



The SAWEN Bulletin

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

Vol. 3&4/2012, Jan-June

CONTENT

SAWEN Updates.....	1
News from CITES.....	5
News from other related agencies.....	6
Reports from South Asia on Wildlife Trade issues	7

Chief Editor: Mr Krishna Prasad Acharya, Chief Enforcement Coordinator of SAWEN & the Director General, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Nepal

Editorial Team:

James Compton
(james.compton@traffic.org);
MKS Pasha
(kpasha@wwfindia.net);
Dilpreet B. Chhabra
(dchhabra@wwfindia.net);
Diwakar Chapagain
(diwakar.chapagain@wwfnepal.org);
Meeta Acharya
(meetaacharya2000@yahoo.com)

Contact: SAWEN Secretariat,
Department of National Parks & Wildlife
Conservation, Babarmahal, Kathmandu,
Nepal, GPO Box: 860;
Tel no: +9771-14227926, 4220912,
4220850
Email: sawen.secretariat@gmail.com

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. You can write to sawen.secretariat@gmail.com or dchhabra@wwfindia.net



© Axel Gebauer

From the Desk

Dear Readers

Welcome to the combined issue (Vol. 3&4/2012) of 'The SAWEN Bulletin'.

First of all a big thank you to all the member countries for sending their representative to this important meeting held in Sri Lanka from 3-6 June 2012. This clearly signifies the commitment of the member countries towards strengthening the network and eradicating illegal wildlife trade in the region. The meeting has been highlighted in detail below in this Bulletin.



© Dept of Wildlife Conservation, Sri Lanka

As already discussed at the meeting, the Secretariat with support from TRAFFIC is working on a leaflet about SAWEN. After approval from all member countries, the Secretariat will be printing hard copies of the leaflet. In case you wish to obtain copies of the leaflet, please get in touch with us.

Soon, the Secretariat will also be launching the SAWEN website. For this we may need some specific country related information from you. Therefore, I would request your prompt response and support in putting this together. Once launched, the SAWEN website will become an excellent medium for us to communicate with each other, our partners, supporters and also with the outside world.

Hope you are finding 'The SAWEN Bulletin' informative and useful. You may freely circulate this amongst the target audiences in your own countries. For inputs, suggestions or comments, please feel free to write to me at sawen.secretariat@gmail.com

Thank you & Happy Reading!
Krishna Prasad Acharya
Chief Enforcement Coordinator

SAWEN UPDATES

SAWEN officials prioritize efforts to combat illegal wildlife trade in South Asia

The officials from the countries of South Asia met in Sri Lanka from 3-6 June 2012, to devise operational plans to combat illegal trade affecting some of the region's most threatened wildlife species.

The meeting was the First Regional Meeting of the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) and worked on an updated work programme and discussed issues such as intelligence gathering, information sharing, capacity building and law enforcement cooperation.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1



© Dept of Wildlife Conservation, Sri Lanka

The meeting was attended by over 30 wildlife and law enforcement officials from all eight South Asian countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka). Participants also included experts from INTERPOL, the World Customs Organization's Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for the Asia-Pacific, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, World Bank, the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network, the Global Tiger Forum, the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), WWF and TRAFFIC.

In an important effort to address source-to-market law enforcement co-operation, the CITES Management Authority of China also joined the meeting as an observer. China shares terrestrial borders with five South Asian countries, and is a major trade partner with the region.

Officially opening the meeting, Sri Lanka's Minister of Environment, the Hon. Anura Priyadarshana Yapa, expressed his country's keen interest and commitment in co-operating and networking with other regional partner organisations for combating illegal trade. "It is extremely necessary that all South Asian countries should get together and help each other prevent illegal trade of bio-resources across their respective country borders."

According to the SAWEN Chief Enforcement Coordinator, Mr Krishna P. Acharya, the meeting identified a number of illegal trade priorities for enhancing regional cooperation, focused on species such as Asian big cats, elephants, freshwater turtles, falcons, rhinos and marine turtles. "Wildlife trade routes and hubs for these species were carefully examined and mapped," he said.

"Operational plans were also discussed which would allow SAWEN countries to share information, identify capacity needs and plan and execute joint operations aimed at shutting down these trade routes and breaking up the organised criminal networks using them," Mr Acharya added.

James Compton, TRAFFIC Senior Programme Director for Asia, welcomed the progress being made by SAWEN: "The establishment of SAWEN last year was a very crucial, timely and much needed step forward to institutionalize the collaborative efforts of member countries in controlling wildlife crime in the region.

"It is gratifying to see that SAWEN countries are now well-placed to coordinate law enforcement operations that will stem illegal trade flows where it matters and produce tangible conservation victories on the ground," he said.

TRAFFIC's work in supporting SAWEN, including the holding of this meeting, has been generously funded by the US Department of State. The Government of Sri Lanka is also acknowledged for their matching funding contributions in hosting the First Regional Meeting of SAWEN.



© Dept of Wildlife Conservation, Sri Lanka

Tiger countries meet in India to review progress on implementation of the Global Tiger Recovery Programme

Tiger recovery efforts progressing, but urgent action still needed to fight poaching was the unequivocal voice among the participants of the meeting that was held from 15-17 May in New Delhi.

In November 2010 at the "Tiger Summit" in St. Petersburg hosted by the Government of Russia and the World Bank, the 13 Tiger Range Governments and partners committed to doubling the number of wild Tigers by 2022 (TX2). They presented the Global Tiger Recovery Program (GTRP), which represents the plans towards meeting this goal.

The meeting in New Delhi was the first time since the Tiger Summit that senior government officials from all 13 countries had met to review progress on implementation of the GTRP and plan the next steps.

Tiger range countries in this meeting reported significant progress, but recognized that urgent and elevated action is still needed to halt poaching. During the meeting, TRAFFIC presented new figures from its latest research into the rising number of Tiger part seizures taking place in Asia. The analysis also identified persistent Tiger trade hot-spots such as Kathmandu, Hanoi and the Russia/Northeast China border.

Poaching of Tigers, to feed consumer demand for their body parts and products, is now the main factor reversing the gains made by governments, donors and other partners working towards the 2022 goal.

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

Nearly all Tiger range countries spoke of the poaching problem and efforts they are taking on the ground to tackle it. These include strengthening capacity and introducing new, innovative law enforcement monitoring tools, such as M-STrIPES and SMART, to better manage protected areas with Tigers. It is essential that a Tiger trade monitoring system be established as information such as this can assist enforcement efforts in the field where it is most needed.

Before the meeting, WWF had released results of a preliminary assessment of 63 legally protected areas in seven Tiger range countries that showed only 22, or 35%, maintain WWF's minimum standards of protection. This indicated that Tigers in most of the protected areas are still very vulnerable to poaching.

In a sign indicating Tiger range countries are increasingly working together to save the Tiger across their borders, the meeting witnessed the signing of a bilateral agreement on trans-border co-operation between India and Nepal and another between India and Russia.



© Rohit Singh

Read more at <http://www.traffic.org/home/2012/5/17/tiger-recovery-efforts-progressing-urgent-action-still-neede.html>

Bangladesh creates anti-poaching police force

In response to a sharp rise in poaching and exotic animal smuggling, Bangladesh is set to launch a new police force to protect wildlife. The 300-member Wildlife Crime Control Unit will be deployed in July as part of a USD36 million World Bank-funded project aimed at protecting native endangered species and their habitats.

Most of the unit will be stationed in the Sundarbans — the world's largest mangrove forest and home to the endangered Royal Bengal Tiger — and will be equipped with modern weaponry and 38 patrol boats.

Officials are also concerned that wildlife smuggling is increasing. Thai customs authorities announced that they had recently seized 450 endangered Star Tortoises smuggled into the country on a flight from Bangladesh. In light of this and other related incidences, it was felt necessary to expedite efforts to fight wildlife crime in the region.

Read more at http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011%5C06%5C08%5Cstory_8-6-2011_pg14_4

India gears up to fight wildlife crime: West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh and Karnataka Forest Departments undergo training

Forest Departments of West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh and Karnataka with support from TRAFFIC India organized a two day workshop on strengthening wildlife enforcement in India. The workshops provided training and inputs to a diverse group of officials working on wildlife enforcement and other related issues. The programme aimed to improve understanding amongst the enforcement agencies about wildlife laws and their implementation.

LOCATION	DATE	PARTICIPANTS
Buxa Tiger Reserve, West Bengal	12-13 January 2012	45 forest officials
Anshi Tiger Reserve, Karnataka	18-19 February 2012	70 forest officials
Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh	1-2 May 2012	70 officials from the forest department, police, civil administration and ITBP (Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force)

To know more about the training, please visit www.traffic.org

Identification posters on 'Parrots of India' available for use and distribution

A parrot in captivity is one of the more visible symbols of illegal trade in India, where all native wildlife is fully protected. To help enforcement officers identify native parrot species, and thereby clip the wings of the illegal bird trade, TRAFFIC India with support from WWF-India has produced an identification poster entitled "Parrots of India in Illegal Trade".

Identification of parrots and other species in trade is a major challenge. The new poster will help enforcement officers identify the 12 native Indian parrot species. The posters are being distributed to Police, Customs, Forest Departments, Railway Protection Forces and educational institutions, such as schools and colleges.

Despite the blanket ban since 1990-91 on trade in all Indian bird species, hundreds of parrots are collected and traded annually in India. They are taken from the wild and smuggled to various parts of the country and beyond. The bulk of the trade is in three- to four-week old chicks. For every bird that reaches the market place, several are believed to die en route.

Of the 12 native species, eight are regularly found in illegal trade. These include Alexandrine, Rose-ringed, Plum-headed, Red-breasted, Malabar, Himalayan and Finsch's Parakeets and Vernal Hanging-parrot.

The parrot trade is substantial and well organized, but it can be counteracted through concerted enforcement actions at the grassroot level and through mass awareness campaigns. TRAFFIC India's new poster is a step in this direction.

For free copies of the posters, please write to TRAFFIC at dchhabra@wwfindia.net. The poster can also be viewed at www.traffic.org and www.trafficindia.org



© Abrar Ahmed

Sri Lanka seizes 1.5 tonnes of ivory

Sri Lanka Customs authorities in the port of Colombo seized 1.5 tonnes of ivory on 29 May 2012 making it the single largest-ever haul of ivory in the country.

Customs officials seized 359 ivory tusks hidden among logs in a container marked as plastic waste. The container had originated from Uganda and shipped from Kenya and was bound for Dubai.

According to the most recent analysis of the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES), a number of countries in Southeast Asia have emerged as ports of call, but not end-use destinations, along the main Asian ivory trade routes to markets in Thailand and China.

However, James Compton, the Asia Programme Director for TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, warned that this seizure in Sri Lanka raises concerns that illegal ivory traders are developing new routes through South Asia for their illicit trade.

"As existing transit countries for African ivory such as Malaysia, the Philippines and Viet Nam increase their enforcement efforts, smugglers will adapt and seek other trans-shipping

routes and substitute ports of call," he said.

Mr Samantha Gunasekara, Deputy Director of Sri Lanka Customs, warned of the need for further vigilance in the region. "Countries in the South Asia region should be vigilant and enhance their enforcement cooperation to address illicit ivory trade, so that none of these countries become prominent and problematic players in the future."

The seizure was made following a tip-off from the World Customs Organization's Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific region (RILO-A/P), based in Seoul, South Korea. "This highlights the crucial role that intelligence gathering and information sharing plays in stemming illegal ivory trade," Mr Gunasekara said.

"It is essential that the best enforcement practices and tools are deployed to curb this growing menace in the bud," Compton said. "Using sniffer dogs for crime detection and prevention is one technique that is making a difference in India and we hope more countries will come forward to adopt innovative tools such as this in the fight against wildlife crime".

Read more at <http://www.traffic.org/home/2012/6/1/sri-lanka-seizes-15-tonnes-of-ivory.html>



© Samantha Gunasekara / Sri Lanka Customs

NEWS FROM CITES*

www.cites.org

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

Asian countries encouraged to use CITES e-permitting systems to strengthen the protection of CITES species

The rapid advances by some countries in the Asian Region on use of new electronic trade standards has highlighted the need for establishment of secure-permitting systems to: reduce fraud; improve on meeting reporting obligations; enhance permit issuance and administration; and provide up-to-the-minute data to assist with CITES scientific assessments. Therefore, the development and use of CITES e-permitting systems, and their role in ensuring legal, sustainable and traceable international trade in CITES-listed species, was the main agenda of discussion at a meeting attended by representatives of Asian countries in Guangzhou, China from 9 to 11 May 2012.

The meeting was jointly organized by the CITES Secretariat and the Government of China and made possible through the generous financial support of China and the European Commission.

In his opening remarks, Secretary-General, Mr. John E. Scanlon, noted that, "A sustainable future is being discussed in the context of the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro in June of this year, often known as Rio+20. Sustainability is not achieved through one action but through the accumulation of multiple actions. Actions such as those being taken today - namely to put into place e-permitting systems for legal, sustainable and traceable trade in CITES listed species - help build the essential foundations for environmental sustainability and sustainable development. E-permitting systems offer us one of the tools we need to reach the future we want."

During the meeting, a representative of the WCO announced the successful conclusion of an initiative to include standards of the CITES e-permitting toolkit with the new version of the WCO Data Model, scheduled for release in October 2012. Participants in the meeting also focused on the positive impacts of CITES e-permitting systems on the provision of up-to-the-minute data for scientific findings and reviewing levels of trade.

The meeting concluded by recommending a number of bilateral and regional projects, which will assist Parties to plan and develop e-permitting systems, benefiting from lessons learned. Recommendations were also made to begin discussions on a project between Brazil, Namibia and China on using new e-permitting technologies to ensure legal, sustainable and traceable trade.

Read more at http://cites.org/eng/news/pr/2012/20120514_e-permitting-meet.php

Leading scientists discuss the criteria for listing sharks and other aquatic species

Over 200 participants from around the world attended the 26th meeting of the Animals Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) held in Geneva from 15 to 20 March 2012. Among the topics discussed, experts evaluated the implications of climate change on the management of species in international trade. They also discussed the scientific criteria to determine when sharks and other aquatic species qualify for CITES protection.

The CITES Animal Committee provides technical and scientific advice to help ensure the sustainability of international trade in wildlife products obtained from over 4500 species of animals, including caviar from sturgeons and reptile skins used in luxury goods.

Read more at http://cites.org/eng/news/pr/2012/20120315_ac26ad.php



© Brian J. Skerry / National Geographic Stock / WWF

NEWS FROM OTHER RELATED AGENCIES

Police and Customs heads meet to tighten controls and improve cross-border cooperation for curbing illegal wildlife trade

Police and customs from 13 Asian countries at the two-day international "Heads of Police and Customs Seminar on Tiger Crime", agreed to tighten controls and improve cross-border cooperation to curb the illegal smuggling of Tigers and other critically endangered species. The accord came at the conclusion of the international meeting held at Bangkok, Thailand on 13-14 February 2012.

Hosted by the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC), and organized by INTERPOL, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the World Customs Organization (WCO), and with the technical and financial support from the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Secretariat and the World Bank, the Tiger Seminar objective was for participants to agree on a robust set of law enforcement-based solutions to protect Tigers and other rare and highly threatened species.

There were 26 delegates from 13 Tiger range countries as well as senior representatives from ICCWC members and key partner organizations operating in this field. A critical Tiger Seminar activity was to raise awareness among Police and Customs authorities of the impact wildlife trafficking has on wild Tigers.

Environmental crime is a serious international problem with a detrimental impact on the global economy and security. Criminals violate national and international laws through increasingly sophisticated techniques and highly organized networks. Their activities directly affect human health, and threaten the environment and global biodiversity.

Therefore, the efforts to fight Tiger crime must not just result in seizures - they must result in prosecutions, convictions and strong penalties to stop the flow of contraband.

•Read more at http://cites.org/eng/news/pr/2012/20120214_tiger_bkk.php

INTERPOL launches Project LEAF to combat illegal logging worldwide

To mark World Environment Day, 5 June, INTERPOL announced the launch of Project LEAF (Law Enforcement Assistance for Forests), an initiative dedicated to combating all aspects of forestry crime, including illegal logging and timber trafficking.

Project LEAF, a partnership between INTERPOL and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), with financial support from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), is an innovative, international response representing the first time that organizations of this stature have joined forces against this organized, sophisticated and transnational crime.

The criminals responsible for illegal logging are destroying biodiversity, threatening the livelihoods of those reliant on forest resources and contributing directly to climate change. With corruption, violence and even murder tied to illegal logging this type of crime can also affect a country's stability and security.

Nearly 1.6 billion people – more than a quarter of the world's population – rely on forests for their fuel, food, and medicines. The poorer the people, the greater their dependency with more than 90 per cent of those living below the dollar-a-day poverty line either fully or partly dependent on forest products for their livelihoods. Collusive corruption and fraud in the forestry sector undermines the rule of law and confidence in government institutions significantly hampering efforts to tackle poverty amongst the world's poorest people.

To be truly effective, actions against illegal logging must be coordinated, collaborative and transnational. Crackdowns in one country must be supported by others in order to prevent illegal loggers, who frequently have access to extensive international funding channels in addition to using illicit land, sea and air networks to switch countries and evade detection.

David Higgins, INTERPOL's Environmental Crime Programme manager, said: "In 2010, INTERPOL received at its General Assembly in Qatar a unanimous mandate from its member countries to expand its response to environmental crime worldwide. Project LEAF represents INTERPOL's commitment to this mandate and to ensuring the safety and security of communities."

Read more at www.interpol.int/Crime-areas/Environmental-crime/

REPORTS FROM SOUTH ASIA ON WILDLIFE TRADE ISSUES



Disclaimer: News items on this page are from external sources and SAWEN Secretariat cannot be held responsible for the authenticity of their content, nor for the continuing presence of original links. News items are provided for information only and are not intended to represent the SAWEN Secretariat policies, positions, opinions or views on the issues raised in the item.

AFGHANISTAN

No news reported for this period



Snow Leopard *Uncia uncia*

© Martin Harvey / WWF-Canon

BHUTAN



Takin *Budorcas taxicolor*

© Donald G. Reid / WWF-Canon

Three men apprehended for alleged involvement in poaching of three Musk Deer and three Monal Pheasant in Daur, Bumthang; 18 February 2012 (Kuensel Online)

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/2011/?p=27346>

INDIA

Fifty parakeets seized, man arrested in Bengal; 16 January 2012

Source : Anandabazar Patrika, 17 January 2012

Sniffer dog tracks down ivory in Jharkhand; 8 February 2012

(The Pioneer)

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/nation/41263-tracey-sniffs-out-32-kg-ivory-in-dalma.html>

Pelts of one Tiger, four Leopards and about three kg of big cat bones seized and five persons arrested in Najibabad in Uttar Pradesh; 9 February 2012

(The Pioneer)

<http://dailypioneer.com/nation/41549-huge-haul-of-poached-animal-parts-5-held.html>

Cobra venom being used by youngsters as an intoxicant; 17 February 2012

(Gulf News)

<http://gulfnews.com/news/world/india/cobra-venom-drug-popular-on-delhi-party-scene-1.982082>

Leopard skin seized in Uttarakhand; 21 February 2012 (CNBC)

http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/wire-news/leopard-skin-worth-rs-12-lakh-seized_671813.html

Leopard skin seized in Palamau, Jharkhand; 24 February 2012

(The Telegraph)

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1120227/jsp/frontpage/story_15183865.jsp

Cobra venom recovered , two people arrested in New Delhi; 13 March 2012

(Deccan Herald)

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/234555/2-snakes-500-ml-cobra.html>

Twenty one turtles rescued from the cooking pot in Goa; 25 March 2012

(The Times of India)

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/21-turtles-saved-from-the-cooking-pot-at-Mapusa/articleshow/12408918.cms>

Leopard skin seized in Assam; 3 April 2012 (twocircles.net)

http://twocircles.net/2012apr05/leopard_skin_seized_assam.html

Man arrested with Leopard skin in Karnataka; 4 April 2012

(The Indian Express)

<http://expressbuzz.com/entertainment/news/man-held-with-leopard-skin/378930.html>

BANGLADESH



Ganges River Dolphin *Platanista gangetica*

© François Xavier Pelletier / WWF-Canon

Bangladesh jails 16 gecko smugglers; 16 February 2012 (Inquirer)

<http://globalnation.inquirer.net/25961/bangladesh-jails-16-gecko-smugglers-2>

Illegal trade in turtles along the Indo-Bangla border; 23 May 2012

(The Assam Tribune)

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=may2412/oth06>

155 turtles including 87 Three Keel Tortoise and 68 Snail-eating Turtle smuggled in fruit baskets to Bangladesh through Benapole border from India were seized by the Forest Department; 27 April 2012

(bdnews24)

<http://bdnews24.com/details.php?id=223345&cid=2>

Three rare Royal Bengal tiger cubs have been rescued from a smuggler in the Shyamoli area of the Bangladeshi capital Dhaka; 11 June 2012 (BBC)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-18398302>

INDIA



Indian Tiger *Panthera tigris*

© MKS Pasha

Two people arrested for smuggling 4000 turtles in Uttar Pradesh; 9 January 2012 (The Times of India)

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kanpur/4000-turtles-seized-two-arrested/articleshow/11432599.cms>

Leopard skin and Tiger skull seized, five people arrested in Tamil Nadu; 11 January 2012 (Zee News)

http://zeenews.india.com/news/tamil-nadu/five-held-leopard-skin-tiger-s-skull-seized_752110.html

Poacher arrested in Guwahati Zoo whilst trying to kill rhinos for horns; 15 January 2012 (Hindustan Times)

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/Guwahati/Poacher-caught-from-Assam-zoo/Article1-797570.aspx>

REPORTS FROM SOUTH ASIA ON WILDLIFE TRADE ISSUES



Disclaimer: News items on this page are from external sources and SAWEN Secretariat cannot be held responsible for the authenticity of their content, nor for the continuing presence of original links. News items are provided for information only and are not intended to represent the SAWEN Secretariat policies, positions, opinions or views on the issues raised in the item.

INDIA

Clouded Leopard skins seized in Assam; 9 April 2012 (Zee News)

http://zeenews.india.com/news/north-east/two-clouded-leopard-skins-seized-in-assam_769104.html

Red Sanders seized in Punjab; 13 April 2012 (The Times of India)

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Rare-red-sandalwood-seized-in-Punjab/articleshow/12647050.cms>

Three men arrested with Tiger skins in Chhattisgarh; 20 April 2012 (The Times of India)

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-04-20/flora-fauna/31373609_1_tiger-skins-kanker-anti-poaching

Star Tortoises seized at the Bangalore airport; 7 May 2012 (Deccan Herald)

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/247765/483-star-tortoises-seized-bia.html>

Tiger chopped into 10 pieces in Maharashtra; 18 May 2012 (The Times of India)

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/flora-fauna/Poachers-strike-Tiger-chopped-into-10-pieces-in-Maharashtra/articleshow/13278409.cms>

Three people arrested with Leopard skin in Chhattisgarh; 19 May 2012 (The Pioneer)

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/state-editions/raipur/66678-three-held-with-panther-skin.html>

Forty live freshwater seized turtles near forest areas of Lunimathia village under Mahakalpada forest range in Odisha's Kendrapara district; 6 June 2012 (IBN Live)

<http://ibnlive.in.com/generalnewsfeed/news/forty-freshwater-turtles-seized/1008214.html>

MALDIVES

No news reported for this period



Yellowfin Tuna *Thunnus albacares*

NEPAL



© Michel Gunther / WWF-Canon

Indian Rhinoceros *Rhinoceros unicornis*

Four ivory smugglers arrested with 2 Elephant tusks; 14 May 2012 (The Himalayan Times)

<http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=4+ivory+smugglers+arrested+with+2+elephant+tusks&NewsID=331977>

Four wildlife traders arrested with two pieces of Red Panda skin in Manamaiju and Ranibari in Kathmandu (The Himalayan Times)

<http://m.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Four+held+with+red+panda+skin&NewsID=319098>

SRI LANKA



© naturepl.com / Andy Rouse / WWF

Asian Elephant *Elephas maximus*

359 Elephant tusks weighing 1.6 tonnes seized in Sri Lanka; 24 May 2012 (Alert Net)

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/elephant-tusks-seized-in-sri-lanka-came-from-kenya>

PAKISTAN

No news reported for this period



© David Lawson / WWF-UK

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

Events and Announcements

3 July: Deadline to submit to the CITES Secretariat nominees for chairmanship of the committees at 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties

23-27 July: 62nd meeting of the CITES Standing Committee, Geneva, Switzerland

4 October: Deadline to submit to the CITES Secretariat for consideration at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES

1-19 October 2012: XI Conference of Parties (CoP) on Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) being hosted by India at Hyderabad