

# ON the TRAIL

Information and analysis bulletin on animal poaching and smuggling  
n°1 / 1<sup>st</sup> April - 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013

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## Introduction

On the Trail traces those who use and abuse endangered species and get from them small or exorbitant benefits beyond the boundaries of law. On the Trail observes itineraries, frequencies, compli- cities, repeated offences, prices and practices of traffic. Without any claim to completeness, it is in the consistency after two or three years that On the Trail will prove its usefulness.

The transnational regulatory base on international trade of endangered species of wild fauna is the Washington Convention, better known as CITES, which came into force in 1975. Other legal instru- ments such as International Whaling Commission are part of the regulation game. Every event quo- ted and described in this quarterly collection are in breach of one of CITES three appendices and/or member States' national rules.

Documentation sources come from worldwide press consulted by Robin des Bois and NGO's dedi- cated to the protection and the respect of wild fau- na. We express special gratitude to Species Survival Network and local watchdogs that at their own risk send out alarms to highlight lucrative and cruel cri- minality against wildlife.

### CITES Appendices

**Appendix I :** species threatened with extinction. Trade in specimens of these species is permitted only in exceptional circumstances and under im- port and export permits.

**Appendix II :** export permit required in order to avoid utilization incompatible with the species survival. Import permit if required by national law.

**Appendix III :** species that are protected in at least one country, which has asked other CITES Parties for assistance in controlling the trade. In the case of trade from a State that included the species in Appendix III, an export permit of that State is required.

## Seahorses Sea, Corals, Cucumbers and Giant Clams

Sea horses (*Hippocampus spp.*) are all listed as Appendix II as well as giant clams (*Tridacna gigas*, Appendix II). Sea horse is used in Chinese traditional medicine for its supposed aphrodisiac properties.



**Seizure of dried sea horses, ivory, and pangolin scales, 200kg in total Chinese territorial waters**  
**May 16, 2013**

Aboard a river-sea cargo-ship connecting Hong Kong to the Chinese continent, in three containers customs discovered thousands of computers, tablets, games, and electronics as well as 200kg of ivory, pangolin scales, and dried sea horses. All of the merchandise was declared as "polyethylene balls".



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**6 month prison sentence for coral smuggling**  
**Manchester, United Kingdom**  
**May 22 2013**

In May 2012, the culprit was caught while coming to receive the packages in the freight section of the Manchester airport. Border police there discovered 36 boxes containing 650 corals and 60 giant clams, of a total weight of 750kg. 120 parts of animals belonging to protected species were discovered at his home. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 6 months.



© Border Force

**Seizure of 512,000 pieces of coral, among them *Antipatharia spp.*, Appendix II**  
**Madrid, Spain**  
**June 4, 2013**

The seizure was carried out in a sort of Chinese free trade zone that stretches over 162 hectares next to Madrid. It is a mess of counterfeiting and animal exhibition, including smuggled coral. 403 coral items were also seized, as well as 110,000 pieces of jewelry counterfeited from a famous brand. 7 people have been charged.

**Sentencing to 4 months in prison for wildlife smuggling**  
**Singapore**  
**June 7, 2013**

On May 28, 2013, the authorities seized 131 pieces of protected marine species: 31 sea horses, 22 giant clams and 78 corals, worth nearly US\$ 27,000. The seizure occurred in the port of Jurong. Two bags containing the protected species were hidden in the boat's kitchen. They were delivered to an Indonesian sailor by a fellow citizen in the port of Batam aboard the *M.V. Kartika Sari*, a 30 meters long coaster. The sailor said he received US\$ 40 for the transport.

**Seizure of 1,313 sea cucumbers, 20kg (*Isostichopus fuscus*, Appendix III in Ecuador)**  
**Baltra Airport, Galapagos Islands, Ecuador**  
**June 14, 2013**

In Galapagos Islands, tourists fill their pockets; seven of them, mostly Asians, had 1313 dried sea cucumbers in their suitcases at the airport. Sea cucumbers fishing is a very sensitive subject in Galapagos. Two years ago, the resource was exhausted after a long period of international and illegal fishing. A strict protocol was established under the concern of local fishermen. In China, sea cucumber is a popular food; it is also used in traditional medicine against fatigue, joint pain, impotence, constipation and urinary pathologies.

**Seizure of 12kg of dried seahorses  
Shekou Harbor, Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, China  
June 2013**

The seahorses were detected in luggage thanks to X-ray controls. The approximate weight of a dried seahorse is 10grams. This seizure counts therefore about 1,200 specimens.

## Fish



©Richard Herrmann

**Seizure of 27 totoaba swim bladders (*Totoaba macdonaldi*, Appendix I)  
Calexico, California, United States of America  
April 2013**

27 totoaba swim bladders, an endemic fish from the Cortez Sea threatened with extinction, were seized inside the vehicle of a Calexico resident on the California-Mexico border. The trafficker of Chinese origin had organized a drying workshop at his home where 214 swim bladders were found; each of them is worth US\$ 5,000 in the US black market and up to US\$ 20,000 on Asian markets; they are an expensive delicacy in China and some claim they can boost fertility and improve blood circulation and skin vitality. For certain fish species, swim bladders help regulate buoyancy. Totoaba populations are threatened because of over-fishing, pollutions, global degradation of the Colorado river delta. Dealing swim bladders implies the complicity of local fishermen.

**Seizure of 1,000 dried totoaba swim bladders (*Totoaba macdonaldi*, Appendix I), 898,660 dried sea cucumbers (*Holothuroidea*) and 78,676 dead sea horses.**

**Ensenada Port, Sovereign State of Baja California, Mexico  
May 2013**

Mexican authorities intercepted the cargo destined for the Asian markets. Everything was hidden in cardboard boxes or nylon bags supposed to contain jellyfish or shark fins. The value of the merchandise is estimated at US\$ 157,000. The port of Ensenada has maritime links with North America, South America, and Asia.



Le port d'Ensenada © Mexicomatters

## Marine mammals

**Trade of 4,250kg of Minke whale products (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*, Appendix I except the population of West Greenland, which is included in Appendix II)**

**Norway-Japan**

**April 12, 2013**

On April 12, a sea shipment of 4 tons of whale meat arrived in Japan from Norway where Minke whale hunting is carried out. It was addressed to Toshi International by Mykebust Trading. In Japan, it appears that whale meat is also sold as dog food for wealthy families. Japan and Norway made a reservation to the Appendix I listing and authorized themselves bilateral trade without consideration for the laws of transit States.



© Japan Daily Press

**Good News !**

- 4 Amazonian manatees set free into their natural habitat (*Trichechus inunguis*, Appendix I)
- Loreto, Peru
- April 23 2013
- The manatees victims of illegal trafficking and saved by Peruvian authorities in 2009 were taken care of by the Amazonian rescue center CREA (Centro de Rescater Amazonico) for 4 years and have now been released into the Quistococha lagoon in the Amazonian region of Peru.

## Birds

### Sentencing to 21 and 22 years of prison Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates April 11, 2013

Two men accused of the attempted murder of park rangers at the Al Shataan natural sanctuary in Abu Dhabi's Western Region were sentenced to 21 and 22 years of imprisonment, plus fines. They had been caught while trying to hunt houbara bustards (*Chlamydotis undulata*, Appendix I), and opened fire on the park rangers to avoid arrest. Two accomplices were condemned to 9 years in prison. This trial was held behind closed doors to protect the identity of one of the defendants.



### REPEAT OFFENDER

#### Blue-and-yellow macaw (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II)

Tanabi, Brasil  
May 2, 2013

A blue-and-yellow macaw was found imprisoned in a cage in the home of a man known to sell wild animals. He was sentenced to a 5,000 Brazilian Reais fine (1,685 €).



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#### Poaching of one Andean condor (*Vultur gryphus*, Appendix I)

Highlands province of Azuay, Ecuador  
May 8th 2013

A group of poachers now on the run killed a condor in the highlands province of Azuay. The bird, one of the last 50 specimens in Ecuador, the largest bird on Earth, had been named Arturo by the locals. The suspects have posted a photo of their trophy on Facebook. It is one of the locals who recognized Ar-

turo and sounded the alarm. The poachers are said to be actively sought for by police forces and risk a five year prison sentence.



© El Ventano

#### Poaching of 3 Darwin's rheas (*Pterocnemia pennata*, Appendix I)

San Ceferino, Malargue, Argentina  
May 10th 2013

The police on Route 40 in the San Ceferino area has arrested two men while they were carrying the carcasses of 3 Darwin's rheas, a 22 caliber rifle with telescopic sight, ammunition and two knives.

#### Seizure of 3 Amazon parrots (family *Psittacidae*, Appendix I or Appendix II)

Goias, Brazil

May 13th 2013

The Brazilian Institute for Environment and Natural Resources (IBAMA) seized the parrots during a passerine farms control in the State of Goias.

#### Seizure of 9 Red-lored Amazon nestlings (*Amazona autumnalis*, Appendix II)

Tuxtepec, State of Oaxaca, Mexico

May 16th 2013

The federal police has arrested two suspects for unlawful possession of a protected species and handed them over to the public prosecutor.

#### Seizure of Collared Peccaries (*Pecari tajacu*, Appendix II) and Spotted Pacas (*Cuniculus paca*, Appendix III)

Arapei, Bocaina National Park, State of Sao Paulo, Brazil

May 19th 2013

The Arapei Police seized spotted pacas and collared peccaries along with four riffles - 12, 28, 20 et 24 caliber -, 200 pieces of ammunition, hunt whistles and ammunition manufacturing equipment in a house of Bocaina National Park in the State of Sao Paulo. This house was a place to stay and to gather for poachers; a local used to guide them in the National Park to locate the different species.

#### Seizure of a Hill Myna (*Gracula religiosa*, Appendix II)

Rampura market, Dacca, Bangladesh

May 27, 2013

The bird was being sold at a market. The authorities also seized 11 chestnut/black-headed munia (*Lonchura atricapilla*, unlisted by CITES) in another market in Dhaka. The religious mynah is a popular

Asian pet. In France, the price of a so-called bred religious mynah is about 1,000 €.



© Animalinfos

**Seizure of 12 Red-lored Amazon (*Amazona autumnalis*, Appendix II)**

**Guatemala**

**May 2013**

They were discovered hidden in a regional bus heading towards the Pacific coast. None of the passengers claimed responsibility for the birds. None of them were arrested.



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**Seizure of 235 parrots : 188 Red-lored Amazons (*Amazona autumnalis*, Appendix II), 3 Yellow-headed Amazons (*Amazona oratrix*, Appendix I), 8 Mealy Amazons (*Amazona farinosa*, Appendix II), 36 Olive-throated Parakeets (*Aratinga nana*, Appendix II)**

**Morelia, State of Michoacán, Mexico**

**May 2013**

The federal police took in two persons for questioning. They were handed over to the public prosecutor for smuggling and illegal trade of wild fauna. In a first phase, the animals have been brought to Morelia zoo to be fed and treated.

**Seizure of birds among which one suffered from H5N1 virus.**

**Vienna Airport, Austria**

**June 11th 2013**

The 60 parrots and birds-of-paradise (*Paradisaeidae*, Appendix II) from Asia were uncovered by sniffer dogs. 39 of them had died during transport. As a sanitary precaution, the 21 surviving smuggled birds were put down and their samples are being tested. The Czech smugglers were set free awaiting trial.

**Seizure of 180 birds**

**Milan Airport, Italy**

**June 14th 2013.**

3 Maltese nationals were caught with 180 dead birds in their luggage, among which some CITES species, according to the Italian customs press release. They probably intended to trade the feathers or use them as ornaments.

**Seizure of one Yellow-headed Amazon (*Amazona oratrix*, Appendix I) and 7 Iguanas.**

**Cocoayan and Xochimilco, Mexico**

**June 25th 2013**

The animals were found in shops which were not holding the required documents.



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**Seizure of one Lilac-crowned Amazon (*Amazona finschi*, Appendix I) and one Keel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*, Appendix II)**

**Mexico, Mexico**

**June 2013**

The birds were used as pets.

**Seizure of one Military Macaw (*Ara militaris*, Appendix I)**

**State of Jalisco, Mexico**

**June 2013**

It was also used as a pet.



© Guillermo MuñozLacy

**Seizure of 2 White-crowned Parrot nestlings (*Pionus senilis*, Appendix II)**

**State of Chiapas, Mexico.**

**June 2013**

The PROFEPA inspectors - federal authority for the protection of the environment - have freed the

birds hidden in the rear of a truck. They were in very bad condition.

**Seizure of Scaly-headed Parrots (*Pionus maximiliani*, Appendix II), Monk Parakeets (*Myiopsitta monachus*, Appendix II) and one Blue-crowned Parakeet (*Aratinga acuticaudata*, Appendix II). General Aquino road, Luque, Paraguay June 2013.**

The parakeets were on sale by the side of the road. The dealers did not hold the required selling documents. They were arrested and brought to the police station in Asunción, Paraguay capital city, while the birds were dropped off at the clinic of the city botanical and zoological garden. They will later be released in their natural environment.

## Turtles and Tortoises

**Total seizure from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> June**

**5,856 turtles and tortoises  
14,574 eggs**



Black Spotted Turtle © redturtles

**Seizure of 320 live Black Spotted Turtle (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*, Appendix I) Benazir International Airport, Islamabad, Pakistan April 25, 2013**

Thanks to a confidential tip, the international airport customs department was on high alert. They were expecting a clandestine transfer of live turtles heading towards Bangkok, Thailand via a commercial flight. A passenger was targeted. In his bags, 320 turtles hidden in clothes were found. It is planned to release them in their natural habitat, the Sutlej river tributary of the Indus. This endangered species is said to live only in Pakistan. Gourmet chefs in Thailand and Japan value it.



The Sutlej river in Pakistan © Rashid virk

**Seizure of 13 spur-thighed tortoise (*Testudo graeca*, Appendix II)**

**Almeria, Spain**

**April 25, 2013**

The tortoises were found inside a van during the inspection at a ferry landing Ghazaouet (Algeria)/Almeria. The agents of the Guardia Civil also discovered 200 packets of contraband cigarettes hidden in luggage from the trunk and even in the engine.

**Seizure of 21 Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix II)**

**Calcutta airport, State of West Bengal, India**

**April 30, 2013**

Two people were arrested. The tortoises and the fish for aquarists were all alive and well packaged for a cargo air voyage of 1,700km to Chennai. Star tortoises are highly valued as pets or decorative animals. They are sold between US\$ 400-1000 each. The final destination of the animal packages, if the illegal operation were to be successful, is unknown. The port of Chennai receives many container ships sent off worldwide.

**Poaching of 9 green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*, Appendix I)**

**Province of Pisco, Peru**

**May 7, 2013**

7 shells were found on the beach in an advanced state of decomposition and 2 were found in landfill. The Pacific green turtles are hunted for their meat. Between November 2009 and March 2013, over 600 shells from turtles less than a week old have been found. Among them were green turtles, olive Ridley turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*, Appendix I), leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*, Appendix I) and hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*, Appendix I). Many restaurants have put turtle on their menu.

**Charge for smuggling endangered reptiles.**

**May 2013**

**Seattle, USA**

Seattle Reptiles pet shop in the State of Washington, United States of America, in association with 5 Chinese nationals, used to ship to Asia via Federal Express boxes labelled clothing and shoes. They actually contained wild and endangered American Eastern Box turtles protected by the international regulation. Most of the boxes were sent to Hong

Kong. Many turtles lost limbs or legs or died during shipment. M. Swanson also mailed Gila monsters (*Heloderma suspectum*, Appendix II), a lizard native to the southwest coast of the United States America and northwest coast of Mexico. The pet shop owner was occasionally paid in wild kind. His Chinese sources were sending him rare and protected turtles, which were caught in the natural environment, such as Indochinese box turtles, Arakan Forest turtles (*Heosemys depressa*, Appendix II) and black-breasted hill turtles (*Geoemyda spengleri*, Appendix II). M. Swanson and his associates are facing charges of conspiracy and smuggling.

**Seizure of 50 Indian star tortoise (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix II)  
Kengeri (Bangalore), State of Karnataka, India  
May 23, 2013**

The seizure was intervened near a bus stop while the trafficker was waiting for his client.



© deccanherald

**Seizure of 50 live Indian Roofed Turtle (*Pangshura tecta*, Appendix I) and two Indian eyed turtles (*Morenia petersi*, Appendix II)  
Khilgaon market, Dhaka, Bangladesh  
May 27, 2013**

As of June 12, 2013, some weeks after the seizure, the turtles of the *Morenia petersi* species are listed as Appendix II by CITES. The decision was motivated by the threat posed by international commerce and their resemblance to other species that are already listed.



© Sauria

**Seizure of 2,709 Central Asian Tortoises (*Testudo horsfieldii*, Appendix II)**

**Altai, Russia**

**May 2013**

The Kazakhstani bus driver was arrested by Russian customs. The value of the tortoises in the pet market is estimated at US\$ 50,000. The Central Asian tortoise can live for up to 75 years. Some wills mention the fate and future of the dear Central Asian tortoise.

**Seizure of 6,500 turtle eggs during 2 separate operations (*Manouria impressa* or *Manouria emys* or *Indotestudo elongata*, Appendix II or *Dermochelys coriacea*, Appendix I)**

**Sandakan, State of Sabah, Malaysia**

**May 30 and 31, 2013**

The turtle eggs were found aboard two small boats. The first, a pump boat, was abandoned by the crew who escaped in a mangrove after being chased; it contained 3,000 turtle eggs. The second was a speedboat noticed by maritime police at 7 in the morning as it left the Sungai Obar river containing 3,500 turtle eggs.

**Poaching and seizure of 74 leatherback turtle and eggs (*Dermochelys coriacea*, Appendix I)**

**Moín Beach, Costa Rica**

**June 3 2013**

The 2 arrested people were in possession of a 38 caliber gun and 4 cartridges. The seizure occurred during a night patrol, when monitors survey the beach to protect turtles from poachers. The same day, 4 men, one of which a minor, were arrested while they were spotting the turtle nests driving quad bikes. A few days before, Jairo Mora Sandoval (26 years old) was killed on Moín beach. The biologist was completing a monitoring patrol of the turtle nests. It probably was an act of revenge from the poachers. The area is also known as a transit zone for drug traffickers. Last year, 21 people were detained for affairs linked to the theft of turtle eggs.



Jairo Mora Sandoval

© Christine Figgenger, Baulas y Negras Ostional

**Seizure of 2,000 living Indian softshell turtles (*Nilssonia gangetica*, Appendix I)**

**Kalidindi, State of Andhra Pradesh, India**

**June 12, 2013**

The softshell turtles weighed between 200g and 2kg. They were captured in ponds and water points and crammed in 75 gunny bags. Thanks to a tip-off on the incoming transport, forest rangers went on site to investigate. The poachers had vanished but the turtles were there. They were released in Kolleru Lake, in the Atapaka bird sanctuary. The lake is recognized as a wetland of international importance under the RAMSAR Convention since August 2002.

**Poaching of two marine turtles (*Cheloniidae*, Appendix I)**

**Schoelcher, Martinique, France**

**June 26, 2013**

The turtles were caught with a trammel, a gillnet set on the ocean floor. One of the turtle, weighting 80kg, died while the other one was able to be set free.

Informed of the capture by a witness, authorities intercepted the fishing boat with a vedette boat of the French Maritime Affairs. The fishing boat was on the way to land its captures at Fort de France. On June 24, a 500 meters trammel net had been seized in a zone where fishing is forbidden. This type of net is particularly dangerous for marine turtles.

**Seizure of live turtles : 3 Indian flap-shelled turtles (*Lissemys punctata*, Appendix II) and an Indian black turtle (*Melanochelys trijuga*, Appendix II)**

**Samadhikuppam, Cuddalore District, State of Tamil Nadu, India**

**June 2013**

A volunteer of the Wildlife and Nature Conservation Trust spotted the group of 4 poachers, 2 of which were arrested. One of the official who arrested the gang said to the NGO volunteer to mind his own business. "We are the police, not you."

**8,000 turtle eggs seized (*Manouria impressa* or *Manouria emys* or *Indotestudo elongata*, Appendix II or *Dermochelys coriacea*, Appendix I)**

**Sandakan, Sabah State, Malaysia**

**June 27, 2013**

The eggs were carried in 16 bags on board a fast boat and were destined for the food market in Malaysia. They came from the Philippines or Indonesia or from the Malaysian States of Sabah and Sarawak. The crew escaped into the mangrove when the police arrived.



## Snakes and iguanas



*Maticora bivirgata* © Peter Engelen

**Seizure of live snakes: 2 Asian reticulated pythons (*Python reticulatus*, Appendix II), 2 green tree pythons (*Morelia viridis*, Appendix II), 2 blue Malaysian coral snakes (*Maticora bivirgata*), and 4 flying squirrels**

**Chennai airport, Tamil Nadu State, India**

**April 17, 2013**

There was amazement at the Chennai airport when sleuths scanning disembarking passengers saw a basket with the heads of small pythons and coral snakes peeking out. The trafficker came from Bangkok. In Mohammed Azarudin's trunk, there were four squirrels and two rodents evidently put there in order to feed the illegal serpents. The packing was done with the skill of a professional smuggler. The pythons were in plastic boxes with pierced air holes to permit them to breathe, and the coral snakes were transported in cardboard boxes with grass inside. The rodents were wrapped up in round containers. The serpents were sedated to keep them calm during the flight. All of the walls were clouded to avoid identification by scanners. The owner of the trunk had declared it contained rare medicinal herbs from Thailand. If the package had arrived to destination, he would have received 140 €. According to him, these animals brought on good luck. After being presented before a judge, he was taken into custody.

**Seizure of 109 live king cobras (*Ophiophagus hannah*, Appendix II)**

**Hanoi and Hoang Mai District, Viet Nam**

**April 19, 2013**

53 living specimens were seized from a car in Hanoi. The driver would have been given US\$ 50 for bringing them to an undisclosed location. 56 other individuals were seized 50km south of Hanoi. The king cobra population has declined 80% in the past 10 years in Viet Nam. The seizures occur shortly after the publication by the Wildlife Conservation Society of a report on the proliferation of protected animal sales on Vietnamese internet sites. The king cobra is sought after for its skin, meat, medical uses, and for public or private zoos.

**Seizure of 120 iguanas, green iguanas (*Iguana spp.*, Appendix II) and black spiny-tailed iguanas (*Ctenosaura similis*).**

**Route between Chinandega and Managua, near Leon, Nicaragua**

**May 2, 2013**

Police forces of Leon found 3 bags stuffed with iguanas. They were very probably destined for the Managua market. Travelling conditions were particularly tough: the animals were tied down, their legs and tails wounded. The departmental delegate of the Environmental and Natural Resources Ministry announced that the reptiles will be examined, healed, then released into a natural reserve. She adds that authors of such deeds may be brought before court and sentenced to a fine.

**Seizure of about 387 snakeskin, monitor lizard, and crocodile bags**

**Los Angeles Airport, California, USA**

**May 6, 2013**

Authorities seized bags made of prohibited and protected skins, including 98 African rock python bags (*Python sebae*, Appendix II), 179 cobra bags, 6 puff adder snake bags, 19 monitor lizard bags (*Varanus exanthematicus*, Appendix II), 85 African dwarf crocodile bags (*Osteolaemus tetraspis*, Appendix I). All of them were in a Nigerian citizen's baggage. According to a chief of border police, the quality is not as good as Gucci, but they are made out of highly protected species.



© Daily Breeze - Brian Sumers

**Seizure of 10 living pythons (*Python brongersmai* or *Python curtus*, Appendix II)**

**Bermani Ilir, Sumatra, Indonesia**

**May 14, 2013**

The pythons have been released into the Kerinci-Seblat National Park, monitored by the Forestry Department.

**Seizure of 4 royal pythons (*Python regius*, Appendix II)**

**Goumois, Franche-Comté, France**

**May 2013**

The serpents were in polystyrene boxes in the trunk of a French couples' car. Customs think the snakes were heading for illegal trade in Switzerland. Royal pythons are native to West Africa. Their average length is about 1.2 meters. Some months before, a German citizen was caught at the Swiss border with 1 royal python, 2 boa constrictors, and 4 geckos in his van. The fine was of 1,200 Swiss Francs (970 €).



© Douanes suisses

**Seizure of 30 animals including a royal python (*Python regius*, Appendix II), loris (*Nycticebus spp.*, Appendix I), Indian star tortoise (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix II) and a marmoset.**

**Singapore**

**June 3, 2013**

In a social apartment in Singapore, the Agri Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) discovered a zoo. For proper care and custody, the seized animals were sent to the Wildlife Reserves. In Singapore, it is forbidden to hold such species as pets. AVA asks everyone who is aware of illegal activities relating to wildlife to contact them at 6325 7625. All information will be held confidential.

**Seizure of 4.1 tons of cobras (family *Elapidae*) and 2.2 tons of mud snakes (*Enhydris chinensis*)**

**Dongxing, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China**

**June 15, 2013**

The seizure took place on a truck; the animals were found in 160 containers, the majority of them were still alive. They were sent to the local forestry department for rehabilitation and eventual release into the wild. The species of cobra is not specified. The manacled cobra *Naja kaouthia* that lives mainly in China is listed in Appendix II. In India, a similar species of mud snake is protected under national law.

**Seizure of 1 boa constrictor (*Boa constrictor*, Appendix I)**

**State of Chiapas, Mexico**

**June 2013**

The Tuxla Gutiérrez firemen have freed a 1.30 meter long boa constrictor. It is in good condition and released in its natural environment.

## Pangolins and armadillos

The 8 pangolin species *Manis* spp. (4 African and 4 Asian) are listed in Appendix II.



© Michigan Science Art

### **Seizure of 30kg of pangolin scales Roissy airport, Paris, France Beginning of April 2013**

It takes three or four animals to produce one kilogram of scales. Thus, this seizure represents about one hundred pangolins. This was the first of a series of three Parisian seizures.

### **Seizure of 18.5kg of pangolin scales Roissy airport, Paris, France April 2013**

Second Parisian seizure in the month of April.

### **Seizure of 10,000kg of frozen pangolins (about 2,000 specimens) Tubbataha National Marine Park, Palawan Is- land, Philippines April 13, 2013**

The fishing boat grounded on a coral reef in the heart of a marine protected area, a designated UNESCO heritage site. It turns out that the fishing vessel was transporting 10 tones of a terrestrial animal in the form of frozen meat, with its scales removed. The origin of the pangolins is unknown. An endemic species is located on the island of Palawan. The owner of the Chinese ship, the *Min Long Yu*, has not been identified. The marine hunters could be sentenced to 12 years in prison and a fine of 300,000 €. Damages will be claimed for the destruction of the coral reef over a surface area of 2,300m<sup>2</sup>.

Two months later, the press learned that the Filipino government urged the Palawan prosecutor to have the 12 Chinese fishermen released on bail and deported back to China despite facing charges of illegal poaching, attempted corruption and illegal possession of a threatened species.



*Min Long Yu* © Philippines Coast Guard



### **Seizure of 11kg of pangolin scales Kanpur, India April 20, 2013**

The value was estimated at US\$ 2,000-2,500. The suspect was arrested near the Kanpur station; he appears to belong to an international network of poachers and traffickers.

### **Seizure of 23 pangolins (*Manis culionensis* /Pa- lawan pangolin, Appendix II). West of the Palawan Island, Philippines April 22, 2013**

A few days after the first seizure on board a Chinese fishing boat, 23 pangolins – 22 alive and one dead – were found on board the *Maria Lydia*, a small mixed boat carrying passengers and freight. This second maritime seizure confirms the existence of pangolin trafficking from the island of Palawan. The *Maria Lydia* was headed to Manila.



*Maria Lydia* © ChromePropeller - Philippines Ship Spotters Society

**Seizure of 51kg of pangolin scales**  
**Roissy airport, Paris, France**  
**April 26, 2013**

Third Parisian seizure in the month of April. The total value of the three seizures is estimated by French Customs at 75,000 €. This represents about 350 animals.

**Seizure of 80kg of pangolin scales**  
**Limbe, Cameroon**  
**April 26, 2013**

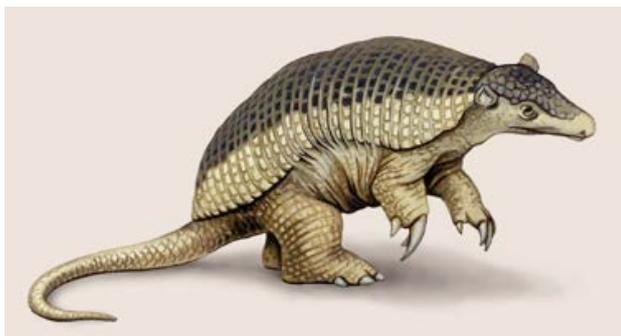
The Chinese man and his two Cameroonian accomplices intended to reach neighboring Nigeria by sea on a regular line. The pangolin scales that were recorded as accompanying baggage and distributed in bags would have then continued on to very long trip by sea, the final destination being China. The scales are thought to have been purchased in Yaoundé for 8 US\$ per kilogram. The Chinese man tried to bribe the experts with US\$ 1,000, to no success.



© Ofir Drori/LAGA

**12 dead armadillos seized (*Dasypodidae*, Appendix I, II, or III) and 5 guns**  
**San Martin, Mendoza, Argentina**  
**April 28 2013**

The environmental authorities of Mendoza, warned by a neighbor, were able to seize 12 dead armadillos from a house in the town of San Martin. They were dressed and seasoned and ready to be put in the oven to be eaten by 12 guests. Three people are suspected. They illegally owned 5 shotguns.



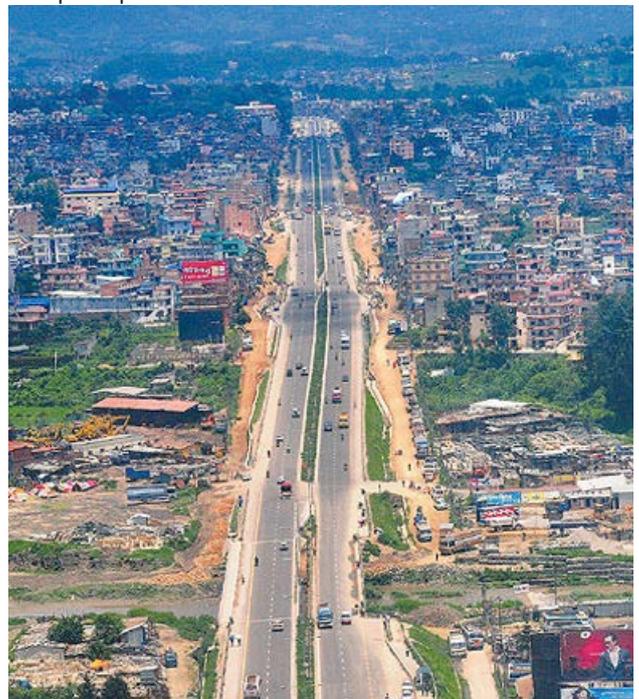
© Michigan Science Art

**Seizure of 9kg of pangolin scales**  
**Tatopani, Nepal**  
**May 6, 2013**

Five Nepalese persons were arrested on a bus on the Araniko Highway, a path to China, where the seizures of foreign currency and parts of wild animals is not rare. They had passed almost twenty security check-points without notice, but the Larcha post had been given a tip-off and was prepared to search the bus thoroughly when it arrived. The scales were attached to the smuggler's legs. This is the first time under the Nepalese police that a sizeable finding occurred on the inside of a bus. 172kg of pangolin scales were seized on the Araniko Highway in the past two years. The suspects were also illegally transporting foreign currency.



© Nepal Republic Media



Araniko highway - © The Kathmandu Post

**Seizure of 89 live pangolins**  
**Chana district, Songkhla province, Thailand**  
**May 17, 2013**

The pangolins were discovered in a pick-up truck by an investigation team from Regional Customs Bureau 4; the driver escaped. They were being delivered to Bangkok, to be sent to other countries.

**Seizure of 189 pangolin's skins and 248 hornbill's beaks.**

**May 17, 2013.**

**Jakarta, Indonesia.**

4 Chinese nationals have been arrested for allegedly attempting to smuggle these animal parts for use in traditional medicine. Hornbills are on the brink of extinction because of deforestation and poaching. The smugglers were linked with poachers in Borneo Island.

**Seizure of 80kg of pangolin scales**

**Fuklingkot VDC, Sindhupalchok district, Nepal**

**May 18, 2013**

The scales were hidden in two bags in a bus headed to Fuklingkot VDC. Traffickers know that the Arniko Highway is heavily monitored, so they ride a bus that passes through remote villages to avoid getting caught. In Nepal, pangolins are found around 3,000 meters altitude. Traffickers can face 15 years in prison and/or a 50,000 to 100,000 rupee fine (between 600 and 1,300 €).

**REPEAT OFFENDER**

**Seizure of a pangolin and a turtle**  
**Mirijjawila, Hambantota, Sri Lanka**

**May 26, 2013**

A Chinese citizen and owner of a restaurant wanted to cook the seized animals for his fellow citizen customers who work in the Hambantota port. He was sentenced to pay a 300,000 rupee fine (US\$ 2,372). He is a repeated offender: in March, he was already sentenced for the contraband of crocodile, pangolin, and turtle meat.



Artist's view of the new Hambantota Port.

© Hambantota Port.

**Seizure of 26 pangolins**

**Bermani Ilir, Sumatra, Indonesia**

**May 14, 2013**

Those in poor shape were treated and released into the wild in a place managed by the Forestry Department.

**Seizure of 16 live pangolins (120kg)**

**Taman Sinaran, Selangor, Malaysia**

**June 9th, 2013**

The authorities intercepted a couple after they tried to flee from an inspection of their car. 16 pangolins were hidden in the car boot. The couple drove 800km from Batu Pahat (Johor) to Kuala Kangsar to buy the pangolins. Sold for US\$ 83 per kilogram, they would have ended up in Kota Baru's restau-

rants in Kelantan province. The animals were transferred to the care of the National Parks and Wildlife Department.

**Seizure of 45kg of pangolin scales**

**Katmandu, Nepal**

**June 10, 2013**

The Indian family of 5 came to Kathmandu in a truck ferrying buffaloes, with the purpose of selling bric-à-brac in Nepal. They passed the border with 45 kg of pangolin scales, collected from various parts of India.

**Seizure of 298 dead animals : 12 pangolins, 190 squirrels, 8 mongooses (family *Herpestidae*), 14 flying squirrels, and 59 brush-tailed porcupines (*Atherurus africanus*).**

**Agboville, Agnėby-Tiassa Region, Côte d'Ivoire**

**June 14, 2013**

The seized animals were hidden in 50kg bags of rice. This is the most significant seizure in several years. The African porcupine is commonly consumed as bush meat; it is not listed by CITES.

**Sentencing of 6 people to 1 year in prison and a 2.750 € fine each for illegal possession of pangolins**

**Alor Setar, Kedah State, Malaysia**

**June 26, 2013**

Live pangolins had been seized on September 22 2012, aboard 2 vehicles, inside blue plastic bags. The vehicles were near a hevea plantation close to Changlun, in Kedah State (north-west of Malaysia). The 6 people indicted were sentenced to one year in jail and 2750 € fine with the possibility to convert the later into an extra 15-month prison time. Yet they have been let out on bail, mounting to 1,900 €, while awaiting an appeal.

**Pangolin price**

**Scales :**

227 US\$/kg (India)

175-500 US\$/kg (Viet Nam and China)

950 US\$/kg (France)

**Meat :**

110 – 228 US\$/kg (Malaysia)

**Whole Pangolin :**

108-163 US\$ (Pakistan)

160-244 US\$ (India)

83 US\$ (Malaysia)

2000 US\$ max (Viet Nam and China)



# Pangolin: the disappearance of an unrecognized species

« Children who are born today might never have the chance to meet a live pangolin ». These are sound words from an Ivorian journalist.

Pangolins are strange mammals. In their scale armor, they look like reptiles or moving pinecones. Their belly is bare. The largest species can reach 1.5 meters. From 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> Jun 2013, world custom seizures amount to 3,600 specimens. By reference to Interpol ratio that 90% of worldwide smuggling is not discovered, there were about 36,000 pangolins black-marketed by environmental criminals in three months. This is a minimal estimate neither counting imprecise or unknown seizures nor consumption on the internal markets.

The eight African and Asian species are listed in CITES Appendix II.

Pangolins are loners. They live in tropical forests, savannas or meadows. Some species are terrestrial, others tree-dwelling. They are good swimmers and nocturnal. Deforestation and poaching: populations are declining. Poachers say they have a hard time finding them now, especially in Asia. Females give birth to one cub per year, sometimes two. The scales begin hardening two days after birth. The mother carries her baby on the base of her tail.

Insectivorous, pangolins contributes to ants and termites control. Also called scaly anteater, an adult pangolin catches 80 millions insects per year with its long sticky tongue. When it feels threatened, the pangolin curls up into a ball. Their sharp and pinching scales persuade predators, except felines, to give up the attack. Poachers just have to pick up their prey. Sometimes, they hunt them with dogs or by smoke out.

In Africa, pangolins are poached for their meat and their parts are used in traditional medicine to cure various diseases from impotence to snake bites. In Asia, and especially in China, all parts of the animal are used: scales, whole or powdered, blood and foetus are recommended by traditional medicine for their supposed anti-inflammatory properties and propitious effects for lactation, menstruations and cure of spleen pathologies. Adults and foetus flesh are considered a refined dish. Leather is used for shoes. Pangolins are also stuffed for decorative purpose. They resist breeding and hardly survive in captivity because of their specific diet.

For centuries, local hunting fed the Asian market. Then international trade developed during the 80's. From 1995 onwards demand exceeded supply and prices soared. Pangolins become rare in Asia and to satisfy demand, traffickers turn to Africa. Pangolin scales seized in France came from Cameroun and were going to Viet Nam. Poaching industry imagination is limitless. In Roissy airport in France, pangolin scales were found in corn flakes boxes or dog food packs.

The most important seizure during the three months, 10 metric tons, happened by accident in Philippines after the beaching of a Chinese fishing boat. A previous seizure of 16 tons was carried out in Viet Nam in 2008 on a container ship. In both cases, pangolins were declared as fresh fish.



Armour made of pangolin scales offered by the British Governor-General of India to King George III in 1820.  
© Royal Armouries-Leeds

## Caimans



Yacaré caiman © Francisco Severo Neto

### **Seizure of 5,000 live young caimans and 500 caiman skins (*Caiman yacare*, Appendix II) Santa Cruz Department, Bolivia (Boarder of Brazil and Paraguay) April 20, 2013**

The skins are worth US\$ 18,000. They should to be used by Brazilian shoes industry. The young caimans will be released in the wild. Were they destined to an authorized caiman breeding facility? CITES experts do not exclude the possibility that Crocoland, a company operating under license of the Bolivian breeding program, is compromised in a big "laundering" deal. The 5,000 caimans would have been illegally caught in the common-property area of Guarayos and Cirpas near San Matias (Santa Cruz). The wild animals were transported to one breeding facility to be mixed with bred caimans. Crocoland is the single company to be entitled to transport living caimans in the area.

Crocoland exports more than 80% of it's skin and leather into European Union, United States of America and Mexico for the purpose of "very prestigious fashion brands". Italy, Spain and France are the first destinations. To comply with the increasing demand a new belt shop is being considered in Beni Department.



The live baby caimans © El Día



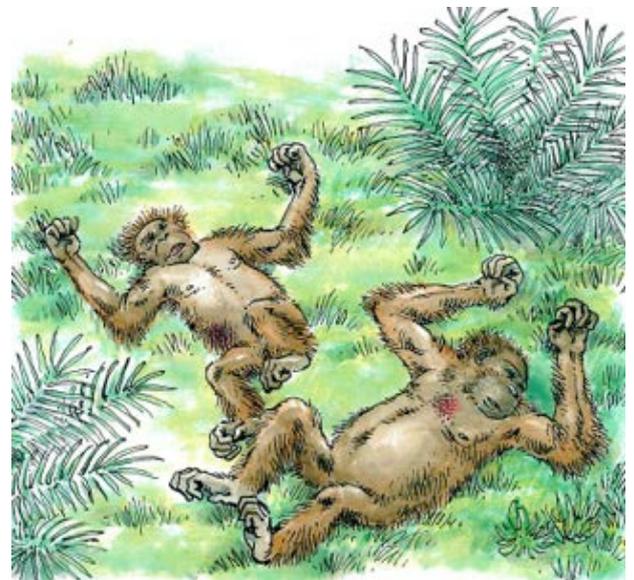
© El Día

### **Seizure of one dead Yacaré caiman (*Caiman yacare*, Appendix II) and weapons Alegrete, Brazil May 28th 2013**

Two men were arrested for poaching in Alegrete, Brazil. They were released after payment of an unspecified fine. They were in possession of one dead Yacare caiman and two rifles.

## Primates

### **Sentence of 8 months of prison for the poaching of 20 orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus*, Appendix I) East Kalimantan, Indonesia April 17, 2013**



© Bruno Congar, Robin des Bois

Four people were sentenced to 8 months in prison for having sponsored and carried out the massacre of 20 orangutans. They were turned away from a palm oil plantation, subjected to shotgun fire, left for dead and some even devoured by stray dogs. Despite the illegality and the barbarism of this massacre, the Malaysian manager of the plantation and the executors are only condemned to 8 months

in prison, while the penalty for killing one endangered animal can be punished with up to 5 years in prison. The two sponsors promised one million rupiah (78 €) to their two henchmen for each orangutan killed. They took photos to prove the efficiency of their work. The prior were convicted to a fine of 30 million rupiah each (2,360 €), the former a fine of 20 million each (1,573 €). The plantation belongs to the Khaleda Agroprima Malindo Company, founded in 2008 and based in Indonesia. It is a subsidiary of Metro Kajang Holdings Bhd -MKH Berhad– involved in property investment and the manufacture of furniture. The group has 15,943 hectares of land in East Kalimantan.

**Seizure of protected species notably orangutan skulls (*Pongo abelii* and *Pongo pygmaeus*, Appendix I)**

**Sydney, Australia**

**April 19 2013**

Under the Operation Bonaparte led in common by many Australian administrations and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, a 43 years old teacher, John Kolettas, was stopped and indicted for illegal possession of animals or parts of animals among which 11 orangutan skulls and 25 other monkey skulls, lynx, bear and tiger. Teeth and skin of protected species and feathers from the birds-of-paradise (*Paradisaeidae*, Appendix II) were also seized.

**Seizure of 3 lemurs, (family *Lemuridae*, Appendix I)**

**Wenling, Zhejiang Province, China**

**June 4, 2013**

The two suspects sold the animals on WeChat, a mobile phone communication platform. The three lemurs were found in the suspects' trunk.



© Jia Ce/Asianewsphoto China Daily

**Seizure of a stuffed macaque (*Macaca* spp., Appendix II)**

**Los Angeles, California, United States of America**

**May 10, 2013**

Destined for scientific use or decoration, the dead primate leaving from Indonesia was declared to be a gift and addressed to Florida.



© Dharani Prakash

**2 poachers sentenced to 8 month in jail and the instigators to 6 month**

**Ivindo National park, Gabon**

**May 10, 2013**

On April 21, two poachers were arrested after killing a mandrill (*Mandrillus sphinx*, Appendix I), a bushpig and an antelope. They also had a gun, a rifle, ammunition and an axe to chop off the tusks. Founded in 2002, the Ivindo National Park covers 3,000 km<sup>2</sup>. In 2009, 48 gorillas and 1,000 forest elephants were officially counted.

**Seizure of 4 lesser white-nosed guenon (*Cercopithecus petaurista*, Appendix II), a mandrill and pangolin scales.**

**Nkoltang, Gabon**

**May 22, 2013**

The animals were dead. It is not mentioned whether the mandrill is a *Mandrillus sphinx* (Appendix I) or a *Mandrillus leucophaeus* (Appendix I). The event took place on Route national I. Detection dogs that strengthen the national police force actively participated in this discovery.

**Seizure of one Weeper Capuchin (*Cebus olivaceus*, Appendix II)**

**Facatativá, Colombia**

**June 2013**

The seizure was the result of information collected from the local community. The monkey was held captive in precarious conditions. Part of its tail had been cut off. It was brought to a recovery center to be taken care of by specialists.



© rodrigoavilatv

## Vicuñas and guanacos

### Poaching of 356 vicuñas (*Vicugna vicugna*, Appendix II)

Apurímac region, Peru

April 10, 2013

105 carcasses were discovered at Rafael Pampa. The rest were scattered in many localities of the Apurímac region. A resident of Cotaruse, Apurímac, asked the president of the Republic to find and capture the perpetrators of these killings. She added that only armed men accompanied by a helicopter could stop them. It is estimated that the wool from the 356 vicuña is worth US\$ 120,000 on the global market.



© Liz Castro



1,700 € for a vicuña shawl in Switzerland

### One dead guanaco seized (*Lama guanicoe*, Appendix II) and shotguns

Route 141 between the provinces of Rioja y San Juan, Argentina

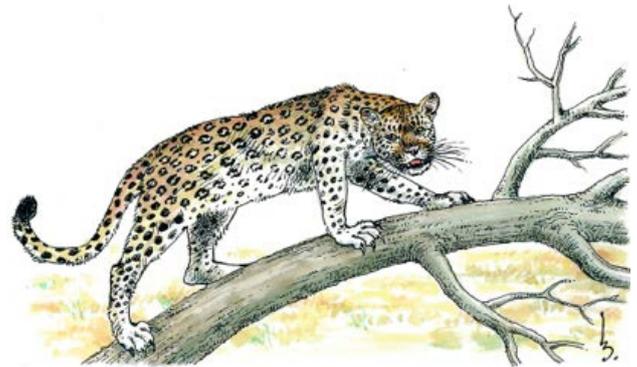
April 24 2013

After having an accident on Route 141, the driver was submitted to an alcohol test and police forces found in his vehicle a guanaco carcass, shotguns, a reflector and a lamp. He was travelling with two companions.

## Felines

Tiger (*Panthera tigris*), leopard (*Panthera pardus*), jaguar (*Panthera onca*) and ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*) are in Appendix I.

Total seizures from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> June  
33 tiger and leopard skins



© Bruno Congar, Robin des Bois

### Seizure of a leopard hide

Pune, State of Maharashtra, India

April 14, 2013

The leopard hide was in a black handbag. It measured 230cm long and 45cm wide. The owner of the bag, a young 22-year-old Indian man, is suspected along with an accomplice and is now being investigated. The arrest occurred in Pune, east of Mumbai. The police inspector Geeta Bagawade is investigating who killed the leopard, where, and for what buyer. The value is estimated at 900,000 Indian rupees (12,660 €).

### Seizure of a tiger hide and claws

Bevinakuppe, Pandavapura, State of Karnataka, India

April 11, 2013

Two individuals of the ages 38 and 51 were arrested on information; they were in possession of a tiger hide and 10 claws. The hide was removed and preserved. "This is the work of a professional" said the head of the local police force. The protected and extremely rare animal could have been killed in the Heggadadevanakote forests.

### Seizure of a leopard hide

Nainital, State of Uttarakhand, India

April 24, 2013

A leopard hide was found in a car during a routine inspection. The four passengers have been arrested.

### Seizure of a leopard hide

Katmandu, Nepal

April 27, 2013

An Indian citizen living in Uttar Pradesh was arrested for the possession of a 3 meters long leopard hide.

**Seizure of a leopard hide**  
**Panvel, State of Maharashtra, India**  
**May 2, 2013**

The suspects tried to sell the 2.5 meter long leopard hide for 500,000 rupees (7,050 €). One of the arrested is unemployed; the other is a clerk in a college near Panvel.

**Seizure of 2.5kg of tiger bones**  
**Kanha National Park, State of Madhya Pradesh, India**  
**May 9, 2013**

The 6 suspects claim that they were collecting firewood in the Kanha National Park forest when they accidentally found the carcass of a tiger and collected its bones and upper jaw out of sheer curiosity. They were caught when trying to find customers to buy tiger bones by an undercover authority, but there is no evidence of poaching. The hide and claws of the tiger have not been found. There are about 60 tigers in the Kanha National Park.

**Seizure of a living young ocelot**  
**Aragua, Venezuela**  
**May 8, 2013 (about)**

Captured from its natural habitat 15 days beforehand, the ocelot of just 6 months was rescued by a special unit during a search. The young ocelot was then taken on by a zoo in Caracas, pending a possible release. The motivations for this capture are not clear. The most plausible hypotheses include selling the hide or selling the animal to a zoo. The distribution of the ocelot is composed of 21 countries in the American continent.



© bluechannel24

**Seizure of 3 leopards' hides**  
**Shyampur, West Bengal, State of Uttarakhand, India**  
**May 9, 2013**

The police, who acted on a tip-off, arrested 2 suspects.

**Poaching of a tiger**  
**Titimathi forest, Virajpet, State of Karnataka, India**  
**May 25, 2013**

It is the fourth case of a poisoned tiger since the beginning of the year in Karnataka. A 60-year-old man, a local tribesman, was caught after trying to sell tiger parts. He led the police to the crime scene, where he unearthed various tiger trophy items. A

bag with tiger bones and claws was seized from his house.

**Seizure of 6 tiger hides, 45kg of tiger bones, 9 tiger teeth, 35kg of pangolin scales and pieces of musk of musk deer (*Moschus saturatus*, *Moschus leucogaster* or *Moschus cupreus* Appendix I).**  
**Sunsera, district of Darchula, Nepal**  
**May 31, 2013**

A group of about 15 poachers opened fire on a police patrol. 3 were arrested, another was hit and injured during the skirmish, and the others fled. The traffickers were smuggling the goods to Tibet from India through the Nepali route. They were paid US\$ 167 each for the transport of such merchandise.

**Poaching of one Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris* ssp. *tigris*, Appendix I)**  
**Ghatang, State of Maharashtra, India**  
**May 2013**

Central India is the theatre of the tiger tragedy. The main actors would belong to the Baheliya community, notorious for animal hunting and catching. After a bear and perhaps a leopard, a tiger from the Melghat forest got caught in the same metal trap. The investigating officials led on the spot by the two nabbed poachers recovered remains of the tiger. A reconstruction of the acts of the organized gang showed they have poached at least 9 tigers since the last two months. 16 poachers are now identified by the police and justice departments. Early April, a meeting of gang members mainly originating from 4 villages was held and areas of operation were distributed. A tiger skin could be traded for 35,000 US\$ at the end of the chain; the main export route leads to China via Nepal and Tibet.

**Seizure of a leopard hide and parts of the animal**  
**Gaindakot, Nawalparasi District, Nepal**  
**June 4th, 2013**

The 4 men were questioned by the police. The leader of the gang was arrested while trying to sell the leopard skin and body parts for 110,000 rupees to local businessmen. He claimed to have shot the wild animal in retaliation, because "the leopard did not hesitate to kill (his) goats." Subsequently, he received a visit from a stranger who wanted to buy the hide. 3 other suspects were associates used as transporters and messengers. The main culprit risks 10 years in prison and/or a fine of 40,000 rupees to 70,000 rupees (320 to 570 €).

**THEFT OF SEIZURES**

**14 tiger hides, leopards, parts of deer (family *Cervidae*) and 40kg of pangolin scales (*Manis* spp., Appendix II).**  
**Kalakate, Mid-West development region, Nepal**  
**June 16, 2013**

Animal by-products have been mysteriously stolen in the official pick-up truck of the Darchula District Forest Office. The driver and a ranger were aboard. "Safety measures were insufficient during the convoy if taken in account the value of the seizures" said a high rank official. It looks like the convoy was proceeding towards Katmandu to secure the seizures recently operated along the borderline with

Nepal and Tibet notably the seizure of the 31 May. Part of the loot was later found again nearby.

**Poaching of one jaguar  
Brazil**

**June 18th 2013**

The police investigators believed they had identified a young man who had posted on Facebook a photo of himself next to the remains of a jaguar and a 22 caliber rifle. After investigation, the owner of the identified computer was not the jaguar poacher. The latter was away on a trip. The former may be sentenced for complicity and the poacher to prison term ranging from six months to a year and a half.



**Two leopard skins seized  
Mayurbhanj District, State of Odisha, India  
June 27, 2013**

Two men, residents of the Odisha State, were arrested while carrying the leopard skins in a bag and heading towards Sainkula. The first skin is 175cm long and 45 cm wide, the second 152cm long and 36 cm wide. The leopards seem to have been killed in the Similipal National Park, located in the same state. Within its 2,750 km<sup>2</sup>, the park is home to tigers, elephants, hill myna, and 84 species of orchids. Similipal is also part of UNESCO's world network of biosphere reserves.



**One leopard skin seized  
Pithoragarh District, State of Uttarakhand, India  
June 28 2013**

One person was arrested.

**One leopard skin seized  
Pithoragarh District, State of Uttarakhand, India  
June 30 2013**

Two people were arrested.



# Kaziranga National Park

Kaziranga National Park, covers an area of over 430 km<sup>2</sup>, 40km by 13km, of open forests and 'elephant grasslands' interweaved with small streams. Situated in northeast India in the state of Assam, the National Park is framed by the snow capped Eastern Himalayas. It features over 35 major mammal species, 15 of which are nationally or internationally protected, including the densest Bengal tiger population, the endangered western hoolock gibbon and the vulnerable sloth bear and gaur. Early in the 20th century the Indian one-horned rhinoceros was a prized hunting trophy shrinking the population to a few dozen in Kaziranga. Over the century the population gradually increased. However, in spite of increased supervision there is heavy poaching. In 2012, poachers killed at least 25 rhinoceros. The Park comprises 450 avifauna species of which around 150 species are migrating birds including the spot-billed pelican and the critical white-bellied heron. It also harbours numerous butterflies, reptiles, amphibians and fish. Protection of the alluvial grasslands started in the early 1900s. Kaziranga was declared a large mammal reserved forest in 1908, and different levels of protection over the years have ensured the survival of the fragile habitats and species. Kaziranga became a National park in 1974 and was listed as a World Heritage Site in 1985. Protection was recently reinforced by the Indian Biodiversity Conservation Act of 2002. Fishing, hunting and cattle grazing are illegal.

Kaziranga lies within the floodplains of the Brahmaputra River which can flood it entirely for 5 to 10 days a year. The area does not fit for habitation. Flooding has caused considerable erosion therefore a proposal to include a 4300km<sup>2</sup> extension is being considered. The river is home to the endangered Ganges river dolphin, in 2005 the Brahmaputra population was estimated at 197, the total population is unknown but estimated at around 2000. The Ganges dolphin is threatened by dams, increasing pollution runoff, accidental catch and illegal fishing for their meat and oil used as a fish attractant. Around 150 individuals are killed each year.

The road to survival continues to be rocky for the numerous vulnerable species in the Park. Natural seasonal flooding along with flash floods caused by the sudden release of water from dams drowned around 1,203 animals in 1988. In 2012 over 570 animals were taken by the deluge including hundreds of deers of 4 species, hog badgers, jackal, an elephant and 23 Indian rhinos. Earth bunds have been built within the park and a future extension of 32km<sup>2</sup> to include raised grounds in the south is underway. However, the road to high ground also poses problems as the passage is blocked by the extremely busy National Highway 37. The highway exposes the animals to road kills and poachers.



There are a total of 184 villages bordering the Park and sometimes encroaching on the natural habitat. Herds of elephants can stampede crops and villagers. Outrage over the lack of government compensation has led villagers to poison elephants and tigers. For the first time, in June 2013, a village was displaced: it was situated within a corridor crucial for elephants which joins Kaziranga to Karbi Anglong hills. Cohabitation has a long way to go as herdsmen continue to graze domestic livestock in the Park's perimeters thus threatening the wild buffalo population with hybridization and the spread of rinderpest. The white-rumped and slender-billed vulture populations have reduced by 98% since the 1990s due to the toxicity of the livestock preys treated with Diclofenac.

The management of a National Park such as Kaziranga isn't peaceful. On the actions of a State, concerning protected and unprotected biodiversity, one could always find a word to say. Moreover, seen from France's viewpoint, where governments hesitated for years to release into the heart of the Pyrenees mountain ranges a female and male bear, collective mediation efforts to combat poaching in India and Assam are deserving of respect.

## Bears



© Oddvar Hagen - Robin des Bois

### REPEAT OFFENDER

**Sentence of a fine of US\$ 80,000 for the tentative illegal exportation of polar bear hides (*Ursus maritimus*, Appendix II) and narwhal ivory (*Monodon monoceros*, Appendix II).**

**Winnipeg, Canada**

**April 5, 2013**

In March of this year, the Martinez family, led by patriarch Hector Martinez, a property developer, concentrated on Hector's favorite past-time, big game hunting. This time, it was the hunt for polar bears and musk ox in Canada. His two sons and brother-in-law joined him, arriving by private jet to Resolute Bay in the Nunavut territory. Martinez hunted "legally" after purchasing a polar bear quota tag issued for US\$ 35,000. After having killed three polar bears, the Martinez family had been provided a territorial export license to take the hides to a taxidermist in Edmonton in the neighboring province of Alberta, who can prepare the trophies under complete Canadian legality. The exportation license stops at Edmonton. The Martinez family deemed the service of the Canadian taxidermist too expensive and decided to treat the polar bear hides when they got back to Mexico. They were found with polar bear hides as well as narwhal tusks, the unicorn whale of the Arctic sea, without CITES documents. Their trophies were seized, and the trial was held in April. The prosecutor reminded the court that Mexico does not authorize in any case to import marine mammals. He further stated that in 1994, Hector Martinez Sr. tried to fraudulently import live animals to Mexico: 1 lion, 3 tigers, 3 brown bears, 2 jaguars, and 1 leopard. During the trial, he pleaded guilty and was sentenced to pay a fine of US\$ 10,000. Nine years later, during the second trial, the Martinez family lawyer asserted that his clients are wild animal protectors and that some of the 26 ranches that the family owns in Mexico serve as private reserves. The defendants were sentenced to fines of up to US\$ 30,000, US\$ 80,000 in total. They paid their fines in cash and then immediately got back on their private jet that was waiting for them to head back to Monterrey.

**Seizure of 5kg of bear paws (*Ursus thibetanus* or *Ursus arctos*, Appendix I)**

**Russian-Chinese boarder (Far East Russia)**

**April 6-7, 2013**

It is during a weekend inspection of a merchandise train heading to China that Russian customs near Vladivostok made this seizure. The FSB declared that since the beginning of the year, this is the first discovery of the trafficking of wildlife smuggling and did not specify if this seizure would be followed by criminal prosecution. The bear paws were of so-called "medicinal value." They are sought after by gourmet chefs or offered as gifts. The other parts of the bear are saved as trophies (head, claws ...).

**One live spectacled bear seized (*Tremarctos ornatus*, Appendix I)**

**Lima, Peru**

**April 30 2013**

In unknown circumstances, Peruvian authorities retrieved a 4 month old spectacled bear cub set to be sold on the black market. The cub named Juanita was firstly transferred to the Huachipa zoological park in Lima.



© taringa

**Poaching of a female spectacled bear and seizure of her cub (*Tremarctos ornatus*, Appendix I)**

**Leimebamba district, Chachapoyas province, Peru**

**May 7, 2013**

The spectacled bear cub, 8 months old, was freed. The poacher confessed to killing a female bear so that he could sell her baby to a circus. The bear cub was taken to the Chaparri private sanctuary, in the northeast of the country, where a wildlife and rehabilitation program for spectacled bears exists. The animals there live in semi-liberty. After a re-adaptation period, the bear cub could be released into the wild. Spectacled bears are found in 7 South American countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Columbia, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela. The state of the populations is not entirely known.

**Seizure of a living baby spectacled bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*, Appendix I)**

**Merida, Venezuela**

**May 8, 2013 (Around)**

The bear cub, in poor health, was recovered from a farm. Residents of the area alerted the police after hearing strange noises in the night. The mother was probably killed by poachers, because they are known to be very protective of their young. Signs show there could be a second cub in the area. The decreasing range of spectacled bears, of which the population is unknown, covers 5 South American countries.



© bluechannel24



© venezuelaverd

**Seizure of 213 bear paws  
Chinese-Russia boarder, near Manzhouli, Inner  
Mongolia Autonomous Region of the People's  
Republic of China  
May 22, 2013**

The two suspects looked suspicious during custom checks, so the authorities decided to check the van. The authorities found the paws hidden in the shipment of tires inside a Russian passenger van. In Russia, bear paws are sold for about US\$ 60 per kilo. In China, their price can reach about US\$ 800. The demand for bear paws is strong there and increases with rising standards of living. In bear farms, bile is extracted for use in traditional medicine, and bear paws are also sold under the table. Chinese attribute an exceptional nutrition quality and rheumatism treatments to them, and they are also treated as a rare ingredient for cuisine or expensive presents. This seems to be the largest bear paw smuggling case China has ever experienced.

**Poaching of a sloth bear (*Melursus ursinus*, Appendix I)  
Ghatang, State of Maharashtra, India  
May 2013**

The bear was caught in a tiger trap. Its carcass was put aside most probably for the sake of a later profit to be drawn from it, there is always some money to be made from a dead bear. The sloth bear ranges in Bhutan, in India, in Nepal and in Sri Lanka. The different populations are scattered and isolated from each other. Poor genetic diversity weighs heavily on the future of the species. Moreover, dead animals provide by-products used in rituals and to prepare traditional remedies. The cubs are also captured to be exploited by travelling bear trainers.

## Rhinoceros

The white rhinoceros *Ceratotherium simum* and black rhinoceros *Diceros bicornis* ranging in Africa are listed in Appendix I, except for the white rhinoceros populations of Swaziland and South Africa which are listed in Appendix II for trade of live animals and hunting trophies.

The 3 Asian rhinoceros species are in Appendix I: *Rhinoceros unicornis*, *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*, *Rhinoceros sondaicus*.



Black rhinoceros  
© Bruno Congar, Robin des Bois

**Sentencing of two people to 15 years in prison  
for the poaching of a rhinoceros in October 2011  
Phalaborwa, Limpopo, South Africa  
April 2, 2013**

Caught in the act of poaching and stealing a rhinoceros horn in a private ranch next to the Kruger National Park two years ago, "The two men will spend the next 15 years behind bars", said the police spokesman of South Africa. The guilty are a Mozambican and a South African. Official data show that since 2008, 279 Mozambicans were killed by South African forces while engaged in rhino poaching. 300 others, for the same reason, were detained in prison between 2008 and 2012.

**Poaching of a rhinoceros  
Manas National Park, State of Assam, India  
April 2, 2013**

The rhino was found dead with her horns removed. She was the mother of a 15-day-old baby. The orphan was taken in by the authorities. The rhino was part of a group transferred in early 2012 from Kaziranga as part of the «Indian Rhino Vision 2020» program. The rhinoceros population of Manas National Park was decimated during civil and community conflicts. Of the 18 rhinos transferred to Manas National Park, 4 have already been killed.

**Poaching of a rhinoceros  
Tamboti Floodland Farm in Mookgophong,  
South Africa  
April 3, 2013**

Poachers attacked two rhinos in a private game reserve. One of them was shot dead and his horns were removed. The other may have survived his injuries. Six foreign suspects were later arrested in possession of large sums of cash and two AK47 guns. They are over thirty years old and will be prosecuted.

**Poaching of 2 white rhinoceros  
Kruger National Park, Nwanetsi, South Africa  
April 5, 2013**

A new attack inside Kruger National Park ended in the death of a female rhinoceros and her child. The head of internal investigations, after surveying the carcasses with a metal detector, noticed that bullets of varying size were found, indicating that many different weapons were used. At the scene of the crime, all fingerprints and human traces have been identified.



© Howzit MSN News

**Theft of 66 rhinoceros horns (42kg)  
Leshoka Thabang Reserve, Limpopo, South Africa  
(50km from Mokopane)  
April 6, 2013**

Traffickers were fully informed. They attacked the safe with a blowtorch. They left with horns and weapons. Johan Van Zyl, the owner of the reserve, received authorization from the South African government to saw the horns to prevent poaching and mutilation of rhinos. Such a "dehorning" operation costs US\$ 20 and must occur under the control of naturalists and representatives of the State. The horns then must be officially registered. On April 18, six people were arrested in connection with the case.

**Poaching of a rhinoceros  
Kaziranga National Park, Agoratoli forest,  
between Pahumari and Rongamotia, India  
April 9, 2013**

At night in the commonly visited forest of Agoratoli, rangers heard gunshots. Poaching took place a few hours after the first flight of a surveillance drone above the park. The carcass of the rhino was discovered four days later.

**Poaching of a rhinoceros  
Nwanetsi, Kruger National Park, South Africa  
April 11, 2013**

Once again, a rhinoceros was killed for its horns in the Kruger National Park, the 145th since the beginning of the year. This time, it was near the Nwanetsi picnic area.

**GANG**

**Theft of 4 rhinoceros mounted heads with eight horns (3 black rhinos, 1 white)  
Ireland's National Museum, Ireland  
April 17, 2013**

The rhinoceroses had been removed from display in the museum in order to protect them from thieves. They are estimated to be worth 500,000 €. The Rathkeale Rovers gang is suspected to be behind the case. The thieves were well informed and acted at night, after neutralising the night watchman they stole the 4 stuffed heads with 8 horns from white and black rhinoceroses from Kenya and Sudan. As mentioned, in a precautionary measure and to avoid temptation the trophies had been removed from the exhibition galleries at the National Museum of Ireland-Natural History in Dublin. The Rathkeale Rovers own 2/3 of the city of Rathkeale, jokingly some people say that they own 2/3 of Ireland. Their origins trace back to Irish travellers. The Rathkeale Rovers are subject of an Europol investigation. The gang has connections on the American continent, in South Africa, in China, in Australia but their roots are in Europe. Under the international investigation, 13 countries including France, Norway, Switzerland and the United States of America have been tracking down the Rathkeale Rovers; they are renowned specialists in stealing antiques, swindling, trafficking of waste, money laundering and wholesale of counterfeits. Thirty members were arrested in the beginning of 2013 and nine of them are being prosecuted for tax evasion. Two Rathkeale Rovers are doing time in Colorado in the United States of America for negotiating the purchase of a stolen horn with a smuggler. The said smuggler was in fact an agent of the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the rhino horn was in fact a buffalo horn.



The Rhinoceros trophies in the National Museum of Ireland – Natural History, Dublin

© Daily Mail

**Poaching of a black rhinoceros  
Tshokwane, Kruger National Park, South Africa  
(Near the border with Mozambique)  
April 27, 2013**

This is the 249th rhinoceros slaughtered by poachers in South Africa since the beginning of 2013. The black rhinoceros carcass was found near a site where a violent fight between rangers accompanied by a helicopter and three poachers took place. One of them was injured. The guards recovered a shotgun fitted with a silencer, ammunition, and a pair of rhinoceros horns.

### **Arrest of 8 men suspected of poaching**

**30 April 2013**

#### **South Africa**

The administration of South African national parks declared that they have carried out separate arrests of 2 poaching gangs. The suspects carried fire arms, ammunition and the equipment used to remove horns. The spokesperson of SA National Parks was particularly interested in catching the first group which was surprised as they were approaching the Timbavati Game Reserve; he believes that their arrest will solve numerous cases of poaching of which the responsible parties have yet to be identified. The 5 men had been tracked for 3 weeks.

### **Poaching of 2 rhinoceros**

**Kaziranga National Park, State of Assam, India  
Discovered in May 2013**

The female was killed around May 7 2013 near the Noloni forest camp, within Kaziranga Park. Four AK-47 cartridge shells were found nearby. The male, killed about a month before, was found next to the Borakota forest camp within Kaziranga Park. The horns of both rhinos were missing.

### **Seizure of 2 rhinoceros horns**

**Marble Hall, South Africa**

**May 1st, 2013**

Two Ethiopian men ages 29 and 41 years, living in South Africa, were intercepted by police forces after trying to sell two rhinoceros horns to a farmer.

### **Arrest of 2 poachers (women)**

**South Africa**

**1st May 2013**

Intervening on a lead, the Organised Crime Unit approached 2 women suspected of putting on sale 2 rhinoceros horns. Following 3 weeks of negotiations, the "clients"- undercover agents, seized the horns, one fire arm and ammunition. The two poachers live next to the Weenen Game Reserve.

### **Poaching of a rhinoceros and seizure of its 2 horns**

**Pafuri, Kruger National Park, South Africa**

**May 3, 2013**

Two poachers of an unknown nationality were arrested in Kruger National Park; they were in possession of two horns and a 458 hunting rifle. The carcass was found the following day.

### **Seizure of 7.28kg of rhinoceros horns**

**Tan Son Nhat airport, Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam**

**May 4, 2013**

A Vietnamese citizen was caught when he arrived at the airport in Ho Chi Minh with 7.28kg of rhino

horns originating from Africa in his briefcase. The traveler flew from Qatar. The horns were wrapped in layers of aluminum foil to avoid their detection.

### **Seizure of 2kg of rhinoceros horns**

**Hanoi airport, Viet Nam**

**May 4, 2013**

The Vietnamese citizen also came from Qatar.

### **Seizure of a rhinoceros horn and the arrest of 3 smugglers**

**Sonitpur District, State of Assam, India**

**May 6, 2013**

Acting on a tip-off, a special police team headed an investigation and arrested 3 suspects. One rhino horn weighing 1 kg was found in their possession. The traffickers admitted to selling other rhino horns. The trio worked in liaison with local poachers from the Orang National Park and Kaziranga National Park.

### **Poaching of a male rhinoceros and mutilation of his carcass**

**Kaziranga National Park, State of Assam, India**

**May 7, 2013 (estimation)**

The animal died of natural causes or poisoning; there were no bullet marks seen or gunshots heard, but its horn was chopped off. An investigation is being led.

## **GANG**

### **Sentenced to 42 and 46 months of prison and hefty fines for horn trafficking and other body parts of rhinoceroses**

**Los Angeles, the United States of America**

**15 May 2013**

In May 2013, the head of the gang, Jimmy Kha, and his son Felix were sentenced by the Los Angeles Federal District Court to 42 and 46 months in prison, and to pay a 20,000 US\$ criminal fine and a 185,000 US\$ tax fine. The import-export business of the Kha gang was sentenced to pay a further fine of 100,000 US\$. The 3 individuals and the company are also required to pay another fine of 800,000 US\$ into a special fund, the Multinational Species Conservation Funds which specialises in the protection of endangered species world wide and is managed by the American administration.

The Kha gang was disbanded in September 2012. According to the American justice, "The Khas' smuggling operation fuelled international demand and played a significant role in driving the prices of rhino horns up to nearly 25,000 US\$ per pound" on the black market, a price which might create a new vocation for some.

The Kha family admitted bribing Vietnamese custom officers to ease the traffic of rhinoceros horns into Viet Nam. The police seized, at their residences, 37 horns and rhinoceros feet, 1 million US\$ in cash, the value of 1 million US\$ in gold ingots, diamonds and Rolex watches. Jimmy Kha's girlfriend, owner of a nail salon, was also implicated in the money laundering and funnelling illegal shipments.

A Chinese national, who oversaw the traffic between the United States of America and Asia,

was also arrested at Los Angeles airport. Upstream, two of the horn suppliers living in New Jersey and Texas were unmasked. In New York, an expert in antiques, David Hausman, provided falsified documents to facilitate the traffic. He did not hesitate to get his hands dirty. He was caught sawing the horn of a black rhinoceros, which he had just bought illegally, on a hidden camera filmed by investigators. The scene took place in a parking lot of a motel in Illinois. During the investigation, one of the horn locators was intercepted at Long Beach airport, accompanied by his wife and mother. The trio were carrying 300,000 US\$ in cash. The traffic had been going on since at least 2008. It was thanks to the "Operation Crash" – named for the term used to refer to a herd of rhinoceros – and 18 months of investigations that the Kha gang was exposed. Operation Crash has remained discrete about the origin of the horns, which leaves one to suspect and hope that there will be further developments in the case. The director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service esteems that stopping the Kha family and the business, Win Lee Corporation, "sends a strong message to those illegally trading in rhino horns" and added that "it is only the beginning".

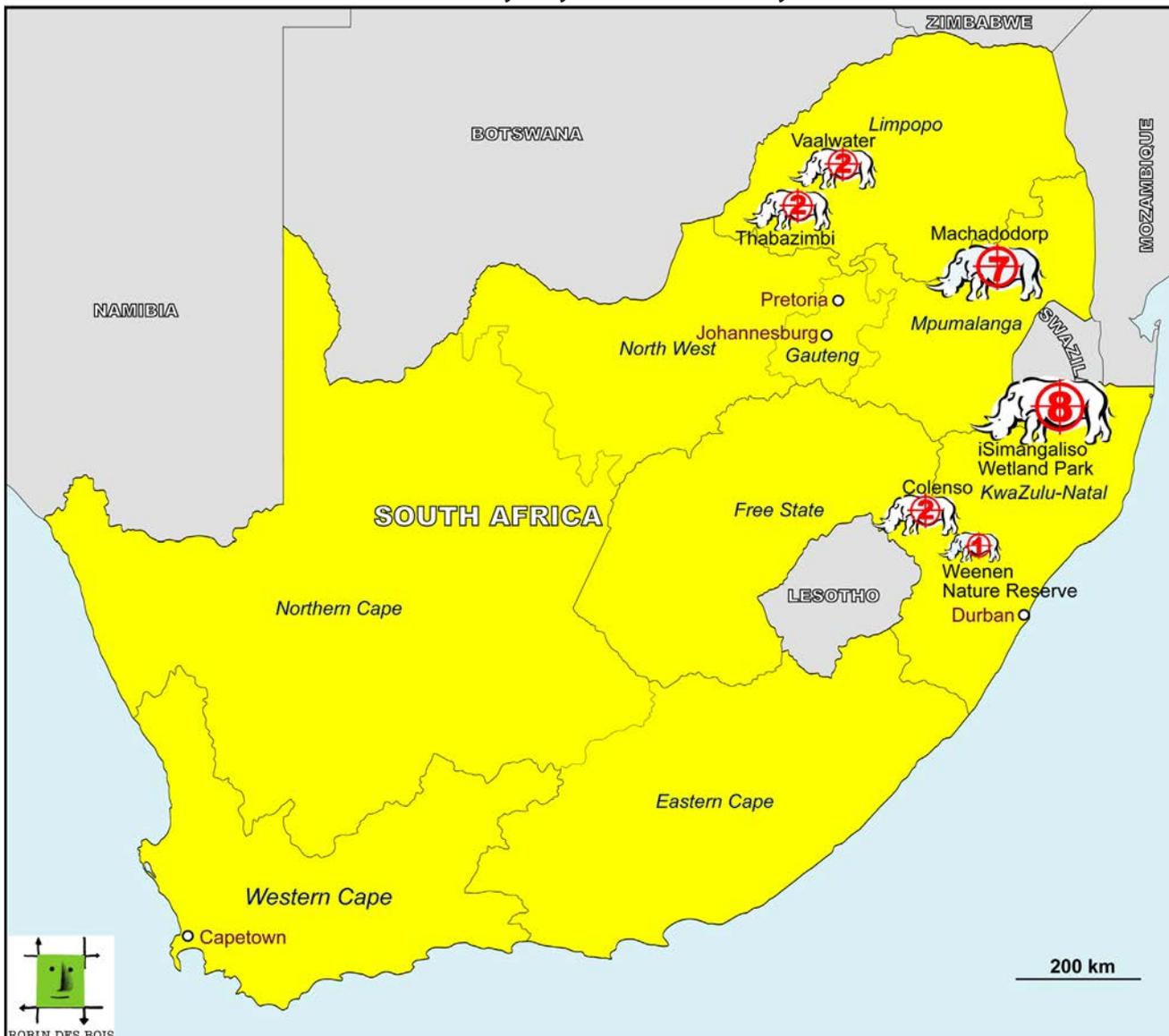


Rhinoceros feet seized in Los Angeles  
© Drew A. Kelley, pour l'Orange County Register

**Seizure of 6 rhinoceros horns (5kg)  
Tan Son Nhat Airport, Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam  
May 20, 2013**

A Viet Nam Airlines passenger said he was not aware of the value of the rhino horns. He apparently was unaware he was carrying US\$ 285,000.

**Poaching of 22 rhinoceroses in South Africa, outside of Kruger National Park  
from early May to the 20th of May**



**Poaching of a rhinoceros  
Lake Nakuru National Park, Kenya  
May 23, 2013**

Lake Nakuru National Park is located in central Kenya, 140km north-west of Nairobi, in the Nakuru district in the Rift Valley province. The 188 km<sup>2</sup> are entirely closed off, composed of a lake surrounded by meadows and dense woods- you can even find pink flamingos. There are 56 mammal species and 450 bird species. The park was declared as a rhinoceros sanctuary in 1987. Since the beginning of the year, Kenya lost 21 rhinos.



© Lake Nakuru National Park

**Poaching of a rhinoceros  
Dhanbari, Agoratoli forest, Kaziranga National Park, State of Assam, India  
May 23 2013**

**Sentencing of 11 years of prison for the poaching of a rhinoceros  
Nelspruit, South Africa  
May 23, 2013**

The accused was found guilty in the Nelspruit Regional Court of charges of poaching and trespassing at the Kruger National Park. One of his accomplices was killed by South African Special Forces during the crossfire; the other is still at large. The day before, the Environmental Affairs Ministry announced that 367 rhinos have been killed since the January 1st 2013 in the whole county, of which 247 in Kruger National Park.

**Poaching of a male rhinoceros  
Kanchanjuri, Bagori forest, Kaziranga National Park, State of Assam, India  
May 24, 2013**

The animal was killed with a .303 cartridge.



**Poaching of 3 rhinoceros  
Norht-west province, South Africa  
May 24, 2013**

This time, it was rhinoceros tycoon John Hume, owner of 800 specimens that has been targeted by traffickers. 3 rhinos were attacked. All of the rhinoceros on the ranch had their horns removed to prevent poaching. Poachers still removed the stump of the horns of the three specimens. John Hume is one of the leaders of the movement for the legalization of rhinoceros horn international commerce. He

is said to securely hold 500kg of rhinoceros horns. Already, the number of poached rhinos in South Africa has reached 354 since the beginning of the year; some experts predict this number could approach 1,000 by the end of the year.

**Poaching of a rhinoceros  
Solio game reserve near Nyeri, Kenya  
May 25, 2013**

In 2009, this private sanctuary held 155 white rhinoceros and 73 black rhinoceros. It was founded in 1970 after the owner of Solio Ranch fenced off a part of his land.

**Poaching of a rhinoceros  
Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary, Tsavo West National Park, Kenya  
May 25, 2013**

The sanctuary, protected by barriers and surveillance measures, was established in 1986. It is over 9,000 km<sup>2</sup> large. In 2012, the population of black rhinoceros was estimated at 71. 19 others could be found in the Intensive Protection Zone outside of the sanctuary.

**Poaching of a rhinoceros  
Meru National Park, Kenya  
May 26, 2013**

Founded in 1967, the park has an area of 870 km<sup>2</sup>. During the 80's, the rhinoceros population was entirely decimated by poachers. Thanks to reintroductions, the park now contains about 60 rhinos, 40 white and 20 black.

**Poaching of a male rhinoceros  
Kaziranga National Park, State of Assam, India  
May 30, 2013**

This marks number 26 of rhinoceros killed since the beginning of the year in the rhinoceros sanctuary. AK47 assault rifles were found around the carcass.

**Seizure of 3 rhinoceros horns  
Noi Bai international airport, Hanoi, Viet Nam  
May 30, 2013**

The horns were hidden in the coat of the young Vietnamese woman. Vietnamese services have dealt with only 12 cases since 2004. Most of the horns are from Africa. Posters encourage the Vietnamese population not to buy horns in order to fight poaching in Asia and Africa.



**Poaching of 3 rhinoceros, one of which a calf  
Oserian private sanctuary, Naivasha, Kenya  
May 29, 2013**

The rangers on night patrol stopped poachers from taking the horns which they were in the process of removing, and are now in search of them. The reserve was founded in 1996. Six white rhinos were introduced. The reserve counted 13 rhinos until this event.

**Poaching of 2 rhinoceros, a female and her calf  
Mukururo, Kenya  
Mid-June 2013**

The poaching occurred near the Chyulu Hills National Park. The suspects fled towards Nairobi-Mombasa Highway. The Chyulu Hills national park is located in the Eastern Province of Kenya. With a surface area of 741 km<sup>2</sup>, this chain of volcanic mountains has been classified as a national reserve since 1983. It houses one of the last populations of wild black rhinos in Kenya (80% in the reserve and 20% outside), a major reservoir of genetic diversity. It is one of the 2 only original rhino Kenyan populations that have not been reintroduced. It is uncertain how many of them remain; the information is kept confidential to protect them.

**Poaching of 2 white rhinoceros  
Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa  
June 10, 2013**

The 2 rhinos were found dead 500 meters away from each other and one still had its horns. Authorities believe the two animals fled in opposite directions and the poachers only found one. The park covers 36,000 hectares and is home to an estimated 1,600 white rhinos.



© Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park

**Sentence to 7 years in prison and 150,000 Yuan  
(about US\$ 24,500) for the contraband of ivory  
and rhinoceros horns  
Shanghai, China  
June 12, 2013**

The Chinese antique dealer brought back from his trip in Paris 4 white rhinoceros horns, 3 decorative items made of rhinoceros horn and 14 ivory figurines in place of the porcelain of which he is a

specialist. He was arrested by Shanghai Airport customs. He claimed that he didn't wish to sell these items but merely enhance his personal collection and make gifts to his friends. These "trinkets" were bought in Paris for 180,000 Yuan, which is about 23,000€. The market value in China is 3 million Yuan, or about 380,000€. He was sentenced to 7 years in prison.



© Tim Holt

Paris  
Shanghai



**Sentence for 12 people to 10 to 15 years in prison and fines from 500 to 1,000 US\$ for rhinoceros poaching and horns sale  
Chitwan National Park, Chitwan District, Nepal  
June 19, 2013**

The traffickers were arrested in September 2009. Created in 1973, the Chitwan National Park is listed as a UNESCO natural World Heritage Site since 1984. It is an area of 93,200 hectares, home to rhinoceros and tigers.

**Seizure of a rhinoceros horn  
Jorhat District, Sate of Assam, India  
June 19, 2013**

The seizure occurred at the home of the suspect who fled prior to the raid. The horn could have come from a rhinoceros poached in the Kaziranga National Park.

**Seizure of 8 rhinoceros horns (9.6kg)  
Suvarnabhumi Airport, Bangkok, Thailand  
June 24, 2013**

The value of the horns, detected thanks to the use of X-ray, is estimated at about US\$ 321,500 (10 million baht). According to the carrier, the bag belonged to a friend; or an enemy!

**Poaching of a female white rhinoceros  
Mehlemamba, Parc of the iSimangaliso wet  
zone, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa  
June 29 2013**

After receiving information, the authorities arrested 3 people at their homes near Mtubatuba. A .458 shotgun, ammunition and an axe were found in their possession. The men admitted to have shot at a second rhino but could not say whether he was hit or wounded.



© armes-cornet

**Poaching of 2 rhinoceros  
Mafikeng Game Reserve, North West province,  
South Africa  
End of June 2013**

One of the 2 rhinos still had his horn. It is assumed that the poachers were disturbed in action. Since the beginning of the year, 4 rhinoceros have been killed in the Mafikeng Game Reserve and 50 have been killed in the entire North-West province. Located in the North of the country, the private reserve has a surface of 4,800 hectares.



Rhinoceros horn libation cup

© AlainTruong

## Elephants

The African elephant, *Loxodonta Africana*, is listed in CITES Appendix I, except populations from South Africa, Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe which are in Appendix II. The Asian elephant, *Elephas maximus*, is listed in Appendix I.

**The seizure of ivory  
from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> June is equal to  
707 elephants**

Taking the average weight of 4.5kg per tusk. The 1,344 seized ivory articles of which the weight was not communicated have not been included in the total.



© Kenyan Wildlife Service

**Poaching of a female elephant  
Kaeng Krachan National Park, Thailand  
Reported on April 9, 2013**

The carcass was mutilated. It carried an almost full-term calf. The mammary glands and the vagina had been removed. According to the article in the Bangkok Post, supernatural properties has been attributed to the sexual organs of male and female elephants. The director of the national park is very troubled. At least seven elephants were killed in the past four years, and the frequency is increasing. The park population is of about 250 elephants. A kind of poaching mafia has been installed in the inside of the park, fueled in particular by refugees and prisoners who have just been freed from their sentences in the neighboring sovereign state of Burma. Spatial conflicts between the elephants and agricultural politics are multiplying.

**Poaching of an elephant  
Transmara Forest, Kawai, Maasai Mara, Kenya**

On Sunday night, March 31, gunshots were heard in the forest 7 km from Oloololo. Rangers were not able to immediately respond due to the heavy rain. The following morning, they discovered Heritage's carcass; both of his tusks had been cut off. Heritage was the first elephant to wear a GPS collar under the Mara Elephant Project lead by Save the Elephants. Starting in July 2011 and lasting for three years, the project aims to identify the movements of elephants to learn about the migratory routes that they take, especially between Tanzania and Kenya, to reduce the conflict between humans and elephants. The Transmara forest is located in the

Maasai Mara, a Maasai territory with exceptional biodiversity, known worldwide for its wildebeests, lions, cheetahs, leopards, hippopotamuses, zebras, antelopes, giraffes and birds.



Heritage © Lucy King, Save the Elephants

**Seizure of 439 pieces of ivory  
Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, Nairobi, Kenya**

The Chinese citizen coming from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and heading towards Hong Kong hid finger-length pieces of ivory, painted brown, in his suitcase amidst pieces of tree bark to disguise it as traditional medicine. He was sentenced to pay a fine of US\$ 350, which is less than one US\$ a piece.

**Seizure of various items including 367 ivory objects, 3 narwhal tusks about 3 meters long (*Monodon monoceros*, Appendix II), precious coral (*Corallium rubrum*) and a polar bear hide (*Ursus maritimus*, Appendix II).**

**Dalian International Airport, Liaoning Province, China**

**April 1st, 2013**

The flight came from Nagoya, Japan. The items detected by X-ray were hidden in 11 suitcases belonging to 4 passengers of unrevealed nationality. It is the largest seizure of this kind ever seen by Dalian customs. The ivory objects included figures of Buddha, vases, pencil holders and censers; their total value is estimated at more than US\$ 640,000. The narwhal exclusively lives in the glacial Arctic Ocean. It is threatened by habitat degradation, acoustic and chemical disturbances and pollutions. This seizure, abundantly illustrated and relayed by the Chinese press, occurred shortly after the plenary meeting of CITES where many critics have mentioned the inability or unwillingness of China to track animals or animal parts and plants protected by international conventions on its territory.



**Poaching of an elephant  
Tan Hoa Commune forest, Minh Hoa, Quảng Bình, Viet Nam**

**April 3, 2013**

The decapitated, mutilated and skinned corpse is probably the last wild female elephant in the forest, perhaps last in the province of Quảng Bình in central Viet Nam. Two years ago, the male had been killed in the same forest by poachers for his tusks. The females of the genus *Elephas maximus* don't have tusks; she was killed for a trophy, her feet used as decorative objects and her hide used for leather goods.

**Seizure of 1.4 kg of worked ivory and other species**

**Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, Nairobi, Kenya**

**April 3, 2013**

The interrogation of four passengers in the international airport of Nairobi proves that Kenya is a transit country for raw natural smuggling. The first suspect, a Chinese citizen, was transporting about twenty ivory objects and pieces of jewelry, bars, bangles, and pen holders. The second, a Chinese citizen coming also from Mozambique, was heading towards Hong Kong. He was transporting ivory bangles, pendants, and necklaces, and other objects in his suitcase. The third was also a Chinese citizen that was also transporting ivory bracelets. He was coming from Lubumbashi (Democratic Republic of the Congo) to Guangzhou (China). Lastly, the fourth was a Vietnamese citizen, in transit from Lubumbashi to Hanoi. Hidden among his personal belongings, he was smuggling ivory pendants, lion jaws and four warthog teeth.

**Seizure of 8 elephant tusks and 19 pieces of ivory  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**

**April 4, 2013**

The Dar es Salaam police forces seized 8 elephant tusks and 19 pieces of raw ivory in three different places along with weapons, counterfeit currency, and four leopard hides. Three suspects were questioned.

1st seizure: 10 pieces of ivory seized in Buguruni Kisiwani, Ilala District.

2nd seizure: 8 elephant tusks and 2 pieces of ivory, in Mivinjeni, Temeke District.

3rd seizure: 7 pieces of ivory from Mbezi Makabe, Kinondoni District; two people were arrested.

**Seizure of 6 elephant tusks (43kg)**  
**Taita Taveta, near the Tsavo National Park, Kenya**  
**April 6, 2013**

Two presumed poachers were arrested by the Kenya Wildlife Service: a Tanzanian and a Kenyan. They were in possession of six pieces of raw ivory weighing 43kg. According to the KWS, this ivory comes from the illegal slaughter of elephants in the protected national park, but due to lack of evidence, the two suspects were only guilty of the illegal possession of goods subject to declaration.

**Poaching of 3 elephants**  
**Rumuruti Forest, Laikipia, Kenya**  
**April 6, 2013**

Two elephant carcasses were found in the Rumuruti forest, around 200km north of Nairobi. All of the tusks were removed. A third macabre discovery was made three days after Uhuru Kenyatta's rise to presidency.

**Poaching of an elephant**  
**Buxa Tiger Reserve, State of West Bengal, India**  
**April 6, 2013**

Two suspects, locals, were arrested. The male elephant was 25 years old, and had heavy tusks. He was shot with poisoned bullets. His trunk and tusks were cut off. End of February 2013, another adult elephant was killed in a similar manner in the same reserve. Also, in June 2012, a dead and mutilated elephant was discovered; its tusks, weighing about twenty kilos each, were placed by poachers in a container and sunk into a nearby waterhole. Security services are concerned about the thriving of elephant poaching and suspect a strong influence from the northeast gangs that are associated with the National Democratic Front of Bodoland. The Buxa Tiger Reserve (760.9 km<sup>2</sup>) is a migration route for the elephants between India and Bhutan, occupied by 215 elephants according to a census conducted in 2010. It is also inhabited by Bengal tigers.



© Bruno Congar, Robin des Bois

**Seizure of 488 ivory bangles (33.6kg)**  
**Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, Nairobi, Kenya**  
**April 7, 2013**

The merchandise estimated at 55,000 € was painted brown and yellow, hidden in a suitcase, and disguised as soapstone. The Vietnamese citizen that acted as mule to Bangkok was arrested at the Jomo

Kenyatta International Airport in Kenya. Soapstone camouflage is a recent trend noticed by customs at the international airport in Nairobi and in harbors.

**Seizure of 20 tusks (less than 5kg each)**  
**Djoum, Cameroon**  
**April 8, 2013**

The young Cameroonian seems to be a specialist in ivory trafficking. According to him, he is associated with colleagues in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This is the third time this year that this connection is mentioned. The final destination would have been Europe, but the ivory could have been fraudulently exported to other African countries before reaching another unknown destination, probably Asia. Benjamin Zambo, the Chief of Control Brigade at the Centre Regional Delegation of Forestry and Wildlife, stresses that Cameroon is a crossroads for the Central African Economic and Monetary Community zone. The roads connecting Cameroon to neighboring countries, including the new road between Sangmelima and the Congo, offer traffickers easy means to transport contraband.



© LAGA

**Sentence of one year in prison and a 130,000 Kenyan Shilling (1,186 €) fine for the illegal possession of 11 tusks**

**Mutomo, Kenya**  
**April 12, 2013**

Harrison Mulang'a, 55 years old, was sentenced to the maximum penalty set by the criminal code. His lawyer had asked the court to not impose a jail sentence, highlighting the fact that he had the responsibility of taking care of six children, who depended on him solely for survival. The magistrate ignored this fact, and emphasized that the three offenses against the accused were serious and that he would serve as an example to hopefully deter future offenders. He was arrested by the Kenya Wildlife Service in an ivory trade syndicate raid near the national reserve of Kitui.

**Seizure of 2 pieces of ivory (10kg)**  
**Voi, Taita Taveta County, Kenya**  
**April 14, 2013**

**Seizure of 2 tusks (Nearly 10kg)**  
**Falakata, Jalpaiguri, State of West Bengal, India**  
**April 16, 2013**

Posing as customers, personnel and forest officials intercepted two traffickers who offered to sell two elephant tusks weighing about 10kg for 4 million rupees (57,360 €). It could be, according to certain press sources, that this seizure is directly linked to the elephant poaching case in the Buxa Tiger Reserve.

**Seizure of 2 tusks (12kg)**  
**Marmanet Forest, Laikipia, Kenya**  
**April 17, 2013**

Two women were arrested and put in custody. They tried to sell two ivory tusks for 30,000 Kenyan Shilling per kilogram (270 €/kg). Unfortunately for the poachers, they fell for the trap set by local police services who had gathered insider information. The case probably branches from previous poachings in the neighboring Rumuruti forest.

**Seizure of 2 pieces of ivory (10kg)**  
**Maralal, Samburu County, Kenya**  
**April 19, 2013**

A rifle and 204 rounds of ammunition were seized at the same time.

**Seizure of 5 pieces of ivory (17kg)**  
**Longisa, Narok County, Kenya**  
**April 20, 2013**

Two suspects were arrested.

**Seizure of 2 elephant tusks (12kg)**  
**Anandpur, Kendujhar, State of Orissa, India**  
**April 22, 2013**

After this seizure, the Forest Department teams were violently called upon while returning from a village inspection. The ivory trafficking "supporters" were throwing rocks at their car. Calm was restored after police intervention. One of the tusks came from an old elephant from the Hadagarh Elephant Sanctuary (Similipal reserve).



© Odisha Reporter

**Seizure of 57kg of ivory**  
**Bomas of Kenya, Nairobi County, Kenya**  
**April 22, 2013**

A Kenyan citizen, surprised by the Kenya Wildlife Service in the parking lot of shopping mall near the Bomas cultural amusement park had two jute fibers bags containing 57 kilos of raw ivory in his car, was immediately brought to Nairobi court. A bail of 5 million Kenyan Shilling (44,570 €) was placed for his provisionary freedom, pending a final decision.

**Poaching of an elephant**  
**Balangir, Odisha forest, State of Odisha, India**  
**April 24, 2013**

The decomposing carcass of an elephant, about 10 years old, was discovered by the villagers. The tusks had been removed.

**Seizure of 2 elephant tusks and bushmeat**  
**Yokadouma, Cameroon**  
**April 15-26, 2013**

The joint operation of the Cameroonian army and WWF Cameroon successfully arrested 20 suspects, along with the seizure of 45 firearms, 337 ammunitions, 10 chainsaws, 3,000 wire cables used for poaching, and elephant, gorilla and chimpanzee meat. This intervention occurred one month after the 16th plenary reunion of CITES and immediately after the meeting in Yaounde on the adoption of an extreme emergency anti-poaching plan (PEXULAB). This plan involves primarily Cameroon, the Central African Republic, and Chad. The estimated number of forest elephants in Cameroon is 5,000, but many observers believe that this figure is overestimated. Cameroon could also be an escape route for ivory and other parts of endangered animals such as gorillas and chimpanzees from the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo.



Seized weapons and tusks  
© Fidelis-Yokadouma

**Seizure of 113 elephant tusks (300kg) valuing US\$ 390,000**

**Hong Kong Airport, China**

**April 30, 2013**

The container told the truth well. It was marked for the transport of spare parts; and that is what it actually contained. 113 tusks removed from elephants that were harassed, shot, and mutilated were on their way from Burundi to Singapore. Each tusk weights less than 3 kg. Struck elephants are more and more young.

**Sentencing of 2 people to 4 years of prison for the poaching of an elephant**

**Amuru district, Ouganda**

**April 28, 2013**

This penalty is to be exemplary. The charges are illegal entry into a national park, illegal possession of a firearm, illegal possession of munitions and illegal traded of derivatives from wildlife. One of the traffickers admitted to having killed 10 elephants in 3 years. An another poacher was sentenced to the same punishment even thought the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) arrested him as he was about to kill an elephant inside Murchison Falls National Park. Murchison Falls National Park, also known as Kabarega National Park, has a surface area of 3,840 km<sup>2</sup> and an elephant population estimated at 1,500.

**Seizure of 1 piece of ivory (6 kg)**

**Ogembo, Nyanza Province, Kenya**

**April 2013**

**Poaching of 3 elephants (2 males, one female) Hadagarh Wildlife Sanctuary (Chakraturtha, Kaliamba, and Boula zones), State of Orissa, India Carcasses found in May 2013**

This discovery is probably linked to the seizure of 12kg of tusks and the arrest of five people on April 22, 2013. The Hadagarh forest was declared a sanctuary in 1988. The area is about 191 km<sup>2</sup>, and the forest contains about 17 elephants. Hundreds of rare plant species, medicinal plants, and butterflies are also present. The forest serves as an elephant corridor; it is connected with the Similipal sanctuary and the Kuldiha sanctuary. Beyond poaching, the zone is also effected by illegal deforestation and mining. Many forest guard positions are vacant.



© Satyeshnaik

**Seizure of 259 tusks**

**Jebel Ali port, Dubai, United Arab Emirates**

**May 1, 2013**

The tusks were labeled as “wooden furniture”. They were seized in a maritime containership from the area of Mombasa, Kenya.



© IFAW

**Poaching of 26 Elephants**

**Dzanga-Ndoki National Parc, Central African Republic**

**May 6 2013- May 9 2013**

On May 6th, 17 armed men were seen at the entrance of the Dzanga-Ndoki National Park. They headed towards an area known as the Elephant Village. After they left, 26 elephant carcasses were found 24 of which were calves. The villagers cut them up so as to dry the meet. Chimpanzees and gorillas also live in this park.

**Seizure of 6kg ivory pieces**

**Guwahati, State of Assam, India**

**May 7, 2013**

The value is estimated at Rs1400000 (19,800 €). The ivory holder is an engineering student. He is suspected of being involved in a trafficking network. His friend tipped off the police about his involvement with natural contraband, and the student confessed to his involvement in illegal trading.

**Seizure of processed ivory and tusks (21kg)**

**Lagos International Airport, Lagos, Nigeria**

**May 8, 2013**

The ivory was placed in 176 separate packages, heading to China via Liberia and South Africa. The worked pieces were concealed as bracelets, decorative samples and beads. The three suspects, two Chinese men and one Malian, were arrested after the items were discovered by customs officers.

**Seizure of Asian elephant meat**

**International mail facility, near the Los Angeles airport (LAX), United States of America**

**May 9, 2013**

The dried meat was stashed in plant material sent from Thailand to Fresno. Who in Fresno was expecting this supposed Asian elephant meat? Founded in 1872 in San Joaquin Valley, Fresno is now ranked the 5th biggest city in California, with 480,000 inhabitants.

### **Seizure of 19 kg of ivory**

**Nairobi, Kenya**

**May 12, 2013**

A Deputy Director of the Amboseli Elephant Research Project and her son, a Technician Support Assistant, were arrested by the police south of Nairobi. 19kg of ivory were found in the back of their car. The estimated value amounts to US\$ 20,000. Out on bail, charges are omission to declare national trophies, illegal possession of ivory and illegal trade. A spokesman from the Kenyan Wildlife Service said the inquiry will be extended to the entire foundation. Mrs. Sayialel says that she and her son have been framed. Amboseli Trust for Elephants immediately expressed its solid trust in its members, refusing any further comment before the outcome of the inquiry. This foundation has been working since 1972 in favor of protection of the elephants of the park after which it was named and towards conflict resolution between local communities and the elephants.

### **Poaching of an elephant**

**85km from Gossi, Timbuktu region, Mali**

**May 15, 2013**

The 10 poachers were dressed in military uniforms. They probably came from Gao.

### **Poaching of an elephant**

**Tembe Elephant Park, South Africa**

**May 21, 2013**

The Tembe Elephant Park, covering 300 km<sup>2</sup>, is home to 230 elephants. The reserve is known for having the most beautiful tuskers in Africa.



Isilo is the tusk-leader of Tembe Elephant Park. He is between 45 and 53 years old, weighs 7 tonnes, and is 3.2 meters tall. His tusks are 2.5 meters long and are almost 60kg each. It is a miracle that Isilo is still alive. © tembe.co.za

## **War in Mali, war on elephants**

They face extreme heat waves, sand storms, chronic drought and sporadic poaching. They have developed an adaptive strategy to endure Sahara desert pressure and still live harmoniously with Tuareg, Fulani and Dogon peoples, even though the switch from pastoral agriculture to sedentary farming begins to induce conflicts between Man and Elephant.

There are only 350 of them wandering tirelessly across a 30,000 km<sup>2</sup> area in North Mali and along bordering states.

Malian Gourma elephants have developed special hearing and olfactory capacities, which help them in their social interaction and food quest. Thus they are particularly sensitive to war sounds and smells, thus during the acute phase of French-Malian military operation, the few scientists and naturalists monitoring this elephants population have observed a marked restlessness and extended itineraries in order to avoid and bypass unknown obstacles and events.

War in Mali will have negative consequences on elephant's reproductive rate. Another side-effect is already noticeable: poaching is increasing. Six desert elephants have been killed last year for meat and ivory, which, although it bears a bad quality reputation, can be used in bargaining by rebel groups or regular armies deserters to trade for arms, equipments or various business. On the ivory front, the arrival of a Chinese military contingent on site is likely to exert additional pressure on those remarkable pachyderms. After this war, as after any war, unexploded mines and ammunitions will constitute a long-term hazard for civilian population, livestock and elephants herds.

Robin des Bois has written to the General Secretary of the United Nations for instruction towards the strict respect of elephant population to be given to UN troops in Mali.

**Poaching of an elephant**  
**Orissa forest, Kendujhar district, State of Orissa, India**

**May 22, 2013 (estimation)**

The elephant was about 23-25 years old. He was shot in the temple.

**Seizure of two elephant tusks (19kg)**  
**Kerpu, Devachalla, State of Karnataka, India**  
**May 29, 2013**

The police inspector posed as a buyer of ivory and had a rendez-vous with vendors in the heart of the forest. 5 of them escaped. One suspect was arrested. At his home, 2 tusks of 13 and 6kg were found.

**Seizure of six pieces of ivory, 3 elephant tails, 915kg dried game meat, ammunition, and two AK47 assault rifles**  
**Mulobezi, Zambia**  
**May 24, 2013**

9 poachers were arrested one of which a police inspector. The chief of ZAWA (Zambia Wildlife Authority) noted with regret that more and more state officials in charge of the protection of wildlife are getting involved in illegal trafficking. Since the beginning of the year, ZAWA has seized 206 firearms, over 1,000 rounds of ammunition, 2,738 pieces of wire and other types of snares.

**Seizure of 781 tusks and pieces of tusks**  
**Between Bwengu and Phwezi, Malawi**  
**May 24, 2013**

A Scania truck was stopped by FAST (Flexible Anti-Smuggling Team) on route M1, coming from north Tanzania, heading to Lilongwe before without any doubt leaving the African continent aboard a container ship. At the Songwe border, the owner of the truck paid a 700 € tax. Beneath 300 cement bags, a whole herd of elephants was found.



© Nyasa Times

**Seizure of 27kg of ivory**  
**Kenneth Kaunda International Airport, Lusaka, Zambia**  
**May 2013**

The value of the ivory is estimated at US\$ 140,000. The merchandise was headed towards China. There has been no arrest.

**15-year prison sentence for illegal ivory import**  
**Fujian province, China**  
**May 2013**

Three Chinese citizens have been sentenced to prison terms of between 7 to 15 years for having illegally import in China 7.7 tons of ivory equivalent to about 820 elephants through 5 shipments from Kenya, Tanzania and Nigeria in 2011. In this case, the arrest and charging of a government-accredited trader in the context of the CITES authorised sale in 2008 discredits the supposedly legal trade of ivory. « The magnitude of these seizures is a shocking blow to the integrity of China's legal ivory trade system and demonstrates the need for an independent audit to be carried out » declared Tom Milliken from Traffic organization, linked to the WWF. A journalist from National Geographic underlines that Tom Milliken was precisely a member of the CITES inspection team which endorsed the Chinese system of ivory trade. Does he wish now that the CITES orders to Traffic the « independent audit » that he is claiming for?

**Seizure of two elephant tusks (32kg)**  
**Kamweti, Central Province, Kenya**  
**June 8-9, 2013**

The value of the tusks from adult elephants is estimated to about US\$ 37,400. They were buried near the Mount Kenya National Park. 4 people were arrested.

**Seizure of 12 tusks**  
**Mbuvoire mall, Embu North, Eastern Province, Kenya**  
**June 8, 2013**

According to the authorities, the tusks came from young elephants. Thanks to an informer, the suspect was arrested. He is said to have participated in the wave of poachings in Embu county.

**Poaching of a female elephant**  
**Buffalo Springs National Reserve, Eastern Province, Kenya**  
**June 9, 2013**

This is a terrible announcement that Save The Elephants had to publish on June 10, 2013. That night, Bonsai, a 30 year old female elephant, herd's matriarch living on the Buffalo Springs National Reserve, was killed by bullets. Ammunitions cartridges from a G3 automatic weapon were found in the area. Her 3 year old calf is now orphaned. Alerted by the gunshots, the KWS quickly stepped in to avoid removal of the tusks. Together, the Buffalo Springs, Samburu and Shaba National Reserves form a whole area in central Kenya. 1929 elephants were recorded in 2008 in the West Isiolo/Samburu part, mainly in the Buffalo Springs National Reserve.



G3. © Esistoire



June 9, 2013 Bonsai © Save the Elephants

### **THEFT OF SEIZURE**

**Seizure of 40kg of ivory (2 tusks)**  
**Kawangware Administration Police Camp, Nairobi, Kenya**

**June 10, 2013**

An Administration Police Corporal from the anti-poaching team was caught with a civil accomplice in the process of illegally transporting 40kg of ivory. The tusks probably came from an earlier seizure.

### **REPEAT OFFENDER**

**Seizure of an elephant tusk (3kg)**  
**Chamarajanagar, State of Karnataka, India**

**June 12, 2013**

The suspect tried to sell the tusk to police officers disguised as clients, acting on a tip-off. She had already been arrested and jailed for similar activities.

**Poaching of 2 elephants**  
**Buffalo Springs National Reserve, Isiolo, Eastern Province, Kenya**

**June 12, 2013**

Some days before, Bonsai was shot in the same reserve. In 2010, 63 elephants were killed in the region, 101 in 2011, and 134 in 2012.

**Seizure of 124 tusks**  
**Gore, Logone Oriental region, Chad**

**June 14, 2013**

According to the Chad government, Hassan Idriss, also known as Gargaf, was arrested while transporting the load of tusks. He was the head of a gang of 50 poachers on horse back suspected to have killed 192 elephants since August 2012. 89 elephants (including 30 pregnant females) were killed during the night of March 14, 2013 near Ganba (Chad). The group is also accused of the murder of 5 Cameroonian rangers in October 2012. According to the Chadian Ministry of Environment, this gang has been active since 2011 in the regions of Salamat (southeast Chad) and Guera (south Chad), near the borders of Chad, Cameroon and Central African Republic.

**Seizure of 10 elephant tusks (cut into 23 pieces)**  
**Singalamwe border post, Caprivi region, Namibia**

**June 16, 2013**

At the border post between Namibia and Zambia, Namibian customs intercepted a Zambian official government vehicle in which 10 elephant tusks cut into 23 easily transportable pieces were concealed in travel bags amongst an assortment of traditional herbs which supposedly serve as lucky charms, clothes, blankets and a saw. It could be that the group had participated in a death hike in the Namibian Bwabwata National Park where 18 mutilated elephant carcasses were counted in 2012. Two nurses are part of the gang.

### **REPEAT OFFENDER**

**Seizure of 16 tusks and 26 worked ivory pieces**  
**Douala, Littoral Region, Cameroon**

**June 21, 2013**

The seizure was carried out in 2 distinct operations. During the first one, 16 tusks and 10 chopsticks were recovered and 2 people were arrested. During the second one, 16 worked ivory items were seized and 2 people were taken in for questioning. The 4 suspects are notorious wildlife traffickers.



© LAGA/Born Free

**Seizure of 37 elephant tusks**  
**Kongola control post, Caprivi region, Namibia**  
**June 22, 2013**

This seizure is one of the largest in the past few years. 4 men of Namibian origin, aged 25 to 50, were arrested. The judge assigned to the case denied bail during the trial. Another man of Zambian origin is on the run. He is suspected to be the mastermind of this case and would have bought the tusks in Lizauli, a town 30km from Kongola. The police put him under surveillance for several days, waiting for the transfer of tusks so that they could intercept the shipment. The 3 arrested vehicles left an unoccupied house near the Katima Mulilo Airport, about 100km from Kongola, near Bwabwata National Park.

**Elephant Tusks seized**  
**Siem Reap-Angkor International Airport, Siem Reap Province, Cambodia**

**June 22, 2013**

Thanks to information given by Customs in Thailand, Cambodian authorities searched the luggage of one of the passengers and seized the tusks that are supposedly from Africa.

**2 Tusks seized (2.5kg)**  
**Bangalore, State of Karnataka, India**

**June 27, 2013**

Two men ages 36 and 56 were arrested while trying to sell the tusks by the side of the Mahatma Gandhi road, more known as the "MG Road", in Bangalore. They both lived in the cities outskirts.



© K. Murali Kumar

**Seizure of 800g of ivory objects: 5 bracelets, 7 rings, 7 pendants, 2 carved ivory objects.**  
**Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, Nairobi, Kenya**

**June 29, 2013**

The American citizen wished to take a flight to Amsterdam (Netherlands). He stood before the Makadara Court of Justice (Nairobi) on the 1st of July, was sentenced to a Sh30000 (US\$ 340) fine and set free. According to authorities, this is the first arrest of an American for this type of case.

**Elephant Tusks seized (30kg)**  
**Pathnamthitta, State of Kerala, India**

**June 29, 2013**

Two men ages 30 and 47, were arrested by the Ranni forest guards. A third man, 45 years old, escaped. The 3 traffickers are from the Kerala State.

**21kg of Ivory objects seized**  
**Tan Son Nhat International Airport, Ho-Chi-Minh-City, Viet Nam**

**June 30, 2013**

A man of Vietnamese origin, coming from the Paris Roissy Airport, was arrested on arrival at the Ho-Chi-Minh-City Airport with ivory objects from Africa in his carry-on-bag.

**5 Ivory bracelets seized**  
**Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, Nairobi, Kenya**

**June 30, 2013**

A 32 year old man from South Sudan was carrying 5 ivory bracelets weighting 200g. He was on his way to Juba (South Sudan). According to authorities, it is the first arrest of a South Sudanese citizen for ivory smuggling.

**Seizure of 25kg of ivory**  
**Souanké, Department of Sangha, Congo**

**June 2013**

The French, Geography and History teacher admitted to killing 8 elephants. He kept 25 kg of ivory at his place. 2 automatic rifles, typically used for poaching, were also seized. A second suspect was arrested and confessed to poaching, and the authorities are looking for 2 more accomplices. The Department of Sangha, where Suanke is located, includes the Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park. With the Lobéké National Park in Cameroon and the Dzanga-Ndoki National Park in Central African Republic, it forms the Sangha trinational. This whole cross-border region, listed as a natural World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2012, has an area of 746,309 hectares and is home to many endangered species such as forest elephants, bongos, gorillas, chimpanzees and bongos. It is surrounded by a buffer zone of 1,787,950 hectares.

**200kg of tusks seized**  
**Nazinga Reserve, Nahouri and Sissili Province, Burkina Faso**

**June 2013**

The tusks were discovered thanks to the dismantling of a trafficking network operating within the Nazinga reserve that combines observation tourism and hunting. 9 people were arrested. Authorities also seized guns and .375 hunting rifles. Investigations started in 2012 after the poaching of 10 elephants. The arrest of one suspect revealed the existence of a criminal network between Burkina Faso and Ghana. The reserve is managed by the Burkina Faso Ministry of Environment and covers an area of 91,300 hectares.



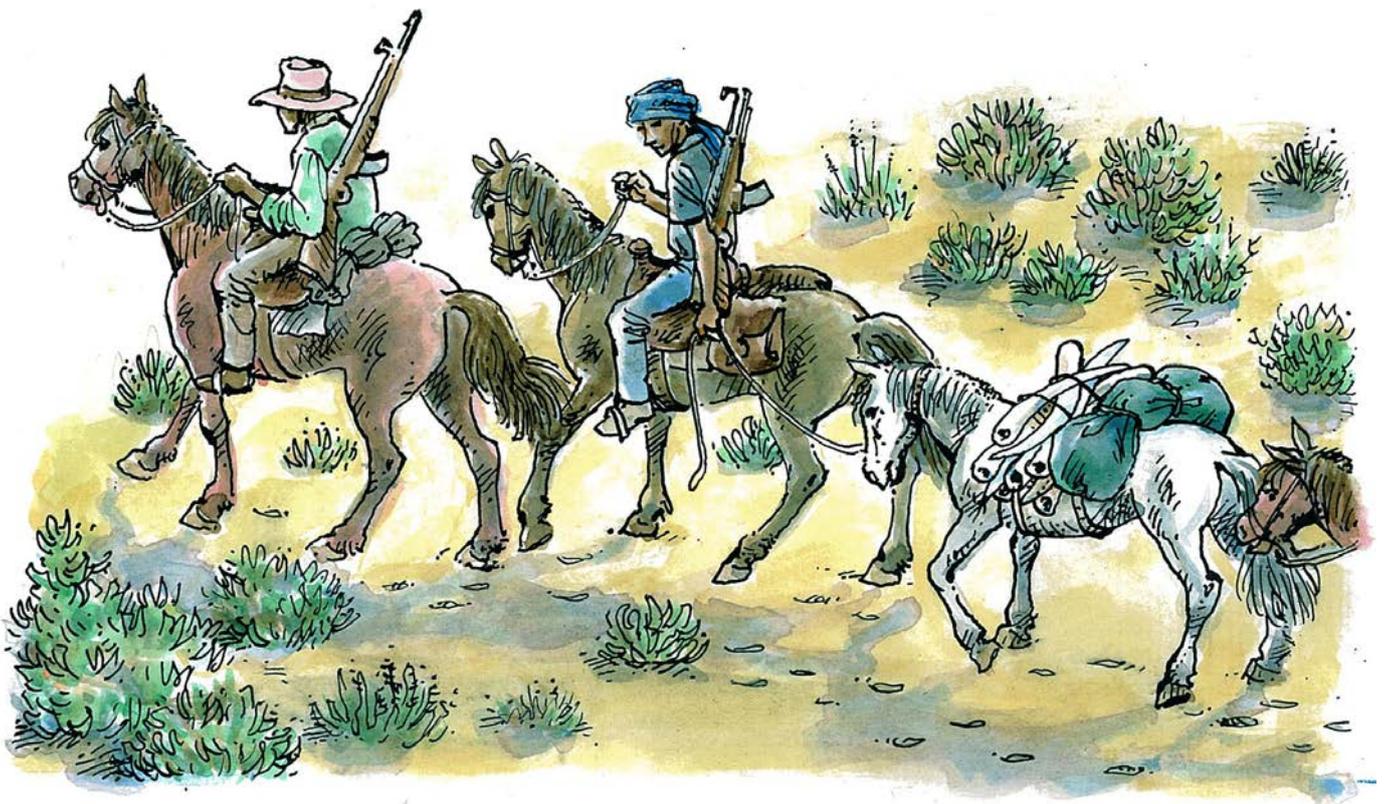
© Anouk Zijlma

## Good news

### Destruction of an ivory stock in the Philippines

The intentional destruction of 5 tons of ivory in the Philippines on June 21st enraged traffickers. Those 5 tons of tusks are what is left of the seizures made in the archipelago ports and airports since 1995 after 7 tons were stolen and scattered by Custom officers. A prominent official who diverted 700 kg of seized ivory is on the run.

The future and security of seizures are major issues. Too often, seizures return to the black market. In this first On the Trail edition, examples surface in Africa and Asia that perturbs the international machinery against endangered species traffic. France, which has strong cultural and economical ties with many African countries and some in Asia should set an example. The combined total stock of ivory seized at French borders since CITES international regulations have come into effect has never been subject to a public and verifiable statement. Robin des Bois asks for transparency on this reserved case and the irreversible and controlled destruction of the illegal ivory stock detained by the Natural History Museum in Paris. France and Europe can't claim the innate privilege of avoiding disorder and corruption.



Tusks conveying on horse back

© Bruno Congar, Robin des Bois

## Would you please revive the species?

This article reproduces a press statement released by Robin des Bois on march 14 2013 for the concluding session of the 16th Conference of the Parties to CITES in Bangkok.

Animal species are extinguished. The plenary of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) in Bangkok was the opportunity to bury, without ceremony, the *Thylacinus cynocephalus* and some other species wiped off the planet in the past century. Their family trees date back several million years. Extinctions are accelerating.

These biological disasters are not caused by any disruptions in climate, geological mutations or functional inadequacies. Mankind is the conductor of these disasters, wreaking havoc through risky manipulations or introductions and through radical exploitation of its surroundings.

The *Thylacinus cynocephalus*, also known as the Tasmanian Tiger, the Tasmanian wolf, the marsupial wolf and the zebra opossum, was not a Canidae but a marsupial able to carry 2-4 cubs in its pouch.

The species was known, if not common, on the Australian continent. Cave drawings of thylacine dating back thousands of years are part of Australian rock art and are preserved in both the northern and southern part of the country. It would have been decimated in the aftermath of colonization by European immigrants in the late 18th century.



Stuffed Marsupial wolves at the South Australian State Museum © S.A. State Museum



Drawing of the Arnhem Land large Naturalistic thylacine by K. Mulvaney.

Source: Rare and Curious Thylacine Depictions from Wollemi National Park, New South Wales and Arnhem Land, Northern Territory de Paul S.C. Taçon, Wayne Brennan and Roland Lamilami

The sub-population of Tasmania has resisted longer despite its bad reputation. Thylacines were considered killers of lambs and other farm animals or livestock. A good thylacine was a dead thylacine. Each carcass brought to the administration or to large landowners was subject to a reward. Biologists believe that this reputation was not justified and that small wild mammals, marsupials and rabbits were introduced into the normal diets of settlers for some time.

Added to this intolerance, Thylacines were probably also victims of fashion. The skins were tanned and sent to London, where they were transformed into waistcoats under the pompous and misleading name of Tasmanian Tiger. The last identified living specimen was captured in 1933. It died of boredom at Hobart Zoo after 3 years. It was then that the *Thylacinus cynocephalus* received regulatory protection. The species already had all the clinical signs of extinction.

From time to time, supposed traces or observations of the Thylacines make the Tasmanian headlines but are attributed to confusion or fraud.

In children's books, animal species have a tough life. Edited by Hachette in 1971, the encyclopedia of Oceania animals presents the thylacines as a living and respected species with a beautiful coat striped like a zebra or tiger. «Nowadays we inflict a fine of 5,000 francs to whoever kills a Tasmanian wolf when we would have given him a reward a few years ago.» The same goes for *The Living World*, published by Time Life: its revised 1972 edition says that the future of the species is not threatened in the immediate future since a large number of thylacines were being protected forest reserves of Tasmania. In fact, Thylacines lived in the plains and hills or on the edge of dense forests.

How long after their extinction in forests, savannahs and wetlands will elephants and rhinoceroses continue to survive in children's books?

## Multi-species

**Seizure of 4.658 exotic animals including 3,993 Black-and-white Tegu (*Tupinambis meriana*, *Tupinambis rufescens*, *Tupinambis teguixin* Appendix II), crocodiles and alligators of unknown species (*Crocodylia* spp., Appendix II) and boa constrictors (*Boa constrictor*, Appendix I).**

**Villa Maipu, San Martin, Buenos Aires, Argentina.  
April 10, 2013**

Police searched a building of Villa Maipu in the Province of Buenos Aires and seized 4.658 exotic animals. Right at the entrance were stocked many cages, empty or full of animals. The entire building was sealed off.



© Gendarmeria Nacional Argentina, Ministerio de Seguridad

**Seizure of one macaque (*Macaca*, Appendix II) and 11 red footed tortoises (*Chelonoidis carbonaria*, Appendix II)**

**Metropolitan region of Sao Luis, Brazil  
April 12, 2013**

After 5 denunciations, the environmental brigade of the Sao Luis Regional Police force in Brazil seized 11 red footed tortoises and one macaque. The animals were sent to a rehabilitation centre for wild animals in Salvador de Bahia.

**Seizure of various animal parts  
Katmandu, Nepal**

**April 20, 2013**

During a raid on 2 apartments in Katmandu, 5 suspects, age 32 to 37, including 2 women, were arrested. 4 elephant tusks weighing 21kg, marten and mongoose skins, musk deer teeth, precious stones and 243 grams of heroin were found. All suspects also performed registered activities to cover up their crime.

**Seizure of live animals among which iguanas (*Iguana* spp., Appendix II), a highland guan (*Penelopina nigra*, Appendix III), marine green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*, Appendix I), 2 yellow-naped amazons (*Amazona auropaliata*, Appendix I) and two red lored amazon (*Amazona autumnalis*, Appendix I).**

**Salvador**

**April 24, 2013**

The environmental section of the police and the Ministry of Ecology of Salvador have seized 440 wild animals destined to be sold on the central market of the capital. All these species were found in 15 different places of building number 8 in the market. All the animals were brought to the national zoo in the centre of town to be seen by a veterinarian.

**Seizure of 385 exotic of endangered animals for who trade is forbidden or restricted.**

**Monterrey, Nuevo Leon State, Mexico**

**April/May 2013**

Federal authorities for the protection of the environment of Nuevo Leon are investigating. They have discovered that the JD Reptiles and JD Exotics buy and sell fauna whose commerce is restricted or forbidden. 385 animals have been seized. They were advertised for sale on internet. The traffickers would forge legal sales documents concerning other species. Members of the Federal authorities for the protection of the environment of Nuevo Leon had received, or at least are suspected to have received bribes. On the American continent private zoos are in fashion, imitating Mickael Jackson's Neverland.



© Uno Mas Uno

**Seizure of 46 circus animals  
Mexico**

**Between April and May**

Since the beginning of April, during the period of a national inspection of circuses, 22 establishments were inspected. 14 of which were not conform and 3 did not have the necessary permits. 7 tigers (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I), lions (*Panthera leo*, Appendix II), a Hamadryas baboon (*Papio hamadryas*, Appendix II), and a bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*, Appendix II for the Mexican population) were seized. The authorities also seized 19 lamas, one hippopotamus, a red kangaroo, 5 spider monkeys and a puma. Between 2013 and 2014, 183 circuses should be inspected. In the case of not conforming to regulations the managers risk paying a fine of up to 50,000 days of the minimum wage (around 150,000€) and the seizure of all animals. The circuses could also be partially or totally shut down for a limited or indefinite period.

**Arrest of 6 poachers and equipment  
Yaboti Reserve, Misiones, Argentina  
May 2, 2013**

Six illegal immigrants of Brazilian origin were arrested in the Yaboti Biosphere Reserve in Argentina by the Misiones special operations unit working in collaboration with 9 park guards. The poachers were found with 5, 12.7 rifles, a 20 mm calibre rifle, a 28 mm calibre rifle and a 22 mm calibre rifle with a rangefinder. They had installed a campsite right on the limits of the Park Provincial Esmeralda Reserve.

**REPEAT OFFENDER**

**Seizure of 103 reptiles: 7 utila spiny-tailed Iguana (*Ctenosaura bakeri*, Appendix II), 6 spotted box turtle, (*Terrapene spp.*, Appendix II), 19 desert tortoise, (*Gopherus agassizii*, Appendix II), 4 horned lizard (*Phrynosoma*).**

**Mexico City International Airport  
May 29, 2013**

A Japanese citizen was arrested at the Mexico City International Airport, carrying reptiles in her luggage who are known to be sold as pets at very high prices in Japan. That is where she was heading. The woman was subject to a Red Notice by Interpol that orders her immediate arrest after identification in any Member State of that International Organisation.



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**Seizure of 149 animal parts and one live turtle  
Barcelona, Spain  
May 30, 2013**

The Guardia Civil led an operation in a commercial establishment in Barcelona. Parts and derivatives made out of animals are sold there. Monkey, tiger, crocodile, snake, woodpecker, fox, birds and insects like the Egyptian Beetle were the found species, some of whom are listed in the CITES Appendices according to national authorities. Mainly there were claws, paws, heads, tails, fur and hearts. It was all sold for ritual practices. The Guardia Civil also seized red coral, sea horses, small ivory pieces and snake skins. Only one turtle was still alive.

**Seizure of 3 hornbills 1 of them a great hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*, Appendix I), 1 Asian golden cat (*Pardofelis temminckii*, Appendix I), 3 crab-eating macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*, Appendix II), 1 sunburst turtle (*Heosemys spinosa*, Appendix II) et 1 loris (Appendix I)**

**Bangkok, Thailand**

**June 3, 2013**

A cyberdealer fell into the clutches of the Crime Suppression police in Bangkok. He had been dealing wildlife for 5 years and said that most of his clients are Thais in Bangkok. Discovered at his house were three great hornbills, one Asian golden cat, 3 crab-eating macaques, a mongoose, a turtle, and a loris, valued at about Bt100,000 (2500€). He is charged with illegal possession of animals and violation of the Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act.

**Seizure of dead and live animals and animal parts**

**Mexico, Yucatan and Chiapas peninsula**

**June 4, 2013**

Animals (dead or live): 2 white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*, Appendix III), 1 ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*, Appendix I), 1 spider monkey (family *Atelidae*, Appendix II).

Animal skins (29): Oncilla (*Leopardus tigrinus*, Appendix I), lemurine night monkey (*Aotus lemurinus*, Appendix II), ocellated turkey (*Meleagris ocellata*, Appendix III), collared peccary (*Pecari tajacu*, Appendix II), boa (family *Boidae*, Appendix II), Central American red brocket (*Mazama temama*, Appendix III).

Taxidermy (4): 1 jaguar (*Panthera onca*, Appendix I), keel-billed toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*, Appendix II), 1 ocellated turkey (*Meleagris ocellata*, Appendix III).

Parts : 2 great curassow heads (*Crax rubra*, Appendix III), 1 white-tailed deer head (*Odocoileus virginianus*, Appendix III), 1 Central American red brocket trophy (*Mazama temama*, Appendix III), shell, feather and animal paws.

Animal derivatives: coats, sandals, bracelets, purses, necklaces, walets, fans.

The PROFEPA (Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente), while implementing control and verification operations in the jaguar range seized the animals and animal parts here above mentioned. The operation was carried out in cooperation with the Public Prosecutor, Federal Police and the National Commission for Protected Natural Areas.

**Sentence to 6 months of prison and a US\$ 6,500 fine for the illegal trade of wild animal products  
Fairbanks, Alaska, United States of America**

**June 7, 2013**

An American cyber dealer, Martin Miles, introducing himself as an "artist", was sentenced on charges of illegal wildlife trading, illegal sale of migratory birds and parts of marine mammals, contraband and conspiracy, to 6 months of imprisonment, 3 years of probation and a fine of US\$ 6,500. From his home of Nenana, Alaska, he financed the international trafficking and exportation of the remains of wolves, lynx, and feathers for 45 years. As a marine mammal parts specialist, he sold seal and sea lion jaws,

polar bear teeth, and walrus fur and tusks. In August 2013, with the help of accomplices, they had gathered and sold 140kg of walrus ivory (*Odobenus rosmarus*). The tusks were dyed to be disguised as fossil ivory and bypass national and international regulations. Packages were sent to many countries in Europe, to Japan, Brazil, Norway and Argentina. According to the spokeswoman of the US Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement, this judgment should deter other traffickers.



Nenana, Alaska, USA ©Joanna Grace

### **14kg of bush meat seized (pangolin, monkey, agouti...)**

**Orly Airport, Paris, France**

**June 23, 2013**

Bush meat crosses borders, goes up in the air then lands in Paris. The plane was coming from sub-Saharan Africa after a stop in Casablanca (Morocco). At the beginning it is most often illegal because obtained from protected animals, in this case monkeys and pangolins. On arrival, it can be in a state of advanced decomposition. Sniffing dogs are then useless to detect it. It is a serious health hazard. Meanwhile it is served in restaurants of the Paris region. In 2012, about 30 tonnes of bush meat from African or Asian origin were seized by customs in France.

### **Discovery of over 1,000 wild animals Bangkok, Thailand**

**June 2013**

Thai police busted into a private farm in the Bangkok suburbs in June 2013. One thousand animals were kept in appalling conditions of which certain are listed under Appendices of CITES. Monkeys, 14 lions, turtles and birds were all for sale. The 2 managers of the private farm were charged with illegal traffic of wildlife. Certain protected animals did not have the appropriate CITES legal documents.

### **Good News!**

**1.300 wild animals released, including Yellow-faced Siskin (*Carduelis yarrellii*, Appendix II) and 100 red-footed tortoises (*Chelonoidis carbonaria*, Appendix II)**

**Salvador de Bahia, Brazil**

**May 7 2013**

The Wild animal rehabilitation centre (CETAS) of IBAMA has released 1.300 wild animals into natural environment. The animals came from seizures made by Brazilian authorities in course of action against illegal trafficking. Among those released were yellow-faced siskins and a hundred red-footed tortoises.

## **Pense-bêtes\***

**Updated edition of CITES Appendices in effect** after the 16th Conference of the Parties (Bangkok, Thailand, March 2013) are available in English at: <http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2013/E-Notif-2013-022A.pdf>

### **Reservations\*\* to decisions adopted during the 16th CoP are as follows:**

Porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*) – Appendix II: reservation from Guyana, Iceland, Japan and Denmark with regard to the application of the Convention to Greenland.

Whitetip oceanic shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) – Appendix II: reservation from Guyana and Japan.

Scalloped Hammerhead (*Sphyrna lewini*), great hammerhead, (*Sphyrna mokarran*) and smooth hammerhead (*Sphyrna zygaena*) – Appendix II: reservation from Guyana, Japan and Yemen.

Manta ray (*Manta* spp.) – Appendix II: reservation from Guyana.

Canada entered a reservation with respect to all amendments to Appendices I and II of the Convention adopted at CoP16, owing to the necessity to complete its domestic legal requirements.

### **New recommendations to suspend trade have been published:**

Recommendation to suspend all trade of CITES species with Lesotho, Djibouti, Afghanistan and Guinea.

Recommendation to suspend trade of:

- black crowned-crane (*Balearica pavonina*) with Guinea, Sudan and South Sudan.

- grey crowned-crane (*Balearica regulorum*) with Rwanda and Tanzania.

- beluga (*Huso huso*) with Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan and Russian Federation.

- common seahorse (*Hippocampus kuda*) with Viet Nam.

- emperor scorpion (*Pandinus imperator*) with Benin and Togo.

30 members states are currently subject to a recommendation of trade suspension, for all or some species listed in CITES Appendices. Such a recommendation could be published if a Party has failed, for three consecutive years without justification, to provide the annual reports required or if a country has failed to implement the regulations of the Convention concerning export permit procedures.

\* Literally “think-animal” in French, which means “reminder”.

\*\* A statement by a CITES member-State following which it is not bound to an amendment of the Appendices. A Reservation should be entered within a 90-day period following the Conference of the Parties, and can be withdrawn at any time.

# Civet Coffee

Over the last couple of years, an original menace has become a growing threat on the population of Asian palm civets: the production of Kopi luwak, "civet coffee".

The Asian palm civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*), also known as a toddy cat or luwak, is a mammal from South-East Asia. The population size is unknown. It is listed under CITES Appendix III in India since 1989. There are 19 other species of civets: one is listed under Appendix I, four under Appendix II, and seven under Appendix III. The civets are hunted for their meat, captured to be pets, and sometimes persecuted by farmers who see them as pests. They are also caught for their musk. Used in perfumes, it is extracted from living animals by scratching their anal glands. This process is painful. A synthesized form of musk exists, but some historical perfumers still prefer the natural form.



The history of the kopi luwak coffee dates back to the colonial period. In the 18th century, in Dutch coffee plantations in Indonesia, the indigenous people were not allowed to harvest berries for their own consumption. They had the idea to collect civet excrement to salvage the coffee beans that would afterwards be cleaned, dried, and roasted. The Asian palm civet is fond of coffee cherries: coffee fruits before they are dried. The digestive system of the animal cannot completely break down the beans, which causes a fermentation process that removes bitterness.

Over the last few years few years, "civet coffee" has become an international craze. The movie *The Bucket List*, contributed to its fame in a scene where Jack Nicholson describes how it is produced. Rare and expensive, kopi luwak became a glamorous product. It was found for 55 € (70 US\$) for 250g on mon-café.fr. However, according to coffee specialists, particularly the Specialty Coffee Association of America (SCAA), civet coffee is of poor quality. In addition, the market is full of counterfeits.

Traditionally harvested in fields, the excrements came from wild animals. Civets are now specially captured to satisfy the kopi luwak demand. Thousands of civets are now locked in cages. Conditions are appalling and they are submitted to a strict diet of only coffee cherries. According to *The Jakarta Post*, in 2012, 60% of the production of kopi luwak was provided by caged animals.

Today, civet coffee produced in Viet Nam under the name Ca Phe Chan, in the Philippines under the names Tagalog Café Alamid, Kape Alamid, or Motit Coffee and in Indonesia under the name kopi luwak. Robin des Bois hopes that range states of the Asian palm civet study the possibility of listing the species in CITES Appendix II in order to control international trade and the expansion of civet coffee that could be considered a "derivative" according to the CITES Convention.

"Civet coffee" has its followers. A coffee was also produced using the same method with Thai elephants. Black Ivory coffee is available in five luxury hotels in Thailand and Maldives. The price of a cup can reach 50 US\$.

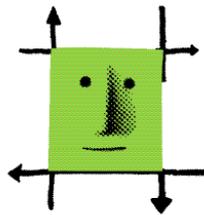


# ON the TRAIL

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