



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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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

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SAWEN UPDATES

Welcoming the new Chief Enforcement Coordinator- SAWEN Secretariat

Mr Megh Bahadur Pandey, the new Director General of Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), Nepal has taken over the position of the Chief Enforcement Coordinator at the SAWEN secretariat in Kathmandu. Mr Krishna Prasad Acharya has moved on to the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Nepal.



Mr Pandey has been with the Government of Nepal for more than 35 years in various capacities. He has served as Warden and Chief Warden of various national parks and wildlife reserves of Nepal including the well known Chitwan National Park, , Sagarmatha (Mt.Everest) National Park, Langtang National Park, Makalu Barun National Park, Rara National Park and Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve. He has also served as Conservation Education Officer and Planning Officer at the DNPWC. Before he was transferred to the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, he was the Deputy Director General of DNPWC. He holds a degree in Bachelor of Science in forestry from Tribhuvan University, Institute of Forestry, Nepal and Master's degree in Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management from Lincoln University , New Zealand.

Dr Maheshwar Dhakal, Ecologist at Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Nepal said, "We congratulate Mr Pandey on his new responsibility and are confident that his experience will help strengthen the SAWEN network. We also thank Mr Acharya for his excellent contribution to SAWEN during his tenure. His efforts especially at the meetings in Bhutan and Sri Lanka contributed significantly towards establishment of SAWEN".

Mr James Compton, Director-Asia Pacific, TRAFFIC said, "We welcome Mr Pandey to the new position. We are hopeful that the experience he brings along will not only strengthen the SAWEN Secretariat and its activities but also help increase co-ordination and information flows to help curb the illegal wildlife trade in the region".

SAWEN and INTERPOL organize intelligence led enforcement training

Five days international training on "Information and Intelligence Management Course on Environmental Enforcement" was held from 17-21 December 2012 in Dhulikhel of Kavre. Twenty eight law-enforcement officers from 11 Asian countries participated the training organized by South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) and INTERPOL's Environmental Crime Programme and Nepal's INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB) within the framework of Project PREDATOR.

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Inaugurating the training, Inspector General of Nepal Police Mr Kuber Singh Rana said, "Despite our investments in conservation and enforcement initiatives for anti-poaching legislation, we face daunting challenges that are only becoming severe. Habitat fragmentation and poaching for illegal wildlife trade are the most significant threats to biodiversity not just in Nepal but in the various South Asian countries."

"Internationally, organized criminal groups are heavily involved in wildlife crime and there is the strong need for regional cooperation to control them, for which the countries have to put common efforts and SAWEN is only a beginning," said Mr Krishna Prasad Acharya, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MFSC) and former Chief Enforcement Coordinator of SAWEN.

"This 'Train the Trainers' approach will help us maximize our impact," said Ayako Tsuyada, an officer with INTERPOL Environmental Crime Programme. "We are sure that all participants are now fully equipped with the most updated tools/skills originally developed by INTERPOL to manage and analyse information on wildlife crime."

"INTERPOL hopes this training will benefit every participating country to develop and implement their on-ground operations specifically focusing on Tigers and other Asian Big Cats under Project PREDATOR."

TRAFFIC represented by MKS Pasha and Tiger trade specialists Natalia Pervushina and Sarah Stoner, also participated in the programme as a trainer. TRAFFIC stressed that inter-agency information exchange is crucial, both at national and international levels, especially with regards to combating wildlife crime involving Asian Big Cats and other endangered species. The training sessions were particularly important to enhance law enforcement efforts dealing with organized transnational criminal activity and illegal wildlife trade.

"Poaching and trafficking of wildlife body parts is a serious problem in the region. Joint efforts of the various law enforcement agencies within and outside the countries will help to save the endangered species," said Dr Maheshwar Dhakal, SAWEN Focal Person for Nepal. Richard Charrette, the Lead Facilitator for INTERPOL, noted that it was not just a learning exercise, but a collective opportunity to crack down on environmental crime.

The participating countries included Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Indonesia, India, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The programme was supported by INTERPOL-National Coordination Bureau-Nepal Police, National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), WWF Nepal, DEFRA, USAID and Smithsonian Institution.

SAWEN in roundtable meeting with US Under Secretary of State, Hormats



In the wake of US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's speech on protecting wildlife made in November 2012 in Washington DC, TRAFFIC in partnership with WWF-India and the US Embassy jointly organized a panel discussion on Illegal Trade in Wildlife on 29 January 2013 in India. The US Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and Environment Robert D. Hormats co-chaired the discussions with the WWF India CEO and Secretary General Ravi Singh at the WWF-India Secretariat in New Delhi.

At the roundtable, U.S. and Indian government officials, NGOs, wildlife lawyers and enforcement officials discussed some of their challenges and successes in combating wildlife trafficking.

SAWEN was represented at the meeting by its Chief Enforcement Coordinator, Mr Megh Bahadur Pandey. He made a presentation on SAWEN, its goals and activities. He also stressed on the need to strengthen cross border co-operation for eradicating wildlife crime as manifested in the SAWEN initiative.

Under Secretary Hormats emphasized the need for high-level political will, public outreach, and greater international co-ordination and co-operation to combat wildlife trafficking, including the strengthening of regional enforcement networks such as the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN).

WWF India Secretary General and CEO, Ravi Singh noted the intimate link between the decline of India's wildlife species and alarming trends in illegal wildlife trafficking. "It is imperative that issues of illegal wildlife trade should be taken up in a strategic manner, linking national agencies and senior government executives. Here, the US government can be an important partner on global wildlife intelligence, networking and sharing of best practices in enforcement."

Dr Shekhar Kumar Niraj, Head-TRAFFIC India highlighted the magnitude of wildlife crime and illegal wildlife trade, and how it has evolved to be one of the most important challenges in conservation of species today. He said: "Whether at the local, regional or global level, the efforts to eliminate wildlife crimes need to be assisted collectively with our trained skills, scientific knowledge, and improved allocation of technical and financial resources.



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New staff at SAWEN secretariat



In November 2012, Mr Ramesh Prasad Bhushal joined the SAWEN Secretariat as Environment Officer. Mr Bhushal holds Masters Degree in Environmental Science from Tribhuvan University in Nepal and has experience of about a decade in wildlife issues.

Prior to joining SAWEN, he used to work as the Principal Correspondent for The Himalayan Times, an English daily in Nepal where he reported on environment, wildlife and forests. He is also a part time lecturer at the Central Department of Environmental Science, Tribhuvan University where he teaches mountain environment. He will be assisting the Chief Enforcement Coordinator and will be responsible for coordinating the work of SAWEN in the region.

Mr Megh Bahadur Pandey, CEC of SAWEN said, "We welcome Mr Bhushal to SAWEN. We are hopeful that his experience as an environmental journalist will contribute significantly in strengthening communication related initiatives of SAWEN. We are excited about working closely with him and will provide all support for his work at the Secretariat".

He can be contacted at toramesh25@gmail.com

NEWS FROM CITES*

www.cites.org

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

CITES acts to curb smuggling of elephant ivory and rhino horn

The 62nd meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) held in July 2012 in Geneva, adopted crucial measures to halt the escalation of ivory and rhino horn smuggling.

The decisions taken are intensifying pressure on a number of countries to be held accountable over their failure to deal with rampant poaching and illegal trade, but no sanctions or punitive measures were agreed. African countries identified as the main sources of illegal ivory in trade, plus Asian and East African transit countries and the two countries with the largest illegal ivory consumer markets—China and Thailand—were given until the end of the year 2012 by the Standing Committee to provide written reports of what progress they have made in tackling the illicit trade.

Failure to do so will result in a suspension of all trade in CITES-listed species with the country concerned.

Thailand, for example, had already been called upon to submit such a report, and did so at this meeting. WWF and TRAFFIC considered their report vague and non-committal, and joined others in calling for a timetable for the legislative changes needed to close a gaping loophole that allows ivory from illegal sources to be laundered into the Thai marketplace.



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The country at the centre of the rising demand for illegal rhino horn—Viet Nam—was similarly instructed to report on what progress it had made in curbing rhino horn demand. In particular, Viet Nam will need to explain what measures have been implemented to prevent illegal import and trade in rhino horn, how the black market in rhino horn is being targeted in the country, and what is being done to discourage rhino horn use.

The Standing Committee also instructed CITES' Rhino Working Group to focus on actions needed to reduce demand for rhino horn and was tasked with developing a demand reduction strategy, taking into account the outputs of the experts' meeting convened by TRAFFIC and WWF in November last year on messaging to reduce consumer demand for tigers and other endangered wildlife species.

The illegal trade in tiger parts was also on the agenda, with TRAFFIC highlighting its work on reducing demand for tiger products, while China reaffirmed its commitment to the ban on trade in tiger parts, but made no firm statements about phasing out existing tiger farms.

Read more at <http://www.traffic.org/home/2012/7/27/cites-bares-teeth-but-can-it-bite.html>

New wildlife crime toolkit launched with CITES help

The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) launched its Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit on the occasion of the 62nd meeting of the CITES Standing Committee held in Geneva from 23 to 27 July 2012. ICCWC also announced that it has secured USD 6 00 000 for the current fiscal year to strengthen national enforcement capacities to fight wildlife crime through the World Bank Development Grant Facility (DGF). The economic, social and environmental impacts of illicit trafficking in wildlife were also recognized in the Rio+20 outcome document -The Future We Want- agreed by the more than 100 Heads of States on 22 June 2012. The Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit presents a collection of tools and resources that its users can choose to analyze wildlife and forest legislation, law enforcement measures, prosecutorial and judicial capacities. Read more at http://cites.org/eng/news/pr/2012/20120725_ICCWC_toolkit.php

CITES COP-16 to be held in Bangkok in March 2013; SAWEN to organize a side meeting



© Adam Oswell / WWF-Canon

The meeting of the Sixteenth Conference of Parties (CoP-16) of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora is going to be held in Bangkok, Thailand from 3-14 March 2013. CITES is an international agreement between governments with an aim to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival in the wild.

At each CoP, which takes place once in two years, Parties can make proposals to amend the listing status of species in the CITES Appendices - the different Appendices apply differing levels of regulations on listed species in international trade. Parties vote on whether to accept, reject or make amendments to the proposals put forward by parties for consideration after the Standing Committees have completed their reports

SAWEN- South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network, is also organizing a side event on 8 March 2013 during the CITES meeting in Bangkok. The theme of the event is 'Combating Wildlife Crime in South Asia.' The event will take place at Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre, Room Number-4 from 17:30-19:00 hrs.

For further details please contact, Ramesh Prasad Bhushal, Environment Officer, SAWEN at toramesh25@gmail.com or sawen.secretariat@gmail.com and Dr. Maheshwar Dhakal, Nepal Focal Point, SAWEN at maheshwar.dhakal@gmail.com

NEWS FROM OTHER RELATED AGENCIES

INTERPOL launches National Environmental Security Task Force initiative

INTERPOL officially launched its National Environmental Security Task Force (NEST) initiative at the 21st INTERPOL Asian Regional Conference before 150 officials from 40 countries during a three day conference (17-19 September 2012) held in Amman, Jordan.

The initiative aims to establish a common platform and approach worldwide for national compliance and enforcement responses, so as to enhance both national and international efforts on ensuring current and future environmental security.

In this respect, the initiative will see INTERPOL call upon its 190 member countries to structure and equip themselves with the necessary tools in a multi-agency manner by working towards the establishment of NESTs involving law enforcement, customs, environmental agencies, prosecutors and other specialist agencies.

"The role of INTERPOL's National Central Bureau in the NEST is vital for international outreach as NCBs provide a global and mandated enforcement communications channel through INTERPOL's I-24/7 system, as well as access to an international network of 190 member countries," said David Higgins, Manager of the INTERPOL Environmental Crime Programme.

Mr Higgins concluded by saying that the threat to environmental security represented a genuine threat to National Security, undermining political, economic and community stability, since "the environment, biodiversity and natural resources are the very things we all need to survive, and criminals are depleting it, exploiting it and destroying it. We must ensure our environmental security now and into the future."

Read more at <http://www.interpol.int/News-and-media/News-media-releases/2012/N20120918quater>

Pangolin traffickers arrested in INTERPOL operation across Asia

Countries across Southeast Asia took part in the largest coordinated operation against the illegal poaching and trade in pangolins. Operation Libra, coordinated by INTERPOL's Environmental Crime Programme, took place in June and July 2012 and involved investigations and enforcement actions across Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam.

Supported by the Freeland Foundation through a grant from USAID, the operation led to the arrest of more than 40 individuals, with some 200 additional cases currently under investigation across the region.

Pangolins are found across most of Asia and Africa. The nocturnal mammals feed on termites and other insects using a well-developed sense of smell to locate their prey. During the day, and for protection, they curl into a ball, protected by large scales which cover their body.

Pangolins are poached and illegally traded by the thousands, due to a high demand for their scales, which are used in traditional medicine, and their meat, which is considered a delicacy. Because of their secluded nature, the impact of illegal trade on the pangolins and their habitats is difficult to assess, but some Southeast Asian forests are believed to be nearly devoid of pangolins.

During Operation Libra, which also saw the assistance of the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the ASEAN-Wildlife Enforcement Network, enforcement agencies conducted raids on restaurants and other premises across the region. Approximately 1,220 pangolins were recovered, almost half of which were still alive. In addition to pangolins, birds, snakes and eight tigers cubs were also seized.

Read more at <http://interpol.int/News-and-media/News-media-releases/2012/N20120829>



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'Four Leopards a week' enter India's illegal wildlife trade, finds TRAFFIC India's report



At least four leopards have been poached and their body parts entered into illegal wildlife trade every week for at least 10 years in India, according to TRAFFIC's latest study "Illuminating the Blind Spot: A study on illegal trade in Leopard parts in India". The report was launched on 28 September 2012 at the WWF-India Secretariat in New Delhi. The study documents a total of 420 seizures of leopard skins, bones and other body parts reported from 209 localities in 21 out of 35 territories in India during 2001–2010.

Statistical analysis was used to estimate the additional levels of "undetected trade" and concludes that around 2294 leopards were trafficked in India during the period—an average of four animals per week over the 10 year period.

Leopards *Panthera pardus* are fully protected under India's domestic legislation, and commercial international trade is banned under CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora).

Uttarakhand emerged as a major source of leopard parts in trade, while Delhi was found to a epicentre of the illegal trade, along with adjacent areas of Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Haryana.

Dr Rashid Raza, Coordinator with TRAFFIC in India and the lead author of the study said: "Even though reports of illegal trade in leopard body parts are disturbingly frequent, the threat to leopards in the country has been poorly recognized."

Close to 90% of reported leopard part seizures in India comprised solely of skins, making them the dominant body part found in illegal trade during the 10 year period. Other body parts, particularly bones, are known to be prescribed as substitutes for Tiger parts in traditional Asian medicine.

It is believed that most leopard parts are smuggled out of India to other countries in Asia, often via the porous border with neighbouring Nepal. Earlier investigations indicated many of the leopard parts found for sale in northern Myanmar, northern Laos and the ethnic Tibetan regions of China originated from India.

To know more visit <http://www.traffic.org/home/2012/9/28/four-leopards-a-week-enter-indias-illegal-wildlife-trade.html> For a copy of the report, please email dchhabra@wwfindia.net or write to her at Dilpreet B. Chhabra, Manager-Communications, TRAFFIC, WWF-India Secretariat, 172-B, Lodi Estate, New Delhi- 110003, India .

Operation Cobra successfully completed; yields hundred of arrests and seizures of assorted wildlife specimens

Police, Customs and wildlife officers from Asia, Africa and the United States successfully carried out a month-long effort described as "An international, intelligence-driven operation aimed at dismantling organized wildlife crime syndicates with significant results and the prospect for more" codenamed "COBRA".

The operation, an innovative initiative from countries, the first international effort of its kind to focus on the sharing of investigation information in real time among countries, and a concerted response by law enforcement agencies of implicated countries and partnering institutions towards curtailing rampant wildlife crime.

The operation yielded hundred of arrests which included seizures of assorted wildlife specimens mainly 42,000 kg red sandal wood, 6,500 kg elephant ivory, 1,581 kg shatoosh, 2,600 live snakes, 324 hornbill beaks, 102 pangolins, 800 kg pangolin scales, 22 rhino horns and 4 rhino horn carvings, 10 tiger and 7 leopard trophies, 31kg elephant meat as well as claws and teeth of protected felid animals and plant species. Assorted equipment including fire arms and ammunitions were also recovered from poachers during the operation.

Between 6 January to 5 February 2013, representatives from the Office of China National Interagency CITES Enforcement Coordination Group (NICECG), Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF), Nepal Police, South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN), South African Police Service, India's Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), Indonesia Police, Vietnam Environmental Police, Royal Thai Police, Association of Southeast Asia Nations Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Customs in the Asia/Pacific region (RILO A/P) worked jointly and coordinated the operation as an International Coordination Team (ICT) based in Bangkok. Real time sharing of information amongst the agencies and across borders characterizes the ITC, regional and national coordinators.

The operation was proposed by Office of NICECG and ASEAN-WEN in 2012, organized by China, USA, South Africa, ASEAN-WEN, SAWEN and LATF, assisted by the World Customs Organization (WCO), the CITES Secretariat, and International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), targeted species under serious threats such as big cats, elephants, rhinos, pangolins and great apes, and participated by Botswana, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Congo (Brazzaville), Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Laos, Malaysia, Mozambique, Nepal, Singapore, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, USA, Vietnam and Zambia.

Operation COBRA was financially supported by the US Fish and Wildlife Service's African Elephant Conservation Fund, Royal Thai Police, China Wildlife Conservation Association and the FREELAND Foundation with in-kind contributions by participating countries.

REPORTS FROM SOUTH ASIA ON WILDLIFE TRADE ISSUES



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AFGHANISTAN

No news reported for this period



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BANGLADESH



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Four hundred poachers working for Tiger smuggling gang; 23 June 2012
(Gulf Times)
http://www.gulf-times.com/site/topics/article.asp?cu_no=2&item_no=514086&version=1&template_id=44&parent_id=24

BHUTAN

No news reported for this period



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REPORTS FROM SOUTH ASIA ON WILDLIFE TRADE ISSUES



INDIA

Indian Tiger *Panthera tigris*

© MKS Pasha

Chandrapur CB nabs poachers, seizes Leopard skin; 11 July 2012

(Times of India)

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-07-11/nagpur/29760256_1_leopard-skin-poachers-offence-under-relevant-sections

Manipur police close in on reptile racket ; 29 July 2012

(The Times of India)

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-07-29/flora-fauna/32922757_1_reptile-tiger-skulls-yairipok

Poacher arrested with Tiger bones and skin; 1 August 2012

(Hindustan Times)

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/Punjab/Chandigarh/Notorious-poacher-held-with-tiger-bones-skin/SP-Article1-906709.aspx>

Police seize 75 tonnes of Red Sanders in Tiruvallur;

11 August 2012 (Times of India)

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-08-11/chennai/29875842_1_red-sanders-godown-tiruvallur

Tiger claws from India seized in UK; 16 August 2012

(Daily Mail)

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2189409/Herbal-remedies-containing-poisonous-plants-cow-urine-tiger-claws-India-seized-customs-officials.html#ixzz24Fl3P8Nn>

One held with Leopard skin in Uttarakhand; 28 August 2012

(IBNLive)

<http://ibnlive.in.com/generalnewsfeed/news/one-held-with-leopard-skin/803776.html>

Skin of adult Tiger seized, four arrested in Odisha;

2 September 2012 (Business Standard)

<http://www.business-standard.com/generalnews/news/skinadult-tiger-seized-four-arrested-in-odisha/51485/>

INDIA

Pangolin scales seized in Mizoram; 7 September 2012

(Business Standard)

<http://www.business-standard.com/generalnews/news/pangolin-scales-seized-in-mizoram/53362/>

Rare primates seized in Delhi; 9 September 2012

(Hindustan Times)

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/NewDelhi/Two-rare-monkeys-seized-at-airport/Article1-927245.aspx>

Illegal snake venom racket busted in Maharashtra, 12 people arrested; 12 September 2012

(Hindustan Times)

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/Maharashtra/Illegal-venom-trade-exposed-12-held/Article1-929379.aspx>

Sixty-five turtle shells confiscated and two men arrested in this connection in Kota district of Rajasthan; 25 September 2012

(Business Standard)

<http://www.business-standard.com/generalnews/news/turtle-shells-seized-two-arrested/60814/>

Poacher's wife gets 7-yr jail term; 29 September 2012

(The Times of India)

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-09-29/flora-fauna/34163341_1_wildlife-trade-7-yr-jail-term-sansar-chand

Leopard skins, bear gall bladder and other animal derivatives seized in Uttarakhand; 30 September 2012

(daijiworld.com)

http://www.daijiworld.com/news/news_disp.asp?n_id=17571

Tiger skin seized, three people arrested; 1 October 2012

(Business Standard)

<http://www.business-standard.com/generalnews/news/mp-tiger-skins-worth-rs-30-lakh-seized-three-arrested/62872/>

Three Rhino poachers arrested in Assam; 4 October 2012

(Times of India)

<http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/Three-rhino-horn-smugglers-held-in-Karbi-Anglong/articleshow/16673622.cms>

INDIA

Rhino poacher, 6 horn traders held in Kaziranga; 13 October 2012

(Times of India)

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-10-13/flora-fauna/34430308_1_rhino-horn-kaziranga-national-park-poacher

Poaching biggest threat to Tiger relocation at Sariska; 15 October 2012

(Times of India)

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/flora-fauna/Poaching-biggest-threat-to-tiger-relocation-at-Sariska/articleshow/16815757.cms>

Eighteen Rhino poachers arrested in Assam ; 16 October 2012

(Times of India)

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/states/other-states/a-gang-of-18-rhino-poachers-nabbed-in-assam/article4002582.ece>

Elephant remains seized, two people arrested with bear gall bladder and Leopard pelt in Uttarakhand;

21 October 2012 (Daily Pioneer)

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/state-editions/dehradun/103472-jumbo-remains-seized-2-in-net-with-leopard-pelt-one-with-bear-bladder.html>

Three held for killing monitor lizard in Goa ; 7 November 2012

(Times of India)

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-11-08/goa/34993479_1_loutolim-wildlife-sanctuary-netravali

Ivory recovered in Andamans, three people held ; 8 November 2012

(Andaman Chronicles)

<http://andamanchronicle.com/content/view/6919/27/>

Turtles, terrapins seized at Raichur market, Karnataka; 4 December 2012

(Deccan Herald)

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/296415/turtles-terrapins-seized-raichur-market.html>

One person held with Snow Leopard skin in Dehradun ; 6 December 2012

(Daily Pioneer)

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/state-editions/dehradun/113654-one-held-with-snow-leopard-pelt-in-doon.html>

Snake venom racket busted in Maharashtra; 15 December 2012 (DNA)

http://www.dnaindia.com/pune/report_two-arrested-for-smuggling-1-litre-snake-venom-in-sangli_1778199

REPORTS FROM SOUTH ASIA ON WILDLIFE TRADE ISSUES



INDIA

Tokay Lizards new target of poachers in North East India; 3 January 2013 (Times of India)
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Rs-20-lakh-lizards-new-target-of-poachers-in-northeast/articleshow/17864202.cms>

Three arrested in Delhi for smuggling tiger skin; 25 January 2013 (News Track India)
<http://www.newstrackindia.com/newsdetails/2013/01/26/2--Three-arrested-in-Delhi-for-smuggling-tiger-skin-.html>

MALDIVES



Yellowfin Tuna *Thunnus albacares*

Marine biologist discovers turtle, shark slaughter in Maldives' UNESCO biosphere reserve; 17 September 2012 (Minivan News)
<http://minivannews.com/environment/marine-biologist-discovers-turtle-shark-slaughter-in-maldives%E2%80%99unesco-biosphere-reserve-43986>

NEPAL



Indian Rhinoceros *Rhinoceros unicornis*

NEPAL

Leopard skin seized, three arrested in Jorpati; 27 August 2012
(The Himalayan)
<http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Leopard+skin+seized+&NewsID=300820>

More than 1000 kg of India destined Shahtoosh seized in Nepal; 7 January 2013 (NZ Week)
<http://www.nzweek.com/world/nepal-police-seize-1150-kg-fur-of-endangered-tibetan-antelope-41278/>

Two held with Tiger skins, bones in Nuwakot district; 12 January 2013
(The Himalayan Times)
<http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Two+held+with+tiger+skins%26bquo%3B+bones&NewsID=361790>

Two nabbed with live pangolins from Naya Basti, Boudhha; 28 January 2013 (The Himalayan Times)
<http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Two+nabbed+with+live+pangolin&NewsID=352335>

Nepal Transit point for trading wildlife body parts (WWF Nepal)
<http://www.wwfnepal.org/?207591/Nepal-a-transit-point-for-trading-wildlife-parts>

PAKISTAN



Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

Twenty Lesser Kestrels seized by wildlife officials in Karachi; 25 August 2012 (Tribune)
<http://tribune.com.pk/story/426292/official-raid-20-falcons-seized-from-empress-market/>

Thirty four turtles were confiscated from Gilgit-Baltistan's Sust border area by the GB Forest, Wildlife and Parks Department; 3 October 2012 (Daily Times)
http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2012/10/09/story_9-10-2012_pg7_18

PAKISTAN

Two Saker Falcons seized from a Kuwaiti National at Benazir Bhutto International Airport, Islamabad; 4 November 2012 (DAWN)
<http://dawn.com/2012/10/05/born-to-fly-precious-falcons-rescued/>

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Customs officials seize seven falcons at Karachi Airport; 22 November 2012 (DAWN)
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Customs officials seized 11 falcons in Karachi; 27 November 2012 (DAWN)
<http://dawn.com/2012/11/28/11-falcons-seized-by-custom-officials/>

Thirty two falcons seized in Karachi; 4 December 2012 (DAWN)
<http://dawn.com/2012/12/05/swd-men-being-booked-as-32-falcons-seized/>

Customs officials seize 36 Falcons on Jiwani Coast; 21 December 2012 (DAWN)
<http://dawn.com/2012/12/26/36-falcons-seized-by-customs-released/>

SRI LANKA

No news reported for this period



Asian Elephant *Elephas maximus*