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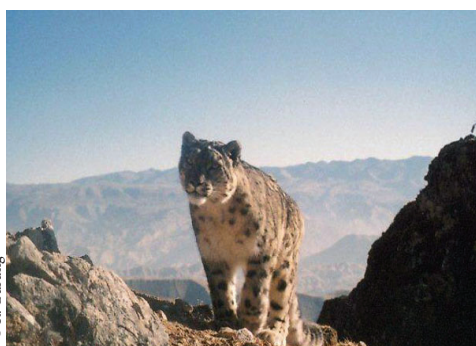
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NOTE : This bulletin needs your support. Please contribute by sharing wildlife crime/seizure reports or any other significant news report pertaining to wildlife trade from your country.

UP COMING EVENT

Symposium: Towards Zero Poaching in Asia

2-6 February, 2015, Kathmandu, Nepal
For more : <http://www.sawen.org/event/towards-zero-poaching-symposium/>



SAWEN IN 2014

SAWEN Secretariat wishes a very Happy New Year 2015 to all our members, supporters, and well wishers!



The year 2014 was fruitful in continuing the growth of SAWEN as an intergovernmental organization supporting wildlife law enforcement in South Asia. One of the highlights of the achievement made in 2014 was the "Second Annual Meeting" held on 26-29 August, 2014, in Kathmandu. This august gathering was productive in sharing experiences, discussing common issues, reviewing performances, enhancing regional collaboration, and promoting partnership with various organizations in fighting against the wildlife crime. The meeting approved draft SAWEN Statute and agreed to endorse the Statute from the member countries. The meeting also provided feedback on draft action plan which outlined the potential actions to be implemented in the coming years.

Another major achievement in 2014 was that SAWEN received USD 0.4 million grant for three years through Institutional Development Fund (IDF) of The World Bank for 'Strengthening Institutional Capacity of SAWEN to Combat Wildlife Crime' focusing on three themes i) Institutional development and capacity building ii) Regional communication and partnership enhancement iii) Enforcement responses enhancement.

Besides, the SAWEN Secretariat initiated development of Wildlife Crime Database Management Information System (WCD-MIS) to be initially piloted in Nepal and expanded to member countries in the future. A stakeholder consultation meeting was organized on 19th December, 2014 to discuss on various issues on national and

regional wildlife crime database building and sharing, effectiveness of WCD-MIS, issues in regard to making the system user friendly, and provide input to the ongoing development of the WCD-MIS. The meeting also discussed on wider prospects of SAWEN, it's strengthening, and operation.

As part of effective regional communication and information exchange, SAWEN Secretariat continued publishing and distributing the regular SAWEN bulletin and other meeting and training reports. (These publications can be downloaded from <http://www.sawen.org/publications/>).

For the operation of SAWEN secretariat, SAWEN has been receiving financial and technical support through 'Strengthening Regional Cooperation Wildlife Protection in South Asia Project' since 2011 managed by National Trust for Nature Conservation Project Coordination Unit (NTNC-PCU).

Looking ahead, endorsement of SAWEN Statute from the member countries remains as an outstanding work for the early 2015. We hope to get the Statute approved from the countries as soon as possible and receive more enhanced engagement from the countries to collaboratively fight against the booming wildlife crime in 2015.

Through various meetings, consultations and collaboration during 2014, SAWEN has been able to build up stronger partnership with many organizations including INTERPOL, CITES, The World Bank, TRAFFIC, WWF, and NTNC Nepal. We hope to enhance and extend such partnership while enhancing our efforts to combat wildlife crime in South Asia in 2015.

POACHERS NABBED IN SUNDARBANS

Bangladesh: Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) of Bangladesh had arrested six poachers with two tiger skins from Satkhira Sadar upazila on 16th October, 2014. RAB seized the skins, each about nine-foot long, which are believed to have been acquired after the beasts were hunted down in the Sundarbans. One skin is fresh, suggesting that it was hunted down recently and the other skin is old – this tiger might have been hunted weeks ago, said official. Ten rounds of live bullets were also recovered from their possession.

The poachers are Sheikh Bakhtiar Uddin, 42, from Satkhira, and Md Gazi Selim, 35, Rabiul Islam, 35, Md. Gazi Mostafizur Rahman, 36, Faruk Sana, 48, and Gazi Md Amirul Islam, 25, - all from Khulna.

'The operation was done as the elite force received intelligence that poachers had hunted down some tigers in the Sundarbans and were smuggling tiger skins through Satkhira, said RAB 8 Deputy Commander Maj Adnan Kabir 'during primary interrogation, the poachers confessed to have been smuggling the tiger skins to Dhaka for sale'.

(For more : <http://www.thedailystar.net/6-poachers-held-with-tiger-skins-in-sundarbans-46140>)

COMMON LEOPARD RESCUED



Bhutan: The Staff of Wildlife Rescue and Animal Health Section under Wildlife Conservation Division, DoFPS rescued the common leopard which was caught in the trap set up by the villagers of Thongjiazur village under Umling Geog in Sarpang Dzongkhag in the night of 18th October, 2014. The trapped big cat was a male leopard weighing 65 kilograms and of approximately 7-8 years. The trap was set up for the protection of field crops from wild animals.

The leopard was found to be very healthy and no injury was spotted on the body and released in to the Kanimakra forest in Royal Manas National Park (RMNP) in Gelephu.

(For more : <http://www.dofps.gov.bt/node/658>)

WCCUs IN EACH STATE

India: Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), a multidisciplinary statutory body under the Government of India, ministry of environment, forests and climate change, has asked States to set up wildlife crime control units (WCCUs) in police and forest departments to tackle with highly organized, transborder wildlife crime. The directive has been issued on 14th November, 2014.

As the issue raised in the inter-agency coordination meetings, WCCB has drawn up a plan to make the system of wildlife crime detection, investigation and prosecution more effective through WCCB. Additional director of WCCB and Principal Focal Person of SAWEN India, Mr. Shyam Bhagat Negi highlighted the importance of WCCUs for effective combating of wildlife crime through systematic identification and busting of organized networks by dedicated crime control units.

WCCB sources said the move on WCCUs follows as Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 is an umbrella legislation for wildlife crime enforcement in the country, and its provisions are enforced primarily by State police and forest departments.

What WCCU will do ?

- Collect and collate intelligence related to wildlife crime activities and to disseminate it to field units for enforcement action;
- Establish wildlife crime databank;
- Prevent, investigate and prosecute organized wildlife crime cases having wider ramifications;
- Act as nodal point for WCCB and MoEFCC India wildlife crime related issues;
- Coordinate inter-agency wildlife crime enforcement actions in States; and
- Advice State governments on issues relating to wildlife crime and related laws.

The WCCB has asked States to constitute high-level inter-agency coordination committee in each State to control poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking. The members of the committee may include heads of relevant state agencies and representatives of WCCB and other relevant central government agencies having presence in the states and union territories.

In another initiative, a police task force has been set up to combat the growing red sander smuggling in four Rayalaseema districts, including Tirupati urban police and Nellore. In a move by the forest department's city mobile squad-Bengaluru, it has taken custody of 3,893 kg of red sanders worth Rs 11 crore from a truck where it was being smuggled from Andhra Pradesh.

(For more : <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/Set-up-wildlife-crime-control-units-in-each-state/articleshow/45182710.cms>)

SMUGGLING OF WILDLIFE PRODUCTS

India: Customs officials at the Chennai airport on Thursday seized 13.50 kg of elephant hair and 7 kg of leopard claws valued at over INRs 2 crore in the international market from a consignment from Sudan, following intelligence reports. Two persons, including a Perambur resident in whose name the consignment was addressed, were arrested in this connection. However, officials are yet to figure out the destination of the consignment, transporting which is a clear violation of both Indian and Sudan laws.

'Compared to other cargo hubs, Chennai handles a majority of cargo from the Middle East, Europe and America. We need to resolve the existing chaos urgently as we handle several consignments from foreign countries,' said a senior official. Officials said peacock feathers, star tortoises, red-eared turtles, ornamental fish and deer antlers were among the major wildlife items seized in recent times at the Chennai airport.

Reports of seizures reveals that Kerala is becoming transit hub for ivory witnessing number of seizure in 2012; nine tusks and two ivory statues, together weighing 88 kg, in 2013; three cases have been reported in 2014. However, Kerala has had no poaching case reported in the last three years. Ivory poached in Odisha, Karanataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu could be finding its way to Kerala. In the last two years 41 elephants were poached in Odisha and this year so far, 11 elephants have been targeted.

In another move, in a joint operation by Sakleshpur rural police and forest officials, four persons were arrested and ivory worth INRs 20 lakh was recovered from them in the reserve forest near Kadumane Coffee Estate on Sunday while they were trying to transport the ivory to a neighbouring state. The arrested are Prakriddin, Murugesh of Sakleshpur and Riju and Ahmed of Sankalapura. Forest officials also found the decomposed body of a male wild elephant in the forest. The tusks were missing.

(For more : <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/Customs-snares-wildlife-products-worth-Rs-2-crore/articleshow/10965505.cms>)

WILDLIFE STAFF SHOT DEAD

Nepal: Mr. Shesh Chandra Chaudhary, 50, of Ratnanagar-1, a staff of Chitwan National Park (CNP), was shot dead by unknown assailants at Ayodhyapuri-9, Chitwan district on 25th September, 2014. Police suspect that wildlife smugglers might have opened fire at Shesh while Shesh and Mr. Trilok Chaudhary were patrolling at the park. Shesh died after sustaining severe gunshot wounds to the head. Trilok, 45, of Baghauda-3 sustained bullet injuries in the chest, stomach and thighs. He is currently receiving treatment at a local-

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Trilok, who was injured in the shooting, receives treatment at Bharatpur Medical College

hospital. Deputy Superintendent of Police Shantiraj Koirala said that while Shesh and Trilok were heading to Subarnapur in Parsa on a motorcycle, a group of seven persons took them under control near Deuranijethani River of the CNP area and attacked them following a dispute. The dispute flared up when the group stopped them and started frisking their bodies. After opening fire at them, the group fled towards the nearby forest, police said. After the group opened fire at Shesh, pillion rider Trilok managed to run away and save his life. However, the group also opened fire at him from behind, said DSP Koirala.

The site where the incident occurred is located near the Nepal-India border and is at a distance of around 70 kilometres from the district headquarters Bharatpur.

Following the incident, the Government of Nepal said on 22nd December, 2014 that it was preparing to provide a life insurance cover of one million rupees to the wildlife staff working in the protected areas.

(For more : <http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2014/09/25/nation/cnp-staff-shot-dead/267943.html>)

BIRDS SMUGGLING FOILED



Pakistan: The business of smuggling protected birds and animals is at its peak in Pakistan and surfaced as provincial wildlife officials recovered 78 cranes from three different passenger coaches headed to Bannu from Karachi on 20th October, 2014.

The officials, who were tipped off about the transportation of migratory birds from Karachi to Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, recovered 40 birds from one coach and 30 from another on Super Highway near Hyderabad, with the help of the Rangers. The third consignment was recovered from Dunba Goth in Karachi. The illegal trade has been carried out in the city

for years, with demand and supply peaking during the winter season when the migratory birds visit Pakistan. One official disclosed that the birds were often kept as pets in Punjab and K-P, with a pair fetching about Rs 20,000 in the local market.

In another move, the staff of Wildlife Department have foiled a birds smuggling bid and seized 64 precious birds -31 grey partridges, 10 black partridges, 8 sand partridges and 15 see-see partridges- from a Multan-bound bus near Wanda Banochi check post on 7th December, 2014. An alleged smuggler Rafiq Khan hailing from Bannu district was arrested with the birds.

However, the government has once again issued several Gulf Royal families dozens of permits to come and hunt (read poach) the threatened Houbara Bustard, a migratory bird enlisted as an endangered bird in IUCN, in different areas of Pakistan. The bird nests in Pakistan during winter - before flying back to Siberia in spring - estimates say a decrease of 30 percent of this species has occurred in Pakistan alone. Earlier this year, a Saudi Royal gunned down 2,100 Bustard in a fortnight, including areas that were out-of-bounds.

The Lahore High Court sought a reply from the foreign secretary on a contempt petition as the court had already issued a stay order on the earlier issuance of permits that violated the Punjab Wildlife Act, 2007.

(For more : <http://tribune.com.pk/story/778446/spread-your-wings-wildlife-officials-rescue-78-cranes>)

TURTLES' ILLEGAL TRADE IN PAKISTAN

Pakistan: Issues on illegal trade of turtles emerged once again following the recent seizure of 42 rare green turtles, 218 black spotted turtles, and 200 black pond turtles in Pakistan and neighbouring country.

The officials of Customs and Wildlife departments posted at Allama Iqbal International Airport, Lahore, foiled a bid to smuggle as many as 42 rare green turtles abroad on 12th November, 2014. These turtles were hid in diapers inside the suitcases.

Also, a Pakistani national called Sajid Cheema attempted to illegally smuggle 218 black spotted turtles to Bangkok, Thailand, however, the consignment was confiscated by Customs and Wildlife authorities at Jinnah International Airport, Karachi on 20th September 2014.

In another incident, Chinese officials confiscated 200 turtles in their territories which were originally from Sindh Province. Two Pakistani and five Chinese poachers were held for the offence whereas turtles were handed over to Pakistani officials on August, 2014.

A Pakistani national carrying 470 black spotted turtles was travelling from Lahore to Bangkok and caught by Thai Royal Customs on 8th November 2013.

Pakistani nationals were carrying Indian star tortoises were travelling from Bangladesh to Thailand with 788 Indian star tortoises on July 2008 and 1,140 Indian star tortoises on September 2010. The CITES-Management



Black pond turtles

Authority of Pakistan sent request for information to the Thai authorities for information on above cases.

All eight freshwater turtle species found in Pakistan are listed in the CITES-Appendices I & II which warrants that their import and export without a legal permit is prohibited.

(For more : <http://www.dawn.com/news/1130959>)

CHINESE NATIONAL ARRESTED IN SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka: Sri Lankan airport authorities arrested a Chinese national for attempting to smuggle birds' nests out of the country on 16th September, 2014. The 48-year-old Chinese man was arrested at the departure lounge of the Bandaranaike International Airport this morning with edible bird's nests worth Rs 1.9 million, Sri Lanka Customs officials said. The birds' nests, a rare delicacy in China, were concealed in 12 tea tins, weighing 4.75 kilograms.

The man was attempting to board a Sri Lankan flight to Guangzhou in Southern China hours before the Chinese President Xi Jinping was to arrive at the airport, according to the Custom officials. Investigation is underway by a team of customs officers while the suspect is currently being interrogated, the official said.

(For more : http://www.colombopage.com/archive_14B/Sep16_1410855578CH.php)

BEAR TRADE \$2 BILLION PER YEAR

An INTERPOL's new report, *Assessment on Illegal Bear Trade*, claimed that the illegal trade of bears and their parts is \$2 billion a year. Smugglers use different way for this lucrative trade. For instance, a bear smuggler was trying to move 22 live moon bears – Asiatic black bears – in the back of the car from South Yunnan to Chengdu in China claiming as Akita puppies. In another incident, officials discovered 200 bear paws hidden in the inside of a car tyre.

The report shows that the most poached and smuggled bear of the 8 bear species is the moon bear or Asiatic black bear. Parts for American black bears, polar bears and brown

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bears can all be found in the Asian markets meeting the demand of traditional medicines.

Whole bear gall bladder in China where there is a legal domestic market is valued at \$4,000 per kilo. In Japan that same bear gall bladder can fetch \$100,000 per kilo. The profit involved makes bear products attractive to international crime syndicates. In another example bear bile powder in China can fetch \$20,000 per kilo while in Japan the same product can fetch \$400,000 per kilo compared with gold at \$41,000 per kilo.

Interestingly, products from wild bears are in particular demand and wild bear bile can fetch up to 65 times more than a farmed bear. This is put down to farmed bears being kept in such poor conditions that their products are inferior and poor quality. One of the concerning trends picked up by the report is that historically most bear products tended to originate in China. There is a growing trend now for products to also originate from Russia.

(For more: <http://wildlifeneews.co.uk/2014/12/new-report-examines-2-billion-bear-trade>)

2014, THE WORST YEAR FOR RHINO

South Africa has set a new record in rhino slayings by the hands of poachers. At least 1,020 rhinos were killed in 2014 (till late November) compared to 2013's 1,004 deaths (a record at the time) but also 2014 was the year in which arrests of suspected poachers were at an all-time high.

The reason for the increase of slayings is the high market value of rhino horns. Rhino horns are prized in Asian medicine and one can fetch as much as \$100,000 per kilogram, which is attracting organized crime syndicates.

(For more: <http://www.ecorazzi.com/2014/12/19/2014-was-the-worst-year-for-rhino-deaths-in-south-africa/>)

LIVE LIONS, TIGERS, AND BEARS FOR SALE ONLINE

A report of International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) unveils the extent of online market of wildlife any animal, endangered or not, alive or not, parts or body thanks to over a six-week investigation that spanned in 16 countries. Researchers discovered more than 33,000 endangered animals, wildlife parts, and products for sale in more than 280 Internet marketplaces. Some of the most egregiously illegal items advertised online: How about a toilet-trained gorilla? A live tiger? Or a polar bear rug?

Other items for sale were endangered turtles and tortoises, rhino horns, tiger bone carvings, live exotic birds, live frogs, and live cheetahs. Online wildlife crime is part of the illegal wildlife trade and environmental crime black market, which is estimated to

be worth \$70 billion to \$213 billion annually, according to the United Nations Environment Programme and INTERPOL'S Environmental Crime Crisis report.

(For more: <http://www.takepart.com/article/2014/12/01/live-lions-tigers-and-bears-sale-online-oh-my>)

WILDLIFE PROTECTION IN CHINESE LAW

The first draft of the law on protection of wildlife has been revised, in which animal welfare has been recognized for the first time in China, reported www.thepaper.cn on 16th December, 2014. Selling and consuming wild animals are rampant in some areas in China due to lack of protection of the wildlife, let alone their welfare.

So far, there are no regulations related to punishments for hurting or abusing wildlife in China, said Yang Zhaoxia, deputy chief of ecological law research center in Beijing Forestry University. 'Lack of animal welfare protection will impede our efforts to curb animal abuse such as catching and killing them or making them performs,' said Yang.'

The current law on the protection of wildlife has been criticized by many experts and animal activists as it has not been revised for 25 years except two minor regulations and for being out of date, according to [thepaper.cn](http://www.thepaper.cn).

(For more: <http://www.womenofchina.cn/womenofchina/html1/features/rights/1412/2048-1.htm>)

ARRESTS IN INTERPOL CO-ORDINATED OPERATIONS

Two of the nine most wanted environmental criminals have been arrested following the INTERPOL release of the most wanted fugitives accused of wildlife poaching, trafficking animals parts and illegal logging. Ben Simasiku, a Zambian national and Feisal Mohamed Ali, a Kenyan national have been arrested as part of the INTERPOL coordinated operation INFRA-TERRA. It is the first INTERPOL fugitive operation targeting individuals specifically focusing on 139 fugitives wanted by its 36 member countries for crimes including illegal fishing, wildlife trafficking, illegal logging and trading in illicit ivory.

Similarly, another five-month long (July to November) INTERPOL coordinated operation; Operation PAWS -Protection of Asian Wildlife Species, targeting wildlife trafficking in tigers and other big cats across Asia has resulted in the seizure of hundreds of animals and more than 160 arrests. Involving 13 Asian countries, including four SAWEN member



FROM TOP LEFT :

First Row: Adriano-GIACOBONE, Feisal-Mohamed-ALI (ARRESTED), Ariel-BUSTAMANTE-SANCHEZ,

Second Row: Ben-SIMASIKU (ARRESTED), Ahmed-KAMRAN, Sergey-DARMINOV,

Third Row: Bhukumusa-Mawillis-SHIBA, Sudiman-SUNOTO, Nicolaas-Duindam

countries, Operation PAWS also focused on lesser known species which are in high demand by the black market, such as bears and pangolins. Wildlife traders using the internet and social media in certain countries were also investigated.

Among the live animals recovered were tigers, leopards, bears, monkeys, red pandas, lions and crocodiles in addition to 3,500 kg of elephant ivory, 280kg of pangolin scales, rhino horns and more than 4,000 kg of red sanders. A large number of turtles, tortoises and birds were also seized across a wide range of countries indicating a high demand for these species.

(For more: <http://www.interpol.int/News-and-media/News/2014/N2014-245>)

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Wildlife Crime News and
SAWEN Updates.



South Asia Wildlife
Enforcement Network

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Message from Chief Enforcement Coordinator

Dear all,
South Asia's unique geographical expanse and transboundary nature support several diverse ecosystems harboring a rich variety of faunal and floral species, including some of the most charismatic and endangered species on Earth. Conservation of these bio-resources of global significance encounters multifaceted challenges emanating from rapid economic growth and many



Four Leopards found dead at Manesar Golf Course
Sunday, November 16th, 2014

Calendar

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