



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. Hence, please contribute wildlife crime/seizure reports or any other significant news report pertaining to wildlife trade from your country.



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From the desk of the Chief Enforcement Coordinator (CEC) – SAWEN



It has already been two years since our 1st Annual Meeting was held in June 2012 in Sri Lanka. Since then, SAWEN and its operations have gained significant momentum. It is my pleasure to bring to your notice that we now have a functional Secretariat in Nepal with enhanced communication and information sharing among the member countries and partners, for example, through SAWEN website and publication of its newsletter-SAWEN Bulletin.

During this period, we were able to successfully organize an international training on "Environment Crime Intelligence and Information Management Course". The training was held in Nepal in December 2012 where participants from all the SAWEN member countries actively participated. A similar national training on "Intelligence and Information Management on Wildlife Crime" was also conducted in July 2013 in Nepal. These trainings have been very useful in building capacity and improving collaboration among our enforcement officers to effectively and efficiently fight wildlife crime.

Besides, our coordination with "Operation Cobra II"—a global operation targeting wildlife criminals—proved effective and resulted in significant seizures and arrests from our region. This truly exemplifies how important collective efforts can be to combat wildlife crime. This also provides encouragement to strengthen our efforts. SAWEN had also organized a side event on 'Combating Wildlife Crime in South Asia' at 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties of CITES held in Thailand in March 2013.

SAWEN's journey has been fruitful and its endeavors and SAWEN's representation at various other fora have helped SAWEN to be recognized as an important regional institution fighting wildlife crime in South Asia. This has paved the way to collaborate with various national, regional and global partners, and donors for its mission. SAWEN is also pleased to be part of the World Bank funded "Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Wildlife Conservation in Asia" project implemented and facilitated by National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC). This project has been instrumental to the functioning of the SAWEN Secretariat since 2011. We hope to enhance these partnerships and collaborations in the future.

This, of course, is a good beginning. However, the road ahead is challenging as wildlife crime continues to grow in scale and sophistication. Thus, we must strengthen SAWEN to meet the new challenge in biodiversity conservation. Next step towards this is to institutionalize SAWEN through the approval of statute and action plan. The 2nd Annual Meeting to be held from 26-29 August 2014 in Kathmandu, Nepal is planned to finalize the statute and the action plan. The Secretariat is working in full swing towards the planning and preparation of this meeting. The meeting will provide a good platform for interaction among members, global partners and donors, thereby helping to boost the momentum of SAWEN in curbing wildlife crime in the region and the world.

Looking forward to the 2nd Annual Meeting.

Regards

Megh Bahadur Pandey
Chief Enforcement Coordinator – SAWEN

SAWEN UPDATES

SAWEN extends support to Operation Cobra II; helps apprehend wildlife criminals

Operation Cobra II, a global action of law enforcement officers from 28 countries targeting wildlife criminals joined hands with SAWEN (South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network), World Customs Organization (WCO), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), INTERPOL, Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF) and ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) to conduct wildlife seizures and apprehend criminals.

Operation Cobra II, a month-long operation that ended on 27 January 2014 resulted in over 400 arrests and more than 350 major wildlife seizures. SAWEN had exchanged real time intelligence with the investigators of the participating countries on a daily basis targeting poachers and traffickers of endangered elephants, rhinos, tigers, pangolins, turtles and other species sought by criminals.

The operation resulted in the seizure of 36 rhino horns, over 3 metric tons of elephant ivory, over 10,000 turtles, over 1,000 skins of protected species, over 10,000 European Eels and more than 200 metric tons of rosewood logs. More than 400 criminals were arrested in Asia and Africa. Several of those arrested included trafficking kingpins. In addition, new intelligence on poaching and trafficking syndicates was accumulated, arming governments to continue investigations with increasingly specific targets. Operation coordinators also evaluated Cobra II and made joint plans for continuing and improving their cross border operations in future.

This Operation was coordinated primarily by two International Coordination Teams (ICTs) based in Nairobi and Bangkok respectively, and was conducted under the auspices of LATF and China's National

Inter-agency CITES Enforcement Coordination Group (NICECG), with links to countries across Africa, Asia and the USA.

The Operation brought together Customs, police and wildlife authorities to combat wildlife crime in Botswana, Brunei, Dar es Salaam, Burundi, Cambodia, China, including Hong Kong SAR, Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Malawi, Malaysia, Myanmar, Mozambique, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, USA, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Mr Megh Bahadur Pandey, Chief Enforcement Coordinator, SAWEN said, "We are pleased to be part of this successful operation. SAWEN, a wildlife trade enforcement network, has been established to bring together enforcement agencies of the South Asian countries to address wildlife crime in the region and the Operation Cobra II exemplifies this effort".

"Operation Cobra II was carried out in 14 districts of Nepal and resulted in the arrest of at least 14 wildlife criminals. During the Operation, enforcement officials found that the wildlife poachers had been on a hunt for many other animals aside from tigers, rhinos and elephants. They had been targeting species such as red panda, pangolin, bear species and musk deer" Mr. Pandey further added.

Operation COBRA II was financially supported principally by the U.S. State Department Bureau of Narcotics and International Law Enforcement Affairs, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the China Wildlife Conservation Association. The Canada Fund for Local Initiatives implemented by the Canadian Government and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) provided additional financial support, as did participating countries. The FREELAND Foundation, an international counter-trafficking organization and LATF

mobilized the financial support and provided logistics and training support as well as tip-off information on wildlife trafficking syndicates.

Read more at <http://www.asean-wen.org/index.php/news-trainings-workshops-and-conferences/396>

SAWEN Alert: Ongoing smuggling of Indian Turtles to China via Nepal

Recent studies by national experts in Nepal reveal that various species of Indian turtles are being smuggled to China through Nepal. The smugglers are using the Tatopani route, a busy border between China and Nepal.

"Earlier, this route was largely taken by the red sanders smugglers. However, it appears that smuggling of turtle species has become as important as this precious wood" said Mr Megh Bahadur Pandey, SAWEN CEC.

Nepal has 16 turtle species that are in severe threat from habitat destruction, human encroachment and over collection.

Dr. Shekhar Kumar Niraj, Head of TRAFFIC in India said, "In India, there are currently 28 species of tortoises and freshwater turtles, all of which are protected under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, of India. The Act prohibits trade and exploitation of these species. Despite this, many species are traded across borders where they are sold as pets or for their meat that is considered a delicacy in many parts of the world. They are also used as an ingredient in traditional Chinese medicines. In recent years, many of the species have appeared in urban markets in China. Having depleted native turtle populations in many parts of the East and Southwest Asian countries, the reptiles are now sourced from India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal. Most of the trade occurs through porous international borders".

Source: <http://www.nagariknews.com/society/nation/story/15091>

Nepal celebrates Zero Poaching Year!

Nepal added a new milestone in conservation by achieving zero poaching of rhinos, tigers and elephants for the year 2012 period ending in February 2014.



At a time when tigers and rhinos are being rampantly poached around the world, this success resounds hope for wildlife and underscores Nepal's commitment to build a more secure future for its iconic species. This is the second time that Nepal celebrates zero poaching, the first being in 2011.



"The success of achieving zero poaching throughout the year is a huge achievement and a result of prioritizing a national need to curb wildlife crimes in the country," stated Megh Bahadur Pandey, Director General of Nepal's Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation and Chief Enforcement Coordinator of SAWEN.

A second year of zero poaching is the result of strengthened protection and enforcement efforts led by the government and supported by its conservation partners such as WWF and the National Trust for Nature Conservation. National institutions such as the National Tiger Conservation Committee chaired by the Prime Minister of Nepal, trans-boundary cooperation being taken forward with India and China, and regional mechanisms such as the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) are top-line efforts being undertaken to curb illegal wildlife trade.

The heightened coordination between park authorities, Nepal Army, Nepal Police and local communities is also at the forefront of combating poaching and illegal wildlife trade.

The newly developed Wildlife Crime Control Bureau and the establishment of its 16 district cells together with the Central Investigation Bureau of Nepal Police has helped create the needed balance between central and local level enforcement to curb wildlife crimes.

Source: http://wwwfnepal.org/media_room/news/?217070/nepal-celebrates-zero-poaching-year

Bhutan revises punishment for crime against big cats

As a significant move towards deterring wildlife crime and curbing illegal wildlife trade, Bhutan reviewed the existing punishment for crime against Tiger and Snow Leopard. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Department of Forest and Park Services (DoFPS), Bhutan revised the schedule of fine and penalties for the crime for illicit activities against these big cats. Bhutan reportedly has a habitat for 100-200 Snow Leopards and 75-100 Tigers.

According to the revised schedule, in case of a first time offence against these species, the culprit shall be levied a fine Nu 0.500 to 1 million (About USD 8,320 to 16,642 in the exchange rate USD 1=Nu 60.09) or 10 years of imprisonment or both depending on the degree of crime. The revised fine is 10 times more than before.

The notification of DoFPS dated 31 October 2013 reads as 'In pursuant to approval accorded by Honorable minister of Agriculture and Forests vide letter no WCD/ADM- 08/2013/560 dated 31.10.2013, the fines and penalties for protected species under section 82(7)(a) of Forest and Nature Conservation Rule 2006, namely Tiger *Panthera tigris tigris* and Snow Leopard *Uncia uncia* is hereby revised. The Notification further mentioned the revised punishment as below:

First time offence:

- Any person found in the act of making an attempt to catch or injure the above mentioned species shall be levied a fine Nu. 0.500 million (About USD 8,320);
- Any person found in un-permitted taking, destroying, capturing and trade of their parts and products regardless of whether such animal was taken, destroyed or captured in Bhutan elsewhere will be levied a fine Nu.1 million (About USD 16,642) or a penalty of imprisonment, which may extend up to 10 years or both;
- In addition, any animal parts or products possessed by the offender will be confiscated and following schedule of fines will be levied for any missing animal parts or products.
- Entire set of Skin–Nu. 0.300 million (About USD 4,993)
- Any missing parts of a skin–Nu.0.050 million (About USD 832)
- Set of Bones–Nu.0.300 million (About USD 4,993)
- Any missing part of bones–Nu. 0.050 million (About USD 832)
- Claws – Nu. 5,000 each (About USD 83)

- Canine–Nu. 10,000 each (About USD 166)
- Any other parts–Nu. 10,000 each (About USD 166)

Second and subsequent offence:

For a second time offender, the fine will be twice the amount as mentioned above for the first time offender. For repeated offence there of the fine becomes thrice the amount and the prison term is extended upto 20 years.

Conservationists have welcomed this action of Bhutan that is seen as a step towards strengthening protection of the endangered species.

Mr. Megh Bahadur Pandey, Chief Enforcement Coordinator, SAWEN, said, "The amendment to the punishment for the crimes against Tiger and Snow Leopard in Bhutan is being perceived as a positive step by the Network. SAWEN congratulates Bhutan for its efforts that will prove to be a huge deterrent for those engaged in these heinous crimes".

SAWEN Secretariat appoints new Environment Officer

In April 2014, SAWEN appointed Mr Pradeep Bhattarai as the new

Environment Officer who will be based at the SAWEN Secretariat in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Mr. Bhattarai will be assisting the SAWEN Secretariat to achieve its

goals and objectives and will be involved with the Secretariat's day to day activities. Mr Bhattarai has studied Natural Resource Management (NRM) and has graduated from the reputed University of Nepal. He has also published a peer reviewed paper 'Threats on Grassland Ecosystem Services: A Case from Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve, Nepal'. He has to his credit a number of published articles and books on various issues related to NRM in Nepalese.

Mr. Pradeep Bhattarai can be contacted at nrmpradeep@gmail.com



Famous Quotes

"When I hear of the destruction of a species, I feel just as if all the works of some great writer have perished." – U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt

"An animal's eyes have the power to speak a great language." - Martin Buber

"The Animals of the planet are in desperate peril. Without free animal life I believe we will lose the spiritual equivalent of oxygen." - Alice Walker

Thank God men cannot fly, and lay waste the sky as well as the earth. ~Henry David Thoreau

The sun, the moon and the stars would have disappeared long ago... had they happened to be within the reach of predatory human hands. ~Havelock Ellis, *The Dance of Life*, 1923

There is a sufficiency in the world for man's need but not for man's greed. ~Mohandas K. Gandhi

There's so much pollution in the air now that if it weren't for our lungs there'd be no place to put it all. ~Robert Orben

It wasn't the Exxon Valdez captain's driving that caused the Alaskan oil spill. It was yours. ~Greenpeace advertisement, *New York Times*, 25 February 1990

Modern technology Owes ecology An apology. ~Alan M. Eddison

Don't blow it - good planets are hard to find. ~Quoted in *Time*

Nature provides a free lunch, but only if we control our appetites. ~William Ruckelshaus, *Business Week*, 18 June 1990

When a man throws an empty cigarette package from an automobile, he is liable to a fine of \$50. When a man throws a billboard across a view, he is richly rewarded. ~Pat Brown, quoted in

NEWS FROM CITES*

www.cites.org

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

CITES launches gateway on sharks and rays

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The CITES Secretariat has launched a Web section on sharks and manta rays to assist the 179 Parties to the Convention in putting in place effective measures to control international trade in the newly listed species.

The new section can be accessed at www.cites.org/eng/prog/shark. It is currently available in English only, with the French and Spanish pages in preparation. This section will facilitate access to background information, with links to useful tools and materials, and lists of related meetings and events.

Parties will have to start regulating international trade in the Oceanic Whitetip Shark *Carcharhinus longimanus*, Scalloped Hammerhead Shark *Sphyrna lewini*, Great Hammerhead Shark *Sphyrna mokarran*, Smooth Hammerhead Shark *Sphyrna zigaena*, Porbeagle Shark *Lamna nasus* and manta rays *Manta* spp from September 2014 after a gap of 18 months since the CITES listing.

Commenting on the development of the new tool, the CITES Secretary-General, Mr John E. Scanlon, declared: "Gaining easy access to the best-available data and information from a single platform will help ensure the harmonious implementation of the shark and ray listings. We hope that this new tool will be valuable to CITES Parties and to everyone else who is supporting this critical effort."

The CITES Secretariat welcomes inputs on the content and structure of the Sharks

and rays Web section, so that it can be continuously improved to better serve Parties and stakeholders.

Read more at

http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2013/20131122_shark_page.php

New Checklist of CITES species now available online

Keeping track of the 35,000 plus species listed under CITES has now been made easier through the development of an online database-driven Checklist of CITES species. This state-of-the-art electronic resource provides users with an intuitive interface where queries can be made using not just scientific or common species names but also CITES Appendices, countries or regions, and any combinations thereof. The display of results can be further refined by selecting criteria such as synonyms or authors' names. Users can thus produce a tailored [Index of CITES species listing](#), for instance, all CITES species occurring in a specific country. The history of listing is displayed on screen for each taxon and can be printed off in a single document covering all taxa.

Data from the Checklist of CITES species can now also be downloaded in different formats to facilitate the exchange of data among different information systems. These new formats will allow CITES authorities to update their national checklists easily and as often as necessary, for instance when amendments to Appendix III are made between meetings of the Conference of the Parties. Parties can also use the data in the development of electronic resources that require information on CITES species. Finally, it is also possible to generate the Index of CITES species in PDF for users that prefer information displayed in more traditional formats.

This database-driven Checklist was developed for CITES by UNEP-WCMC using data from the CITES species database. The Secretariat is working with UNEP-WCMC on other cutting-edge information tools that will make use of data from the Checklist.

The Checklist of CITES species is available at:

<http://checklist.cites.org>.

NEWS FROM OTHER RELATED AGENCIES

Nepal requests INTERPOL Red Notice for wanted rhino poacher



At the request of Nepal, INTERPOL has issued a Red Notice, an international wanted persons alert, for Rajkumar Praja. He is

wanted by the investigators for rhino poaching and trading internationally in rhino horns.

The 30-year-old Nepalese national is wanted in a case that requires him to serve a sentence of 15 years for poaching rhinos in Chitwan National Park. The Red Notice comes after law enforcement officials in Nepal dismantled a network of 13 poachers in 2013.

Nepal's request for the Red Notice has been welcomed by INTERPOL's Environmental Security unit as further evidence of the ongoing enforcement efforts by Nepalese authorities which have resulted in a sharp fall in poaching numbers and increased arrests. "Given the increasingly international nature of wildlife crime, it is important for countries to look beyond their national borders and develop an international fugitive investigation strategy," said David Higgins, head of the INTERPOL Environmental Security unit.

"With many criminals crossing borders, law enforcement needs to stay one step ahead to successfully address this crime. We would encourage all member countries to make increased use of INTERPOL's global network in identifying and bringing to justice criminals who seek to profit at the cost of our environment," added Mr Higgins.

A key area in effectively combating this type of crime is coordination with other regional and international organizations, including the SAWEN.

"Wildlife crime is well organized at the transnational level. Collaborative efforts are essential to develop the capacity of the frontline staff to combat this crime," said Mr Megh Bahadur Pandey, Chief Enforcement

Coordinator of SAWEN and Director General of Nepal's Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation.

"SAWEN Secretariat and INTERPOL have started their joint efforts to build the capacity of frontline staff in law enforcement in South Asia. SAWEN Secretariat would like to appeal to all wildlife enforcement networks and international agencies to coordinate in combating wildlife crime," concluded Mr. Pandey.

Read more at <http://www.interpol.int/News-and-media/News/2013/PR147>

Governments commit to tackle global wildlife poaching crisis

Heads of State, Ministers and high level representatives of 46 countries, including those most heavily impacted by poaching and illegal trade of wildlife, on 13 February 2014 committed to taking "decisive and urgent action" to tackle the global illegal wildlife trade.

The strongly worded declaration was issued following two days of closed-door negotiations hosted in London by the UK government. Their Royal Highnesses, Princes Charles, William and Harry also participated in the event.

Measures agreed by countries signing the declaration include action to eradicate the market for illegal wildlife products; agreement to strengthen law enforcement efforts and ensure that effective legal frameworks and deterrents are in place; and moves to promote sustainable livelihoods through positive engagement with local communities.

WWF and TRAFFIC welcome the "London Declaration" for recognising the significant scale and detrimental economic, social and environmental consequences of illegal wildlife trade, including how poaching and trafficking are increasingly controlled by organized criminal networks that undermine the rule of law and good governance and encourage corruption.

Countries present at the meeting include several whose elephant populations are

under severe poaching pressure, such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Kenya and Tanzania. Other countries that represent major transit points for ivory shipped from Africa to Asia were also in attendance, including Togo, the Philippines and Malaysia, and significantly, China, the major market for illegal ivory.

Similarly, countries at the centre of the rhino horn trade chain were represented, including Mozambique and Viet Nam, as well as some of those impacted by the illegal trade in tiger parts: Indonesia, Myanmar, Russia and China.

Also joining the meeting were representatives from a number of inter governmental organizations with a significant role to play in addressing the crisis, including CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), INTERPOL, the World Customs Organization, various United Nations agencies, the African Development Bank, the Global Environment Facility and the World Bank.

Read more at <http://www.traffic.org/home/2014/2/13/governments-commit-to-decisive-and-urgent-action-to-tackle-g.html>



REPORTS FROM SOUTH ASIA ON WILDLIFE TRADE ISSUES



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AFGHANISTAN

NO NEWS REPORTED FOR THIS PERIOD

BANGLADESH

New tiger protection project to start in 2014; 22 November 2013 (The Animal Post)

<http://theanimalpost.com/2013/11/22/new-tiger-protection-project-to-start-in-2014/>

BHUTAN

Two poachers arrested with a Monal pheasant and two musk pods; 2 November 2013 (Kuenselonline)

http://www.kuenselonline.com/two-poachers-caught-in-gasa/#.UprqKcSnr_0

Gauging a Gecko's worth; realizing the current trend of the Tokay Geckos marketing, Bhutan is stepping ahead to work for the lizard; 27 January 2014 (Kuenselonline)

<http://www.kuenselonline.com/gauging-a-geckos-worth/#.UudCJRBS6M8>



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INDIA

Star tortoises seized at the India-Bangladesh border; 3 September 2013 (The Times of India)

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/Star-tortoises-seized-on-Bangla-border/articleshow/22241199.cms>

Big cat poaching gang busted after 20 years; 8 September 2013 (Deccan Herald)

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/356173/poaching-gang-busted-20-years.html>

Hundred and eighty rare birds including the munias rescued, four people held in Kolkata; 15 September 2013 (Business Standard)

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/180-rare-birds-rescued-four-held-in-kolkata-113091500722_1.html

Mongoose hair brushes seized in West Bengal, eight held; 4 October 2013 (The Times of India)

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-10-04/kolkata/42716131_1_mongoose-hair-brushes-protected-species

Four held for trying to sell 1.7 litres of cobra venom in Maharashtra; 1 November 2013 (The Times of India)

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/navi-mumbai/Four-held-for-trying-to-sell-1-7-litres-of-cobra-venom/articleshow/25079576.cms>

Lioness killing case: Two arrested by the forest department of Gir (East) division of Junagadh Wildlife Circle; 26 November 2014 (The Times of India)

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/flora-fauna/Lioness-killing-case-Two-arrested/articleshow/26382622.cms>

One arrested for poaching dugong in Tamil Nadu; 10 December 2013 (The Times of India)

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-12-12/madurai/45121094_1_dugong-poaching-fishing-gear

One thousand tortoises seized in Bihar; 18 December 2013 (Parda Phash)

<http://www.pardaphash.com/news/bihar-nearly-1100-tortoises-seized/727082.html>

INDIA

Ten tiger poachers from Madhya Pradesh nabbed; 28 December 2013 (Deccan Chronicle)

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/131230/news-current-affairs/article/10-poachers-madhya-pradesh-nabbed>

Thirty kilogramme of corals seized in Kolkata; 7 January 2014 (The Times of India)

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2014-01-07/kolkata/45954410_1_raid-corals-wccb

Three chimpanzees among numerous animals seized in Kolkata in West Bengal; 22 January 2014 (The Times of India)



© Shubhojyoti Kanjilal

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/Three-chimpanzees-rescued-from-animal-traders-house/articleshow/29227452.cms?cfmid=14000000>

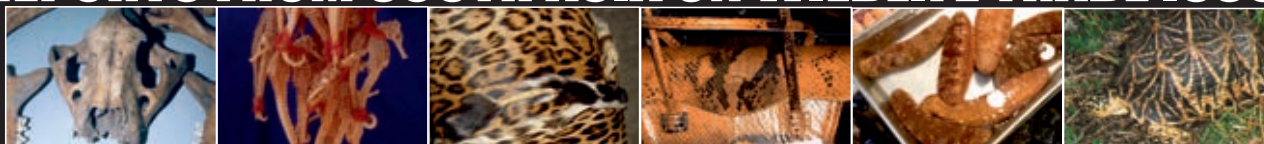
Five thousand Indian softshell turtles seized in West Bengal near Bangladesh border; 3 February 2014 (The Times of India)

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2014-02-04/kolkata/47003630_1_turtles-bangladesh-border-bongaon

The curious case of missing dinosaur fossils; 4 February 2014 (The Times of India)

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/flora-fauna/The-curious-case-of-missing-dinosaur-fossils/articleshow/29857129.cms>

REPORTS FROM SOUTH ASIA ON WILDLIFE TRADE ISSUES



INDIA

One thousand and one hundred and twenty two dead turtles washed ashore in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh in January; 4 February 2014

(The Times of India)

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/flora-fauna/1122-dead-turtles-washed-ashore-in-Tamil-Nadu-Andhra-Pradesh-in-January/articleshow/29830371.cms>

Four hundred Star Tortoises seized at Chennai airport; 14 February 2014

(The Times of India)

http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/chennai/420-Star-Tortoises-Rescued-from-Bangkok-bound-Fliers/2014/02/14/article2055555.ece#.Uv291fsoi_0

Wildlife smuggler held in Bihar with 750 tortoises; 1 March 2014 (The New Indian Express)

<http://www.indileak.com/wildlife-smuggler-held-in-bihar-with-750-tortoises/>

Tiger poacher Sansar Chand dies; 18 March 2014 (The Times of India)

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/City/Jaipur/Sansar-Chand-notorious-tiger-poacher-dead/articleshow/32261903.cms>

Endangered turtles seized in New Delhi; 27 March 2014 (Zee News)

http://zeenews.india.com/news/eco-news/endangered-turtles-seized_920703.html

Massive haul of sea cucumbers in India; 10 April 2014 (Sahil Online)

<http://www.sahilonline.org/english/newsDetails.php?cid=1&nid=23511>

Four Hundred and Sixty Star Tortoises seized in Trivandrum in Kerala; 29 April 2014 (The Hindu)

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Thiruvananthapuram/when-mangoes-stirred-to-life/article5959091.ece>

Tiger Mortality and Seizure Data (January 2013 - April 2014)

YEAR	2013	2014
TIGER MORTALITY	63	22
TIGER PARTS SEIZURES	5	2
TOTAL	68	24

NEPAL

Nepal arrests 14 over rhino poaching; 7 October 2014 (BBC)

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-24435110>

Illegal trade of wild owl as drugs; 23 December 2013 (Ujyaalo Online)

<http://ujyaaloonline.com/news/27848/Lato-koshero-Taskari/>

Police arrested a woman for smuggling 14 kg of pangolin scales hidden in a sack of dried fish, across the border to Tibet; January 2014

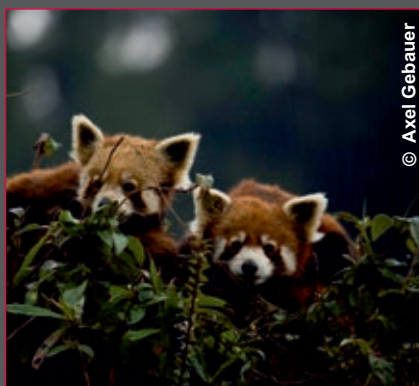
(Annamiticus)

<http://annamiticus.com/2014/06/18/6-months-of-pangolin-trafficking-in-asia-17-seizures-in-6-countries/>

Wildlife parts smuggling rife in far West-Nepal; 24 January 2014

(Republica)

http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=68515



© Axel Gebauer

Locals to curb poaching, smuggling and also conservation ; 12 February 2014 (Republica)

http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=69021

Ten held for smuggling red panda skin, elephant ivory idols; 10 April 2014 (Republica)

http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=72547

MALDIVES

Albino turtle stolen from Sri Lanka was to be used for "black magic on a Maldivian politician"; 21 December 2013 (Minivan News)

<http://minivannews.com/politics/albino-turtle-stolen-from-sri-lanka-was-to-be-used-for-black-magic-on-a-maldivian-politician-73806>

Police discover kingsnake, tarantula in drug bust; 7 March 2014 (Minivan News)

<http://minivannews.com/crime-2/police-discover-kingsnake-tarantula-in-drug-bust-79224>



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Important Meetings & Events

20-21 August: Workshop to test CITES Non-Detriment Finding Guidance for Shark Species, Bonn, Germany

26-28 August: Bay of Bengal Capacity Building Workshop on CITES Appendix II Listings of Shark and Manta Ray Species, Chennai, India

27-29 August: 2nd Annual Meeting of South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN), Kathmandu, Nepal

22-26 September: Thirty-sixth annual meeting of the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), Spain

Advisor: Mr Megh Bahadur Pandey

Chief Enforcement Coordinator of SAWEN & the Director General, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Nepal

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