



# The SAWEN Bulletin



South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network's bulletin on wildlife crime issues

Volume 45 (September-December 2025)

## CONTENT

SAWEN Updates	1-5
Trans-national Wildlife Crime	06
National News	7-11

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

### Advisor

Dr. Krishna Prasad Acharya, *Secretary General*

### Editorial Team

Dr. Ridhima Solanki, *Program Manager*

Mr. Milan Baral, *Program Development Officer*

Mr. Saugal Shrestha, *Program Associate*

### Associate Team

Mr. Upendra Pokhrel, *Program Assistant*

Mr. Ganesh Giri, *Finance Officer*

## SAWEN Updates

### Headquarter Agreement

October 30, 2025

A Headquarter Agreement was signed between the Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE), Government of Nepal, and the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) Secretariat on 30 October 2025. This agreement further empowered SAWEN Secretariat to function effectively as an intergovernmental law enforcement support body, dedicated to strengthening, promoting, and coordinating regional cooperation to combat illegal wildlife trade in South Asia. The agreement reinforced SAWEN's institutional mandate and its ability to coordinate member countries in addressing transboundary wildlife crime.



Signing of Head Quarters Agreement between  
Government of Nepal (GoN) and  
South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN)



30 October 2025



## Thirteenth Executive Meeting

September 15, 2025

The Thirteenth Executive Committee (EC) Meeting of SAWEN was held virtually on 15th September 2025. The meeting brought together 16 participants and was convened by SAWEN to facilitate executive-level coordination among member countries. The meeting focused on institutional decision-making and strategic planning, particularly regarding the scheduling of SAWEN's General Assembly. As a major outcome, the Executive Committee decided to postpone the General Assembly and requested the SAWEN Secretariat to coordinate with the Government of Nepal to identify a new time window.



SAWEN Secretariat, Babarmahal, Kathmandu, Nepal || Phone: +977 1 5328835 || Email: [info@sawen.org](mailto:info@sawen.org)

Website: [sawen.org](http://sawen.org)

## MoU between SAWEN and Aaranyak

December 2, 2025

SAWEN signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Aaranyak on 2 December 2025 to formalize a long-term collaborative partnership based on mutual trust, transparency, and shared objectives. Aaranyak is a leading conservation organization based in India, working in the field of biodiversity conservation through research, policy advocacy, capacity building, and community engagement. The MoU aims to strengthen the science-policy interface and promote participatory, knowledge-based approaches to combating wildlife crime. Key areas of cooperation include biodiversity conservation and threat reduction, joint proposal development, and collaborative events and outreach activities.

## Training of the Trainers (ToT)

November 25-27, 2025

The SAWEN Secretariat in partnership with WWF-India and with support from the U.S. Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), successfully organized a three-day Regional Training of Trainers (ToT) program from 25 to 27 November 2025 in New Delhi, India. The in-person capacity-building initiative brought together 25 participants from Bhutan, India, Bangladesh and Nepal, strengthening regional expertise and promoting harmonized enforcement approaches to combat wildlife crime. The program covered key thematic areas, including wildlife species and derivative identification, cross-border investigation coordination, CITES procedures, financial and cybercrime investigations related to wildlife, human rights and social safeguards, and community roles in conservation. Overall, the training enhanced technical competencies and contributed to more effective and coordinated wildlife law enforcement across South Asia.



## Side Events at CITES CoP20, Samarkand

December 4, 2025



SAWEN organized and co-hosted two high-level side events on 4 December 2025 at the Expo Center, Samarkand, Uzbekistan, aimed at strengthening regional and global cooperation against illegal wildlife trade. The first event, “Global Wildlife Enforcement Networks: Dialogue on Inter-WEN Collaboration,” jointly organized with the Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF) and Nepal’s Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), brought together over 40 participants from global, regional, and national enforcement and conservation institutions. The dialogue highlighted emerging IWT trends, operational lessons from Wildlife Enforcement Networks, and opportunities for enhanced inter-WEN collaboration. During the session, the SAWEN Secretary General shared key insights from the study “Supply Chain of Illegal Wildlife Commodities” conducted under ZSL/HN/SAWEN program in support of IWT Challenge Fund.

On the same day, SAWEN co-organized a second side event, “United for Big Cats,” with the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) and Go Insights. The session focused on data-driven enforcement, coordinated action, and evidence-based policymaking for big cat conservation. The SAWEN Secretary General presented findings from the “Tiger-Related Crime Analysis Briefing in South Asia” and the “Supply Chain Study on Illegal Wildlife Commodities,” emphasizing emerging trafficking patterns and the need for collaborative regional responses. The event was attended by more than 25 participants, including representatives from NTCA, CMS, IBCA, and other key partners.



## Experience Sharing on Wildlife Crime Prosecution



December 26-28, 2025

SAWEN Secretariat in support of Zoological Society of London (ZSL) under Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and in collaboration with Department of National Parks and wildlife conservation (DNPWC) and Office of Attorney General (OAG) organized an experience sharing program on “Wildlife Crime Prosecution for Strengthening Courtroom Success” from 26-28 December 2025 in Chitwan, Nepal to strengthen courtroom success in wildlife crime cases of Nepal. In total, 27 participants from prosecution offices, forest and wildlife enforcement agencies, including the OAG, DNPWC, and Division Forest Offices. Facilitated by senior attorneys, the program emphasized peer learning through interactive sessions on wildlife laws, evidence handling, prosecutorial and judicial challenges, and emerging trends such as organized crime and money laundering. Participants shared case experiences, identified gaps in prosecution practices, and highlighted the need for stronger inter-agency coordination. The program strengthened collaboration, improved prosecution strategies, and fostered an informal professional network to enhance wildlife crime case outcomes.

SAWEN Secretariat in support of Zoological Society of London (ZSL) under Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and in collaboration with Department of National Parks and wildlife conservation (DNPWC) and Office of Attorney General (OAG) organized an experience sharing

## SAWEN Participation in Transboundary Meeting

November 13-14, 2025

SAWEN Secretariat participated in the transboundary meeting organized by the Government of India, UNDP, Global Tiger Forum (GTF), and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) held on 13-14 November 2025 in Phuentsholing, Bhutan. “Strengthening Conservation and Resilience of Globally Significant Wild Cat Landscapes through a Focus on Small Cat and Leopard Conservation” was aimed to promote transboundary collaboration, knowledge exchange, and coordinated conservation strategies for small cats and leopards across South Asia. The SAWEN representative’s participation helped strengthen regional networks and cross-border conservation efforts. SAWEN made the participant aware about the diversity of small cats in the member countries, their status in CITES and illegal trade challenges faced by them. This led to ideate the future collaboration in India, Nepal and Bhutan towards small cat conservation.



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## SAWEN Participation in IFAW Training

September 4-5, 2025



SAWEN Secretariat participated in the “Confiscated Animals–Rescue & Enforcement (CARE) Training Program organized by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and funded by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), held on 4-5 September 2025 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The two-day training aimed to strengthen Nepal’s Law Enforcement Agencies’ practical knowledge and skills related to live wildlife trade trends, legal frameworks, evidence management, zoonotic disease risks, safe handling of confiscated animals, species identification, animal health assessment, transportation standards, and post-seizure disposition.

## SAWEN Participation in workshop related to Cyber Wildlife Crime

November 17, 2025

SAWEN Secretariat participated in a regional workshop titled “Cyber Wildlife Crime: Legal Frameworks and Enforcement Action”, held on 17 November 2025 in New Delhi, India. The workshop was organized by the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) in collaboration with the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), India, and aimed to strengthen understanding of cyber-enabled wildlife crime, enhance legal frameworks, and improve enforcement responses. The Secretariat presentation on “Overview of Cyber Wildlife Crime in South Asia: Case Studies”, contributed to regional knowledge-sharing and capacity-building on addressing emerging cyber wildlife crime threats. The discussion in the panel showcased engagement of participants on this emerging threats.



## Participated in Orientation on Wildlife Crime

November 4, 2025

The Secretariat participated in “Orientation on Wildlife Crime” held on 4 November 2025 in Dhulikhel, Nepal. The program was organized by WWF Nepal, with facilitation support from the Central Investigation Bureau (CIB), and targeted frontline personnel from the Nepal Police. A presentation on “Efforts to Combat Wildlife Crime from South Asian Countries, including Nepal,” made by SAWEN highlighted its institutional mandate, core functions, and its role in promoting transboundary cooperation. Participation contributed to strengthening the capacity of frontline enforcement officials and supporting more effective regional responses to wildlife crime.



## IUCN World Conservation Congress: SAWEN Participation

October 9-15, 2025

SAWEN participated in the IUCN World Conservation Congress held from 9-15 October 2025 in Dubai, UAE. The participation enabled engagement with global conservation stakeholders and facilitated discussions on potential partnerships, including with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), to explore future collaboration in wildlife conservation and enforcement initiatives. The engagement contributed to strengthening SAWEN’s international networks and advancing regional and global cooperation on wildlife protection.

## Recruitment of Program Manager

The South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) Secretariat appointed Dr. Ridhima Solanki as Programme Manager in September 2025 following the decision of the 11th Executive Committee Meeting held in Paro, Bhutan. SAWEN Secretariat announced a vacancy for the position in April 2025. This recruitment is undertaken to develop the Secretariat’s programmatic planning and implementation while developing public and private partnership. Her appointment will further strengthen SAWEN’s institutional effectiveness and enhance the Secretariat’s capacity to coordinate regional wildlife law enforcement initiatives across South Asia.



## Trans-national Wildlife Crime

### PASSENGER HELD AT MUMBAI AIRPORT WHILE TRYING TO SMUGGLE 154 ANIMALS FROM BANGKOK

**MUMBAI-INDIA, October 24, 2025 (timesofindia.com):** Mumbai Customs intercepted a major wildlife smuggling attempt at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, seizing 154 exotic animals, including four baby anacondas, hidden in suitcases on a flight from Thailand. The haul also included iguanas, tortoises, corn snakes, and other reptiles. A Thane-based woman was arrested, and the seized CITES-listed species are being handled by wildlife experts for safe care and repatriation, with legal action underway under the Customs Act and Wildlife Protection Act.



Source: The Times of India

### PUNE AIRPORT CUSTOMS SEIZE RARE WILDLIFE, ARREST TWO PASSENGERS FROM BANGKOK

**PUNE-INDIA, October 11, 2025 (timesofindia.com):** Mumbai Customs at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport arrested a passenger arriving from Bangkok after uncovering a cache of 60 exotic wildlife species concealed in his trolley bag. The seized animals protected under international conventions, including frogs, tarantulas, tegus, boas, iguanas, bearded dragons, skinks, tortoises, and a common cuscus, were found cramped in plastic containers hidden within the luggage. The passenger was booked under the Customs Act and Wildlife Protection Act, and the rescued animals have been handed over to the forest department and animal authorities for care and rehabilitation, while investigations continue.

### 145 STAR TORTOISES AND 780 INDIAN ROOFED TURTLES SEIZED AT DHAKA AIRPORT IN SMUGGLING BUST

**Dhaka-Bangladesh, October 24, 2025 (bdnews24.com):** Bangladesh authorities at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport intercepted a major wildlife smuggling attempt when they discovered 145-star tortoises and 780 Indian roofed turtles, totaling 925 animals, hidden in two suitcases bound for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The passenger, who fled when confronted, is being sought by the police, and the seized turtles have been placed in the custody of the Forest Department, with a formal case filed under wildlife protection laws.



Source: Bangladesh Wildlife Crime Control Unit



Source: Daily mirror news

### WOMAN ARRESTED AT SRI LANKA AIRPORT FOR ATTEMPTED EXOTIC SNAKE SMUGGLING

**Katunayake-Sri Lanka, September 12, 2025 (dailymirror.lk):** A 40-year-old Sri Lankan woman was arrested by customs officers at Bandaranaike International Airport for attempting to smuggle six live exotic snakes into the country in her checked luggage after arriving from Bangkok via Chennai. The seized reptiles included a speckled kingsnake, yellow anaconda, Honduran milk snakes, and a ball python, all CITES Appendix II species, highlighting ongoing illegal wildlife trafficking concerns; authorities are pursuing legal action under customs and wildlife protection laws.

### CHENNAI AIRPORT CUSTOMS FOIL TURTLE SMUGGLING

**Chennai-India, December 1, 2025 (thetimesofindia.com):** Customs officials at Chennai International Airport thwarted a smuggling attempt by intercepting nearly 3,000 red-eared slider turtle hatchlings hidden in the checked baggage of a Malaysian national arriving from Kuala Lumpur; the species is banned in India as invasive, and the passenger was arrested and the turtles seized under the Wildlife (Protection) Act and Customs Act before being deported.



Source: The Times of India


**BHUTAN**
**National News**
**TIGER SKIN AND BONES SEIZED FROM TWO INDIAN NATIONALS IN GELEGPBU, BHUTAN**

September 20, 2025 ([rspn.abitwebsites.com](https://www.rspn.abitwebsites.com)): Officials of the Forest Protection and Surveillance Unit in Bhutan seized a tiger skin and bones from two Indian men on September 20 in Geleghpu, preventing an illegal sale to a suspected local buyer. The confiscation followed a tip-off from the unit's informer network, which spans both domestic and cross-border sources. The men were fined under forest conservation laws, and authorities encouraged public reporting of wildlife crimes, offering rewards for information leading to such seizures.


**BANGLADESH**
**70 SMUGGLERS HELD, HUGE DEER TRAPS, TRAWLERS SEIZED IN SUNDARBANS**

12 August, 2025 (BSS News): The Forest Department members have arrested 70 alleged smugglers and seized around 14,000 feet of deer-trapping snares along with 148 fishing trawlers and boats from various locations in the eastern Sundarbans during the last one-month in July amid the restricted entry period. The detainees were sent to Bagerhat District Jail through the court.

**EIGHT POACHERS WITH VENISON, CRAB HELD FROM SUNDARBANS**

15 Aug, 2025 (BSS News): A coastguard team during a drive arrested eight poachers and recovered a large quantity of venison and crab from their possessions in the Harbaria area of the Sundarbans last night. On information, the coastguard team conducted a special drive in the areas adjacent to Harbaria Dighi and arrested eight poachers along with 13 kg of venison, one deer head, four legs, 18 Kg crabs, and five liters of poison, he said. The team also seized two boats, traps, and nets used for hunting. The arrestees and seized items have been handed over to the Chandpay forest office for further legal action.



Source: BSS

**COAST GUARD SEIZES 850 KG CRAB IN SUNDARBANS**

KHULNA, Aug 26, 2025 (BSS): Members of the Bangladesh Coast Guard seized 850 kg of crab worth about Taka 3.82 lakh in a special operation from Koira in the Sundarbans, said Coast Guard West Zone Media Officer Lieutenant Commander Muntasir Ibne Muhsin this morning. Being informed, a Coast Guard team from Koira station conducted a raid in the Gharlal Bazar area adjacent to the Kapotaksha River in the Sundarbans and seized the crab from a boat. However, sensing the presence of the Coast Guard, the smugglers fled. Later, the seized crab was handed over to the Kobadak Forest Office.



Source: BSS



Source: BSS

**THREE FISHERMEN HELD WITH PESTICIDES IN SUNDARBANS**

September 22, 2025 (BSS News): Forest guards in the eastern Sundarbans arrested three fishermen on 22 September 2025 during an anti-poaching drive for allegedly using pesticides to catch shrimp in the Betmor River canal. The team from Supati Forest Station seized two bottles of pesticide (one partially used), approximately 40 kilograms of shrimp, a khalpata net, and a boat from the suspects, who were produced before a Bagerhat court with a case filed under the Forest Act.

### FOUR FISHERMEN DETAINED FOR ILLEGAL FISHING IN KOCHIKHALI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

October 11, 2025 (BSS News): Forest officials detained four fishermen for illegal fishing in a restricted canal of the Kochikhali Wildlife Sanctuary in the Eastern Sundarbans during an early-morning operation on 11 October 2025. The forest guards seized fish, including galda shrimp and other white fish species worth over Tk 100,000, along with two fishing nets and two small boats. The operation was carried out by the Smart Team-1 of the Sharankhola Range, and a case has been filed against the accused under the Forest Act with the Bagerhat court.



Source: BSS



Source: BSS

### DEER HUNTER ARRESTED WITH 106 KG OF VENISON IN SUNDARBANS OPERATION

October 25, 2025 (BSS News): The Coast Guard arrested a deer hunter during a pre-dawn special operation in the Nalian area of the Sundarbans, recovering 106 kilograms of deer meat and 200 meters of deer-hunting traps. Acting on a tip-off, the raid was conducted by the Nalian Coast Guard Outpost under Dakop Police Station in Khulna, with legal proceedings now underway against the suspect.

### FIVE FISHERMEN HELD IN SUNDARBANS; DEER TRAPS, PESTICIDES RECOVERED

November 11, 2025 (BSS News): Forest officials detained five fishermen and seized a trawler for illegal fishing in the Gatar canal of the Sundarbans on 11 November 2025, while conducting enforcement operations against forest violations. In a separate operation the same day, authorities recovered about 100 kg of nylon deer traps, three bottles of pesticide, and a boat loaded with ice from the Kotka sanctuary area, although the poachers escaped. Officials said legal action will be taken under forest laws as part of ongoing efforts to curb illegal fishing and wildlife crimes in the reserved forest.



Source: BSS



Source: BSS

### 860 KG OF SNAILS SEIZED IN SATKHIRA, RELEASED IN SUNDARBANS RIVER

November 27, 2025 (BSS News): Forest Department officials seized 860 kilograms of illegally collected snails during a special operation in the Munshiganj Hajir Mor area of Shyamnagar upazila, following intelligence about unlawful harvesting from rivers in the Sundarbans Satkhira Range. The snails were recovered from a stockpile intended for sale and were later released into the Chuna River, as officials reiterated the need for continued enforcement to protect the Sundarbans' fragile biodiversity and ecological balance.



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#### FOUR POACHERS HELD, ARMS, VENISON SEIZED IN SUNDARBANS

December 8, 2025 (BSS News): The Bangladesh Coast Guard conducted two operations in the Koyra area of the Sundarbans, rescuing four abducted fishermen from the notorious 'Dulabhai' robber gang and recovering one gun with ammunition. In a separate raid, authorities seized 72 kg of venison, two deer heads, and 300 meters of deer-hunting traps, arresting four poachers. The rescued fishermen were returned to their families, and legal action is underway for the seized arms, venison, and detainees, as the Coast Guard continues efforts to prevent wildlife crimes and banditry in the Sundarbans.



Source: BSS



Source: Deccanchronicle

#### RS 12 CRORE RED SANDALWOOD SEIZED FROM FARMHOUSE IN PALGHAR, HUNT ON FOR SMUGGLERS

September 21, 2025 (deccanchronicle.com): Forest officials raided an abandoned farmhouse in Sakhre village, Palghar district, and seized a large stock of red sandalwood estimated at more than Rs 12 crore in illicit market value. Around 200 bundles of red sandalwood smuggled into Maharashtra from southern states were recovered during the operation based on intelligence inputs. A case has been registered, and authorities are searching for those responsible for the illegal timber smuggling network.

#### SSB AND AGENCIES SEIZE 224.74 KG OF PANGOLIN SCALES IN MAJOR ASSAM SMUGGLING BUST

October 13, 2025 (sentinelassam.com): In a significant wildlife trafficking

operation on 13 October 2025, the 64 Battalion of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), in coordination with the Forest Department, Railway Protection Force, and Narcotics Control Bureau, seized 224.74 kilograms of pangolin scales at Barpeta Road Railway Station. Three individuals travelling on the Bengaluru-Guwahati Express were intercepted with the contraband, which intelligence suggests was being transported from Chennai for delivery to Myanmar, indicating an organised cross-border smuggling network. The suspects and seized scales have been handed over to the Forest Department for legal action under India's Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.



Source: The Sentinel

#### TIGER BONES WORTH RS 34 LAKH SEIZED IN BISWANATH, FIVE ARRESTED

November 25, 2025 (timesofindia): Forest officials from the Biswanath Wildlife Division, under Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR), seized bones of a Royal Bengal tiger valued at around Rs 34 lakh and arrested five individuals in a joint operation after they were found trying to sell the bones, which are in demand on the black market. The arrests were made based on intelligence, with forest teams from multiple ranges involved in the action, and the tiger parts have been sent for scientific analysis as the investigation continues.

### RHINO POACHING PLOT FOILED IN KAZIRANGA, SEVEN ARRESTED AND RIFLE SEIZED

December 2, 2025 (*syllad.com*): Forest officials and special anti-poaching teams foiled a major rhino poaching attempt near Kaziranga National Park & Tiger Reserve, arresting seven suspected poachers after a coordinated pre-dawn operation based on intelligence. Authorities seized a rifle and ammunition believed to be intended for hunting the endangered greater one-horned rhinoceros, underscoring intensified enforcement to protect the park's rhino population from poaching threats.



Source: The Rising Meghalaya

### EIGHT RED SANDERS SMUGGLERS HELD; 12 LOGS SEIZED IN ANDHRA PRADESH

December 5, 2025 (*thehindu.com*): Forest and police officials from the Andhra Pradesh Red Sanders Anti-Smuggling Task Force (RSASTF) arrested eight individuals involved in the illegal trade of endangered red sanders wood and recovered 12 red sanders logs during an operation in the state. Red sanders (an endangered species listed under CITES Appendix II) is subject to strict protection, and the arrests highlight ongoing enforcement efforts to disrupt illegal harvesting and trafficking of this valuable timber endemic to Andhra Pradesh's Seshachalam forests.

### TWO LEOPARD SKINS SEIZED NEAR VALMIKI TIGER RESERVE

December 12, 2025 (*wti.org*): The Bihar Forest Department, assisted by the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), seized two leopard skins and arrested four wildlife traders near Valmikinagar, along the Indo-Nepal border, during an undercover operation. The arrests were made at Laxmipur village bridge during a decoy deal, revealing the area's role as a hub for cross-border wildlife trade. Investigations indicate the traders were involved in trafficking between India and Nepal, putting local wildlife, including tigers in the Valmiki Tiger Reserve, at risk.



### 38 Wildlife Traffickers Who Fled Prisons Last Month Still At Large

September 9, 2025 (*kathmandupost.com*): In the aftermath of the mass escapes during the Gen Z protests on September 8-9, 2025, at least 38 inmates convicted of wildlife crimes in Nepal remain at large. These prisoners fled multiple jails across the country during widespread prison breakouts triggered by the protests and ongoing unrest. According to a report by the Department of Prison Management (as of October 16, 2025), around 38 convicted wildlife traffickers remain at large after escaping from prisons across. The fugitives include individuals convicted of rhino poaching, pangolin scale smuggling, red panda and snow leopard trafficking, and other serious wildlife crimes, with the highest number of escapes reported from Bharatpur Prison in Chitwan and Kathmandu's Central Jail. Conservation authorities have expressed concern that this situation may embolden illegal poaching and trafficking networks.

### TWO ARRESTED WITH OVER 200 KG OF PANGOLIN SCALES IN SANKHUWASABHA, NEPAL

December 29, 2025 (*newsabhiyan.com*): Police in Sankhuwasabha district arrested two individuals, including Tshiring Bhote of Ridak village, for possessing over 200 kilograms of pangolin scales, horns, and other parts near Makalu Barun National Park. The seized pangolin parts are protected under Nepal's National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act and Appendix II of CITES. The suspects will face legal action, including fines up to Rs 100,000 and imprisonment of 5-15 years for involvement in the trade of endangered species.



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SAWEN Secretariat, Babarmahal, Kathmandu, Nepal || Phone: +977 1 5328835 || Email: [info@sawen.org](mailto:info@sawen.org)  
Website: [sawen.org](http://sawen.org)



## PAKISTAN

### MAN FINED RS. 150,000 FOR ILLEGAL PARTRIDGE HUNTING IN PUNJAB

December 17, 2025 (*propakistani.pk*): A man in Punjab, Pakistan was fined a total of Rs. 150,000 by wildlife authorities for illegal night-time hunting of partridges and the unlawful possession of a brown partridge; officers from the Punjab Wildlife Department conducted night patrols, arrested him, and seized a 12-bore shotgun used in the offence, underscoring heightened enforcement against illegal hunting and efforts to protect vulnerable bird populations, with officials urging the public to report wildlife crimes through a dedicated helpline while also carrying out broader inspections of hunting permits and related compliance checks.



Source: Pakistan Today



## SRILANKA

### SRI LANKA NAVY AND SPECIAL TASK FORCE ARREST TWO FOR ILLEGAL SEA CUCUMBER TRANSPORT IN JAFFNA

October 14, 2025 (*Sri Lanka Navy*): The Sri Lanka Navy, in coordination with the Police Special Task Force, arrested two individuals transporting 1,240 illegally harvested sea cucumbers in Welanithurai, Jaffna, without valid permits. The cab used for the transport was also seized. The operation, conducted by SLNS Kanchadewa of the Northern Naval Command and the Jaffna STF, underscores ongoing efforts to curb illegal fishing and protect marine resources through regular coastal enforcement operations.

### SRI LANKA COURT HANDS 15-YEAR SENTENCE IN LANDMARK ELEPHANT TRAFFICKING CASE

October 29, 2025 (*Mongabay.com*): Sri Lanka's Colombo High Court delivered a landmark verdict in September 2025 by sentencing a known trafficker to 15 years in prison and a Rs. 20.6 million fine for illegally possessing a wild-caught elephant calf and falsifying official records to conceal its true origin. The case exposed deep-rooted illegal elephant trade practices, including laundering wild elephants into private ownership with forged documents, and is seen as a significant legal precedent in combating wildlife trafficking in the country. Conservationists hailed the ruling as an important step against corruption and organized illicit trade that threatens Sri Lanka's wild elephant populations.



Source: Mongabay (Sajeewa Chamikara)



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SAWEN Secretariat, Babarmahal, Kathmandu, Nepal || Phone: +977 1 5328835 || Email: [info@sawen.org](mailto:info@sawen.org)  
Website: [sawen.org](http://sawen.org)