

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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From the Desk

Dear Readers

Greetings from the SAWEN Secretariat!

The South Asian region comprising Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, has over 15% of the world's flora and 12% of its fauna. Because of this richness in biodiversity, South Asia has been one of the prime targets of the international organized wildlife crime networks. To curb this ongoing trend it was felt necessary that the existing conservation measures and enforcement strategies are reinforced through regional co-operation. Hence, the eight countries joined hands in January 2011 at Paro, Bhutan to form the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN).

The SAWEN Bulletin is a quarterly newsletter especially published for the members of the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network, covering issues related to illegal wildlife trade and wildlife crime in South Asia. The Bulletin aims to highlight and disseminate information on developments in the region with respect to wildlife crime and trade. It will additionally give you an overview of the reported wildlife seizures in various South Asian countries. Any relevant update on CITES (Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), INTERPOL and other similar organizations may also be communicated through this newsletter.

I hope you will find **The SAWEN Bulletin** informative and useful in your endeavor to curb illegal wildlife trade and wildlife crime in your country.

Importantly, I also request readers to use this newsletter as a tool to communicate updates from your region. Therefore, please send us any latest information with respect to wildlife crime management and also latest wildlife seizure reports from your country. We will be sure to acknowledge your contribution. You can send in information at sawen.secretariat@gmail.com.

Happy Reading!
Krishna Prasad Acharya
Chief Enforcement Coordinator
SAWEN Secretariat



SAWEN UPDATES

India hosts SAWEN's first Wildlife Law Enforcement Training Programme

Under the aegis of the newly established SAWEN (South Asian Wildlife Enforcement Network), a training programme on "Strengthening Wildlife Law Enforcement for Wildlife Protection in South Asia" was organized at the University of Forensic Sciences, Gandhinagar, Gujarat (India) from 11-15 July 2011. The programme was the first such training to be organized for SAWEN members on wildlife law enforcement.

Fourteen senior-level government officials working in the field of wildlife conservation of South Asian countries— Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka—attended the programme. TRAFFIC with support from the Global Tiger Forum, the Directorate of Forensic Sciences, Govt. of Gujarat and the Gujarat Forest Department had organized the training. Financial support for this important regional training event was generously provided by the US Government's Department of State, implemented through a grant to TRAFFIC International, with additional support from the Global Tiger Forum.

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Participants received comprehensive understanding of the present scenario of wildlife crime and trade in South Asia and its implications for field conservation. They were introduced to the modern tools and techniques used in strengthening wildlife law enforcement.

The programme brought together various national and international experts and agencies working in this field to exchange ideas, experiences and knowledge on curbing illegal wildlife trade. This initiative is a step further in strengthening regional collaboration amongst various South Asian countries and wildlife law enforcement agencies across the region.

Mr Krishna Prasad Acharya, Chief Enforcement Coordinator of SAWEN & the Director General, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Nepal said, "Illegal wildlife trade is a form of trans-national organized crime that threatens many iconic species across the world. National Governments in South Asia recognize this threat and are committed to work together to counter such threats. The establishment of the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) by the eight countries of South Asia in Bhutan in January 2011 is an expression of this commitment. This training programme, the first of its kind under SAWEN, will support our common cause and will surely be the first of many more such collaborative efforts".

Mr Samir Sinha, Head of TRAFFIC India said, "South Asia, acknowledged globally as a region rich in biodiversity, is increasingly being targeted by organized transnational criminal syndicates. The modus operandi of wildlife crime itself continues to change and evolve rapidly in today's world. In fact, with rapid changes in the way the world communicates, especially with the internet and the easy access to international travel, illegal wildlife trade continues to acquire new dimensions and forms. The fight against organized trans-national wildlife crime requires a multi-disciplinary intelligence-led approach in order to disrupt criminal activities effectively. This training will help wildlife law enforcement agencies across South Asia prepare better to respond to such crime".

The key resource persons at the training programme included experts from various national and international wildlife law enforcement agencies.



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SAWEN Secretariat formally inaugurated in Nepal

On 20 April 2011, the SAWEN Secretariat was officially inaugurated by Hon. Minister Shri Bhanu Bhakta Joshi, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, Nepal. He stated that the establishment of SAWEN in Nepal will help to curb illegal wildlife trade in the region. The Director General of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation highlighted the background of SAWEN. Honorable State Minister Ms Bhagwati Chaudhary was also present during the inauguration.

NEWS FROM CITES*

www.cites.org

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

Launch of InforMEA – the United Nation's Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

The Multilateral Environmental Agreements Information and Knowledge Management Initiative (MEA IKM), launched in June 2011 has developed harmonized MEA information systems to assist Parties and the environment community at large, access information from multiple agreements from one location. Supported by UNEP, the initiative currently includes 17 MEAs from 12 Secretariats hosted by three UN organizations and IUCN. It is open to observers involved in MEA information and data management.

The InforMEA Portal presents Conference of the Parties decisions and resolutions, news, calendars, events, country specific MEA Membership, national focal points, as well as in the near future national reports and implementation plans organized against a set of 200 hierarchical terms taken from MEA Conference of the Parties (COP) Agendas. More information at www.informea.org

CITES Secretariat launches virtual college to strengthen capacity building for saving wildlife

The CITES Secretariat has announced the launch of the CITES Virtual College, a highly collaborative initiative amongst many CITES Parties, partners and organizations, and a first for a multilateral environmental agreement. The launch of the CITES Virtual College took place in June 2011 at the International University of Andalusia (UNIA) and was attended by representatives of the CITES Secretariat. Available in the three working languages of the Convention and composed of interactive courses, a library and a training centre, the CITES Virtual College offers Parties and the wider CITES community unparalleled access to training, educational materials and expertise. Moreover, experts on CITES-related issues will be invited to provide lectures via video and to advise students on questions related to their course work. Strong links are also being established with academic institutions, particularly the UNIA, where the CITES Virtual College will provide students enrolled in the Master's course on Management, Access and Conservation of Species in Trade: the International Framework with a useful introduction to the fundamentals of the Convention. More information at: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2011/20110607_VC.shtml

EU States urge stricter CITES regulations for captive bred specimens

Expressing concern that illegal trade in wild specimens declared as captive bred is occurring and is being conducted globally on a large scale, the European Union (EU) and Member States have produced a document to focus attention on the detrimental aspect of this unregulated activity. Captive bred and ranched animals represent a lion's share of overall trade in CITES listed specimens, especially reptiles and birds. The document provides an overview of the problems encountered and sets out possible solutions for the CITES Standing Committee to consider better implementation and enforcement of the provisions relating to captive bred and ranched specimens. TRAFFIC and UNEP-WCMC have provided input for the preparation of the document. Read more at <http://www.cites.org/eng/com/sc/61/E61-27.pdf>

NEWS FROM OTHER RELATED AGENCIES

<http://www.interpol.int/>

India, the new Secretary of the Wildlife Crime Working Group of the INTERPOL

During the seventh International Conference on Environmental Crime organized from 13-17 September 2010, India was selected for the post of Secretary in the Wildlife Crime Working Group of the INTERPOL for the first time. Rina Mitra, Additional Director-Wildlife Crime Control Bureau is representing India in the post. India will continue to hold the position for a period of four years. The INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group focuses the expertise and experience of law enforcement officers, be it on the poaching, trafficking, or possession of legally protected flora and fauna. Participation is welcomed from all of INTERPOL's 188 member countries. The eight South Asian Countries—Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan—are already a member of the Wildlife Crime Working Group.

Source: <http://www.jagranjosh.com/current-affairs/india-selected-secretary-in-wildlife-crime-working-group-1290689663-1>

Heads of Police and Customs to deliberate on Tiger crime

On 14-15 November 2011, the Heads of Police and Customs agencies from the 13 countries which host wild Tigers, will come together to address issues related to organised wildlife crime that is threatening the future of many iconic species such as the Tiger. The involvement of the most senior officers from the wider law enforcement community is vital to the implementation of the Declaration made by Heads of Governments at the Global Tiger Summit in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation in November 2010, to eradicate poaching, smuggling, and the illegal trade of Tigers. The Seminar will be one of the first key activities of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC). The ultimate goal of the Seminar is to increase communication, coordination and collaboration between high-level enforcement experts and managers from the 13 Tiger-range countries and the ICWC partnership, to markedly increase combating Tiger crime, drawing upon national- and international-level strengths, resources and expertise. ICWC is made up of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Secretariat, INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Customs Organisation (WCO) and the World Bank.

Read more at http://www.cites.org/common/news/calendar/201111_TigerSeminarVisionObjectives.pdf

REPORTS FROM SOUTH ASIA ON WILDLIFE TRADE ISSUES



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

AFGHANISTAN

No news report found for this period

BANGLADESH

Large number of wild animals and birds seized from a house in Jalaliya residential area of Srimongal town; 28 May 2011 (The Daily Star)
<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=187841>

BANGLADESH

Officials in Bangladesh seize more than 120 kg of dried turtles from smugglers near its north-western border with India; 27 June 2011 (News South Asia)
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-13928837>

Bangladesh Border Guards seize rare birds at Chhoto Achra intersection; 5 August 2011 (Gulf Times)

http://www.gulf-times.com/site/topics/article.asp?cu_no=2&item_no=451115&version=1&template_id=44&parent_id=24

BHUTAN

No news report found for this period

INDIA

Assam Rifles seize 15 kg of Tiger bone, skulls at Manipur's Chandel district bordering Myanmar; 2 May 2011

(The Times of India)
http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-05-02/guwahati/29495161_1_bongyang-tiger-skulls-animal-parts

INDIA

Poachers kill Rhino in Kaziranga, chop off its horn; 14 May 2011

(The Times of India)

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Poachers-kill-rhino-in-Kaziranga-chop-off-its-horn/articleshow/8351415.cms>**Red sanders weighing 23 000 kg to be shipped to Dubai seized at Mumbai Port; 24 May 2010** (Hindustan Times)<http://www.hindustantimes.com/Red-sanders-worth-R2cr-declared-as-veggie-consignment/Article1-701216.aspx>**Assam Rifles intercepted a vehicle and seized 253 kg of pangolin shells along with banned drugs in Khudengthabi (Manipur); 26 May 2011**

(The Morung Express)

<http://www.morungexpress.com/regional/66295.html>**Four arrested for carrying Leopard skin, bones in Madhya Pradesh town; 3 June 2011** (IBN Live)<http://ibnlive.in.com/generalnewsfeed/news/four-arrested-for-carrying-leopard-skin-bones-in-mp-town/714090.html>**Facebook brings down Goa frog poacher; 9 June 2011** (India Blooms)<http://www.indiablooms.com/EnvironmentDetailsPage/environmentDetails100611a.php>**Assam Rifles seize 10.5 kg of pangolin shells in Imphal; 15 June 2011**

(e-pao.net)

<http://www.e-pao.net/GP.asp?src=20..170611.jun11>**Two held in Mumbai for smuggling 14 030 kg of Red Sanders; 17 June 2011** (Hindustan Times)<http://www.hindustantimes.com/Two-held-for-smuggling-red-sanders-worth-Rs-1-4-crore/Article1-711464.aspx>**Eleven kilogramme of ivory seized in Satara, two arrested; 25 June 2011** (The Times of India)http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-06-28/pune/29712484_1_satara-inter-state-gang-ivory**Eight people convicted in a nine-year-old case of Tiger poaching in Akbarpur range of Sariska Tiger Reserve; 25 June 2011** (ALLVOICES)<http://www.allvoices.com/news/9501647-8-poachers-punished-for-killing-tiger>**Ivory weighing 1.2 kg seized at Jaspur area of Udham Singh Nagar district, Uttarakhand; 26 June 2011**

(News Discussion Forum)

<http://yourmediapub.com/t-ivory-worth-rs-10-lakh-seized>**Assam Rifles seize 12 kg of Pangolin shells in Manipur's Chandel district; 29 June 2011** (e-pao)<http://www.e-pao.net/GP.asp?src=26..300611.jun11>**Leopard skin seized in Nagpur; 10 July 2011** (Hindustan Times)<http://www.hindustantimes.com/tabloid-news/mumbai/Leopard-skin-seized-4-held/Article1-720025.aspx>

INDIA

Forest Department rescues exotic birds and animals from private zoo; 12 July 2011 (Cihan Media Services)http://www.cihanmedya.com/media_services/product.do?method=detail&productId=2243&productDetailId=116753267&activePage=0&productEvent=MaxNew&categoryId=0**Live ornamental turtles seized from a passenger at Cochin airport; 12 July 2011** (The Hindu)<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Kochi/article2220714.ece> News**Ninety kilogrammes of Sea Cucumbers seized in Tamil Nadu; 15 July 2011** (New Kerala)<http://www.newkerala.com/news/2011/worldnews-28122.html>**Red Sanders smuggler was arrested in Tamil Nadu following seizure of 70 tonnes of this wood from his godowns near Ponneri; 10 August 2011** (The Times of India)<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/Man-suspected-to-be-smuggling-kingpin-held/articleshow/9573576.cms>**Shahtoosh shawls seized at IGI airport in Delhi; 13 September 2011** (The Times of India)<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/9986900.cms>**Three held with Leopard skin in Rishikesh; 20 September 2011** (IBN Live)<http://ibnlive.in.com/generalnewsfeed/news/three-held-with-leopard-skin/830950.html>**Three arrested with 600 gm of snake venom in Maharashtra ; 26 September 2011** (Hindustan Times)<http://www.hindustantimes.com/3-held-with-Rs-2-4-cr-worth-snake-venom/Article1-751392.aspx>

NEPAL

Two arrested from Khaptad National Park with gun for killing a deer; 7 May 2011

Source: Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), Babarmahal, Kathmandu

Three arrested from Bardia National Park for killing a Tiger; 18 May 2011 (DNPWC)**Three held with rare birds at Bouddha; 18 May 2011** (Republica)http://archives.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=31594**Red Sanders smuggling rife in Kavre and Rasuwa districts; 27 May 2011** (The Himalayan Times)<http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Red+sanders+smuggling+rife+&NewsID=289701>

NEPAL

Two arrested from Annapurna Conservation Area with a Snow Leopard skin; 29 May 2011 (DNPWC)**One arrested from Chitwan National Park with a rhino horn; 7 June 2011** (DNPWC)**Two held with rhino horn in Dhanding district; 9 June 2011** (The Himalayan Times)<http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Duo+nabbed+with+rhino+horn&NewsID=291162>**Three held with a Leopard skin in Kanchanpur district; 13 June 2011** (The Himalayan Times)<http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Three+held+with+leopard+skin%09&NewsID=291662>**Four arrested from Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve with skin of a Clouded Leopard; 13 June 2011** (DNPWC)

MALDIVES

No news report found for this period

SRI LANKA

No news report found for this period

NOTE: This newsletter needs your support. Please contribute wildlife seizure reports or any other significant news report pertaining to wildlife trade from your country. You can write to sawen.secretariat@gmail.com or dchhabra@wwfindia.net

