international market is over IRs 1.5 crore. Another poacher was arrested from a remote area under Sootea police station.

Source: http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/five-poachers-held-rhino-horn-recovered-116072400432_1.html

ILLEGAL ONLINE WILDLIFE TRADE

NEW DELHI, July 18, 2016: Trade of rare animals and their body parts is going on through popular websites the government said on 17 July. Environment, Forests and Climate Change Minister Mr. Anil Madhav Dave said online smuggling of rare animals and their parts are being monitored by the state and central governments as part of combating cyber crime. He furnished a list of 106 such websites collated by the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB). These include prominent names like quikr.com, olx.in, alibaba.com, eBay.com, youtube.com, amazon.com, shopping.rediff.com, petsmart.com and snapdeal.com.



Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/Illegal-wildlife-trade-on-quir-olx-eBay-amazon-Government/articleshow/53266327.cms>

RED SANDERS

BENGALURU, May 25, 2016: Bengaluru Rural police raided a farmhouse in Kattigenahalli near Hoskote and recovered four tonnes of Red Sanders wood worth IRs 50 lakh from a well on 24 May. One accused, identified as Riyaz, has been arrested.

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/Red-Sanders-logs-worth-Rs-50L-found-in-well-in-Hoskote/articleshow/52425481.cms>

CHENNAI, July 1, 2016: A special police team from Andhra Pradesh seized around seven tonnes of red sandalwood, worth IRs 3 crore, from a private godown in Kundrathur on 30 June.

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/Red-sanders-worth-Rs-3cr-seized-in-city/articleshow/52999186.cms>

KADAPA, July 5, 2016: Suspected international red sanders smuggler Kandaswamy Parthipan was arrested along with three others by Andhra Pradesh Police from his Chennai hideout on 4 July. Parthipan has collectively smuggled 1,000 tonne of red sanders so far and earned more than IRs 100 crore through the illegal trade.

Source: http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/wanted-red-sandalwood-smuggler-parthipan-held-in-chennai-116070501305_1.html

CHENNAI, July 11, 2016: Investigators from Directorate Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seized 36 tons of red sander logs worth IRs 16.20 crore along with more than 100 high value antiques and handicraft items on 10 July.

Source: <http://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/crime/110716/rs-16-crore-of-red-sanders-antiques-seized-in-chennai.html>

ANANTAPUR, July 30, 2016: In a joint operation with the Red Sanders Anti-Smuggling Task Force personnel of Chittoor, the police on 29 July seized red sanders logs worth IRs. 5 crore and arrested 25 persons at D. Hirehal village in the district.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/red-sanders-logs-worth-rs-5-cr-seized/article8919369.ece>

THOUSANDS OF TURTLES SEIZED*500 star turtles seized*

CHENNAI, July 29, 2016: Customs and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau seized 500 star turtles at the Chennai airport that was being smuggled to Malaysia in a Thai Airways flight on 28 July night.

Source: <http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/chennai/500-star-turtles-seized-at-Chennai-airport/2016/07/29/article3553123.ece>

3,000 live green tortoises seized

CHENNAI, August 2, 2016: A total of 3,000 live green tortoises were seized by customs officials on 2 August from a passenger who arrived at Chennai international airport from Malaysia. The tortoises were found hidden in the suitcase of one Habeeb (48) of Ramanthapuram district during a search, the officials said.

Source: <http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/chennai/3000-live-green-tortoises-worth-Rs-30-lakhs-seized-in-Chennai-airport/2016/08/02/article3559629.ece>

Officials seize 4,000 live baby tortoises

CHENNAI, August 29, 2016: As many as 4,000 tiny red-eared tortoises were caught by the customs officials at the Chennai city airport for the second time this month. Mohamed Habib, a native of Ramanathapuram, tried to smuggle in the tortoises in his suitcase from Malaysia. "Around 4,000 tortoises, all sized about one inch each, were dumped in a suitcase two feet in length and one and half feet in breadth" said an official.



26 days ago, he was found carrying 5,000 live tortoises. "However, he paid the fine of `5,000 and was released," said the officer. He had travelled from China via Kuala Lumpur in a transit flight through Malaysian Airlines and was caught when he reached Chennai.

Source: <http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/chennai/Officials-seize-4000-live-baby-tortoises-at-Chennai-airport/2016/08/29/article3601803.ece>

**NEPAL****NEPAL RATIFIES THE SAWEN STATUTE**

The Parliament of Nepal has ratified the Statute of the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) on July 4, 2016. With this ratification, Nepal has become the third formal member country of SAWEN after Sri Lanka and India. Earlier, the meeting of the council of ministers had given endorsement to the Statute on July 6, 2015 to be ratified by the parliament.

Source: <http://www.sawen.org/news/details/nepal-ratifies-the-sawen-statute>

LEOPARD HIDES AND BONES SEIZED*Two arrested with four leopard hides and its bones*

May 19, 2016: Nepal Police arrested two men in possession of four hides and eight kilograms bones of leopard from near Aayat bazaar in Amargadhi-3 on 17 May in the morning. Acting on a tip off, police arrested Ram Bahadur Thapa Magar and Kam Bahadur Rokka Magar both of Gakheth-7 Dadeldhura district.

Source: <http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-05-19/two-arrested-with-four-leopard-hides-and-its-bones.html>

Two held with leopard hide in Bardiya

June 26, 2016: Police arrested two persons in possession of leopard hide in Babai Municipality of Bardiya district on 25 June at night. The suspects have been identified as Kamal Shahi (19) and Lok Jung BK (18) of Chuhan Municipality -1. Both the suspects have been kept at the Area Police Office.

Source: <https://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/two-held-leopard-hide-bardiya/>

2 held with leopard's hide

August 2, 2016: A joint team from Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) of the Nepal Police and District Police Office, Makawanpur on 31 July arrested them from Dobhanchaur of Hetauda Sub Metropolitan City-25. Sonam Thing (42) and Nima Dorje (48) of Gadhi VDC-2 were arrested with the leopard's skin. Police seized around 4 kg of leopard's bones along with a 7ft long skin from their possession.

Source: <http://www.myrepublica.com/news/3150>

NOTORIOUS RHINO POACHER CHEPANG SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IN JAIL

June 28, 2016: Chitwan District Court has sentenced notorious poacher Rajkumar Chepang (Praja) to 15 years in jail for his involvement in poaching of endangered one-horned rhinos. A single bench of District Judge Mr. Tek Narayan Kunwar has issued this verdict on 27 June. This is the maximum punishment given for a rhino poacher. Chepang had been arrested from Malaysia with the help of INTERPOL.

Source: <http://www.myrepublica.com/news/1030%23/.V3yNSzdCmvE.facebook>

ONE HELD WITH LIVE PROTECTED ANIMALS, BIRDS

June 17, 2016: Police recently arrested a man in possession of live protected animals and birds. The suspect has been identified as Mohammad Usman (35) of Patna, India and currently residing at Samakhusi, KMC-29. Police confiscated 109 live tortoises and 162 lovebirds (small parrots) from his possession. Earlier, Usman was arrested with various species of birds on 14 July, 2014 also.

Source: <https://thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/one-held-protected-animals-birds/>

PANGOLIN HIDE WITH SCALES SEIZED, TWO HELD

July 15, 2016: Police arrested two persons for their alleged involvement in smuggling of a pangolin hide with scales from Gothatar on the eastern outskirts of Kathmandu on 14 July. They were identified as Prakash Danuwar (33) and Arjun Danuwar (29), permanent residents of Bhimtar village in Sindhupalchok district.



Source: <http://thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/two-held-pangolin-hide-scales-gothatar/>

RED PANDA TRADE

One held with red panda hide

May 26, 2016: Police here have arrested one person with the hide of the endangered Red Panda. He is identified as Bikas BK, (21) of Dang, Tulsipur. BK is currently living in Jorpati Kathmandu. A team of Metropolitan Police Crime Division nabbed him from Chabahil, Kathmandu on 25 May. Police have forwarded him to the District Forest Office for further action.

Source: <http://setopati.net/society/14283/>

9 red panda hides seized

August 10, 2016: Four persons were arrested in possession of as many as nine red panda hides from Kapan of Kathmandu on 10 August. Sushil Rai (23) of Balamta-8 of Udayapur, Jeevan Gurung (24) of Dubekol VDC-8 in Khotang, Muskan Thapa (24) of Bhimgidi VDC-1 in Baglung, and Lal Bahadur Thing (32) of Sarikhet Palase VDC-5 of Makawanpur were arrested from Gurung's rented room in Kapan, Budhanilakantha-14.



Source: <https://thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/5-held-red-panda-hides-kapan/>

70 red panda hides seized in four years

August 13, 2016: According to statistics of the Metropolitan Police Office, the law enforcement agency has confiscated as many as 70 units of red panda hide, while District Forest Office, Kathmandu brought to book 180 poachers and wildlife criminals in the Kathmandu Valley in the past four years.

PAKISTAN ENDORSES THE SAWEN STATUTE

August 29, 2016: The Federal Cabinet of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan endorsed the SAWEN Statute on 15 July 2016. This endorsement makes Pakistan the fourth formal member of SAWEN after Sri Lanka, India, and Nepal. With the endorsement by the four member countries, the SAWEN Statute now comes into effect as per the provision of the Statute.

Source: <http://www.sawen.org/news/details/update-on-the-sawen-statute-endorsement/>

FALCONS SEIZED

August 3, 2016: Pakistan Coast Guards seized four falcons from a passenger bus at Khari Check post, near Winder, Balochistan on 3 August. The birds were being smuggled from Quetta (Balochistan) to Karachi (Sindh). The seized birds were released in Karachi by provincial wildlife department.

Source: http://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1103668150&Issue=NP_KHI&Date=20160804

A NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP WAS HELD

August 24, 2016: A national consultative workshop was held to get recommendations of stakeholders on draft National Plan of Action (NPOA) to Combat Illegal Wildlife Trade in Pakistan on 24 August. Key components of the draft NPOA include recommendations to improve and strengthen existing legislation in Pakistan and reviewing penalties for wildlife crimes. It also takes into consideration the welfare aspects of rescued and confiscated wildlife species by establishing guidelines on how to handle them.

Source: <http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2016/08/25/city/islamabad/wwf-organises-workshop-to-combat-illegal-wildlife-trade/>

GLOBAL NEWS

FORTY DEAD TIGER CUBS FOUND IN FREEZER AT THAI TEMPLE

THAILAND, June 1, 2016: Wildlife authorities in Thailand have found 40 tiger cubs in a freezer during a police raid on Tiger Temple, a tourist attraction that has faced repeated allegations of animal trafficking. The discovery occurred after officials from the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP), backed by police, closed the temple this week to relocate 137 tigers to government-run sanctuaries. The cubs, some of them bloodied and mangled, were laid out on the floor along with other animals, including a binturong, a small rare species also known as a bearcat.



Promoting itself as a spiritual sanctuary for humans and animals, Tiger Temple has been keeping the big cats and other animals for 15 years. It charges tourists to take photos of them stroking adult tigers and bottle-feeding cubs. The site has been accused of illegally breeding tigers and some visitors say the animals appear to be drugged. A handler was recently filmed smacking a tiger on the head.

The temple denies accusations of abuse and trafficking and other visitors have lauded the conditions and the care taken over the animals. Responding to requests for comment, the temple said on its Facebook page that a vet had requested the cubs be frozen and preserved six years ago. "He made that decision probably to keep as proof against the allegations of selling cubs," the temple said. "In 2010, the ex-vet of Tiger Temple changed [the] policy. Instead of cremation, the deceased cubs were preserved in jars or kept frozen. We have documented all the deaths from 2010 and have photographic evidence of them still being within the temple," it added.

Thailand is a central route for illicit wildlife trade through south-east Asia, including ivory and rhino horn. Tiger parts, including bone and penis, are used in traditional Chinese medicine. Raids often find the tigers cut in half with their organs preserved on ice. The CITES banned the trade in tiger parts and products. Thailand has an estimated 1,200-1,300 captive tigers in at least 33 facilities, he said.

Source: <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jun/01/40-dead-tiger-cubs-found-in-freezer-thai-temple-wildlife-trafficking>

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