

The SAWEN Bulletin

South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network's quarterly newsletter on wildlife trade and crime related issues in South Asia

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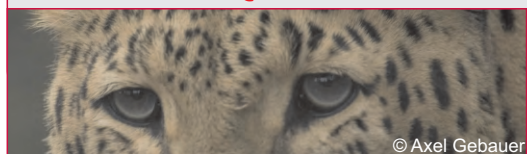
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NOTE: This newsletter needs your support. Please contribute wildlife crime/seizure reports or any other significant news report pertaining to wildlife trade from your country.

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SAWEN UPDATES

Support for SAWEN at a side event organized by the Network during the CITES CoP-16



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From left to right: B.N. Oli, Keshav Varma, Megh Bahadur Pandey, James Compton

The Secretariat of the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) organized a side event during the Conference of Parties meeting (CoP16) in Bangkok, Thailand on 8 March 2013. The main purpose of the event was to share regional experiences of SAWEN and its activities that are aimed at combating wildlife crime in the region; to enhance cooperation and collaboration among various enforcement and other related agencies and to discuss with member countries the way forward for strengthening SAWEN.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an international agreement that aims to ensure that international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival in the wild. All member countries of SAWEN are the parties to CITES.

The side event organized by SAWEN received wide support and responses from the delegates during the CoP. More than 80 officials representing SAWEN member countries, donor agencies, and NGOs from various countries across the world participated in this event.

Addressing the event, Mr Bishwa Nath Oli, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal said, "Nepal has been playing a constructive role in combating wildlife crime in the region. It is encouraging to see how SAWEN has evolved as an important platform for the countries in the region to act against wildlife crime."

Mr Wan Ziming, Director of the CITES Management Authority of China said that China is willing to work towards curbing wildlife crime in the region and would be happy to be involved in the activities of SAWEN. "At this moment we need to have better cooperation and collaboration to combat wildlife crime in the region," said Ziming.

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Mr Keshav Varma from the World Bank informed that the World Bank has been supportive of SAWEN since its inception and assured that the Bank would continue providing resources for SAWEN's future activities. He praised the work of SAWEN.

James Compton from TRAFFIC congratulated the SAWEN Secretariat for its progress since its establishment two years back. He said that TRAFFIC has provided support and played a pivotal role along with other partner agencies in institutionalizing SAWEN. It will continue supporting SAWEN achieve all its objectives through the future.

The session during the side event was chaired by Mr Megh Bahadur Pandey, Director General of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) and Chief Enforcement Coordinator of SAWEN. He said "We are growing and our activities are expanding. We would like to thank the member countries, international community and various conservation partners. We hope to receive continuous support from all in future to curb wildlife crime in the region."

TRAFFIC and WWF Nepal assisted the SAWEN Secretariat in organizing this one day side event that helped bring together the representatives from North America, the European Union, Central America, Central Africa, Southeast Asia, and South Asia. TRAFFIC also was invited to share its experiences as an international NGO working to support several regional wildlife law enforcement initiatives.

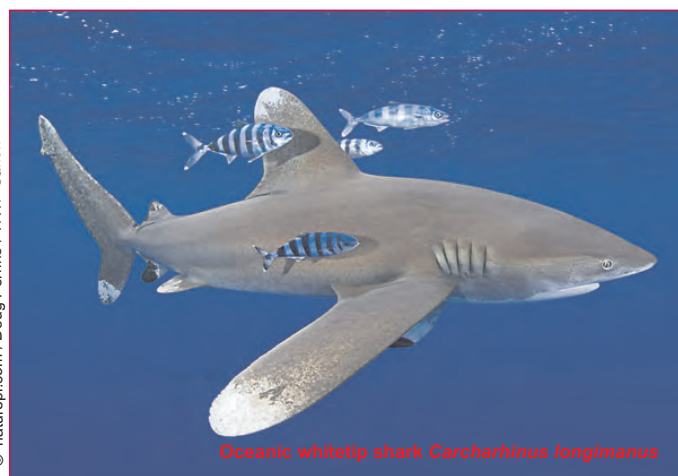
Dr Maheshwar Dhakal from SAWEN, Mr Diwakar Chapagain from WWF Nepal and Mr MKS Pasha from TRAFFIC India made presentations during the event.

NEWS FROM CITES*

www.cites.org

* CITES: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

CITES at 40 marks a major decision point for sharks, trees, snakes, turtles and other wildlife species



Oceanic whitetip shark *Carcharhinus longimanus*

The 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES CoP16) held March 2013 in Bangkok, will be remembered as a defining moment in the 40 year history of the Convention. The meeting marks as a major decision point for sharks, trees, snakes, turtles and other wildlife species: Guidelines, toolkits, standards and action plans fostering capacity, financing, law enforcement, livelihoods, science, sustainability, traceability and synergies were adopted.

It takes enormous effort to negotiate treaties and then make them work, and at CoP16, the 178 Parties to CITES turned to the Convention to ensure the legal, sustainable and traceable trade in their precious wildlife, timber and other forest products. The Conference unanimously brought hundreds of new timber species under CITES controls, along with a number of tortoises and turtles and a wide range of other plant and animal species. Significantly, five shark species and all manta rays were also brought under the CITES trade regulation regime following a vote supported by more than

the required two thirds majority. The international community made the best use of this pragmatic and effective agreement to help ensure a sustainable path for our oceans and forests.

The Asian and African Development Banks, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the World Bank and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) all attended CoP16 in recognition of the need to scale up investment in the implementation of CITES.

Several events of the ICCWC (International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime) that were held in conjunction with CoP16 brought together government ministers to discuss transboundary wildlife crime and, for the first time, the world's Wildlife Enforcement Networks to help scale up regional enforcement capacity and coordination.

Read more in detail at

<http://biodiversity-l.iisd.org/guest-articles/cites-at-40-marks-a-major-decision-point-for-sharks-trees-snakes-turtles-and-other-wildlife-species/>

<http://biodiversity-l.iisd.org/guest-articles/cites-at-40-marks-a-major-decision-point-for-sharks-trees-snakes-turtles-and-other-wildlife-species/>

CITES turns up the heat on Tiger smugglers

A new international law enforcement initiative to stop the poaching and illegal trade of Tigers and other Asian big cats was agreed by the member countries of the CITES during the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties held in Bangkok in March 2013.

Agreement was reached to gather information on incidents of poaching and illegal trade in all Asian big cats since the beginning of 2010 and to analyse the information for circulation to relevant enforcement agencies and range States.

The CITES members also agreed to monitor efforts to close down the illegal Tiger trade. Some countries had asked for a situation appraisal to be carried out for the next full CITES meeting in around three years time, but it was agreed to do so in 2014.

"Although some countries were frustrated by the brevity of discussions on Asian big cat issues during the agenda, the meeting nevertheless came up with some important measures to reinforce efforts to close down the underground, illicit trafficking of Tigers," said Natalia Pervushina, TRAFFIC and WWF's Tiger Trade Programme Officer.

"TRAFFIC is fully committed to contributing our analyses of Tiger seizure market information to the CITES enforcement implementation reviews," added Steven Broad, Executive Director of TRAFFIC.

Dr Shekhar Kumar Niraj, Head of TRAFFIC in India said, "In a strange move, the discussion on Tiger mortality reporting was postponed several times and kept under suspense until when the matter opened for the final time on March 13, just before the Plenary started. India's statements highlighting country's efforts made on Tiger conservation in spite of several odds were scuttled by the Chair. Finally the matter was put to voting and voted in favour of the reporting to CITES to be started from the current year.

Read more at <http://www.traffic.org/home/2013/3/14/cites-turns-up-the-heat-on-tiger-smugglers.html>

NEWS FROM OTHER RELATED AGENCIES

TRAFFIC and WWF release new study on persistent illegal Tiger trade

TRAFFIC released a report **Reduced to Skins and Bones Revisited** in March 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand during the CITES CoP16. The report finds that parts of at least 1425 Tigers have been seized across all but one of the 13 Tiger range countries between 2000 and 2012. The findings were based on analysis of confiscations, which includes new data for 2010-2012. For Cambodia alone, no seizures were recorded at all during the period.

Although it is not yet possible to show a definite trend, the analysis provides clear evidence that illegal trade in Tigers, their parts and derivatives, persists as a major conservation concern, says TRAFFIC.

A total of 654 seizures of Tiger parts and derivatives, i.e., skins, bones, teeth, claws, and skulls were made during this period, an average of 110 Tigers killed for trade per year or over two per week. Eighty nine percent of seizures occur outside protected areas, emphasizing the importance of anti-trafficking actions to disrupt trade chains and prevent incursions into Tiger habitat. The benefits of such analysis to enhance law enforcement efforts to protect Tigers are obvious.

A significant finding in the updated analysis indicated an increased recording of seizures involving live Tigers – 61 individuals were seized in the three-year period since the last full CITES meeting took place in 2010, representing 50% of overall numbers (123) recorded since 2000. Thailand was the most significant location for interdiction of live Tiger trade (30 Tigers), followed by Lao PDR (11) and Indonesia (9) and Viet Nam (4).

"Given the low population estimates for wild tigers in Thailand, Lao PDR and Viet Nam, combined with the presence of captive Tiger facilities within these three countries, there are serious questions as to the source of these live Tigers in trade," said Nick Cox, Species Programme Manager for WWF-Greater Mekong.

Of the 13 Tiger range countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Thailand, Viet Nam), only India had kept sufficiently detailed seizure records to allow meaningful analysis to identify the 'hotspots' where Tiger trade was taking place.

Based on the information from India, five 'illegal wildlife trade hotspot' locations were identified, including Delhi, while the other four were close to protected areas in different parts of the country (Uttar Pradesh, central India, West Bengal (Sundarbans) and the southern India landscape of the Western Ghats).

"The quality of the information from India allowed us to perform a spatial analysis and pinpoint the key locations where Tiger trade is taking place," said Sarah Stoner, TRAFFIC's Tiger Trade Data Specialist and author of the report. "Countries should be made to keep to their commitments under CITES to protect wild Tigers by providing robust reporting on the current situation."



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REPORTS FROM SOUTH ASIA ON WILDLIFE TRADE ISSUES



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AFGHANISTAN

No news reported for this period

BANGLADESH

One hundred and forty eight native birds including 14 mynas, 18 parrots, 112 munias were rescued during drives in eight shops and three storerooms at Kaptan Bazar in the capital of the country; 14 May 2013

(The Daily Star)
<http://www.thedailystar.net/beta2/news/148-native-birds-rescued-in-capital/>

BHUTAN

No news reported for this period

INDIA

Red Sandalwood grey trade to China through Indo-Nepal border continues unabated ; 12 February 2013

(The Economic Times)
http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-02-13/news/37079290_1_indo-nepal-border-nepal-security-agencies-grey-trade

Two Red Sand boas rescued, 4 held; 14 February 2013 (The Times of India)

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-02-15/nagpur/37118554_1_red-sand-boas-snakes-rajura

Thirty Kilogramme of Pangolin scales seized in Rajaji National Park; 23 February 2013 (The Hindu)

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/30-kg-of-pangolin-scales-seized-three-arrested/article4443776.ece>

Thirty four Leopard deaths reported in Uttarakhand this year ; 25 February 2013 (NDTV)

<http://www.ndtv.com/article/india/34-leopard-deaths-reported-in-uttarakhand-this-year-335146>

Post offices may serve as conduits for animal smugglers; 4 March 2013 (Hindustan Times)

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/Kolkata/Our-good-old-post-offices-work-just-fine-for-animal-smugglers/Article1-1020867.aspx>

INDIA

Two Van Gujjars arrested for poaching Tiger; 9 March 2013 (The Pioneer)

<http://dailypioneer.com/nation/132169-2-van-gujjars-arrested-for-poisoning-tiger.html>

Man caught smuggling rare tortoises, turtles at airport ; 11 March 2013 (Hindustan Times)

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/Mumbai/Man-caught-smuggling-rare-tortoises-turtles-at-airport/Article1-1024352.aspx>

Tiger, Leopard skins seized in Nagpur; six held; 13 March 2013 (Zee News)

http://zeenews.india.com/news/maharashtra/tiger-leopard-skins-seized-in-nagpur-six-held_835073.html

Two poachers arrested, 10 kg of wild boar meat seized in Odisha; 23 March 2013 (DNA)

http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report_two-poachers-arrested-10-kg-wild-boar-meat-seized-in-odisha_1814896

Nine thousand baby tortoises seized at Chennai airport; 27 March 2013 (The Times of India)

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-03-27/chennai/38069424_1_baby-tortoises-exotic-species-air-customs

Three rhino poachers held in Assam ; 29 March 2013 (First Post)

<http://www.firstpost.com/fwire/three-rhino-poachers-held-in-assam-678825.html>

Poachers train sights on smaller animals such as pangolins, butterflies etc; 30 March 2013 (Hindustan Times)

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/NewDelhi/Poachers-train-sights-on-smaller-animals/Article1-1034936.aspx>

Leopard skin seized from Belgaum youth; 13 April 2013 (The Indian Express)

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/leopard-skin-seized-from-belgaum-youth/1102152/>

Man held with snakes on plane to Chennai; 17 April 2013 (Deccan Chronicle)

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/130418/news-crime/article/man-held-snakes-plane-chennai>

NEPAL

Five rounded up with Elephant tusks, other contraband; 21 April 2013 (The Himalayan Times)

<http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Five+rounded+up+with+elephant+tusks%26sbquo%3B+other+contraband&NewsID=373645>

Six Rhino-horn poachers remanded to Chitwan National Park; 27 April 2013 (Republica)

http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=53807

Leopard skin seized; 30 April 2013 (The Himalayan Times)

<http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Leopard+skin+seized&NewsID=374698>

Wildlife traders nabbed with two pieces of Red Panda skin; 2 May 2013 (The Himalayan Times)

<http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Wildlife+traders+nabbed&NewsID=374979>

Pangolin body parts smuggling spurts; 20 May 2013 (Republica)

http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=54963

Tinker border point being used to smuggle animal parts; 4 June 2013 (Republica daily)

http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=55669

PAKISTAN

PML-N issued notice over display of big cats in public meetings and rallies during election campaign ; 18 May 2013 (Daily Times)

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013/05/18/story_18-5-2013_pg13_7

SRI LANKA

Massive poaching brings "NO CATCH" threat to Sri Lanka's fishermen; 11 May 2013 (Ministry of Defence and Urban Development)

http://www.defence.lk/new.asp?fname=Massive_poaching_brings_NO_CATCH_threat_to_Sri_Lanka_fishermen_20130511_03