

ROBIN DES BOIS

ON_{the} TRAIL

Information and analysis bulletin on animal poaching and smuggling
n°10 / 1st July - 30th September 2015

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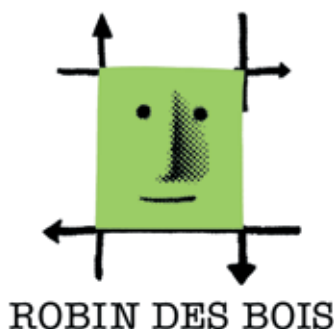


"She is tossed about and does not sink"

This is the latin motto of Paris town. In a way it is also relevant for Robin des Bois. Facing the intensifying storms of violence, it could also be in all the languages of the world the motto of mankind and biodiversity. 9 of the 16 contributors of "On the Trail" n° 10. Canal Saint-Martin, Paris, November 23, 2015.

ON_{the} TRAIL

Carried out by Robin des Bois (Robin Hood) with the encouragement
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Fires flare up, a species goes extinct

In Indonesia, two million hectares of peat lands and forest went up in toxic smoke since mid-August. Hundreds of orangutans live on a pungent carpet of charcoal. Orangutans suffer migraines, oppressions, respiratory and transient or fatal cardiovascular diseases that have been identified in the human species after the big wave of fires and smoldering fires in 1987. The fine particles also go to the bottom of the monkeys' lungs and can kill them by inches.

Despite the offended speeches of the palm oil industry in Indonesia, the expansion of plantations is the first cause of the pyromania which smokes out Southeast Asia.

On September 15, the Supreme Court in Jakarta rejected the appeal of one agribusiness tycoon. The criminal company was ordered to pay US\$ 26 million (366 billion rupiah) in fines and damages for having set fire to peat bogs and forests north of Sumatra island, the ultimate shelter for tigers, elephants, Asian rhinos and orangutans 3 years ago.

5 years ago as part of the UN REDD program (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation), Norway allocated US\$ 1 billion to Indonesia to help prevent and reduce forest and peatland fires. This money stream was poured down on the Central Kalimantan province, big producer of palm oil. No fire went out.



© Bruno Congar /
Robin des Bois

Just as in 1997, the CO₂ balance for 2015 in Indonesia will be catastrophic. It will be the third or fourth emitter worldwide. 10 million hectares of oil palm plantations are operated in Indonesia. A secondary, geometric, uniform tree cover sprayed with Paraquat, forbidden to big wild mammals and fruit-eating birds, has replaced the virgin forest. National and international companies invested the cleared land.

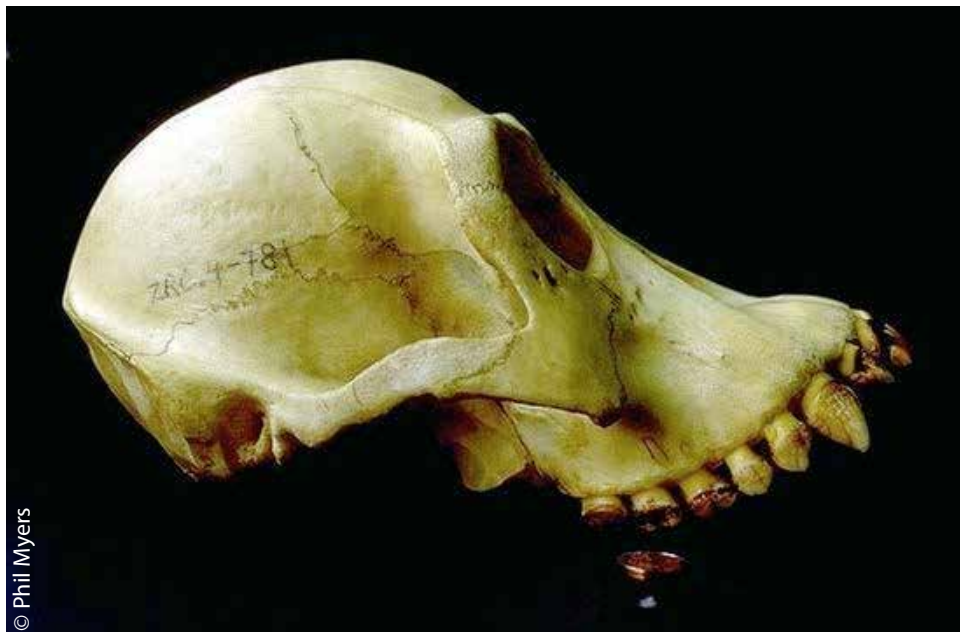
This “weed” is taking route anywhere with expeditious or insidious means.

In Guatemala, a 28 years old teacher, Rigoberto Lima Shock, was assassinated on September 18 the day after a judgment suspending the operation of an oil mill for 6 months. Toxic spills killed thousands of fish and ruined fishermen, a real regional disaster that Lima Shock, spokesman of the victims, paid with his life.

In Africa, 18 million hectares of forests and savannahs have been cleared in a single year - 2014 - to plant oil palms. The West Africa would be the springboard for sustainable palm oil according to the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil which gathers insecticide and chocolate multinationals. In Cameroon, the US firm Herakles plans to settle its stretches of oil palms among the few surviving chimpanzees.

In Asia, the headlong rush continues. The Philippines want to triple domestic production and Indonesia recently opened a Crude Palm Oil Supporting Fund. The major focus is to set up industrial plantations in Papua and West Papua. The Malaysian agro business is very interested, “these areas are buried treasures that Indonesian must operate.”

Tropical palm oil is hegemonic due to its cost price lower than rapeseed oil or sunflower oil to name a few. An economic advantage due to the low cost of labor and the use of children over 12 years for spraying herbicides and load trucks of oil palm fruit bunches. This is particularly the case on Borneo island shared between Malaysia and Indonesia. Working conditions comparable to those prevailing on some fishing vessels are also reported : confiscation of identity documents and full payment of wages after 2 years of contract work.



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CITES* Appendices

Appendix I : species threatened with extinction. Trade in specimens of these species is permitted only in exceptional circumstances and under import 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.

* Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. 180 Member States.

Seahorses

ASIA

August 29, 2015

Chiang Saen, on the border with Laos, Chiang Rai Province, Thailand

Seizure of 49 kg of dried seahorse (*Hippocampus spp.*, Appendix II) bound for China, valued at 3 million bahts (US\$83,592). Value per kilo: 10,000 bahts (US\$ 2786). With an average weight of 3 g per seahorse, the seizure corresponds to 16,333 seahorses.¹



© Chinnapat Chaimol

EUROPE

Mid-September 2015

Málaga Airport, Spain

Seizure of 2 kg of dried seahorses (*Hippocampus spp.*, Appendix II) in the suitcase of a Chinese national coming from Cali, Colombia, via Amsterdam.²



Queen Conch

AMERICA

September 30, 2015

Cosmy Port, Trinité, Martinique, France

Seizure of 1.5 tons of Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*, Appendix II) lacking CITES importation permits, along with a yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) and 104 kg of common dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*). Much of this seafood was unfit for human consumption.¹



Sea Cucumbers and Sea Urchins

AMERICA

September 16, 2015

Le Marin, Martinique, France

Seizure of white sea urchins (*Echinoidea* class) and 2 arrests.¹



They were put back into the water. Fishing of this species is strictly regulated.

ASIA

July 9, 2015

Mandapam, Tamil Nadu, India

Seizure of approximately 1000 kg of fresh sea cucumber (class Holothuroidea) and a van parked in the harbor. Value: 10 lakh Rs (US\$15,664).²



Corals



AFRICA

July 11, 2015

El Bouni, Annaba Province, Algeria

Seizure in a garage of 40 kg of coral packed ready for export and diving equipment. 3 arrests. "The coral Mafia ransacks the area".¹

EUROPE

Mid-August 2015

Falcone-Borsellino International Airport, Italy

Seizure of hard corals (order Scleractinia, 20 Thai species are listed under CITES Appendix II) from the baggage of an Italian passenger arriving from Thailand.²

Late September 2015

Hamburg Airport, Germany

Seizure of 111 hard coral and 10 giant clams (family Tridacnidae, Appendix II) originating from Vietnam. They had been intended for re-sale on the Internet. Authorities seized additional corals after a search at the trafficker's home.³

Fishes

AMERICA

July 5, 2015

Province of Quebec, Canada

Seizure of 282 brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) caught in the Rimouski Wildlife Reserve. 2 arrests on the road back to Montreal.¹



July 2015

Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, United States

9 packages of Venezuelan origin destined for Hong Kong, containing in total 602 kg of totoaba swim bladders (*Totoaba macdonaldi*, Appendix I), were confiscated at the airport. The traffickers had tried to pass them off as plastic things.²

July 25, 2015

Tijuana International Airport, Baja California, Mexico

Seizure of 274 dried totoaba swim bladders (*Totoaba macdonaldi*, Appendix I) and 12 totoaba fishing nets. Interrogation of a man and 2 women of Chinese nationality, who had been due to leave for Shanghai.³

Late July

Galapagos Marine Reserve, Ecuador

The captain of the longliner *Fer Mary* and 18 crew members were convicted at first hearing and sentenced to two years and one year of prison, respectively, for poaching 357 sharks (subclass Elasmobranchii). 286 bigeye threshers (*Alopias superciliosus*), 22 blue sharks (*Prionace glauca*), 40 Galapagos sharks (*Carcharhinus galapagensis*), 40 scalloped hammerheads (*Sphyrna lewini*, Appendix II), 2 tiger sharks (*Galeocerdo cuvieri*), 1 mako shark (*Isurus oxirrinchus*), as well as 11 sea bream, 9 yellowfin tuna, and one swordfish. The court also ordered the destruction of the ship and her 6 dinghies. The affair dates back to July 18, 2011, when the Ecuadorean Navy and a patrol boat boarded and searched the *Fer Mary* and its six dinghies in stormy seas inside the marine reserve. The crew and the ship owner had always pretended that the sharks were captured accidentally and that the flotilla of fish found itself in the reserve because of bad weather and navigation problems. Sea Shepherd welcomes this historic verdict. This is the first time



in 17 years that there has been a conviction for illegal fishing in the reserve designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. The accused will appeal without a doubt; they are for the moment being submitted to some kind of judicial review on the mainland in the city of Manta, 1000 km from the Galapagos Islands.⁴

August 4, 2015

Tabatinga, Amazonas, Brazil

Seizure of 340 kg of meat, including 300 kg of arapaima (*Arapaima gigas*, Appendix II) meat, at the local city market. 3 people placed in custody.⁵



8 and 10 August 2015

Iracoubo and the Grand Connétable region, French Guiana, French Overseas Department of South America



Seizure of 4.5 tons and 6 tons of fish on 2 fishing vessels, the *Little Ezra 4* and the *Vitor Luis 6*, a holdout that on June 23 had refused an inspection by the *Capricieuse*, a navy patrol ship. The Brazilian captain of the ship received an immediate summons and was sentenced to 1 year of prison and a € 3000 fine.⁶



August 10, 2015

Brooklyn, New York, United States of America

First conviction in the State of New York since the entry into force of the ban on shark fins. In October 2014, the Long Quan Seafood International Trading Corp.



had imported dried fins from Hong Kong via JFK Airport. 4 species were concerned including hammerhead sharks (*Sphyrnidae*) and blacktip reef sharks (*Carcharhinus melanopterus*). The company was fined US\$10,000.⁷

REPEATED OFFENSE

August 19, 2015

Benton County, Missouri, United States of America

A man has been tried for trafficking American paddlefish eggs in his grocery store, European International Foods, in Vineland, New Jersey.

The habitat zone for American paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*, Appendix II) is the Mississippi river basin. Their eggs are sold under the unregulated title of caviar. The American paddlefish used to be common in the Midwest. But the decline (or near-extinction) of the sturgeon has provoked a rush on the "spoonbill", which is in turn threatened. In April 2012, the principle suspect, Petr Babenko, and an accomplice of Armenian nationality bought 80 pounds of eggs and 5 female spoonbills for US\$4625. The sellers were agents of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.⁸



REPEATED OFFENSE

September 24, 2015

Mexico and U.S.A.

Under the cover of his pet shop, River Wonders, in Hawthorne, California, he was trafficking arapaimas (*Arapaima gigas*, Appendix II), piranhas, and freshwater stingrays. Accused in 2009, he had continued with his unsavory business after being released on bail. He then fled the United States. Agents of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service followed his movements in Europe, Israel, and finally Mexico, from where he was extradited this September. He has now returned to the country. He risks 20 years in prison. Arapaimas, also known as pirarucu, are the largest freshwater fish in the world. The adults can exceed lengths of 3 meters and weight more than 200 kg. They live in the Amazon basin.⁹



On The Trail #10. Robin des Bois/Robin Hood

ASIA

REPEATED OFFENSE

July 3, 2015

Larantuka, Province of small islands in the eastern Sunda, Indonesia

Seizure of 290 (15 kg) Manta Ray gills (*Manta* spp., Appendix II), one arrest. The suspect also admitted being in possession of 100 kg of cartilage and 400 kg of skin. In 2014 he had delivered 50 kg of gills, 200 kg of skin and 1.4 t of cartilage for export to a dealer in Surabaya.¹⁰

August 6th, 2015

Yangjiang, Guangdong Province, China

Cutting up of a still live whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*, Appendix II). Uses: meat, cosmetics, food supplements, leather goods. Unit value of a carcass: US\$30,000. See "On the Trail" 6 p. 6.¹¹



Hong Kong International Airport

August 10, 2015

In a transshipment express cargo, customs spot on X-ray a suspicious "sample" package of cornflakes arriving from Mexico via the USA and find 3 totoaba swim bladders (*Totoaba macdonaldi*, Appendix I), 635 grams, estimated value HK\$300,000 (US\$38,709).¹²

Marine Mammals

AMERICA

July 2015

Chile

A South American sea lion (*Otaria flavescens*) was tortured to death by the employees of a salmon farm.¹



ASIA

August 20, 2015
Hong Kong, China

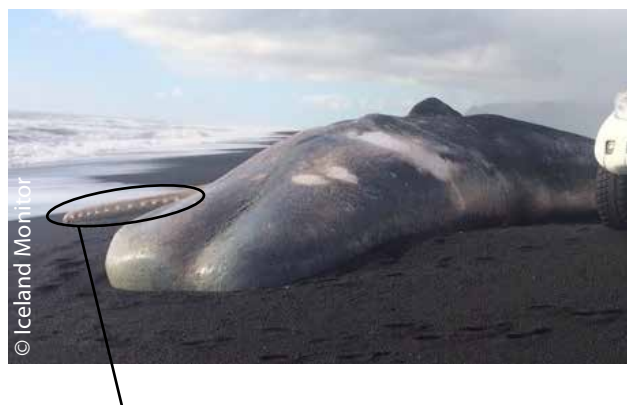
The "759 store" was selling whale meat imported from Japan as "Red whale meat". Of Icelandic or even Norwegian origin? Norwegian meat is considered toxic in Japan due to its excess levels of pesticides (see "On the Trail" n° 8 p. 7). Has it been destroyed or exported? ²



EUROPE

September 21, 2015
Skogar, Rangárþing eystra Municipality, Southern Region, Iceland

Discovery of an adult sperm whale carcass (*Physeter macrocephalus*, Appendix I) length of 10 to 12 m. A few hours later, the lower jaw with more than 40 ivory teeth was missing. The waterfront farmer allegedly removed it in accordance with Icelandic customs. "Hvalreki" (beached whale) still stands today in Iceland for "good fortune". In 2012, another sperm whale beaching was followed by amputation of her ivory-filled jaw by an unidentified poacher. Between 1990 and 2011, 132 sperm whale beachings were recorded on UK coasts. A whale was recently beached on the south of the island of Taiwan: the autopsy found a heap of plastic bags and fishing nets in her stomach. ³



The ivory carrying jaw has been torn out.

Marine Turtles

Marine turtles (Families Cheloniidae and Dermochelyidae) are listed under CITES Appendix I, including Ridley Sea Turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), Hawksbill sea turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), Kemp's Ridley turtles (*Lepidochelys kempii*) and loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*).

AFRICA

August 7, 2015
Cotonou, Benin

3 arrests for the possession, transport, and sale of 15 Ridley sea turtles. ¹

August 2015
Watamu, Kilifi County, Kenya

Poaching of 25 marine turtles, including 8 adult green sea turtles, and one hawksbill sea turtle. ²



August 22, 2015
Baguida, Maritime Region, Togo

Confiscation of 4 marine turtle shells and arrest of 2 fishermen. ³



August 25, 2015
Buea, Southwest Region, Cameroon

Sentencing of a Beninese man to 2 years imprisonment and payment of 6 million CFA Francs (US\$10,306) in damages for the slaughter of marine turtles and the possession of shells. He was arrested in Idenau on April 28, 2015 with 9 shells. ⁴





The trafficker with his accomplice.

September 2 and 12, 2015
Ouidah, Atlantique Department, Benin and Grand Popo, Mono Department, Benin
 Seizures of 14 and 26 Ridley tortoise shells. 4 arrested including one woman.⁵



The 14 marine turtles are swimming in the police station's yard.

AMERICA

July 2015
Puerto Moín, Puerto Limon Province, Costa Rica
 A Hawksbill turtle chopped into many pieces was found in a car. 5 people detained.⁶

July 11, 2015
Los Morillos Beach, Nature Reserve Efrain Archilla Diez, Humacao, Puerto Rico State, United States of America

At dawn, a patrol discovered the carcass of an adult hawksbill turtle. Poached just before spawning. 52 nests recorded on the Reserve's beaches. Alert Number: 787-724-5700.⁷

91 cm in length, 81 cm in width. Only a few eggs are remaining.



July 18th, 2015
Collier County, State of Florida, United States of America

Seizure of parts of marine turtles, 15 fillets of goliath grouper (*Epinephelus itajara*) and 205 red grouper (*Epinephelus morio*). 4 arrests, seizure of two boats. To alert the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) call the hotline 888-404-3922.⁸



July 2015
Moín, Limón Province, Costa Rica
 Rescue of 6 green turtles.⁹



Tied up and overturned. 120 to 150 kg each. 3 have been put back into the sea. 3 other were harpooned and wounded. They are under observation.

July 2015
Fleming Beach, Santa Cruz canton, Guanacaste Province, Costa Rica

After dropping off the tourists on the beach, they decided to steal 165 Kemp's Ridley turtle eggs. A Nicaraguan, the ship's captain, and a Costa Rican crew member were arrested.¹⁰



July 2015

Catagena, Bolivar department, Colombia

Informed on by shopkeepers, a woman was arrested with 40 kg of hawksbill turtles.¹¹

August 5, 2015

Tortuguero National Park, Costa Rica

3 fishermen caught red handed capturing 3 green turtles. Injured by handmade harpoons, they were able to be transferred to an animal care center.¹²

August 10, 2015

Moín, Province of Puerto Limon, Costa Rica

Rescue of a green turtle. She was tied up and overturned on the beach.¹³

Early August 2015

Salina Cruz, Oaxaca, Mexico

Confiscation of 2000 eggs and arrest of a 43-year-old woman. Since the beginning of the egg-laying season and the "arribadas" (arrival of the turtles), more than 10,000 eggs have been stolen from the beaches. The eggs are easy prey for those who want to make a quick peso.¹⁴



August 2015

Compostela, Nayarit, Mexico

372 eggs seized. 7 poachers arrested.¹⁵

REPEATED OFFENSE

August 28, 2015

Brunswick, State of Georgia, United States of America

Appearance of a 61 year-old man for the possession of 84 loggerhead sea turtle eggs. He had already been sentenced in 2013 to 6 months in prison and 2 years probation for smuggling 156 eggs. The beaches of Sapelo Island are his favorite looting ground.¹⁶



August 2015

Tonosi, Los Santos Province, Panama

A few miles from the sea, the gang leader was intercepted in his car. He was transporting 500 sea turtle eggs.¹⁷



August 2015

Beaches of the State of Nayarit, Mexico

Seizure of 472 olive Ridley eggs. 115 of these eggs had been stolen on the beach while the turtle was laying and 87 had been abandoned in a backpack by a 17 year-old young man.¹⁸

August 2015

Santa Rosalia, Baja California Sur State, Mexico

Seizure of 390 kg of loggerhead turtle meat bound for Tijuana about 1000 km away. The butcher was arrested; he tried to "buy" the police with meat.¹⁹

September 5, 2015

Ostional Wildlife Refuge, Costa Rica

The year isn't over and yet the "Worst Tourist Prize" already goes to Costa Rica. A Facebook invitation to witness the egg laying of olive Ridley sea turtles on a beach at the Ostional nature reserve had been sent out. The meeting turned into a nightmare. The tourists invaded the beach, blocking the progress of the turtles and placing their children on the turtles' shells. What lovely family photos! The eggs were played with or destroyed. Many turtles, terrified, made a U-turn towards the sea before laying. They did not expect this reception. Typically, the beach is difficult to access due to upstream river flooding. This year, a lack of rain made the 7m-long beach vulnerable to human intrusion. Several tourist agencies are said to have contributed to this catastrophe.²⁰



July 24, 2015

Cayman Islands, Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom, UK

Discovery at sea of a dead green turtle. A front fin was entangled in a copper wire. She had been rescued from a first poaching attempt in June.²⁸

September 2015

Santiago Astata, Oaxaca, Mexico

A strange taxi driver and some strange passengers. The car attempted to flee when police approached. They discovered 4,000 turtle eggs on board.²¹



September 2015

Tonala, Jalisco, Mexico

61 olive Ridley sea turtle eggs would have disappeared if the police hadn't arrived in time. As a matter of fact, 2 thoughtless people were stealing from among the nests at egg-laying time.²²

September 2015

Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico

Seizure of 815 olive Ridley sea turtle eggs from several beaches.²³



September 2015

Tecomán, Colima, Mexico

Seizure of 436 olive Ridley Turtle eggs. 2 arrests.²⁴

September 2015

Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico

Seizure of 212 sea turtle eggs found in backpacks.²⁵

ASIA

July 2, 2015

Nha Trang Khanh Hoa Province, Vietnam

Freed. The turtle had been displayed in a bar.²⁶

July 24, 2015

Ha Long Bay, Vietnam

Seizure and release of a sea turtle kept in an enclosure in a floating village.²⁷



August 18th, 2015

Sandakan, Sabah County, Malaysia

Seizure of 2,600 turtle eggs worth RM 3,120 (US\$745). 2 men fled on a speedboat. They were busy unloading the "goods" on a floating gas station. Probable origin of the eggs: the Philippines.²⁹



Late August 2015

Vietnam

Rescue of a green turtle.³⁰



September 8, 2015

Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India

Seizure of 5 green turtle shells, shell fragments and 52 pangolin scales. Arrest of a 40 year old woman: Mrs Chinnakaruppi is a mastermind of wildlife trafficking.³¹

September 31, 2015

Ho-Chi-Minh City, Vietnam

Seizure of 2 green turtles at the home of an online wild animal trafficker.³²

EUROPE

August 12, 2015

Le Grau-du-Roi, Languedoc-Roussillon Region, France

Seizure on the quayside of a non-banded Bluefin Tuna, on the landing of a fishing boat's catch. The tuna was moved to a safe place, but it was stolen during the night. The thieves were caught on film. The gendarmes arrived at their home, but they did not find the tuna but instead a loggerhead sea turtle in a freezer, seemingly destined to be stuffed.³⁴

OCEANIA

July 29, 2015

Koné, Nouvelle-Calédonie, France

Sentencing for the poaching, handling, and trafficking of marine turtles (see "On the Trail" n°9 p 10). The fisherman received a fine of 300,000 Pacific francs (US\$2816). The receiver and the three buyers of the meat must pay a fine of 50,000 francs (US\$469). The maximum fine would have been 1,050,000 francs (US\$9858). In this case, the turtle meat was being sold for 1000 Pacific francs per kilo (US\$9.4/kg).³³



Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles

AFRICA

July 2015

Kampala, Kampala District, Uganda

Sentenced to 15 months in prison for trafficking 31 tortoises (*Testudinidae* spp., Appendix I or II).¹

August 2015

Lomé, Maritime Region, Togo

Seizure of 26 turtles. 2 arrests.²



September 28, 2015

International Airport of Antananarivo, Madagascar

Seizure of 771 radiated tortoise babies (*Astrochelys radiata*, Appendix I) and angonoka tortoise babies (*Astrochelys yniphora*, Appendix I) hidden in socks between diapers bound for Mauritius and final destination Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. About twenty were already dead. TSA (Turtle Survival Alliance) was called in to help to care for the baby tortoises and possibly reintroduce them in a protected natural environment. TSA is an organization founded in the United States which has programs in Belize, Colombia, Madagascar, Senegal and Asia.³



AMERICA

July 2015

Catanduva, Sao Paulo, Brazil

At 82 years old, he was raising tortoises in his home: 8 adult tortoises, 4 young, and 4 eggs were confiscated. Fine of US\$2000.⁴



REPEATED OFFENSE

August 5, 2015

New Orleans, Louisiana, United States of America

35-year-old Keith Cantore was sentenced to spend 41 months in prison followed by 3 years on parole and to pay the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service US\$41,000 "restitution" corresponding to the profits from his trafficking. He was charged in June for putting 100 wood turtles (*Glyptemys insculpta*, Appendix II) and alligator snapping turtles (*Macrochelys temminckii*, Appendix III), protected by the law in his native Illinois, up for sale. He was released on a bail for US\$75,000 and had used his free time to carry on in the same way. He was thwarted thanks to joint investigations by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the inspectors of the U.S. Postal Service. This already old campaigner for trafficked turtles had run foul of the law in 2005 for displaying 300 specimens under the regulatory size at a reptile show in Illinois.⁵



August 2015

Virua National Park, Roraima, Brazil

The 66 rescued South American river turtles (*Podocnemis expansa*, Appendix II) were found in bags on their way to be sold 100 km further on. The offenders fled.⁶



August 2015

Cesarea, State of Tocantins, Brazil

Seizure of 5 kg of yellow spotted river turtles (*Podocnemis unifilis*, Appendix II), 50 turtles and more than 800 meters of fishing lines. A fine of 105,000 reais (US\$25,000) was imposed on the 2 traffickers. The turtles are back home.⁷



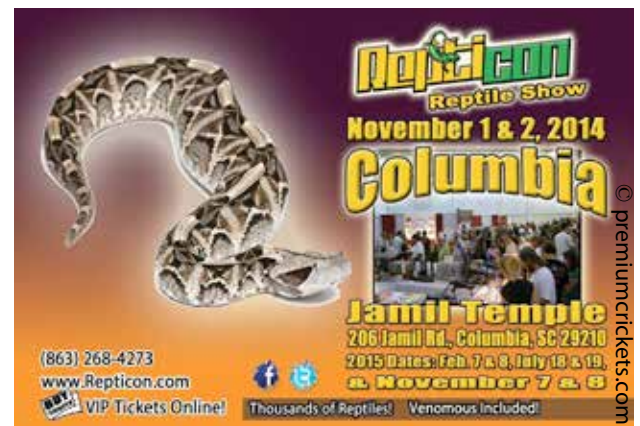
September 22, 2015

State of Florida, United States of America

Sentencing of 2 men for the trafficking of spotted turtles (*Clemmys guttata*, Appendix II).

Steven Baker, 35, was sentenced to 3 years probation. In 2012, he offered 35 spotted turtles for a wholesale price of US\$2,910 to a Florida Fish and Wildlife Service agent who presented himself as a buyer. The retail price of each spotted turtle is US\$541. The southeastern US is considered a "Turtle Priority Area". A search at Baker's home led to the seizure of a wide range of revolvers and other guns. He had already been sentenced for aggravated burglary and theft.

Ray Roberson, 68, meanwhile, had declared to another agent of the Fish and Wildlife Service in connection with the Columbia Repticon Reptile Show that he had 119 spotted turtles for sale. In March and July 2013, he delivered 47 to his false customer for the wholesale price of US\$4,920. He was sentenced to a term equivalent to the time already served in prison.⁸



ASIA

July 3, 2015

North 24 Paraganas district, West Bengal, India

Seizure on the Bangladesh border of 105 turtles, without a doubt black pond turtles (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*, Appendix I). The 2 smugglers abandoned the bags on the spot when the 152nd battalion stepped in. See "On the Trail" n°8 p. 13 and 14.⁹

July 3 2015

Dhaka, Bangladesh

Seizure of 300 turtles originally from India from a van. 4 arrests.¹⁰

July 3, 2015

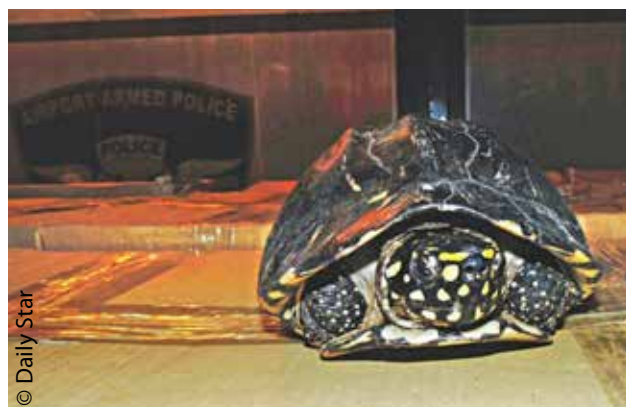
Bandaranaike International Airport, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Seizure of 125 sea turtles bound for Malaysia. One arrest.¹¹

July 5, 2015

Shah Jalal International Airport in Dhaka, Bangladesh

The vegetables were black pond turtles (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*, Appendix I), more than 400, divided between 53 plastic boxes. A 25 year old man was arrested. The shipper was thought to be Mamun International. A company of this name specialized in manufacturing plastic products is based in Nagpur, Maharashtra. The flow of black pond turtles between India and Bangladesh is well known.¹²



July 7, 2015

Kolkata, State of West Bengal, India

Seizure of 2 Indian softshell turtles (*Nilssonia gangetica*, Appendix I).¹³

July 9, 2015

Singapore Changi Airport, Singapore

Seizure of 206 black pond turtles (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*, Appendix I) coming from Dhaka, Bangladesh and bound for Surabaya in Indonesia. The turtles were also packed in baby diapers and clothes. 27 of them died. 2 men of Russian nationality were arrested and sentenced to 15 months in prison. Total value of the seizure: S\$90,000 (US\$63,007).¹⁴



July 12, 2015

Shah Jalal airport, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Seizure of 557 black pond turtles (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*, Appendix I), divided among 5 bags and bound for Vietnam. The carriers of the bags fled.¹⁵



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July 16, 2015

Province of Da Nang, Vietnam

Seizure of 20 sea turtles for sale at a market.¹⁶



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July 17, 2015

Taipei, Taiwan

Seizure of a radiated tortoise (*Astrochelys radiata*, Appendix I) estimated at NT\$300,000 (US\$9500), 11 Chinese three-keeled pond turtles (*Mauremys reevesii*, Appendix III), 4 yellow-margined box turtles (*Cuora flavomarginata*, Appendix II) and a yellow pond turtle (*Mauremys mutica*, Appendix II) from a reptile "lover" appearing on Facebook.¹⁷

2, 8 and 25 July 2015

Chennai International Airport, State of Tamil Nadu, India

3 seizures of Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix II) bound for Malaysia : 60, 41 and 50 specimens, making 151 in total. 3 arrests. On the international market, US\$390 per unit.¹⁸

Late July 2015

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Seizure of 22 yellow-headed temple turtles (*Heosemys annandalii*, Appendix II). One arrest. Transfer of turtles to Cu Chi Wildlife Refuge.¹⁹

July 29, 2015

Benapole, Khulna Division, Bangladesh. Border town with India

Seizure of 710 Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix II), divided into 10 bags, coming from West Bengal. Value: 10 lakh Rs (US\$15,614).²⁰

1st August 2015

Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

Seizure of 15 black pond turtles (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*, Appendix I) coming from Northern and Eastern India bound for South Asian countries. Value per unit: US\$60.²¹

Beginning of August 2015

Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport, Guangdong Province, China

Seizure of 298 radiated tortoises (*Astrochelys radiata*, Appendix I). Total value: US\$100,000.²²



August 6th, 2015

Kolkata, India

Seizure of 44 Indian tent turtles (*Pangshura tentoria*, Appendix II), 27 Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix II), a crowned river turtle (*Hardella thurjii*, Appendix II) and 4 black pond turtles (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*, Appendix I). 2 arrests.²³

Beginning of August 2015

Chennai International Airport, State of Tamil Nadu, India

Seizure of 138 black pond turtles (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*, Appendix I) bound for Kuala Lumpur. One man arrested. He is a street vendor of Indian bread.²⁴

August 10, 2015

Cochin International Airport, Kerala, India

Seizure of 199 Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix II). One arrest.²⁵

Hong Kong International Airport, China

Seizure of 95 non specified turtles divided into 5 postal parcels from Laos via Narita, Japan, and registered as second hand books. Estimated value : US\$ 95,000.^{25 bis}



August 12, 2015

Nagpur, Maharashtra, India

Seizure of 15 Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix II), 5 black pond turtles (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*, Appendix I) and 13 young turtles of unspecified species in a bus coming from Rajnandgaon in Chhattisgarh State (200 km).²⁶

August 12th, 2015

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Seizure of 10 Malayan snail-eating turtles (*Malayemys macrocephala*, Appendix II). The street vendor wanted since 2007 was arrested outside a pagoda.²⁷



August 13, 2015

Kurla, Mumbai, India

Seizure of 100 Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*) worth Rs35,000 (US\$529,000). Custody of 2 men, 19 and 29 years old. They were selling the tortoises near a temple.²⁸



Mid-August 2015

Cochin International Airport, Kerala, India

Seizure of 200 Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix II) bound for Malaysia. One arrest. Overall value on the black market: US\$130,000.²⁹

Mid-August 2015

Kempe Gowda International Airport, Bangalore, Karnataka, India

Seizure of 59 Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix II) and 20 black pond turtles (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*, Appendix I) bound for Kuala Lumpur on a Malaysian Airlines flight. The 2 smugglers from Chennai were arrested. Round-trip air tickets were paid for by the network head. They had been promised a bonus of Rs10,000 (US\$156).³⁰



Late August 2015

Guangxi Region, China

Seizure of 620 living turtles, including Indochinese box turtles (*Cuora galbinifrons*, Appendix II) and elongated tortoises (*Indotestudo elongata*, Appendix II) from a lorry coming from Vietnam and heading for Guangdong Province. The driver was nervous, he was supposed to be transporting frozen seafood.³¹

August 2015

Sandakan, Sabah, Malaysia

An Asiatic softshell turtle (*Amyda cartilaginea*, Appendix II) of 15kg was set free in the Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary. Serene Voo Nyuk Wei had bought the turtle for RM700 (US\$167) at a tamu, a local market, in order to save it. "I knew that buying the animal would encourage the trade, but I could not face up to the fact that this poor turtle was going to end up in someone's soup."³²

Beginning of September 2015

Chennai International Airport, State of Tamil Nadu, India

Seizure of 276 Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix II). One arrest.³³

September 11, 2015

Dhaka, Bangladesh

Seizure of 57 turtles (160 kg) including Indian softshell turtle (*Nilssonina gangetica*, Appendix I), peacock softshell turtles (*Nilssonina hurum*, Appendix I) and Indian roofed turtles (*Pangshura tecta*, Appendix I). 3 sentences of 3 to 9 months imprisonment.³⁴



© Wildlife Crime Control Unit of the forest department

September 17, 2015

Dhaka, Bangladesh

Seizure of 4200 turtles including 1800 tricarinate hill turtles (*Melanochelys tricarinata*, Appendix I), 1600 Indian pond turtles (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*, Appendix I), 500 Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix II) and 300 Indian roofed turtles (*Pangshura tecta*, Appendix I) imported from India. A man, Hafiz, was sentenced to one year in prison and a fine of TK50,000 (US\$643).³⁵



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Melanochelys tricarinata

September 17, 2015

Udham Singh Nagar District, State of Uttarakhand, India

Seizure of 122 soft-shell turtles (Trionychidae family, Appendix I or II) in a car. 79 alive and 43 dead. The driver fled.³⁶

September 19, 2015

Thakurnagar, West Bengal, India

Seizure at a market of 7 Indian softshell turtles (*Nilssonina gangetica*, Appendix I), of which 4 were dead, 15 Indian flapshell turtles (*Lissemys punctata*, Appendix II), of which 3 were dead, and 6 Indian black turtles (*Melanochelys trijuga*, Appendix II).³⁷

September 20, 2015

Border between Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, Continental China, and Hong Kong

Seizure of 13 boxes containing 282 turtles including Indian pond turtles (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*, Appendix I) bound for Hong Kong.³⁸



September 28, 2015

Hanoi, Vietnam

Seizure of 100 Indochinese box turtles (*Cuora galbinifrons*, Appendix II) divided amongst 4 bags. 2 women arrested near a bus stop. A third, the suspected supplier, was arrested in Ha Tinh Province.³⁹

September 29, 2015

Madurai International Airport, State of Tamil Nadu, India

Seizure of 247 Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix II) aged 3 to 9 months. They were bound for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on a flight via Sri Lanka. One arrest. Value of seizure: RS6,000,000 (US\$90,686). The turtle smuggler had already been incriminated in the smuggling of Ketamine, a molecule used as a general anaesthetic in human medicine and veterinary medicine and also used for its narcotic properties.⁴⁰



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EUROPE

July 2015

Malaga, Malaga Province, Spain

Abandonment of 40 young Greek tortoises (*Testudo graeca*, Appendix II) on a highway. The Guardia Civil has undertaken a campaign to verify certificates of origin. They were without a doubt what drove the owner to get rid of these small reptiles, which had become incriminating.⁴¹

September 1, 2015

Genoa, Liguria region, Italy

Seizure of 39 Greek tortoises (*Testudo graeca*, Appendix II) packaged and tied up in two bags also containing green chilies, onboard a vehicle disembarking from a car ferry from Tunisia. The driver, a Tunisian living in France, was interrogated.⁴²



Beginning of September 2015

Caserte, Campania Region, Italy

Seizure of 3 tortoises and arrest of a Napolitan who was illegally selling Hermann's tortoises (*Testudo hermanni*, Appendix II), Greek tortoises (*Testudo graeca*, Appendix II), and crossbreeds.⁴³

Late September 2015

Crispiano, Puglia, Italy

Seizure of 15 Hermann's tortoises (*Testudo hermanni*, Appendix II) between 2 and 15 years of age in a private garden.⁴⁴



© Comando Regionale CFS - Puglia



Marek Velechovsky

Testudo hermanni

Snakes

AMERICA

Early August 2015

New York, United States of America

Gerard Kruse, resident of Ovideo, Florida, captured the snakes in New Jersey, California, and Oregon. The 42-year-old social worker sent his catches by post. He had received a Western diamondback rattlesnake from Texas stashed in a coffee can by the same medium. He appeared before a New York court and plead guilty to the trafficking of 59 snakes.¹



ASIA

July 17, 2015

Linyi, Shandong Province, China

Seizure of 961 Indian python skins (*Python molurus*, Appendix I or II). Value: 8 million yuan (US\$1,288,300). 2 arrests. In addition to fashion accessories python skin is used to craft erhus, traditional musical instruments.²



Late July 2015

Yueyang, Hunan Province, China

Seizure of Mangshan pit vipers (*Trimeresurus mangshanensis*, Appendix II). 4 arrests. These vipers number no more than a few hundred in the wild, less than the giant panda. They are collected by some members of the Yao community. The vipers and the Yao are said to be the progeny of Fuxi and Nuwa, two divinities. One pit viper: 1 million yuans (US\$161,000).³



August 14, 2015

Xiamen International Airport, Fujian Province, China

Seizure of 182 reticulated python (*Python reticulatus*, Appendix II) gall bladders from a passenger's luggage.⁴

August 19, 2015

Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India

Seizure of 64 snakes, mostly cobras (Elapidae family) from snake charmers at Nag Panchami, the day of snake worship (see "On the Trail" n°6 p. 21). The cobras had had their fangs removed and their mouths sewn shut. They were captured from Van Vihar National Park.⁵

September 1, 2015

Jalpaiguri, West Bengal, India

Seizure of 4l of cobra venom bound for China, presumed to have a theoretical value of 10 crore RS (US\$1,500,000). Two people arrested. Once again the extraction of cobra venom in France is brought to mind. See "On the Trail" n°9 p. 17 and "On the Trail" n°3 p.15.⁶

OCEANIA

September 1th, 2015

Warragamba, New South Wales, Australia

Seizure of 2 albino carpet pythons (*Morelia spilota*, Appendix II), 2 Ramsay's pythons (*Aspidites ramsayi*, Appendix II) and 91 cannabis plants. 35 year-old man arrested.⁷



Aspidites ramsayi

Sauria

AMERICA

REPEATED OFFENSE

September 8, 2015

Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz Island, Galápagos Province, Ecuador

The nerve of international trafficker Gustavo Eduardo, of Mexican Nationality, has no limit. Already sentenced to 4 months imprisonment in New Zealand in 2010, he wanted to leave the island for Uganda with 9 marine Iguanas (*Amblyrhynchus cristatus*, Appendix II), the only species of the genus *Amblyrhynchus*, and 2 young Galapagos land iguanas (*Conolophus subcristatus*, Appendix II). The reptiles were tied up in a suitcase. The criminal had benefitted from the help of other "tourists."¹



Amblyrhynchus cristatus

ASIA

End of July 2015

Francisco Bangoy International Airport, Davao Region, Philippines

Seizure in a JRS EXPRESS package of 2 young mangrove monitor lizards (*Varanus indicus*, Appendix II) alive and bound for Caloocan (1531 km, 1:40 flight).²



Beginning of August 2015

Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China

Seizure of 29 lizards (Family *Varanidae* *Varanus* spp., Appendix I or II) on the road from Fangchenggang to Nanning (144 km).³



September 4th, 2015

District Thatta, Sindh Province, Pakistan

Seizure of 150 dabb lizards (genus *Saara*, Appendix II). 6 arrests. They had been persecuting the lizards for 8 years in arid land, running them out of their hideouts with fire and smoke, mutilating them to prevent escape, and selling each one for Rs1000-1500 (US\$9-14) to Karachi dealers.⁴

EUROPE

September 20, 2015

Verona, Veneto Region, Italy

Rescue of a green iguana (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II) abandoned in a dumpster. A little later he would have been crushed by the trash compactor. The animal was entrusted to the "Parco Natura Viva" zoo in Bussolengo.⁵



Crocodilians

AMERICA

July 2015

Prince George County, Maryland, United States of America

Seizure of a 61 cm alligator (*Alligatoridae* spp. Appendix I or II) at the home of a private individual.¹



July 6, 2015

Orange, Texas, United States of America

An American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II) has been given the death sentence. As a fast food restaurant on 1802 Mississippi Street was closing up for the night, Tommie Woodward decided to show off and jump into the bayou despite the warning signs indicating the presence of alligators and several waiters' warnings. He would not resurface alive. In Texas, this would be the first time a man had been fatally attacked by an alligator in almost 2 centuries. 4 days later, another client of the restaurant, named "Bear," climbed onto a small boat, and, using some chicken as bait, attracted a 3m30-long alligator and shot it in the head with a rifle. "He had to go," declared Bear tersely, "That's what happens when you kill someone." He faces a fine of US\$500.²



September 2015

Santa Ana, Magdalena, Colombia

Seizure of 750 spectacled caimans (*Caiman crocodilus*, Appendix II). At the beginning of the inquiry, the 2 traffickers had been in possession of 22 caimans and 6 skins.³

ASIA

August 25, 2015

Qingdao Liuting International Airport, Shandong Province, China

Seizure upon arrival of a checked package containing a stuffed crocodile (*Crocodylidae* spp., Appendix I or II), measuring 1.6 m long and weighing 4.1 kg.⁴



Various Reptile Species

AFRICA

July 2015

Uganda

2 traffickers were selling 7 pieces of python skin (*Pythonidae* spp., Appendix I or II) and 3 monitor lizards skins (*Varanidae* family). They were taken to the police station. The district mayor and councillors tried to buy their release.¹

EUROPE

July 2015

Brenta River, Venice, Italy

Seizure of 80 kg of tegu (*Tupinambis* spp., Appendix II) and monitor lizard (*Varanus* spp., Appendix I or II) leather, 129 python skins (*Pythonidae* spp., Appendix I or II), and a crocodile skin *Crocodylidae* spp., Appendix I or II) from two companies. Tegus are South American lizards. They are carnivores and frugivores and they play an important role in ecosystems by dispersing grains.²



OCEANIA

Mid-September 2015

Western Australia

Following "On the Trail" n°8 p. 106



4 Eastern Europe traffickers tried in vain to take their cargo of pygmy pythons (*Antaresia perthensis*, Appendix II), skinks (*Scincidae* family), geckos and frogs out of Australia. 33 animals were found dead at the airport. They were sentenced to 12 months imprisonment. Depending on their behavior, they could get out earlier. They have been in jail for 7 months.³



Insectes et arachnides

EUROPE

September 18 and 22, 2015

Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport, France

Seizure of 119 *Pandinus dictator* scorpions (*Pandinus dictator*, Appendix II) coming from Cameroon and destined for a trafficker of exotic pets in the United States. They were declared as samples for use in medical research. The first seizure concerned 69 scorpions hidden under 19 plastic boxes containing millipedes, a non-protected species. The second seizure concerned 46 scorpions divided amongst 35 plastic cups. Each specimen sells for between US\$56 and US\$112 in the American market.¹



Birds



AFRICA

Beginning of September 2015 Entebbe, Kampala District, Uganda

Seizure of 6 African gray parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*, Appendix II) in very poor condition. 2 arrests.¹

September 18, 2015 Dakar, Dakar Region, Senegal

Seizure of 109 Timneh African grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus Timneh*, Appendix II), 600 ring-necked parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*), 80 Senegal parrots (*Poicephalus senegalus*, Appendix II), and false CITES export permits from Mali. 6 people arrested, including Aziz Sall, an international bird trafficker. The long inquiry has unmasked the existence of an inter-African criminal organization. All the links in the chain hid their illegal activity behind a legal activity. Aziz Sall was a famous bird breeder. The bird catchers caught their birds in the West African forests and the savanna. The birds of illegal origin were mixed with birds that had been bred or listed as farmed birds before being shipped by cargo plane to intercontinental destinations: Libya, Spain, the UK, Turkey, Jordan, Hong Kong, Singapore and the U.S.A...²



AMERICA

Beginning of July 2015 Jocotepec, Jalisco State, Mexico

The case began on social networks: the restaurant would hold wild birds without permission. After verification, the PROFEPA confiscated 5 military macaws (*Ara militaris*, Appendix I), 2 orange-fronted conures (*Aratinga canicularis*, Appendix II), 2 keel-billed toucans (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*, Appendix II), 2 monk parakeets (*Myiopsitta monachus*, Appendix II) and a lilac-crowned amazon (*Amazona finschi*, Appendix I).³

Mid-July 2015 Punta Perula, Jalisco, Mexico

Confiscation of 6 lilac-crowned Amazons (*Amazona finschi*, Appendix I), one orange-fronted conure (*Aratinga canicularis*, Appendix II). Held in a cage 1.80 meters high and 1.20 meters wide.⁴

Mid-July 2015 Tototlán, Jalisco, Mexico

Confiscation of 3 Northern crested caracaras (*Caracara cheriway*, Appendix II), one Harris hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*, Appendix II) and a red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*, Appendix II) from a beauty salon.⁵

End of July 2015 La Paz, Department of La Paz, Bolivia

Seizure of 129 headdresses in sewing workshops working for the University of San Andrés annual "Entrada Folclórica" parade. Each headdress is composed of 24 Darwin's rhea feathers (*Pterocnemia pennata*, Appendix I) with a total of 3096 feathers. The offenders, dancers and seamstresses, may get 8 years imprisonment.⁶



July 2015 Near Barro Negro, Jujuy Province, Argentina

Roadside check on Ruta 34. Seizure of 15 conures (*Myiopsitta spp.*, Appendix II), 4 scaly-headed parrot (*Pionus maximiliani*, Appendix II) and a blue-fronted amazon (*Amazona aestiva*, Appendix II) transported in crates and cages. They were very thirsty and their wings were cut.⁷

July 2015

Chiclayo, Lambayeque Region, Peru

In small boxes, 24 blue-fronted amazons (*Amazona aestiva*, Appendix II), made to sleep through force-feeding, were discovered on a bus. The trafficker had exchanged them for another species with one of his "colleagues".⁸

State of Tabasco, Mexico

August 2015

2 macaws (*Psittacidae* spp., Appendix I or II) confiscated.⁹

August 2015

Tuluá, Valle del Cauca Department, Colombia

Seizure of an orange-winged amazon (*Amazona amazonica*, Appendix II) and examination of a young 24-year-old woman.¹⁰

August 3, 2015

Goitacazes, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

A man illegally raised 24 birds including a red-browed amazon (*Amazona rhodocorytha*, Appendix I). 7 empty cages were found at the site. "I didn't know that it was a crime."¹¹

August 5, 2015

Ururau, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

2 blue-and-yellow macaws (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II) and 2 toco toucans (*Ramphastos toco*, Appendix II) in cages at the home of a private individual. US\$900 per specimen on the black market.¹²



August 17, 2015

Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada

A woman was fined C\$ 1000 for the purchase (C\$ 250) of a bald eagle wing (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, Appendix II). As a descendant of the First Nations, she asserted her right to possess one. But to be



in compliance with the rules, she would have had to justify a cultural or religious need in advance. The seller was ordered to pay a fine of C\$7000 (US\$5000) or serve a 45 day prison sentence. He chose the latter option.¹³

August 2015

Caruaru, State of Pernambuco, Brazil

Seizure at a private home of a Scarlet macaw (*Ara Macao*, Appendix I), ill-treated, wings cut off.¹⁴



August 2015

Campos dos Goytacazes, State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Seizure of a blue and yellow macaw (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II) and 3 toucans. The owner was taken to the police station.¹⁵

August 2015

Goytacazes, State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Seizure of 24 birds including a red-browed amazon (*Amazona rhodocorytha*, Appendix I) at the home of a retired senior citizen aged 75 and official report.¹⁶



August 2015

Bosa district of Bogota, Colombia

Seizure from merchants of 41 birds including 14 spectacled parrotlets (*Forpus conspicillatus*, Appendix II), 2 orange-chinned parakeets (*Brotogeris jugularis*, Appendix II) and a yellow-crowned amazon (*Amazona ochrocephala*, Appendix II).¹⁷

September 11, 2015

Seattle, Washington, U.S.A

Sentencing of a 44-year-old man to 111 days imprisonment and 2 years of parole for beating 2 bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, Appendix II) to death. Shane Moses, a member of the Native American Tulalip tribe, was fishing for crabs on December 27, 2013 when he noticed the two wounded bald eagles in the water. He killed them and brought them to a taxidermist in the hopes of making a profit, but was arrested by the Tulalip police.¹⁸



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September 16, 2015
Plummer, Idaho, U.S.A

Conviction for poaching 2 bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, Appendix II), 2 golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*, Appendix II), 2 rough-legged hawks (*Buteo lagopus*, Appendix II), 2 red-tailed hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*, Appendix II), and 2 other unidentified birds of prey. Adrian Q. Brown-Sonder, 24 years of age, was sentenced to 3 years of probation and US\$4000 in damages with the revocation of all hunting permits. Feathers, skulls, and paws were seized at his home. According to Defenders of Wildlife's account, there are only around 5000 nesting pairs of bald eagles in the contiguous United States.¹⁹



FAMILY AFFAIRS
Late September 2015
Santa Rita do Pardo, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil

Seizure of 115 parrot chicks and a red and green macaw (*Ara chloropterus*, Appendix II) from a car. 4 arrested, including 2 teachers, a man and woman aged 35 and 61 years. The 4 people received a total fine of 232, 000 reais (or US\$50,000).²⁰



September 2015
Aparecida de Goiania, Goias, Brazil

300 ill-treated birds, including hyacinth macaws (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*, Appendix I), were found imprisoned in cages. 3 people were arrested.²¹



September 2015
Lucas, Mato Grosso, Brazil

Seizure of 4 blue-fronted Amazons (*Amazona aestiva*, Appendix II). They had also been maltreated. One amazon was in a trafficker's pocket. 2 arrests.²²

ASIA

July 3, 2015
Surabaya, East Java, Indonesia

Seizure of 13 birds of prey, including a Javan hawk-eagle (*Spizaetus bartelsi*, Appendix II), white-bellied sea eagles (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*, Appendix II), and spotted kestrels (*Falco moluccensis*, Appendix

II). One eaglet was sold on Facebook for 750,000 rupiahs (US\$56) and an adult for 5 million rupiah (US\$374). The internet trafficking lasted for 6 months. 4 of the eaglets died after the seizure. One arrest.²³

FAMILY AFFAIRS
July 2015

Cebu, Central Visayas Region, Philippines

Seizure of a common hill myna (*Gracula religiosa*, Appendix II), 28 lovebirds (*Agapornis* spp., Appendix II or not listed in CITES), 2 black-masked lovebirds (*Agapornis personatus*, Appendix II) and 2 tarictic hornbills



Penelopides panini

(*Penelopides panini*, Appendix II) for sale on the street. The sellers, a couple and a friend, were arrested and released on bail for P 8,000 (US\$177) each.²⁴

July 11, 2015

Thalang district, Phuket Province, Thailand

Seizure of one white-bellied sea eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*, Appendix II), 2 parrots (*Psittacidae* spp., Appendix I or II), 14 white-rumped shamas (*Copsychus malabaricus*), 3 white-breasted waterhens (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*), 7 sparrows genus *Orthotomus*, 4 red junglefowls (*Gallus gallus*) and 13 red-whiskered bulbuls (*Pycnonotus jocosus*). 2 arrests.²⁵



Haliaeetus leucogaster

July 30, 2015

Aborlan, Palawan Province, Philippines

Seizure of 5 young blue-naped parrots (*Tanygnathus lucionensis*, Appendix II), 5 common hill mynahs (*Gracula religiosa*, Appendix II) and one porcupine



(*Hystricidae* family). 2 individuals fled with part of their booty.²⁶

August 2015 Pakistan

Legal conflict. Against the notice of the Supreme Court and the Federal government, 3 provinces continue to welcome houbara bustard (*Chlamydotis undulata*, Appendix I) hunters from the Middle East in particular Qataris. Balochistan had issued a permit to hunt 100 bustards between November 2014 and February 2015 for a fee of 10 million rupees or US\$ 94,409. In fact 2100 of these birds are said to have been killed.²⁷

Mid-August 2015 Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary, Philippines

Poaching of a Philippine eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*, Appendix I) with firearms. He had been released only 2 months before, after undergoing treatment for 3 years after having suffered a first poaching attempt. There are no more than 400 couples of these birds, which are endemic to the Philippines, in the wild.²⁸



August 22, 2015 Dera Ismail Khan Road, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, Pakistan

Seizure of 2 houbara bustards (*Chlamydotis undulata*, Appendix I) and 24 grey partridges (*Perdix perdix*), originally from in Balochistan Province and bound for Afghanistan. 2 arrests.²⁹

August 24, 2015 Empress Market, Karachi, Pakistan

Seizure of 2 flamingos (*Phoenicopterus* spp., Appendix II), 20 chukars (*Alectoris chukar*), 8 black partridges (*Melanoperdix niger*), 4 grey partridges (*Perdix perdix*), 18 doves, and 2 monkeys. 2 arrests.³⁰

REPEATED OFFENSE

August 28, 2015 Rajshahi, Bangladesh

Seizure of 500 parrots on a bus. The man, Mafiz, 26 years of age, had obtained the birds in Chapai Nawabganj district and had attempted to bring them to Dhaka (281 km). He was fined 5000 takas (US\$64) and sentenced to 3 months in prison. He had already been arrested in 2014 in possession of 805 birds.³¹

Beginning of September 2015 King Fahd Road, on the border between Saudi Arabia and Bahrain

Seizure by customs officials of 2470 birds in 4 trucks.³²

September 14, 2015 Shymkent Airport, Region of South Kazakhstan Region, Kazakhstan

Seizure of 24 saker falcons (*Falco cherrug*, Appendix II) in 2 suitcases before a flight bound for Dubai. Each raptor is worth US\$ 50,000.³³

September 16, 2015 Ubon Ratchathani province, region of Isan, Thailand

Seizure of 200 red whiskered bulbuls (*Pycnonotus jocosus*, not listed under CITES). 2 men fled.³⁴



September 30, 2015 Madras, Tamil Nadu, India

Seizure of 23 rose-ringed parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*, not listed under CITES) found near a market. Most of them were ill; they have been handed over to the Vandalur Zoo. The seller had been asking for 400 Rs (US\$6) per bird.³⁵

EUROPE

FAMILY AFFAIRS

July 7, 2015 Sainteny, Lower Normandy, France

Seizure of 28 living and 29 dead parrots (*Psittacidae* spp., Appendix I or II), including 3 hyacinth macaws (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*, Appendix I), 2 Buffon's macaws (*Ara ambiguus*, Appendix I), and one red-fronted macaw (*Ara rubrogenys*, Appendix I). The living birds were placed in the Alca Torda refuge in Landes, in south-west France. This seizure, supervised by the ONCFS and the police, followed the September 2014 conviction of a 66-year-old woman and her son-in-law, responsible for the bird farm "les Volières de Sainteny" and the reptile farm "Exotik'a," respectively. Certain specimens could sell for between €500 and 14,000. At the height of its illegal activities, the "les Volières de Sainteny" kept



400 birds. The family specializing in Amazonian birds had been on the radar of both the police and ornithologists for several years. The traffickers were handed 2 unbelievably low fines of €8000 and €2000. They were also ordered to pay €7820 to the local NGO Manche Nature.³⁶



**End of July 2015
Kapitan Andreevo, Haskovo Oblast, Bulgaria. Border post.**

Seizure of 10 gray parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*, Appendix II) coming from Turkey. Arrest of the Bulgarian driver.³⁷

**Mid-August 2015
Gozo, Malta**

Seizure of 52 goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*) fitted with false identification rings.³⁸

**August 27, 2015
Morcenx, Aquitaine, France**

The LPO (League for the Protection of Birds) continues its fight against the poaching of ortolan buntings and Eurasian skylarks. They are starting a wide-reaching campaign entitled: "Let's put an end to the illegal massacre of domestic birds." Around thirty matoles and ortolan buntings used as call-birds have been located (see "On the Trail" n° 6 p 34 and n°7 p 28). Activists from CABS (Committee against Bird Slaughter), who themselves fight legally against the trapping of ortolan buntings and other passerine birds in Southwest France by locating traps and matoles and bringing them to the attention of the law, are regularly pestered, taken to task, and harassed by hunters. At the beginning of the year, one of them was given a suspended sentence of 45 days imprisonment with a €900 fine for spraying a CABS activist with tear gas.³⁹



**Late August 2015
Motorway checkpoint in Weil-am-Rhein, Baden-Wurtemberg, Germany.**

Seizure of a mother goldfinch and 6 goldfinch chicks (genus *Carduelis*), all without rings, from the van of two Dutchmen returning from Tunisia. The small cage was hidden by a sheet and empty cages were placed around it. The two men are being prosecuted.⁴⁰

**Beginning of September 2015
Riehen Customs, Canton of Basel, Switzerland**

Seizure of 13 palmipeds including 2 nene geese

(*Branta sandvicensis*, Appendix I) and arrest of a trafficker.

The nenes are native to the islands of Hawaii and live naturally on the volcano slopes. They are also fond of golf courses. They almost became extinct in 1950 because of hunting and the introduction of invasive species. They were saved from extinction by protected breeding farms. The species remains very vulnerable.

All the birds had been bought in Germany.⁴¹



**September 7, 2015
Bergen Airport, Norway**

Seizure of 57 plastic bags containing 284 fishing flies with grey junglefowl (*Gallus sonneratii*, Appendix II) feathers coming from Kenya via Dubai. The species only lives in south and west India. Hunting is forbidden, but poaching continues. Male neck feathers are said to have been transported to factories in Kenya in order to be turned into fishing flies. According to CITES statistics, trafficking is declining and Switzerland has even proposed to stop listing Galliformes in Appendix II.⁴²



**September 18, 2015
Rubtsovsk, Altai Krai, Russia**

14 peregrine falcons seized by customs officials on a train from Novosibirsk to Kazakhstan. The birds of prey had been tied up. Frozen bottles of water were placed between the birds to keep them in an artificial state of hibernation. They were destined for an Arab falconry. They were lucky to regain their liberty after receiving emergency first aid.⁴³



**September 21, 2015
Highway 6 between Nuremberg and Heilbronn, Germany**

There were 7 of them in the fast-moving car. They were coming from Romania. They had been keeping 26 goldfinches (genus *Carduelis*), 2 of which were dead, hidden in a cage under a seat.⁴⁶



**September 28, 2015
Bordeaux, Aquitaine Region, France**



Seizure of 24 birds, originally from Sub-Saharan Africa, by Bordeaux customs from a coach arriving from Morocco. They include trumpeter finches (*Bucanetes githagineus*), desert sparrows (*Passer simplex*), house buntings (*Emberiza sahari*), and greater short-toed larks (*Calandrella brachydactyla*), 4 species under protection in the Saharan zone. The birds were all in very bad condition, having suffered brutalities during their capture and transportation. On the spot, they had been confused with the finches. They were entrusted to the LPO care center.⁴⁷

**September 24, 2015
Indre-et-Loire, Centre-Val de Loire Region, France**

A European goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*) trafficker was shut down. Agents of the French National Hunting and Wildlife Agency (ONCFS) found birdlime and 7 freshly captured goldfinches. In the neighboring house, they found 24 cages, mist nets, bird seed, strong glue, and frozen goldfinches. 2 poachers will be summoned by the Court of Tours.⁴⁴



**19, 20, 26 September 2015
Limassol, Famagusta and Avgorou, Cyprus**

Seizure of 50 wild birds, birdlime, mistnets, a sound recording to attract birds and 272 limesticks. These sparrows are on the menus of the island's restaurants under the name of "ambelopoulia". 3 arrests of poachers.⁴⁵



Pangolins

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

The seizure from July 1st to September 30th is equal to 16,160 pangolins
Taking the average weight of 3 pangolins for 1 kg of scales.

“On the Trail” n°10
The value of scales on the black market, according to media or customs sources

Continent	Country	US\$/kg	Ref.
AFRICA	Cameroon	40	5
ASIA	Vietnam	1173	23

The value of pangolin on the black market, according to media or customs sources

Continent	Country	US\$/animal	Ref.
ASIA	Indonesia	560/animal	11
	China	219/kg	54*
		78/kg	
	Malaysia	72 - 119/kg	20

* Cf. chapter “Multi-species”

AFRICA

July 2015
Zimbabwe

Rescue of 2 pangolins by Tikki Hywood Trust. One of them, dehydrated and injured, did not survive the 300 km journey. Toll for the month: 4 pangolins seized, 6 poachers jailed awaiting trial.¹



July 30, 2015
Zimbabwe

After the seizure of 5 kg of pangolin scales and of 10 kg of marijuana, he was sentenced to 9 years in prison for the possession of scales, 2 years for the marijuana and 1 year for illegal arms possession.²



End of July 2015

Limpopo Province, South Africa

Fine of R 40,000 (US\$3153) for possession of a pangolin, or in default of payment a 3 year prison sentence including 18 months suspended.³



August 8, 2015

Checheche, Chipinge District, Zimbabwe

Seizure of a pangolin for sale on a highway. Sentencing of a man of Mozambican nationality to 9 years imprisonment.⁴



Mid-August 2015
Yaoundé, Centre Region, Cameroon

He was transferred to prison, he had earned US\$40 per kilo of giant pangolin scales. He came from Mindourou in the east of Cameroon, 445 km from Yaoundé.⁵

August 20, 2015

Seizure and attempt to rescue a ground pangolin (*Manis temminckii*, Appendix II). Tortured, scalded, burned ? Its scales were half turned inside-out, and after 48h of intensive care at Tikki Hywood Trust, it died. Arrest of 3 people.⁶

September 9, 2015

Harare, Zimbabwe

The Tikki Hywood Trust took over the care of a pangolin in very bad condition. It died shortly afterwards. After being arrested, it was found that the 3 abductors had had the tortured pangolin in their car. They were released on bail.⁷



September 21, 2015

Katete District, Eastern Province, Zambia

Seizure of a pangolin from Mozambique and arrest of a 29 year old man.⁸

ASIA

July 3 and 15, 2015

Brahmapur, Odisha, and Kolasib, Mizoram, India

Seizure of a kg of scales and 2 arrests. 2 links in the trafficking chain between India and China (see "On the Trail" n° 9 p 33) were arrested in their home. According to the police, one of them had known the 38 members of the network arrested in Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and West Bengal. The man, 63-year-old Ashfaq Hussain, was the one who had been pulling the strings.⁹

July 5, 2015

Buguda, Odisha, India

Seizure of 10 kg of scales. 4 arrests.¹⁰

July 8, 2015

International Airport in Surabaya, East Java Province, Indonesia

Seizure of 455 pangolins (1390 kg) frozen in 43 cardboard boxes of "fish". The shipment bound for Singapore is estimated at US\$ 255,000 or US\$ 560 per animal with an average weight of 3.05 kg. Customs officers burned the seizure the same day.¹¹

REPEATED OFFENSE

July 10, 2015

Simpang Pulai, Perak, Malaysia

3 pangolins seized during the night from the trunk of a car. One arrest. The driver had already been arrested for the same reasons in 2007.¹²

August 2, 2015

Sironcha, Maharashtra, India

Seizure of 8.5 kg of scales. Arrest of 2 motorcycle delivery men at the end of their 500km journey and of Dr. Prafulla Das, practising in Asaralli. He had ordered 20 kg of scales.¹³

August 10, 2015

Maudrai, Tamil Nadu, India

Seizure of 400 scales. Arrest of a member of the Narikurava community, which specializes in hunting. An adult pangolin is likely to be covered with 900 scales.¹⁴



August 10, 2015

Dien Chau District, Nghe An Province, Vietnam

Seizure of 10 living pangolins onboard a car on the road from Nghé An to Hanoi. Their average weight was 4.5 kg. The car was seized for the requirements of the investigation.¹⁵

August 14, 2015

Nga Son district, Thanh Hoa Province, Vietnam

Seizure of 56 Javan pangolins (*Manis javanica*, Appendix II), weighing in total 232 kg and on average 4.15 kg.¹⁶



August 15, 2015

Tan Son Nhat International Airport, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Seizure of 42 kg of African tree pangolin (*Manis tricuspis*) scales, originating from Nigeria via Turkey. The air waybill for the package mentioned "personnel effects".¹⁷

Beginning of September 2015
Prachuap Khiri Khan Province, Thailand

Seizure of 30 bags containing 2 to 4 pangolin each and frozen pangolins in a wrecked and abandoned car.¹⁸



September 9, 2015

Medan, North Sumatra Province, Indonesia

Sentencing of Soemiarto Budiman or Boediono, also known as Abeng, 61 years of age, to 2 years imprisonment and a 75 million rupiah fine (US\$5350) for wholesale international trafficking of pangolins and scales. See "On the Trail" n°9 p. 32. The penalty is small compared to his crime.¹⁹



September 10, 2015

Padang Buloh, State Indian Kedah, Malaysia

Seizure at dawn outside a house of 97 pangolins worth RM 100,000 (US\$ 23,891) bound for Thailand. They were tied up in bags in the trunks of 2 cars. One arrest. Value per kilo: 300 to 500 RM (between 72 and 119 USD).²⁰



September 14, 2015
Perles River Estuary, Jiangmen, Guangdong Province, China

Seizure of 2674 dead pangolins (11.5 tons) kept in 414 isotherm boxes on a boat. The two members of the crew were arrested. They had transshipped the cargo in international waters and would have made 10,000 Yuan (US\$1580) each if they had reached the harbor.²¹



Mid-September 2015
Hosur, Tamil Nadu, India

Seizure of a kg of scales from a passenger on a bus coming from Karnataka State.²²

September 20, 2015
Hekou, Yunnan Province, China, on the border with Vietnam

Seizure of a kg of pangolin scales with an estimated value of 7500 yuan (US\$1173) from a female Vietnamese smuggler.²³

September 21, 2015
Panzhihua, Sichuan Province, China

Seizure of 2 live pangolins. One arrest.²⁴



September 21, 2015
Fangchenggang, Province of Guangxi, China. Vietnamese border

Seizure of 32 live pangolins from a vehicle and arrest of 3 women.²⁵



September 21, 2015
Panzhihua, Province of Sichuan, China

Seizure of 2 live pangolins in a Mercedes. One arrest.²⁶

September 26, 2015
Fumin County, Province of Yunnan, China

Seizure of 5 kg of pangolin scales from a market stall. The scales were mixed with medicinal herbs.²⁷



Lega head gear, Democratic Republic of the Congo. On sale in France.

Primates

Gorilla (*Gorilla* spp.), **chimpanzee** (*Pan troglodytes*), **orangutan** (*Pongo* spp.) are listed in CITES Appendix I. **Macaque** (*Macaca* spp.) is in Appendix II.

AFRICA

1st July 2015

Cameroon

Seizure of 4 chimpanzee skulls. 2 arrests including the head of an ecotourism company. The charges were dropped on the grounds that the skulls were old.¹



January-August 2015
Lomani Park, Orientale and Maniema Provinces, Democratic Republic of Congo

Poaching of 20 bonobos (*Pan paniscus*, Appendix I).²

September 16, 2015
Moyamba, Southern Province, Sierra Leone

Poaching and death of a baby chimpanzee. According to a farmer's testimony, the young male chimpanzee was captured when his family had approached a pineapple plantation.



Experts at the Tacugama sanctuary think that his mother was killed in the confrontation. Despite quarantining and efforts to reset his fractures, the little orphaned chimpanzee nicknamed "Bomba" died a few weeks later.³

September 27, 2015

Messok Dja Forest, Sembé and Souanké Districts, Sngba Department, Republic of the Congo

"On the morning of September 27, 2015, the poacher Lack Delphin hears the cries of gorillas amusing themselves peacefully in the future protected zone of Messok-Dja, and then sets out to kill them. He targets and hits a male perched on a tree directly in the chest with a 12-caliber bullet, and the poor gorilla loses his life." Source : *adiacongo.com*, *Fortuné Ibara*.⁴

Late September 2015

Cameroon

Seizure of 3 chimpanzee skulls and 9 chimpanzee bones and of 5 mona monkeys (*Cercopithecus mona*, Appendix II). One arrest.⁵



Still-life art piece made of mona monkeys and chimpanzee

Late September 2015

Kumbo, North-West Region, Cameroon

Seizure of a mona monkey (*Cercopithecus mona*, Appendix II) and of 3 mandrill skulls (*Mandrillus sphinx*, Appendix I). The hunting guide is alleged to have been covered by forest officers. He had indulged in trafficking animal parts and live animals for many years. He also dealt in ivory and counted Nigeria as one of his markets.⁶



September 2015

Cameroon

Sentencing of 2 traffickers in 2 different cases of trafficking in ape parts:



- 6 months imprisonment for trafficking 4 gorilla skulls.
- A one-year suspended sentence and a fine for trafficking 7 chimpanzee skulls and 5 gorilla skulls.

LAGA (Last Great Ape Organization) has appealed against this lenient sentence.⁷

AMERICA

Mid-July 2015

La Cumbre, Province of Cordoba, Argentina

Rescue of a young common squirrel monkey (*Saimiri sciureus*, Appendix II) indicated by a resident who discovered him in a tree. He was hurt. He was taken to the health and observation center in Palmira (Province of Mendoza). A distance of almost 700 km.⁸



July 2015

Tulancingo, Hidalgo, Mexico

Bought on the black market when it was still a baby, the Geoffroy's spider monkey (*Ateles geoffroyi*, Appendix I or II) had been living in a 2m² cage.⁹

August 2015

Delta, Minas Gerais, Brazil

A female tufted capuchin monkey (*Cebus apella*, Appendix II) was seized at the home of a private individual who fled. Abused and bitten by dogs, she had to be operated on.¹⁰



September 2015

Bauru, Sao Paulo, Brazil

Winged monkeys? Confined in bird cages, a tufted capuchin (*Cebus apella*, Appendix II) and a callitrichid (*Primates* spp., Appendix I or II) had an uncertain future. The owner must pay off a fine of 1500 reais (US\$300).¹¹



September 2015

Barranquilla, Atlantico Department, Colombia

Seizure of a cotton-top tamarin (*Saguinus oedipus*, Appendix I) at the home of a car mechanic.¹²

September 2015

Jamundi and Yumbo, Vale de Cauca, Colombia

Seizure of a Geoffroy's spider monkey (*Ateles geoffroyi*, Appendix I or II). He had been found tied to a tree, without any possibility of moving. In the same city, 3 macaws that were being displayed in a shop were seized.¹³



ASIA

July 2015

Provinces of Son La and Binh Duong, Vietnam

The baby was hauled from place to place to escape his liberators. The 8 kg adult was released thanks to the ENV hotline.¹⁴



July 8, 2015

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Loris (*Lorisidae* spp., Appendix I or II). On sale through Facebook, on release in the natural environment through ENV.¹⁵

July 13, 2015

Hanoi, Vietnam

Rescue of a loris family: a mother and 2 children (*Lorisidae* spp., Appendix I or II) being sold on Facebook.¹⁶

July 13, 2015

West Java Province, Indonesia

Sentencing of an international animal trafficker to 2 years imprisonment and a fine of 10 million Indonesian rupiah (US\$752). He was caught with a baby Sumatran orangutan in his bag in February 2015 (see "On the Trail" n°8 p 103). One of his accomplices had already been sentenced in August 2014 (see "On the Trail" n°6 p. 117). Since 1970, more than 3000 seizures of orangutans held as pets have taken place on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo, according to the director of the Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Program.¹⁷



July 13, 2015

Beluran, Sabah, Malaysia

Attack on a Bornean orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*) with a parang (machete) in a palm oil plantation. Immediate conviction of the Indonesian farm worker a few days before an international conference on the great apes. One year imprisonment. The victim died 15 days after the assault.¹⁸



July 2015
Tuaran, Sabah, Malaysia



"Training for life in the wild" in the Rasa Ria resort

Involvement of the luxury hotel chain Shrangri-La in the commercial exploitation of juvenile orangutans chased from oil palm plantations. According to the NGO Friends of the Orang-Utan, monkeys act as attractions. According to Shrangri-La, they are undergoing a rehabilitation process for life in the wild.¹⁹

July 2015
Pontianak, West Kalimantan Province, Borneo Island, Indonesia

2 arrests and seizure of 4 lorises. The animals were being sold on social media networks. All their teeth had been cut to avoid biting. They could not be freed in the wild.²⁰



July 27, 2015

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
OPERATION OPS TARING III (Control of animal trafficking on social networks)

Seizure of 2 young orangutans for sale on the internet. Arrest of 2 Indonesians, who were said to have fraudulently imported the primates into Malaysia, and 2 Malaysian guys. One among them is a known trafficker who has in particular sold snakes, turtles, and bears on the internet.²¹



July 30, 2015
Dong Nai Province, Vietnam

Seizure of a pigtail macaque (*Macaca* spp., Appendix II) at a gas station.²²



Late July 2015
Ketapang, West Kalimantan Province, Borneo, Indonesia

Seizure of a 7- or 8-month-old baby orangutan, kept in captivity since 5 months of age.²³

Beginning August 2015
Armenia

Zoomania continues in Armenia. See "On the Trail" n° 7 p 57. Despite a health notice dating back to August 2014 banning the import of animals potentially carrying the Ebola virus, 60 vervet monkeys (*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*, Appendix II) managed to overcome all obstacles after leaving Tanzania and arrived at the Zoo Fauna Art Company. They were apparently strictly for domestic use. It was not specified which household chores they were to accomplish. Artur Khachatryan, director of the art and fauna company has high up relations in Africa. In 2014 he invited several dozen protected primates to Armenia via the use of contentious certificates awarded by the Kinshasa CITES branch. In 2011 he brought over 2 bonobos thanks to dubious permits awarded by Mr Dombouya, at the time director of the Guinea CITES branch and placed under arrest at the end of August 2015 for trafficking in wildlife, misuse of status and position, forgery, complicity and corruption.²⁴



Banyuwangi, Java, Indonesia

Inside the very ill-famed Mira Fantasia zoo, the orangutans are living dreadful state.^{24 bis}



August 10, 2015
Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India

Seizure of a gray slender loris (*Loris lydekkerianus*, Appendix II). Arrest of a 60-year-old man. He had been exploiting the animal for 2 years in deplorable conditions. The "caregiver" was selling "sacred black

thread" soaked in the loris' saliva. Foolish belief: that the saliva of a small nocturnal monkey would be a fortifier for children. In truth, loris saliva mixed with brachial gland secretions is toxic for humans.²⁵

August 2015
Ketapang, West Kalimantan
Province, Borneo,
Indonesia

Seizure of a baby orangutan, 4-5 months of age. He weighed 2 kg. He is said to have been taken from the forest. After 4 weeks of nurturing and nourishment with concentrated milk, he was voluntarily turned over to the forestry services.²⁶



Mid-August 2015
Liupanshui, Guizhou Province,
China

5 people sentenced for the poaching and trafficking of 5 François leaf-monkeys (*Trachypithecus francoisi*, Appendix II). The two poachers had resold them via 2 middlemen to the ex-director of the Liupanshui zoo. The sentences are respectively for:



- 16 and 10 years imprisonment and fines of 150,000 yuan (US\$23, 565) and 50,000 yuan for the chief poacher and his associate.
- 2 years imprisonment and a 10,000 yuan (US\$1565) fine each for the sellers.
- 11 years imprisonment and a 100,000 yuan fine for the buyer.²⁷

August 19, 2015
Bukit Batikap Forest, Kabupaten of Marung
Raya, Central Kalimantan Province, Indonesia

Reintroduction into the forest of 20 Bornean orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus*), 9 males, 11 females and 4 juveniles, on the occasion of the International Day of the Orangutan. The BOS Foundation has released 156 orangutans into the natural environment in the past 3 years. The difficult access to this mountainous area crossed by many rivers preserves it for the moment from deforestation and palm oil plantations. Covering an area of 400 km² it can serve as habitat for 300-350 orangutans. The provincial governor said: "We realize that there is still much for us to do and there is a long road ahead to travel, in order to deliver a Central Kalimantan Province which is rich and prosperous, not only in terms of economy but also in terms of biodiversity. "To be followed"...²⁸



On The Trail #10. Robin des Bois/Robin Hood

August 26, 2015

Lam Dong Province, Vietnam

Seizure of 5 black-shanked doucs (*Pygathrix nigripes*, Appendix I) smoked in a makeshift tent in the middle of a forest.²⁹



End of August 2015
Ton Sai Beach, Krabi Province,
Thailand

Seizure of a few gibbons (*Hylobatidae* spp., Appendix I) and arrest of 2 monkey tamers. They risk a fine of 4,000 baht (US\$ 111). They earn an average of 5,000 baht per day (US\$ 139). Gibbons are usually imported from Phuket, (160 km), for 25,000 baht per unit (US\$700). There are said to be another 20 gibbons on display on the neighboring island of Phi Phi.³⁰

End of August 2015

Bo Trach District, Quang Binh Province, Vietnam
 Voluntary surrender to a ranger of a 3 kg pig-tailed macaque (*Macaca leonina*) after a long captivity.³¹

August 7, 11, 12, and 31, 2015

Java, Indonesia

Seizure of 19 Sunda slow loris (*Nycticebus coucang*, Appendix I) in a poor state of health, some of whom have deliberately had their teeth removed. They have behavior problems.³²



September 11, 2015

Caught, released and transferred to the reserve of Ke Go, Ha Tinh Province, Vietnam.^{32bis}



1st and September 14th, 2015

Hanoi, Vietnam

Release of 4 slow lorises and transfer to the refuge of Soc Son.³³



© ENV



© Kuwait Times

**September 14, 2015
Jakarta, Indonesia**

Repatriation of a female orangutan aged 1 year and a half. She had been illegally brought into Kuwait in July with another 6 month-old female which will be

repatriated later when she will be self-sufficient to feed.³⁴

**Late September 2015
Cuc Phuong National Park, Ninh Binh Province, Vietnam**

Seizure of a loris. It had been in a cage on a public highway. It will be shortly released into the wild.³⁵



© ENV



© ENV

**Late September 2015
Hanoi, Vietnam**

Rescue of 2 stump-tailed macaques (*Macaca arctoides*, Appendix II). There had been a number of people keeping them in captivity, but they voluntarily released the monkeys to the Soc Son

Rescue Center through the medium of ENV.³⁶

EUROPE

Beginning of July 2015

Sant Antoni de Portmany, Ibiza Island, Autonomous Community of the Balearic Islands, Spain

Seizure of a live titi monkey (*Callicebus* spp, Appendix II) used as attraction in the West End known for its numerous tourist bars.³⁷



GUARDIA CIVIL
M^o INTERIOR

August 2015

Southern France

Seizure of 2 marmosets from private homes. They have been entrusted to the Refuge de l'Arche in Mayenne, in western France.³⁸



© Planète animaux

Mid-August 2015

Fontenay-sur-Loire, Centre-Val de Loire, France

Seizure of an 8-year-old female Barbary macaque (*Macaca sylvanus*, Appendix II), who had been mistreated for years and caged in a disused caravan.³⁹



© Fondation 30 Millions d'Amis

August 2015

On the Merida-Belgium route, Badajoz Province, Spain

Attempt to import a Barbary macaque (*Macaca sylvanus*, Appendix II) into Belgium from Morocco. He was on the passenger seat. The Moroccan driver was arrested.⁴⁰



© Hoy

Vicuna

AMERICA

Beginning of July 2015

Desaguadero, Department of Puno, Peru

Seizure of a live vicuña (*Vicugna vicugna*, Appendix II).¹



Felines

Tiger (*Panthera tigris*), leopard (*Panthera pardus*), jaguar (*Panthera onca*) and ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*) are in Appendix I. Lion (*Panthera leo*) and puma (*Puma concolor*) are in Appendix II.

LEOPARD

AFRICA

July 5, 2015

Dukuduku, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Seizure of a flayed carcass with a trap around its neck, a leopard skin and 4 paws, 2 nyala horns (*Tragelaphus angasii*), a red forest duiker carcass and skin, and a spear and other traps at a poacher's house. He had fled. A woman was arrested. The animals are thought to have been caught in the iSimangaliso Wetland Park.¹



July 18, 2015
Mouila, Ngounié Province, Gabon



Seizure of a head, 7 teeth and 3 skins hidden in a bag of rice. Conviction 2 weeks later to 3 months imprisonment and a 500,000 CFA francs fine (US\$835) and 200,000 CFA francs in damages (US\$ 334).²

July 24, 2015
Congo

A pistol and a skin seized from a suitcase on a bus, thanks to Cama and Rick, 2 sniffer dogs. The luggage belonged to a police officer. In a state of inebriation, he tried to intimidate the police and the PALF (Project for the Application of Law for Fauna) by calling upon a fake "high ranked friend in the army."³



FAMILY BUSINESS

Mid-August 2015

Makoku, Ogooué-Ivindo, Gabon

He was transporting a skin. His two brothers were accomplices.⁴

REPEATED OFFENSE

August 2015

Seizure of a skin. The suspect is a well-known trafficker. He informed on his two accomplices, who were arrested.⁵

September 2, 2015

Kenya

4 traffickers who had been arrested with a skin, traps, and arrows were sentenced to 6 years imprisonment or a fine of one million Kenyan shillings (US\$9500). See "On the Trail" n°9 p. 43.⁶



September 2015

Namibia

2 arrests. A local hunter and his American customer were arrested for hunting with dogs, an illegal practice in the country.⁷

ASIA

REPEATED OFFENSE

July 2, 2015

Bageshwar, Uttarakhand, India

Sentencing of 2 individuals to 3 and 5 years of imprisonment without remission and a fine of 25,000 Rs (US\$391) each for illegal possession of 3 skins. The 2nd individual is a repeat offender (see "On the Trail" n°9 p. 45).⁸



July 2, 2015

Hazara Division, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, Pakistan

Seizure of a 3 month old female, raised by villagers who wanted to sell her later. There are said to be 80 leopards in the wild in Hazara Division.⁹



July 5, 2015

Rudrapur district, Uttarakhand State, India

Seizure of a skin. Arrest of a suspect.¹⁰

July 6, 2015

Chamba district, State of Himachal Pradesh, India

Seizure of 2 skins. Arrest of a suspect.¹¹

July 8, 2015

Forest reserve Chandragiri, State of Odisha, India

Seizure of a skin. Arrest of 3 poachers equipped with a gun and a knife. "From afar, we mistook it for a wild boar".¹²

July 10, 2015

Hunsur, Karnataka, India

Discovery in the well of a burlap bag containing a carcass without head or claws.¹³

July 10, 2015

Kevdi, Gujarat State, India

Seizure of a skin and arrest of a trafficker near a bus stop. Value: 3 lakh Rs (US\$ 4700).¹⁴

July 13, 2015

Chichgad, Maharashtra, India

Its legs were gone. The carcass was full of vermin.¹⁵

July 22, 2015

Around Chhota Udepur, Gujarat State, India

Arrest of 3 traffickers and seizure of a skin. They wanted 3 lakh Rs (US\$ 4700) for it. Value on the international market: 10 lakh Rs (US\$15,615).¹⁶

July 24, 2015

In the vicinity of Chhota Udaipur, Gujarat State, India

Seizure of a skin. 3 arrests.¹⁷

End of July 2015

Jalpaiguri district, West Bengal State, India

Seizure of a 3.35 m long skin with bullet marks. Value: Rs 1.2 million (US\$ 18,737). Arrest of 6 people from Assam State.¹⁸



August 15, 2015

Bageshwar District, Uttarakhand, India

A man arrested in 2012 in possession of 2 skins has been sentenced to 3 years imprisonment and fined Rs 25,000 (US\$ 382).¹⁹



End of August 2015

Bageshwar, State of Uttarakhand, India

Sentencing of a man to 3 years imprisonment and a fine of US\$ 378 for illegal possession of a skin.²⁰

Beginning September 2015
Delhi, India

He was sentenced at the initial hearing in March 2015 to a fine of RS 10,000 (US\$152) and a one year prison term for the illegal possession of a leopard skin in November 1997. See "On the Trail" n°8 p50. The Court of Appeal commuted the offender's prison sentence to a suspended sentence; now aged 44 - he was 26 at the time of the offense. The Court took the following elements into account:
-the trafficker in the case had already endured 7 and a half months of imprisonment between November 1997 and September 2015.
-he had no record at the time of arrest and has not committed any offense since.
-he works in the wood trade and supports his wife, their 3 children and his mother.
Release on bail has been ordered under the condition he pays Rs 25,000 the bail within one week maximum. If he fails to do so he will face 3 months imprisonment and his belongings will be seized.²¹



September 7, 2015

Umaria District, Madhya Pradesh, India

2 leopards killed in an electric trap near the Bandhavgarh National Park. The traps were probably aimed at tigers. The area has become a graveyard for big cats.²²

September 7, 2015

Shanmugam, Kerala, India

Seizure of a skin from Tamil Nadu. Arrest of 4 suspects linked to trafficking between the 2 States.²³

September 14, 2015

Ghouchan, Korsasan-e-razavai, Iran

Seizure of a skin. The leopard had been poached a few days before. 4 suspects, who had tried to sell the skin for 27 million Iranian rials (US\$903) were arrested.²⁴



Mid September 2015

State of Uttarakhand, India

Sentencing of a man to 3 years imprisonment and a fine of Rs 10,000 (US\$ 151) for trafficking 2 skins. He had been arrested with accomplices in July 2011.²⁵

September 28, 2015

**Similipal National Park,
Mayurbhanj district, State of
Odisha, India**

Seizure of a leopard skin 1.28 m long and 30 cm wide and 4 kg of Indian muntjac meat (*Muntiacus muntjak*), several firearms and a motorbike. 8 arrests.²⁶



September 28, 2015

Mayurbhanj, Odisha, India

Seizure of a skin 128 cm long and 30.5 cm wide. Three people had come by motorcycle to sell it. They were arrested. The feline had been recently poached in Similipal National Park.²⁷

LEOPARD ET TIGER

ASIA

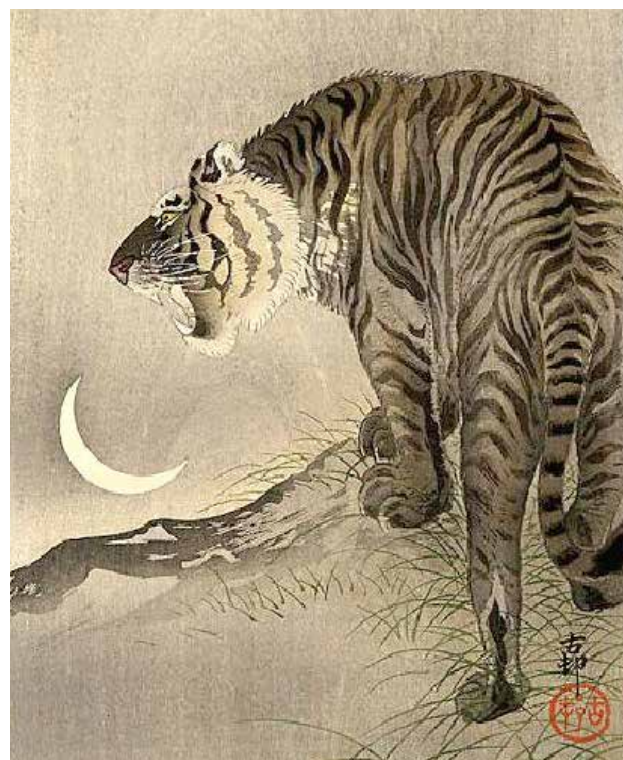
Mid-August 2015

Kailali and Kanchanpur Districts, Far-Western Development Region, Nepal

Seizure of a tiger skin, 3 leopard skins and 8 kg of bones, all bought in India. Arrest of 2 men aged 45 and 50 years.²⁸



TIGER



AMERICA

September 3, 2015

Hemet, California, United States

Rescue of a 3-month-old tiger cub without claws wandering around near the intersection of Columbia Street and Stetson Avenue. Nobody in this area has permission to own a big cat.²⁹



ASIA

July 6, 2015

Yunan Province, China

Shutting down of a trafficking network and seizure of a tiger skin and a stuffed red deer head (*Cervus elaphus*). The suspects made return trips between Baoshan and Ruili, a city on the border with Burma, where they were resupplying.³⁰

July 23, 2015

Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India

Seizure of a claw and arrest of the seller. The manager of a company was, he says, debt-ridden, and he was looking for a way to refloat his business. He had already sold two claws for Rs 20,000 (US\$305) each on the internet.³¹



July 31, 2015

Sriperumbudur Tamil Nadu, India

Seizure of bullets and 8 claws in a hotel. One claw: around RS 25,000 (US\$382). 3 arrests. According to WWF India, the trio also sold sand boas on the Internet.³²



July 30 and 31, 2015

Sundarbans Tiger Reserve, Bangladesh

Discovery of 2 dead tigers. The first one could have died from natural causes but the discovery of a second one on the following day triggered an investigation. According to the last census (May 2015) there are one hundred tigers in the Bangladesh part of the Sundarbans. The figure of 440 dated back to 2004.³³

August 7, 2015

Khulna, Bangladesh

Seizure of 69 bones from a fishing boat coming from the Sundarbans. Arrest of 2 men, 18 and 22 years of age.³⁴

REPEATED OFFENSE

August 8, 2015



Jambe Rambung, Aceh Province, Indonesia
Poaching of a Sumatran tiger. Arrest of 4 suspects. One of them said he had killed another tiger 3 years earlier. The whole was to be sold : skin, bones and teeth.³⁵

August 9, 2015

Mandarbaria channel, Sundarbans National Park, Bangladesh

Seizure of 3 skins (3.5 m long) with no trace of bullet or arrow, 4 rifles and three pistols. Death of 6 poachers, police returned fire in self defense. The tigers were probably poisoned.³⁶



August 9, 2015

Pench Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh, India

Autopsy of a tiger. Poaching is suspected.³⁷

August 25, 2015

Khulna, Bangladesh

Arrest of 2 poachers in possession of a 2.13 m long skin.³⁸

August 27, 2015

Similipal National Park, State of Odisha, India

Arrest of 2 poachers. Bail request denied.³⁹

September 14, 2015

Delhi, India



The Court of Appeal of Tis Hazari rejected the request of the wife of Suraj Pal alias Chacha for the return of 50 lakh Rs (US\$ 78,000) that had been seized during the search at the family home. The Court bases its refusal on the Ministry of Finance report that this money comes from the sale of skins and other tiger parts. See "On the Trail" 2 p. 41 and 9 p. 46. The CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) believes further that the bank notes may bear the fingerprints of Sonam and Pasang who are alleged to have purchased skins from Chacha and are still wanted.⁴⁰

Mid-September 2015

Tehran, Iran

Offered for sale on the internet, a Bengal tiger skin mounted as a rug with open mouth. Seizure and arrest of the seller.⁴¹



Mid-September 2015
Ramnagar, Uttarakhand State, India



Sentencing of a poacher to 3 years imprisonment without remission and an Rs 10,000 (US\$ 151) fine for trespassing with a firearm in the Corbett Tiger Reserve in December 2013.⁴²

September 17, 2015

Chhindwra District, Madhya Pradesh, India

It had started one month before, near the village of Sakai, when the forest rangers arrested a group of poachers in possession of a spear and pangolin scales. Sakai is at the heart of the Satapura National Park. One of the suspects spilled the beans and talked about poaching a tiger carrying a tracking collar. The investigators took this admission seriously, as a tiger transferred from the Bandhavgarh reserve to Satpura National Park (500 km away) had as a matter of fact been fitted in that way. One thing leading to another, the Madhya Pradesh Special Task Force succeeded in exposing all the members of the ring. The adult tiger skin was retrieved as well as 2 vials of tiger fat. The instigator of the crime was a teacher, Ram Kishore. "To make you rich I will practice secret rituals but I must be seated on a tiger skin" a charlatan named Sitararam Chouhan had told him. Kishore believed him and poisoned the tiger with the help of local poachers. Healers prescribe tiger fat to soothe joint pain and sexual dysfunction. For the record, "tiger balm" does not actually contain any animal content. First sold in 1870, the product's name was inspired by the name of one of its inventors, Aw Boon Haw, which means "gentle tiger."⁴³



September 2015

Kutacane and Binjai, Aceh and North Sumatra, Indonesia

September 9: seizure of a skin worth Rp 50 million (US\$ 3571) and 2 kg of bones including a skull and four fangs. The Mount Leuser National Park is under fire from critics and poachers. 2000 km² of forest were operated illegally between 1997 and 2014 and at least one ranger was regularly involved in collusion with one or several locals in the trafficking of Sumatran tiger skins and bones. The products were first cleared to Kutacane before reaching the south of the island of Sumatra and Java. The park is also contaminated by hornbill poaching (see "On the Trail" n°9 p. 28).

September 17: Seizure of a skin of a young adult tiger aged 6 to 9 years estimated at Rp 20 million

(US\$1428). 4 arrests. This gang had also been "working" for a long time in Mount Leuser National Park under the orders of Medan wildlife trafficking cartel. "There is no compromise with those hunting animals in the park, they will be prosecuted" claims the National Park director Andi Basrul. Is this true? The Mount Leuser National Park covers 8900 km².⁴⁴



September 23, 2015

Maharashtra, India

A dental examination of two suspected poachers has established that they were of age at the time of the crime. Mamru and Chika were arrested in June 2013. They had been identified as having taken part in the selling of 11 tiger skins under the orders of Sarju, the famous trafficker still imprisoned in Nagpur.⁴⁵

September 27, 2015

Seoni District, Madhya Pradesh, India

Seizure of the bones of a tiger electrocuted by poachers fifteen days before in the buffer zone of the Pench tiger reserve. 2 men were arrested. Other remains of the tiger, with the exception of the skin and claws, were exhumed. The instigator of the poaching has been identified and the police are on his heels.⁴⁶

EUROPE

Late July 2015

Krai de Khabarovsk, Far Eastern Federal District, Russia

Bike tourists discovered the still-warm body of a young tiger killed by firearms. 3 km away they noticed a Kamaz, a logging truck. "We think that the tiger was killed by loggers." The next day the carcass had disappeared.⁴⁷



Mid-August 2015

Primorsky Krai, Far Eastern Federal district, Russia

He was pursuing a wild boar that had been trampling his oat, pumpkin, and soy fields. He pretended to have come face to face with the young tigress and to have killed her in self-defense.⁴⁸



LION

AFRICA

July 1, 2015

Gwayi Reserve, North Matabeleland Province, Zimbabwe

The lion had been tracked all day and all night by an American dentist and a guide. It was at first targeted and shot with an arrow and later was shot with a gun. They had attracted the 13-year-old lion to a private farm by dragging an antelope carcass with an all-terrain vehicle. Cecil had been so well known that he was half-domesticated. Theo Bronkhorst, the director of the Bushman Safari Agency accused of being party to the illegal hunt, has been released on a bail of US\$ 1000. They had located the lion in the Gwaai Reserve; in 2015, after several illegitimate lion shootings, no hunting permits had been given out here. This is why the lion had been "directed" towards the neighbouring farm owned by Honest Ndlovu, who had turned a blind eye and could, if necessary, put before the court the danger that the big cat was posing to his cattle. A self-defense of some kind. According to local experts, the two accused risked practically nothing even though the affair created such a stir worldwide.. A well-known hunter in Zimbabwe was sentenced to a fine of \$ 200 and a 30-day suspension of his permit for killing a leopard in similar conditions. The leopard is in Appendix I of the CITES, the lion in Appendix II. Furthermore, it is legal in Zimbabwe to lure felines and to fix them with spotlights. However, another safari organizer has appeared before the court. He is alleged to have facilitated the murder of a lion by, this time, an American gynecologist, a promoter of bloodless medicine and surgery and a member of the bowhunting society of Alaska.⁴⁹

Very good news

In response to a formal request from the Brigitte Bardot Foundation, Mrs Royal, the French Minister of Ecology, has instructed her departments to no longer issue import permits for lion trophies.

August 2015

Kafue, Lusaka, Zambia

Discovery of 3 poisoned and mutilated lions.⁵⁰

AMERICA

July 2015

Department of Atlantico, Colombia

Voluntary handing over of 10 lions. The 3 females and a male were placed in the care of the Temático Hacienda Nápoles Park.⁵¹

ASIA

September 9, 2015

Suzhou, Anhui Province, China

The Suzhou District hosts 400 circuses and animal tamers. The lion wandering at night along the highway near the city and 300 meters from a petrol station had probably escaped from a menagerie carrier truck. He was shot with 20 bullets. The police had no anaesthetic rifle at hand. See "On the Trail" n°5 p. 65.⁵²



OTHER FELINE

AMERICA

End of July 2015

Cali, Department of Valle del Cauca, Colombia

Investigation on a 2-month-old ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*, Appendix I) offered for sale on the Internet by a certain "Steven". Sale price "negotiable": 2 million pesos (US\$ 784).⁵³



August 2015

Concepción, Concepción, Paraguay

The female ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*, Appendix I) had been confiscated and held at first at the home of a veterinary student. In a deplorable condition, she was finally transferred to the city's botanical and zoological garden.⁵⁴



September 11, 2015

Ecuador

Sentencing of a hunter/skinner to 6 months imprisonment for killing an Amazon jaguar. He had published his picture on Facebook with the slaughtered animal in February 2012. At the initial hearing he was sentenced to 10 days in jail. The Ministry of Environment had appealed.⁵⁵



ASIA

July 7, 2015

Vinh Long province, Vietnam

Release of a Bengali leopard-cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*, Appendix II) for sale on Facebook.⁵⁶



July 22, 2015

Hanoi, Vietnam

Seizure of 2 Bengali leopard-cats (*Prionailurus bengalensis*, Appendix II) for sale on the Internet.⁵⁷

August 5, 2015

Munsirhat, Howrah District, West Bengal, India

5 members of a local tribe arrested after the distribution of photos through social media. They had posed in the swamp surrounding their village next to 5 dead fishing cats (*Prionailurus viverrinus*, Appendix II). Between 2010-2011, 27 specimens were killed in an 18 month period in Howrah District.⁵⁸



September 18, 2015

Kathmandu, Central Region, Nepal

Seizure of a feline skin 80 cm long and 35 cm wide. 2 arrests.⁵⁹

EUROPE

Mid-September 2015

Bière, Vaud Canton, Switzerland

Poaching of a 10-year-old female lynx (*Lynx* spp., Appendix II). Her "kittens" can't manage on their own, their survival is impossible.⁶⁰



September 22, 2015

Bar-le-Duc, Lorraine Region, France

Sentencing of a 57-year-old hunter, President of the Accredited Communal Association of Hunting (Acca) to pay €500 in fines, €500 in legal fees, and €1000 to the Association for the Protection of Wild Animals (ASPAS) and the Lorraine Nature Association (LOANA) for the poaching of a wildcat (*Felis silvestris*, Appendix II).⁶¹



Bears



AMERICA

August 4, 2015

Kent and Chippewa County, Michigan, United States of America

Trafficking of American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) parts. Sentencing of 3 residents of Vietnamese origin to 90 days imprisonment and a fine of US\$1000. Number to call if you have information on wildlife trafficking in Michigan: 1-800-292-7800. Indictment of another man of Vietnamese origin for trafficking of bear and deer. This man is already in Chippewa County jail for a murder attempt on his wife.¹



August 28, 2015

Ravalli County, Montana, United States of America

Sentencing of James Harrison (aged 63) to a fine of US\$9000 and 180 hours of education on legal hunting, for poaching 9 American black bears (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) between 2009 and 2014. See "On the Trail" n°7 p. 58.²

ASIA

Beginning of July 2015

Yunnan Province, China. Rescue center for wildlife.

Handing over to the authorities of 2 Asian black bears (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I) purchased 2 years earlier from a Vietnamese by a Chinese worker on a banana plantation on the Sino-

Vietnamese border. The cubs, a male and a female, were presented to him as puppies. He realised the fraud when the grown up duo (45 kg each) began to devour his chickens.³



Tangjiahe Reserve

July 7, 2015

Manzhouli, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, China

Seizure of 3 bear legs (*Ursus* spp., Appendix I or II). 2 arrests.⁴



July 8, 2015

Kelardasht, Mazandaran Province, Iran

Poaching of a brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II), seizure of 25 kg of bear meat. 2 arrests. Damning evidence : the 2 traffickers took a photo after their crime.⁵



Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport, Taiwan

Seizure of 4 Ussuri brown bear (*Ursus arctos lasiotus*, Appendix II) skins from the luggage of a Taiwanese passenger coming from Japan. He says that he was paid NT\$20,000 (US\$320) per skin to bring them to Taiwan. According to the first elements of the inquiry, each skin had been bought for 1 million yen (US\$8477) and was valued at NT\$1 million (US\$32,320) on the Taiwanese black market. In Japan, the distribution range of the Ussuri brown bear is on the island of Hokkaido, where 5 populations are located. The subspecies,

which traditionally eats acorns, beechnuts, and other kernels, is threatened by a food shortage; the bears are being starved because of the intensive logging of leafy trees and their systematic replacement with resinous trees. Conflicts are beginning to break out between the rural population and plantigrade animals.⁶



Late July 2015

Sop Cop District, Son La Province, Vietnam, on the border with Laos

Seizure of a 3-month-old sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*, Appendix I), which was being transported in the backpack of a man who admitted to killing the mother. The sun bear is the 24th bear to be taken in by the Vietnam Bear Rescue Center this year.⁷



Beginning of August 2015

Hanoi, Vietnam

Seizure of a 32 kg Malayan sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*, Appendix I) preserved in alcohol and offered on a restaurant menu.⁸

Beginning of August 2015

Zabaikalsk, zabaykalsky krai, Russia

Seizure of 18 brown bear paws (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) attached under one goods van of a train bound for China. In 3 months, 31 bear paws weighing 40 kg were seized by regional customs. See "On the Trail" n°1 p. 21.⁹



August 6, 2015

Sepilok, Sabah, Malaysia

Handing over of Tan-Tan, a 3-month-old sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*, Appendix I) to the Sabah Department for Wild Animals by an anonymous good samaritan. He had bought the bear in the rural district of Paitan, 3 hours by road from the Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre (BSBCC).¹⁰



September 18, 2015

Heilongjiang Province and Jilin Province, China

Seizure of over 100 kg of brown bear paws (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix I) and more than 250 kg of parts of other animals including deer antlers. 7 suspects arrested.¹¹

September 22, 2015

Kathmandu, Central Development Region, Nepal

Hearing of a man in possession of a bear gall bladder. Weight: 37.5g.¹²

September 22, 2015

Quang Ninh Province, Vietnam

Rescue of 7 bears (Appendix I) from a bile extraction farm by the NGO Animals Asia.¹³



September 27, 2015

Tabang, East Kalimantan Province, Indonesia

3 men arrested. They had posted photos of a Malayan sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*, Appendix I) on the internet. The trio can be seen in the act of butchering the animal, with the caption: "Today's catch."¹⁴

Rhinoceroses

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*.

"On the Trail" n°10
The value of horn on the black market, according to media or customs sources

Continent	Country	US\$	Ref.
ASIA	Vietnam	133,000/kg	3*
	China	25,762/kg	55
		25,806/kg	60
	India, Assam	30,229 / horn	59

* Cf. chapter "Rhinoceros and elephants"



AFRICA

July 5, 2015
Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa

Poaching of a rhino, horns torn out. ¹

Dying at the H7 side.



July 6, 2015
Mtubatuba, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

"I did not know where I was." He was nevertheless sentenced to 5 years imprisonment for illegal possession of weapons and ammunition and illegal intrusion into the Hluhluwe-Umfolozi National Park in 2014. He is from Mozambique. ²



FAMILY AFFAIRS

July 2015
Ingwavuma, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

3 suspended sentencings of 6 years in prison for carrying prohibited arms and munitions and a fine of R60,000 (US\$4895), payable in monthly installments of R2000 (US\$163). One of those sentenced is Madoda Gumede (aged



35), brother of a traditional Zulu chief and son of an ex-member of the Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Administrative Council, the organization responsible for the conservation of animals in the province. The 2 others are brothers. The trio had been arrested in May 2013 at the Phinda Private Game Reserve after an exchange of fire with rangers. This is not the first time that a public figure has been incriminated for rhinoceros poaching in KZN (see "On the Trail" n° 5 p 74). Phinda is a hot spot. See "On the Trail" n°4 p. 63, n°6 p. 61, n°7 p. 65 and p. 67. The Democratic Alliance has demanded an investigation into the "leniency" of this sentencing, which according to them is due to political interference. ³



July 13, 2015

Klaserie Private Nature Reserve, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa

The carcass had been there for 15 days. ⁴

July 13, 2015

Esikhotheni Private Game Reserve, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

Poaching of a female black rhinoceros. Transfer of her surviving 10-month-old calf to a specially protected zone. ⁵

July 16, 2015

Balule Nature Reserve, Limpopo Province, South Africa

The carcass had been there for 8 days. ⁶

July 24, 2015

Kruger National Park, South Africa

Discovery and rescue of a 2 month-old baby. The body of her poached mother was discovered the next day. ⁷



He was wandering along a trail.
He was spotted by tourists.

July 28, 2015

Zululand Rhino Reserve, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

A 22 year-old poacher shot dead, 2 others on the run. 4th incursion since the beginning of the year. ⁸



July 30, 2015

Pilanesberg Game Reserve, North Western Province, South Africa

A 4 year-old rhino with both horns amputated but still alive was taken care of by vets from the NGO Saving the survivors. ⁹

July to August 2015

Namibia

Rhinocrosis in Namibia #2. Pohamba Shifeta, the new Minister of the Environment and Tourism is keeping his commitment for the moment. He had promised that "not a stone would remain unturned" in order to find those responsible for the indiscriminate rhino poaching. 36 presumed poachers were arrested between the 1st of June and mid-July. 14 of them were released for lack of proof. But police are keeping an eye on them. 22 were indicted and are being kept in pre-trial detention. Namibian rhinos are said to be under the control of 4 gangs based in Omusati and one gang based in Kunene. In August the vice-director of Fishing and Marine Resources for the Erongo region was arrested along with 2 police officers. The Rhino Minister deplored the fact that one of them was let out on bail for 25,000 Namibian dollars, i.e. US\$1806. 32 fire arms were seized in the vicinity of Etosha National Park. A N\$60,000 reward has been promised to anyone who gives police valid and useful information. Village leaders remain quite uncooperative. One of them when sent to jail nevertheless admitted that his horses, without his consent, had been used in the wild escapades. Many bodies were buried. 3 tons under the sand. It's almost a perfect crime. The police have vowed to dig.¹⁰

1st August 2015

Limpopo Province, South Africa

Discovery of 2 rhinos wounded by bullets, one in the abdomen, the other in the leg. They both died during the rescue operation.¹¹

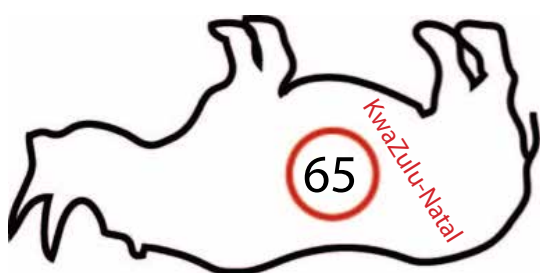
2, 3 and 4 August 2015

KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

Poaching of a rhino in a private reserve of Hluhluwe, a second one near Pietermaritzburg and a third one in a private reserve in Mahlalela. Since the beginning of the year 65 rhinos were poached in KwaZulu-Natal Province.¹²



© News 24



August 3, 2015

Willem Pretorius Nature Reserve, South Africa

Discovery of 3 rhino injured by bullets. One of them is in a critical condition. The horns were not removed. No one was arrested.¹³

August 3, 2015

Mahlalela Private Reserve, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

Poaching of a pregnant female and her 5 year-old youngster. The horns had been removed. The mother survived despite a bullet in the head. Veterinarians applied a piece of elephant skin to the wound. This new surgery technique was implemented on Hope. See "On the Trail" n°9 p. 62.¹⁴



© Kifaru wildlife Veterinary Services

August 2 and 5, 2015

Chipinge, Manicaland Province, Zimbabwe

3 poachers arrested in the Intensive Protection Zone in Chipinge.¹⁵

August 5, 2015

Kruger National Park, South Africa

8 arrests at 2 different times. One poacher wounded. Since the beginning of the year there have been 223 arrests for poaching in South Africa including 129 in the Kruger Park.¹⁶

August 7, 2015

Louis Trichardt, Stockport Farm, Limpopo Province, South Africa

Night-time arrest of 3 suspected poachers after a chase.¹⁷

August 8, 2015

Solio Ranch, County Nyeri, Kenya

They were climbing a fence to access a rhino sanctuary. 2 were killed while trying to escape the rangers. The third managed to flee.¹⁸



August 13, 2015

KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

Commutation of a sentence from 20 years to 12 years imprisonment. The poacher had appealed in November 2014 (see "On the Trail" n°7 p. 69). The judges approved it, but ordered that the sentences for illegal possession of arms and ammunition should run concurrently.¹⁹



August 21, 2015

South Africa

Caught in a trap, the black rhino was freed and its back left foot amputated. It died 2 and a half hours after the operation.²⁰



© Saving The Survivors

August 23, 2015

Wesselsbron, Free State, South Africa

Poaching of a male and female in a game reserve. In a hopeless state, the two were destroyed.²¹

August 23 and 27, 2015

Epacha Game Reserve, Otjozondjupa Region, Namibia

Discovery of an injured rhino, which had to be killed, and of an old carcass, approximately one month old, without a horn.²²

August 25, 2015

Hoedspruit, Limpopo Province, South Africa

Poaching of 4 rhinoceros during the night.²³

August 26, 2015

Limpopo Province, South Africa

Arrest of 4 poachers approaching the Thabazimbi Game Reserve. Seizure of a gun with a silencer, bullets, and an axe.²⁴

August 23, 25, and 28, 2015

Karibib and Swakopmund, Erongo Region, Namibia

Since May, 4 rhinoceros have been poached in the Sney River hunting reserve (see "On the Trail" n°9 p 61 et p 65): the last was killed at the beginning of August. 3 poachers arrested. They were returning from a fruitless expedition – the rhinoceros they were targeting had been preventatively dehorned. They were arrested in Karibib, 200 km from the reserve. Two days later, a middleman was caught in the same city. 3 days later, it was the buyer, 39-year-old Tanzanien Rex Goodwill Mwalugelo's turn to be arrested, in Swakopmund, near Walvis Bay.²⁵

August 28, 2015

Private reserve near Pongola, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

Poaching. 3 down.²⁶



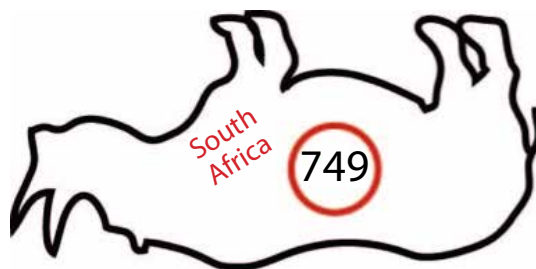
Rhino trapping around 1970

August 31, 2015

White River, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa

Sentencing of 2 Mozambicans to 11 years imprisonment each for the prohibited carrying of arms and munitions and for illegally entering Kruger Park. The intrusion took place on October 27, 2014.

Toll: 749 rhinos between January 1 and the end of August, 716 for the same period in 2014.²⁷



August 31, 2015

Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Reserve, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

Discovery of a carcass and 3 dehorned rhinos in a state of shock including a youngster. 75 rhinos have been poached since the beginning of the year in this reserve.²⁸



**Beginning of September
Pretoria, South Africa**

Another denial of the release on bail for Hugo Ras, the head of a gang of horn traffickers and poachers (see "On the Trail" n° 6, p 67, n° 7 p 71). He and his brother-in-law, Abraham Smit, are the last of the 10 defendants still being kept behind bars. The others, including his brother, Anton Ras, and Christopher Scheepers, were released on bail.²⁹

July to September 2015

Windhoek, Region of Khomas, Namibia

"On the Trail" is following the movements and declarations of the 3 indicted Chinese caught red handed attempting to export 14 horns and a leopard skin on 24 March 2014 at Windhoek airport (see "On the Trail" n°4 p 66, n°5 p 73, n°6 p 65, n° 9 p 62) and a 4th who holds a higher rank in the trafficking hierarchy than the first 3. The shadow of an invisible 5th man, can be imagined hovering in the Windhoek court room. This would be a certain Wu Zhong who is said to have promised US\$3000 to one of the accused for the successful transportation from Namibia to China of the 15 trophies. In front of the judge Li Zhibing's line of defense changed. He admitted to having been informed of the nature of the goods to be transported inside the

nefarious suitcases. The other 2 accused would be in no way to blame, said Li. They simply agreed to take care of one of the cases, so that Li would not exceed the authorized weight limit on boarding. Regarding the 4th accused, Wang Hui, it was he who paid for the plane tickets for the 3 smugglers and who paid for the overnight hotel stays for the 3 purported tourists at the Windhoek Country Club Resort and Casino. The 4 suspects are natives of the province of Jiangsu. Wang Hui is the manager of a company, specializing in the import and export of wood in Zambia.³⁰



Wang Hui

September 1st, 2015

Nelspruit, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa

Appearance of an ex-soldier of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and his accomplice for poaching. Shortly after the discovery of a dehorned carcass in September 2010, the Kruger National Park rangers arrested 2 suspects. They had 2 horns on them, a gun and a knife. They said they were there to collect fodder and to look for lost cattle.³¹

September 1st, 2015

Isimangaliso Wetland Park, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

- 1.³²

September 4, 5, and 6, 2015

Limpopo National Park, Mozambique

For 3 consecutive days, the police found themselves face to face with three bands of poachers. 9 were arrested, 5 fled, and one other was killed.³³



Beginning of September 2015 **KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa**

For alleged poaching, possession of weapons and prohibited ammunition, 3 men were sentenced to jail terms or fined. The first one to 9 years imprisonment or a R96,000 (US\$ 6903) fine, the others to 2 to 4 years imprisonment or a R80,000 (US\$ 5752) fine each.³⁴



Beginning of September 2015 **KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa**

Rescue and intensive treatment for a female rhino immobilized by an anaesthetic arrow and with her horns removed. Her baby is safe and sound.³⁵



September 10, 2015

Madikwe Game Reserve, North Western Province, South Africa

Poaching of 2 white rhinos. One baby has disappeared despite aerial and ground searches. A difficult year, 3 rhinos were killed, 2 survived.³⁶

12 and September 13, 2015

Timbavati Private Game Reserve, Limpopo Province, South Africa

Poaching of 4 rhinos during the weekend.³⁷

September 14, 2015

Midlands Black Rhino Conservancy, Central Province, Zimbabwe

Poaching of a 26-year-old male in this 850 km² reserve founded by 15 farmers near the town of Kwekwe. Sport hunting of antelope and other game is allowed. This enclave that housed until now a population of 6 black rhinos had experienced no poaching in 6 years. The victim was going to be preventively dehorned the following week. The poaching timing casts suspicion on internal staff. 6 arrests.³⁸

September 14-18, 2015

Tsavo National Park, Kenya

A video surveillance camera captured the image of a young orphaned rhino strangled by a wire snare. The rangers who left to find Bahati ("good luck" in Swahili), located him 4 days later. In spite of their care, he succumbed to septicemia.³⁹



September 20, 2015

KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Rescue of a young 7 year old male. Having had his main horn removed by poachers, he is in the hands of veterinarians. The prognosis is favorable.⁴⁰



September 21, 2015

Limpopo Province, South Africa

Arrest of 2 suspected poachers. They were on their way to the Kruger Park with a gun and an axe. The police received information and immobilized their vehicles in the ditch. To date there were 544 rhinos killed in the park.⁴¹

September 22, 2015
Thanda Game reserve, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

Death of a presumed poacher in a clash with the police. He was in possession of a rifle, a silencer, bullets, and an axe.⁴²



September 24, 2015
Polokwane, Limpopo Province, South Africa

Arrest of a 65 year old man. He had offered a R15,000 (US\$ 1079) bribe to a police inspector not to object to the release on bail of 3 rhino poachers.⁴³

September 25, 2015
Chitwan, Central development region, Nepal

66 people convicted of poaching. The penalties range from 5 to 15 years imprisonment and fines ranging from Rs 50,000 (US\$461) to Rs100,000 (US\$922). 6 of them were guilty of multiple counts of poaching, 2 to 6 rhinoceros each, according to some sources. On the contrary, the country's official line is that rhino poaching is nonexistent in Nepal. The total fine amounts to Rs4.6 million (US\$42.428).⁴⁴



Weekend of September 26, 2015

Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Reserve, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

The red supermoon was fatal for wildlife. 3 attacks in the park. 8 rhinoceros dead, one survivor. The brightness of the full moon and related superstitions served to double the poachers' nocturnal activity.⁴⁵



September 29, 2015
Nelspruit, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa

2 men were judged guilty for the poaching of a rhinoceros in Kruger Park in January 2013. Killer, the detection dog, had participated in the arrest. Originally his "job" was to detect explosives in Belgium. He was subsequently transferred to South Africa in order to help in the fight against poaching. Killer is in some ways a political refugee: a price was put on his head in Belgium after he had helped bring down criminal networks. See n°8 p.63.⁴⁶



End of September 2015
Massinga District, Inhambane Province, Mozambique

3 men arrested. Several horns seized.⁴⁷

End of September 2015
Etosha National Park, Kunene Region, Namibia
 Poaching confirmed by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) of a rhino and her calf.⁴⁸

Late September 2015
Mpumalanga Province, South Africa

Seizure of 2 horns. Piracy on the road. 2 vehicles across the road. One vehicle, with a flashing light, blocked a Mini Cooper car. The driver was made to disembark and escorted to his house, which was thoroughly ransacked. R200,000 (US\$14,381) were stolen. The bandits were chased and spotted. Police found at their home 2 rhino horns. 4 suspects were arrested, of which one was a Mozambican national. They ranged in age from 21 to 31 years.⁴⁹



AMERICA

Rhino network
Extradition of Patrick Sheridan to the United States

Patrick Sheridan, Irish citizen member of Rathkeale Rovers, was arrested in Wales, UK in January 2015. He was wanted by the US law for participating in the illegal export of black rhino horns purchased in Texas with his accomplices Michael and John Slattery in 2010. Michael Slattery had been arrested in September 2013 in Newark Airport, New Jersey and was sentenced to 14 months in prison.

John Slattery had been arrested in Cherbourg, western France, on April 6 2015 and placed under strict judicial control. On July 8, the Criminal Division of the Court of Appeal of Caen gave a favorable opinion to his extradition to the United States. His lawyer immediately appealed to the Supreme Court of Appeal which invalidated the decision on the ground that at the time of the offense perpetrated in the United States, there was no legal definition allowing his indictment in France. The case was referred to the Criminal Division of the Court of Appeal of Paris. According to legal circles, it is likely that the opinion of the Supreme Court will be followed.^{49 bis}

See "On the Trail" n°9 p. 69, n° 1, 2, 3, 4.

ASIA

July 4th, 2015
Jaldapara National Park, State of West Bengal, India

Discovery of a rhino carcass with horn torn out. 2 arrests. The incessant rains had interrupted the ranger patrols. This is the seventh case of rhino poaching in the park in one and a half years. Similarly, 9 elephants have died allegedly of unknown causes but each time the tusks had disappeared.⁵⁰

July 16, 2015
Assam, India

Death of an 18-year-old poacher. His accomplice had fled. A female rhinoceros was injured in the dispute.⁵¹



July 2015

Kaziranga National Park, Assam, India

Good news and bad news : rescue of a baby found starving and alone, who was released into the care of CWRC (Center For Wildlife Rehabilitation & Conservation) and is now on the path to recovery, and discovery of 2 rhino carcasses in the park and surrounding areas.⁵²



July 21, 2015

Kaziranga National Park, Assam State, India

At 3:15 am 2 poachers in possession of a 303 rifle and ammunition were shot by rangers, 2 others fled. Since the beginning of the year, 15 poachers have been shot dead in the park and 35 arrested.⁵³



July 21, 2015

Darrang District, State of Assam, India



Sentencing of 2 people to 2 years imprisonment and a fine of Rs25,000 (US\$ 390) for poaching a rhino in the Orang National Park on January 9 2011. The two poachers were filmed by cameras placed there to take a census of tigers.⁵⁴

August 20, 2015

Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam, India

An ex-poacher turned rhino protector was assassinated on the night of August 19 by 5 individuals while on his way home. For 15 years, he had greatly aided the Assam State forest service and other governmental agencies with his knowledge of the terrain. He had helped save 15 rhinoceros in and around the Pobitora sanctuary. In 1998, he was



part of a group of 18 poachers who had given up their arms. The management of Pobitora suggested that they switch sides and protect the rhinos instead of poaching them. Before dying at the hospital, Esob Ali revealed the names of his murderers to the police.⁵⁶

August 27, 2015

Kaziranga National Park, Assam, India

Nighttime clash between the rangers and the rhinoceros killers. 3 poachers were killed and 2 fled.⁵⁷



Late August 2015

Kaziranga National Park, Assam, India

Discovery of a dehorned carcass. This is the 13th killed this year in the park.⁵⁸



September 4th, 2015

Guwahati, Assam, India

Seizure of a horn estimated at 20 Lakh Rs (US\$30,229). 5 arrests.⁵⁹

THE JIGSAW PUZZLE NETWORK

July 27, 2015

Hong Kong International Airport, China

Seizure of 2 rhinoceros horns cut into 10 pieces (6.71 kg), divided among 3 packages, declared to be "wood samples," and transported on 2 flights from Pemba, Mozambique via Johannesburg. Valued at US\$172,865. See "On the Trail," n° 2 p. 64, n° 6 p. 84, n° 7 p. 83, n° 8 p. 63, seizures in Pemba, arriving from Pemba, or en route to Pemba.⁵⁵



Wood samples.

September 21, 2015

Hong Kong International Airport, China

Seizure of 10 kg of horns, total value of HK\$ 2 million (US\$258,064) and arrest of two men and one woman aged between 30 and 56 years. The 3 horns, cut into pieces, were found in the luggage of the 3 passengers coming from Johannesburg. This is called the puzzle technique.⁶⁰



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EUROPE

August and September 2015

Genoa Museum of Natural History, Liguria and Zoological Museum of Naples, Campania, Italy

- Theft of a fake rhino horn at Genoa in August. Information signs, however, indicate that the horns had been replaced by fakes made of polystyrene and plaster.

- In Naples in September, theft of 5 genuine horns that were 2 or 3 centuries old, 2 among them almost a meter long. Italy is experiencing a wave of horn thefts:

- July 29, 2014. Theft from the Macerata Natural History Museum. The two large horns from two heads were stolen.

- January 20, 2015. A 1 meter long horn weighing over 5 kg was stolen from the University of Modena Museum of Zoology and Comparative Anatomy.

- March 9, 2015. Theft of a horn from the Museum of Natural History at the University of Pisa (see "On the trail" n° 8 p. 10).

- June 2, 2015. Theft of a horn from the Bologna Zoological Museum.⁶¹



Genoa. It was a polystyrene horn.



Rhinos and Elephants

AFRICA

July 6, 2015

Maputo, Mozambique

Destruction of 2400 kg of ivory and 86 sections (193.5 kg) of rhinoceros horn, originating in part from a seizure at the home of a Chinese citizen living in Maputo on May 2 2015. See "On the Trail" n°9 p. 70. The South African political party Democratic Alliance denounced the lack of cooperation between Mozambique and South Africa. In fact, no DNA sample had been sent to Pretoria, which harmed the inquiry and prevented the identification of the rhino's exact origins.²



August 12, 2015

Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi, Vietnam

Seizure of 49 sections of elephant tusks (95.54 kg) and of a rhinoceros horn (4.76 kg) from 4 packages coming from Africa via South Korea. Customs estimated the value of the horn at US\$633,080 or US\$133/g and the overall value of the ivory at US\$ 200,634 or US\$2100/kg.³



Mid-September 2015

Tsavo East National Park and Chyulu Hills, Maikueni, Kenya

2 operations led by teams from the Big Life Foundation and Kenya Wildlife Service.

1-Seizure of 2 tusks, elephant meat, poisoned arrows, a bow, and an AK-47 magazine. Suspects arrested.

2-Raid at the home of an individual suspected of poaching a rhinoceros. Arrest. Suspicion of using traps. Seizure of poison, poisoned arrows, and two small tusks.⁴



The modus operandi of Luo in Maputo



Luo's official job was to recycle aluminum cans. Ivory and rhino horns were mixed with compressed aluminum cans in bags and boxes. This is not the first time that illegal animal parts have been mixed with items to be recycled (see "On the Trail" n°3 p. 59, n°5 p. 50, n°7 p. 7).⁵



August 13, 21 and 25, 2015

The Da Nang triplets**Tien Sa Seaport terminal, Port of Da Nang, Vietnam**

1- Seizure of 603 kg of elephant tusks and 142 kg of rhino horns inside 2 containers. The marble shipments were fake. Each block had wildlife valuables hidden inside. Transport between Mozambique and Vietnam via Malaysia was under the responsibility of Van An Shipping Corporation, a large Vietnamese maritime company, owner of 20 cargo ships and logistics partner of the French ship owner CMA-CGM, owner of at least one of the two intercepted containers.

CÔNG TY CỔ PHẦN VẬN TẢI BIỂN VAN AN
VAN AN SHIPPING CORPORATION (VASHIPCORP)
As Ship's Operating and Ship's Chartering



2- Seizure of 2.2 tons of ivory tusks hidden behind hundreds of boards in the back of a container the consignee of which was, once again, Van An Shipping Corporation. State services estimated the cargo's value at US\$4.44 million, or US\$2018/kg.



Document Wildleaks

Part of loading/ transshipment	Port Klang / Malaysia	Port Klang / Malaysia	Port Klang / Malaysia
Shipper	ETS DAO ADAMA	ETS DAO ADAMA	ETS DAO ADAMA
Consignee	NAN HAI LUEN FAT METAL TRADING CO.	HONEST TRADING CO.	LUNG FUNG TRADING CO.
Part of discharge	Hong Kong	Hong Kong	Hong Kong
Shipping Company	CMA CGM (HONG KONG) LIMITED	CMA CGM (HONG KONG) LIMITED	CMA CGM (HONG KONG) LIMITED
Declaration / Declared Weight	191 Bags of SOYBEAN MEAL 15,480 KG	202 Bags of SOYBEAN MEAL 15,480 KG	202 Bags of SOYBEAN MEAL 15,480 KG
Seizure	65 Nos. (231.30 KG) of Ivory tusks	52 Nos. (314.50 KG) of Ivory tusks	22 Nos. (222.84 KG) of Ivory tusks
Estimated Seizure Value	HK\$ 3,469,500	HK\$ 4,717,500	HK\$ 3,342,800
Source of information	Nil	Nil	Nil

Selection by Cargo Selector of PMC

In the course of routine cargo profiling, the cargo selectors vigilantly scrutinized cargo information regarding shipments originating from West African countries.

3- Seizure of 1023 kg of elephant tusks and 4002 kg of pangolin scales (*Manis* spp., Appendix II) hidden inside a load of red beans coming from the port of Pasir Gudang, Malaysia. This is the 3rd seizure in Da Nang. Smuggling is flourishing and involves multiple species. 4002 kg of scales from at least 10,000 pangolins. Hung Huy Bao and the mother company Van An Shipping Corporation were the designated recipients. After Mong Cai and Hai Phong which have the advantage for traffickers of being close to China, Da Nang appears to be a fallback solution but customs are vigilant. Major maritime companies such as CMA-CGM based in Marseille in France are too often, for lack of vigilance and stringency, involved in serious trafficking cases and could one day be brought to justice. The CMA-CGM name was cited in a document published by Wildleaks in September 2015 as being the transporter of a supposed 15,480 tons of soy beans. The container was seized in autumn 2013 in the port of Hong Kong. Along with the soy, there was also 769 kg of ivory.¹

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.

"On the Trail" n°10 Black market raw ivory quotation from media or customs sources

Continent	Country	US\$/kg	Ref.
AFRICA	South Africa	1 220	3
	Uganda	2522	11
	Kenya	946	14
		969	33
		4163	46
		1892	51
ASIA	Thailand	1200	76
	United Arab Emirates	2172	86
	India	3125	88
		2899	93
	Hong Kong/China	1290	91/92/101
	Vietnam	2018	1*
		2100	3*
Europe	Switzerland	1 576	108

* Cf. chapter "Rhinos and elephants"

AFRICA

January to June 2015

Gourma-Rharous Circle, Tombouctou, Mali

Since the beginning of the year, 57 elephants have been poached according to a survey by MINUSMA (United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali). They represent 20% of the remaining population of Sahelian Elephants. They are the victims of the Malian war and the civil disorganization in the north of Mali. See "On the Trail" n°1 p. 32, n°2 p. 66, n° 5 p. 87, n°8 p. 71, n°9 p. 73.²

Early July 2015

O.R. Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg, Gauteng Province, South Africa

Seizure of 267 kg of ivory. Estimated value: US\$326,000 or US\$1220/kg. The "merchandise" had been declared as "craft items." They were divided up in plastic boxes. They came from Zimbabwe and were bound for Vietnam.³

July 2015

Angola

4 carcasses. The tusks were torn off.⁵

July 2015

Military Tribunal of Yaoundé, Central Region, Cameroon

6 soldiers in the BIR (Rapid Reaction Battalion) are questioned for their suspected participation in

poaching and ivory trafficking while they were on a trafficking surveillance mission around the Sangha reserve. See "On the Trail" n° 9 p 80.⁶

Early July 2015

Mitizic, Woleu-Ntem Province, Gabon

With the aid of the NGO Conservation Justice, a Chadian and a Burkinabe were arrested with 4 ivory tips in a bag of rice. They risk a maximum of 6 months imprisonment. They were working with a certain Mat, currently on the run and suspected of having stolen 300 kg of tusks from the sealed rooms of the Oyem court. See "On the Trail" n°9 p. 73.⁷

July 2, 2015 Tsavo National Park, Kenya⁴



5 months old. Pierced with spears. Dead.

July 9, 2015

Mitizic, Woleu-Ntem Province, Gabon

Seizure of 70 kg of ivory from a car going from Mitizic to Libreville, 250 km. The driver fled.⁸



July 9, 2015

Dévégo, Region Maritime, Togo

Seizure of 2 tusks (4.48 kg). The trafficker, a second hand cloths dealer, was arrested.⁹



July 9, 2015

Road from Nairobi to Mombasa

Arrest of a trafficker. He admitted to having sold ivory his entire life. At the beginning of the 1970s, ivory sold for US\$0.50/kg. By July 9 2015, he was hoping to achieve US\$118/kg.¹⁰



July 14, 2015

Entebbe International Airport, Central Province, Uganda

Seizure of 912 kg of ivory valued at US\$2.3 million or US\$2522/kg. 412 sections of tusk divided between 48 cardboard boxes onboard an Ethiopian Airlines flight bound for Singapore. An airport employee of Entebbe Cargo Handling Services was arrested. This is the 4th seizure of the year at Entebbe airport; the last 2 were bound for Singapore and the first was bound for Amsterdam. 2833 kg seized since January 2015. See "On the Trail" n°8 p 79 and 94, n°9 p 81. ¹¹



July 2015

Gonarezhou National Park, Masvingo Province, Zimbabwe.

The park neighbours Mozambique and is the victim of permanent and illegal human occupation. Discovery in the last 2 months of 10 elephant carcasses without tusks. ¹²

July 16, 2015

Niassa Province, Mozambique

Sentencing of 2 Tanzanians and a Mozambican to 10 years imprisonment for poaching at least 6 elephants in the Niassa Reserve. They were arrested with 12 tusks (see "On the Trail" n°6 p. 84). ¹³



Narok, Narok County, Kenya

Sentencing of 3 people, including one woman, for illegal possession of 8kg of ivory and 2 hippopotamus teeth (Appendix II), valued at Sh800,000 (US\$7570) and Sh60,000 (US\$567), respectively. Verdict: 2 years imprisonment each and a fine of Sh1 million (US\$9462), or 5 years of additional prison time without payment. ¹⁴



July 17, 2015

Bumi Hills, Mashonaland West Province, Zimbabwe



Carnage.
Tusks ripped out. ¹⁵

July 22, 2015

Kinshasa, Province de Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo.

Seizure of 54 tusks and sections (138.8 kg) and a banknote counter at a private home. The suspect fled. Operation performed on the basis of information provided by Thailand following the seizure of 739 tusks and ivory pieces arriving from the Democratic Republic of Congo in April 2015. See "On the Trail" n° 9 p. 77. ¹⁶



July 22, 2015

Victoria Falls, Matabeleland North Province, Zimbabwe

Arrest of a police officer accused of kidnapping a man and poaching 2 elephants. Edmore Bhebhe, 37, is charged with holding Paul Panganai, who was praying in the forest, hostage for 2 days and forcing him to track 2 elephants with the help of 2 or 3 accomplices who fled. After his release, the "hermit" told everything to the cops. ¹⁷

July 22, 2015

Kibera, Nairobi Region, Kenya

Appearance of a man and a woman for possession and trafficking of ivory worth Sh1 million (US\$9690) and release on Sh500,000 (US\$4845) bail. ¹⁸

July 23, 2015

Abong Mbang, East Region, Cameroon

They were wanted for ivory trafficking following the



informations collected after one haul in Yaounde. The trio was holding back 2 kg gold.¹⁹

July 23, 2015
Matusadona National Park, Province of Mashonaland West, Zimbabwe
 Arrest of 5 poachers.²⁰



July 23, 2015
Kruger National Park. On the northern edge of the Balule Reserve, Limpopo Province, South Africa
 Trapped. Head sawn off. The Black Mambas women only anti poaching brigade, arrived too late at the scene.²¹

July 25, 2015
Pendjari National Park, Atakora Department, Benin
 2 killed. 2 arrested.²²

July 27, 2015
Tsavo West National Park, Taita Taveta County, Kenya

5 elephants (one adult female and 4 young males) poached with firearms. 3 arrested, thanks to Didi, a sniffer dog.

After 2 nights in the bush, one surviving elephant calf died in spite of the treatment of the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust. At least 20 elephants since the beginning of the year.²³



REPEATED OFFENSE

July 26 and 29, 2015
Manyara ranch, Arusha, Tanzania

Poaching and arrest of a poacher. Mapengo had been arrested for poaching in December 2014,

and released on bail for almost US\$10,000. On July 27, an inebriated man in a bar was bragging about poaching an elephant the night before. Once questioned, he named Mapengo as his leader and informed on 4 other associates. Two days later, Mapengo was arrested for the second time, this time for the poaching of July 26.²⁴



Anti poaching team at Manyara Ranch

End July 2015
Game reserve bordering the Kruger National Park, South Africa
 Poaching of a young elephant (4-5 years old).²⁵

FAMILY AFFAIRS
July 28, 2015
Mzuzu Northern Region, Malawi



2 brothers sentenced to a fine equivalent to US \$ 5500 each or 7 years in prison for illegally importing from Tanzania 2.6 tons of ivory (781 tusks or sections). It was May 24, 2013, see "On the Trail" n°1 p. 33. The 2 Kaunda brothers chose to pay the fines. The president of the "Malawi parliamentary committee on natural resources and climate change" criticized the lightness of the sentences. The High Court also ordered the qualified authorities in Malawi to burn the ivory stockpile worth several million dollars within 20 days. For its part, the government is willing not to destroy this seizure in order to keep exhibits.²⁶



August 3, 2015
Garangaran, Yankari National Park, Bauchi, Nigeria

Mamman Ibrahim the (in) famous elephant poacher had managed to escape during his trial in July 2009. This time he was caught in the company of an accomplice with the remains of a waterbuck (*Kobus ellipsiprymnus*).²⁷



August 5 and 6, 2015

Masai Mara National Reserve, Narok County and Ithumba Camp, Tsavo East National Park, Kenya

Two adult males rescued by the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust and the KWS. One injured in the front left paw by an arrow and the other injured on the left flank by a poisoned arrow.²⁸



**August 2015
kenya**

Appearance of 2 men holding 6 kg of carved ivory with a value of US\$5814 and therefore for illegal possession of hunting trophies. They remained in custody.²⁹



**August 12, 2015
Nairobi, Kenya**

2 warders indicted for illegal possession of ivory valued at US\$4845. Released on bail for US\$4845. Trial in September.³⁰

**August 12, 2015
Rukinga ranch and Taita ranch, Tsavo Conservation Area, Taita Taveta County, Kenya**

The Tsavo Park is used for grazing by nomadic farmers. Thousands of cattle heads and 20 herders were expelled. The more herds are there, the more elephants are killed. 7 in 15 days. Tourists are fewer and fewer and stay for shorter times. The local tourism office suspect some farmers to engage in poaching or being accomplice. For its part, KWS also believes that the new road and rail links on the border between Kenya and Tanzania promote binational poachers gangs infiltration in the Park.^{30 bis}

**August 14, 2015
Mushingashi Reserve, Kafue National Park, Zambia**

Poaching of 30 elephants between February and August in this unfenced reserve, deliberately open to the comings and goings of wildlife...and unfortunately, of poachers. The director of the reserve denounced the lack of assistance from Zawa (Zambia Wildlife Authority).³¹

**August 14, 2015
Kisima Hills, Kenya**

Trunk cut off and a tusk removed. 5 suspects were arrested and 3 are being sought by the KWS and their sniffer dogs.³²

**Mid August 2015
Mombasa, Kenya**

5 suspected organisers of ivory smuggling to Asia are now free. At the initial hearing the court had decided to keep them in prison, fearing interference with the ongoing investigation. On appeal, the High Court granted everyone freedom for bail of Sh30 million. They are accused of trying to export 511 tusks worth Sh564 million or US\$6 million. The ivory was in a container under tea leaves in the port of Laem Chabang, Thailand. See "On the Trail" No. 9, p.77. The High Court later ordered the freezing of 13 bank accounts of all private individuals involved in this trafficking and the seizure of all their cars.^{32bis}

**August 2015
Nanuyki, Laikipia County, Kenya**

A man has been ordered to pay a fine of US\$193,809 or, failing that, serve a sentence of 5 years imprisonment. He had been stopped with 20 kg of ivory in a bag aboard a boda boda bike. His two companions on the trip were acquitted. The value of the bounty is estimated at US\$19,380 (US\$969 per kilo).³³

REPEATED OFFENSE

**Mid-August 2015
Yankari National Park, Bauchi State, Nigeria**

Arrest of an elephant poacher and his 2 young stooges. This is the 3rd time that Idrisa Abdullahi has been arrested.³⁴

**Mid August 2015
Makadara, County Nairobi, Kenya**

Conviction of a Portuguese to a fine of US\$ 9462 or 5 years jail for illegal possession of an ivory sculpture worth US\$ 284. The man was traveling from Maputo (Mozambique) to London via Nairobi.³⁵



Trade square. Lisbon, Portugal.

**August 19, 2015
Athi River, Machakos County, Kenya**

Rescue of an elephant wounded by a poisoned arrow a fortnight ago.³⁶

**August 2015
Zakouma National Park, Chad**

Red alert in the Zakouma National Park. After a long period of calm, not to say complete absence of poaching for 3 years, 2 elephants and their young

were found dead. An aircraft flying over the area spotted 2 men on horseback near a herd of about 30 elephants. A ground patrol arrived rapidly on site. The intruders had disappeared. The 3050 km² Park had been ravaged by poaching for 10 years. Elephant populations fell from 4000 to 400. The perfect decimation. After having been attacked for years by men on horses with spears, elephants had adopted the habit of grouping closely as Roman legions would, or in the words of the South African park director, like “a school of sardines attacked by a shark”. But when Kalashnikovs were brought in this changed things and what had been a successful collective strategy faced with Sudanese spears turned out to be catastrophic faced with grouped machine guns. The hunted elephants would no longer mate or gestation would never reach full term. Since 2010 the park management and guards have been busy 24/7, all year round. In 2013 there were 3 newborns and 20 in 2014. It is a fragile renaissance.³⁷

REPEATED OFFENSE

August 21, 2015

Sembe, Sangha, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Arrest of Doum David, aged 23 years and son of the “President” of the village of Boudel. The young poacher was ready to kill an elephant with an AK-47. It wasn’t his first offence. He is said to have escaped from Ouesso detention center on January 3, 2015 where he was serving a 2 year jail sentence for killing an elephant.³⁸

August 25, 2015

Nakuru, Nakuru County, Kenya

The two men were arrested on September 1, 2014, with 6 tusks weighing a total of 18 kg (see “On the Trail” n°6 p. 83) in Narok County on the Mosiro-Ntulele road. The first was sentenced to jail for life or a fine of 60 million shillings (US\$567.000), the other was fined 40 million shillings (US\$360.000). They have 14 days to appeal.³⁹



August 25, 2015

Limbe, Cameroon

Seizure of 85 tusks on a ship going to Asia via Nigeria and Equatorial Guinea. A heated argument broke out between the customs officers who discovered the ivory and the forest rangers who claimed custody of it.⁴⁰

August 2015

Benin

A former CENAGREF (National Center for the Management of Fauna Reserves) eco-guard was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment and a fine of US\$13,000 for poaching an elephant and its calf.⁴¹



August 2015

Gabon

2 ivory traffickers sentenced to 3 and 6 months imprisonment, respectively.⁴²



August 2015

Lomé, Maritime Region, Togo

8 tusks seized. 4 traffickers of different nationalities arrested. According to their confessions, the ivory came from Burkina Faso.⁴³

August 2015

Malemba-Nkulu Territory, Katanga Province, Democratic Republic of Congo.

Discovery of 3 detusked floating elephant bodies in the Lufira river. No trace of bullets; the elephants had been poisoned.⁴⁴

August 24, 25, and 26, 2015

Ruvuma Region, South Tanzania

3 armed poachers were stopped. One of them had elephant meat on his person.⁴⁵

August 27, 2015

Silibwet, Bomet County, Kenya

Seizure of 2 elephant tusks, each weighing 2.5 kg, of a value equivalent to US\$20,818 or US\$4163/kg. One arrest and then release on bail for Sh1 million (US\$9462), 2 other suspects are being sought.⁴⁶

August 28, 2015

Mutara, County Laikipia, Kenya

Rescue of a young male elephant.⁴⁷



Spotted by a patrol, caught in an antelope trap, anesthetized for medical check. No damage on the left rear paw. He set off after waking up.

August 29, 2015

Kamuzu International Airport, Lilongwe, Malawi

Seizure of 500 g of ivory and arrest of a Chinese man preparing to fly to Beijing via Addis Ababa on Ethiopian Airlines. On September 2, he was fined to MK 50,000 (US\$ 88) or sentenced to one year jail. He decided in favor of the fine.⁴⁸



August 30, 2015
Chimanimani District, Manicaland Province, Zimbabwe

Seizure of a tusk valued at US\$1100. 2 men arrested.⁴⁹

August 31, 2015
Pendjari Park, Septentrionale Region, Benin

Arrest of a poacher. Seizure of 2 ivory tips, many kilos of elephant meat, and 2 hartebeast carcasses. Later on, the organizer of the network, Célestin T., was arrested. This teacher is related to a CENAGREF officer, himself sentenced in 2014 to 3 years imprisonment for the trafficking of arms and ivory (see "On the Trail" n°7 p. 76). Célestin T. used to exchange tusks recovered by poachers for motorcycles.⁵⁰

August 31, 2015
Nakuru County, Kenya

Appearance of 4 men for trafficking 3 tusk sections (13 kg) worth 2.6 million shilling (US\$24,603) hidden in a potatoes sack and release on bail of 2 million shilling (US\$18,925) each.⁵¹



©David Muchui - Nation

Late August 2015
Manica Province, Mozambique

Seizure of 20 pieces of sculpted ivory. According to a police spokesperson, the ivory will be incinerated.⁵²

End of August 2015
Mombasa, Kenya

News from Mombasa and the Fuji Motors East Africa Limited garage in the Tudor neighborhood. That is where on June 4, 2014, 2152 kg of ivory was found thanks to the extraordinary intervention of the forces of law and order. Today the court hearings revealed that police inspectors let go 2 young people of Asian origin who were on site and presented themselves as students. 9 luxury cars sealed off inside the garage have disappeared. The senior judge in Mombasa, Davis Karani, who had agreed to a 44 million shillings bail for the main accused, Feisal Mohamed Ali, finally agreed to be relieved of the case. His decision to bail Mr Feisal taken on August 21 was contested by the Mombasa Public Prosecutor's Department who immediately formulated an appeal. Feisal will stay in jail. Wanted by Interpol, he had been arrested on December 22, 2014 in Dar es Salaam and immediately extradited to Kenya. Genetic analysis of the tusk sections led by a bone specialist from the Museum of Natural History in Nairobi demonstrated that they come from 160 juvenile, sexually mature and adult elephants.⁵³



© Kevin Oditi - Nation Media Group

September 2015
Swaziland – United States of America.

Delocalization. 3 zoos in the United States are liaising with the authorities of Swaziland, a small State enclaved within South Africa. 18 elephants, 15 females and 3 males are said to be overcrowding 3 parks. They are said to be damaging the environment and it has been decided to replace them by rhinos. For the meantime they are penned up in enclosures and are being fed hay imported from South Africa. Zoos in Dallas, Omaha and Wichita in Texas, Nebraska and Kansas have pledged to provide the imported elephants with better living and survival conditions than those in Swaziland. The American public was asked its opinion, most comments were against. Swaziland says the only other alternative is slaughter.⁵⁴

September 1st 2015
Tsavo National Park, Kenya

Veterinary teams of the park have treated an adult elephant wounded by an arrow in the back of the left flank. The arrow was removed successfully.⁵⁵



©The Tsavo Trust



©The Tsavo Trust

He got up and went away.
 He has a good chance of recovery.

September 1st 2015
Near the Amboseli National Park, Kenya

Discovery of a carcass of a young male. He had been pierced by a spear 3 times. He managed to flee. He collapsed after several kilometers near a water hole. Bitter consolation: his tusks are intact.⁵⁶

August 5 and September 2, 2015
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Seizure of 4 tusks valued at Sh126 million (US\$60,000). Arrest and appearance of 3 suspects accused of planned offense. They include 2 "businessmen" and a mobile phone repairman.⁵⁷

**August 29 and September 6, 2015
Old Naledi, Southwest District, Botswana**

A Zimbabwean holding a tusk was arrested and ordered to appear in court. The man, who had illegally entered Botswanan territory, said that he lacked his antiretroviral medications and asked to be hospitalized. The prosecutor kept him detained while waiting for the conclusion of the inquiry. "You should ask the prison staff to do what is necessary for your treatment."⁵⁸

**September 11, 2015
Francisco Town, North East District, Botswana**

Sentencing of a 54-year-old man to a fine of 25,000 pulas (US\$2384) payable within 7 days or to 5 years imprisonment with 3 suspended for the illegal possession of 2 tusks weighing 39.2 kg and worth 62,000 pulas (US\$5910) in November 2014.⁵⁹



**Mid-September 2015
Bumi Hills, Mashonaland West Province, Zimbabwe**

Poaching of 3 elephants. 73 carcasses were discovered in 8 years in the area. South of Lake Kariba the elephant population has decreased by 75% in fifteen years.⁶⁰



© bainesrivercamp

Along the banks of Kariba's Lake.

**Mid-September 2015
Matabeleland North Province, Zimbabwe**

Sentencing to a 16.5 years prison term with hard labor for a poacher caught a few days earlier with a gun, 2 tusks and an elephant tail in the Binga district.⁶¹



**September 19, 2015
Lilongwe, Malawi**

5 men aged between 26 and 45 broke into a house to steal money. One of them who was armed was mortally wounded during the attack. At his home police found 4 tusk sections.⁶²



**September 22, 2015
Harare, Zimbabwe**

Seizure of 2 tusks estimated at US\$512. A security officer from the Ministry of Transport is alleged to have dropped off the ivory at the home of a police officer. The two were arrested.⁶³

**September 23, 2015
Chipingwe District, Manicaland Province, Zimbabwe**

Discovery of the bodies of 3 elephants killed by bullets. Two of them had had their tusks removed.⁶⁴

**September 23, 2015
County Isiolo, Kenya**

Sentencing of 3 traffickers to 15 and 20 years imprisonment for illegal possession of 2 tusks in September 2014.⁶⁵



**September 23, 2015
Tsavo National Park, Kenya**

Seizure of a tusk, an AK-47, a mobile phone, and TZS3500 (US\$1.60). The poacher was killed by the park rangers.⁶⁶



**September 24, 2015
Nakayama District, Western Province, Zambia**

Seizure of 41 kg of ivory. 2 poachers arrested.⁶⁷

**September 25, 2015
Katima Mulilo, Zambezi Region, Namibia**

7 tusks seized. 2 Namibians and one Botswanian arrested. Since January, 7 poachers in possession of 18 tusks have been arrested. The police reminds



© Namibian Sun

the public that a reward of N\$60,000 (US\$4314) is promised to all who furnish reliable information leading to the arrest of poachers and traffickers.⁶⁸

September 25, 2015

Zambeze Region, Namibia

Seizure of 7 tusks. 3 arrests. Since the beginning of the year, 7 poachers have been arrested and 18 tusks have been seized.⁶⁹

September 27, 2015

Kenya⁷⁰



20 years old. Fatally wounded by a spear in the abdomen.

July 6 – late September 2015

News of elephants from Zimbabwe

China /Hwange National Park/Mashonaland West Province/ North Matabeleland Province, Harare

China

24 young elephants captured in the National Park arrived after 40 hours of travel by road, air and road again at a quarantine pen in Quingyuan before joining the Chimelong mega-zoo in Guanghzou, Guangdong Province, China. 3 remained in Zimbabwe, too sick to be transported. Photos taken at 2 different times by the NGO Nature and University based in Beijing show that the expatriates are dazed. Several wounds and abscesses are visible. Their social behavior is abnormal, fearful and aggressive. "This is probably one of the causes of the illness" said an expert in elephantine communication to National Geographic magazine. Another photo analyst said that "every day these calves become less and less how they should be". This first delivery is likely to be part of an overall program of 190 elephants to supply Chinese zoos. Hwange park is becoming established as a reserve of exotic species for China. Chinese veterinarians and caretakers are constantly on site. Each elephant calf makes US\$24,500 for who knows what or who in Zimbabwe. The Secretary General of the Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate, Prince Mupazviriho, accuses elephants of drinking 1,000 liters of water per day, 5 times more than in reality. The remaining elephants in Hwange National Park are also threatened by chemistry. 11 of them have

just died due to cyanide poisoning. 5 carcasses had their tusks amputated. 5 suspects were arrested belonging to the park staff or their families.⁷¹

Tsholotsho District

10 elephants are said to have been poached by government authorities and had their tusks taken.⁷²

Kariba

3 other elephants died from eating oranges poisoned with cyanide. The hypothesis of unintentional poisoning arises. The elephants are thought to have come to forage in a garbage dump within the park.



A reward of US\$400 is promised in exchange for reliable information. Several people suspected of cyanide trafficking were arrested. Cyanide is commonly used in gold mines as well as to kill elephants and other wild animals.



The massacre is not over... Scavengers like vultures and hyenas are poisoned in turn. After the cyanide carnage of summer 2013 in Hwange National Park, Health services in Zimbabwe spent US\$300,000 in an attempt to clean soils and water sources. For more information about cyanide poisoning in Zimbabwe. See. "On the Trail" N°2 p.2, N°3 p.56, N°4 p.81, N°6 p.76 & 82, N°7 p.79 & 81, N°8 p.61 & 74.

Harare

Beginning of September 62 tusks were seized. They are said to come from elephants in the park. 2 people were arrested.

In Zimbabwe, between January and July, 49 elephants were killed by fire arms, traps and snares.⁷³

Very Good news Cotonou – Benin

Gathered from 2 to 4 November under the auspices of the Minister of Environment of Benin and with the support of the Franz Weber Fondation, delegates from 22 States of West Africa, Central Africa and East Africa agreed to propose or support the re-listing of all elephant populations under Appendix I of CITES. Such a decision if taken at the next plenary meeting of the Convention in September-October 2016 would unequivocally prohibit all international trade in ivory and deprive trafficking of a “legal” cover.

ASIA

July 2, 2015

Sundergarh district, State of Odisha, India

Hit by a 20 cm bamboo arrow with an iron tip, a traditional poaching tool in north-east India. Due to lack of time, the tusks (2.1 kg and 2.3 kg) were not taken.⁷⁴

FAMILY AFFAIRS

July 3, 2015

Trichy, Family Nadu, India

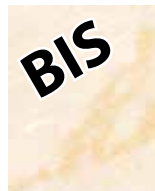
Seizure of an ivory Ganesh statuette (42 g) for sale online. Arrest of a father and his son. On the internet, the advertisements flourish: “a sculpted ivory box dating back 150 years”, “an ivory cane dating back 150 years”, “a bed adorned with ivory”, “an ivory statuette depicting Mahavir” (the Great Hero), “an old sitar inlaid with in ivory...”⁷⁵



© Bangalore Mirror

July 3, 2015

Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok, Thailand



BIS

Seizure of 4 suitcases containing 130 tusks and sections (250 kg) coming from Congo and bound for Laos. Value: 10 million baht (US\$300,000). They were in wooden boxes labelled “pieces of marble”.⁷⁶



© AP Photo/Sakchai Lalit

July 5, 2015

Badulla, Uva Province, Sri Lanka

Seizure of 8 pieces of carved ivory. The 2 sellers had been asking RS1 million Rs (US\$7424). The buyer was a plainclothes officer.^{76 bis}

FAMILY AFFAIRS

July 8, 2015

Tanjiang, Guangdong Province, China

Seizure of carved ivory. Arrest of a father and his son at their home. According to them, the objects came from flea markets and antiques shops, but they had no papers to prove it.⁷⁷

July 13, 2015

Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport, Taiwan

Seizure of 120 pieces of raw ivory (5.6 kg) for the manufacture of seals. They were hidden in peanut powder boxes in the hold baggage of a woman coming from Hong Kong.⁷⁸



© Focus Taiwan

July 13, 2015

Kathmandu, Central Development Region, Nepal

Seizure of 19 ivory dice and pieces for a board game locally known as “pasa”. Arrest of 5 people ranging from 21 to 40 years of age.⁷⁹



Pasa example

July 14, 2015

Yok Don National Park, Dak Lak Province, Vietnam

Attempt to steal the tusks of a domesticated elephant. It had been captured by poachers. Its keeper found it chained to some trees, its right tusk partially sawn off. It was necessary to amputate this tusk in order to avoid infection. Since 2009, at least 6 elephants have been killed for their tusks and other organs in the National Park. No suspect has been arrested. 4 elephants remain in the park.⁸⁰



July 15, 2015

On the edge of Kaeng Krachan National Park, Prachuap Khiri Khan Province, Thailand

Discovery of 3 electrocuted elephant carcasses at a farm belonging to a Buddhist community. In times of drought the manager wanted to prevent elephants from accessing a water point. He faces a sentence of 4 years imprisonment and a fine of 40,000 baht (US\$1140). After autopsy the bodies were buried.⁸¹



The fate of the tusks is unknown



The tip of the trunk had disappeared

Mid-July 2015

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Seizure of a carved tusk (1.4 kg) from a package sent from France. The ivory is of African origin.⁸²



**July 17, 2015
Tam Ky, Quang Nam Province, Vietnam**

Following the seizure of 16 tusks in June (see "On the Trail" n° 9 p 87) one of the suspects who had fled after the traffic accident

has been identified as Nguyễn Văn Quý. He is the subject of a wanted notice.⁸³



FAMILY AFFAIRS

July 22, 2015

Belagavi, Karnataka, India

Seizure of 4 ivory tips from a father and his son living in Ponda in the State of Goa.⁸⁴

End of July 2015

Bintuhan, Province of Bengkulu, Indonesia

Seizure of ivory objects, pipes and canes, 2 popular uses. Arrest of a trafficker active for at least 5 years. The Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park is nearby, where a few dozen elephants survive.⁸⁵



July 2015

Dubai Airport, United Arab Emirates

Seizure of 622 kg of ivory this month. The passengers came from African countries and were leaving for America or Asia. Dubai customs estimate the overall value to be 5 million dirhams or US\$1,351,000 (US\$2172/kilo).⁸⁶



July 29, 2015

Bangalore, Karnataka, India

Arrest of a young man, 20 years of age, and his assistant for poaching 2 elephants in the Jawalagiri forest on the Tamil Nadu and Karnataka border in summer 2014 and for the attempted sale of 2 tusks of 5 kg each.⁸⁷



Beginning of August 2015

Jalpaiguri, West Bengal State, India

Seizure of 4 kg of ivory bound for Bhutan. 3 men from Buxa National Park were arrested. They had just killed 2 elephants. One of them is the son of a park ranger. Total value: US\$12,500 (US\$3125/kg).⁸⁸

Early August 2015

Dalian, Liaoning Province, China

3 people given suspended sentences of 10 months imprisonment and fines of 15,000 yuan (US\$2356) for the illegal sale of ivory objects (0.61 kg) valued at 25,417 yuan (US\$3993).⁸⁹



August 2015

Guangzhou-Baiyun International Airport, Guangdong Province, China

Seizure of 23 ivory objects (1920 g) from 2 passengers coming from Addis-Ababa (Ethiopia).⁹⁰

August 25, 2015

Siliguri, West Bengal State, India

Seizure of 4 tusks (total weight: 938 grams !) worth US\$2720 in a bus coming from Dakshin Dinajpur district heading to the city of Siliguri (236 km). 4 arrests including a craftsman honored by the government. According to the first elements of the investigation, the 4 were hiding 40 kg of ivory and rhino horns destined for a foreign country.⁹³

August 27, 2015

Sri Lanka

Seizure of 5 elephants in captivity and conviction of a man for their possession.⁹⁵

THE TAILORS NETWORK

July 27, August 7 and August 24, September 25 and 29, 2015
Hong Kong International Airport, China

1 - Seizure of 15 kg in the tailor-made jacket and trousers of a 27 year-old passenger coming from Lagos via Dubai. Ordered to pay a HK\$62,000 (US\$8,000) fine.



2 - Seizure of 15 kg concealed in the jacket lining of an 18 year-old passenger coming from Harare via Dubai. Estimated value: US\$19,354.



3 - Seizure of 15 kg in the double-sided and specially cut waistcoat, folded in the hand luggage of a 42-year-old passenger coming from Abuja, Nigeria via Dubai.⁹¹



4- September 25, seizure of 13 kg of carved ivory hidden in the tailor-made jacket of a 27 year-old passenger coming from Harare via Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Estimated value: HK\$130,000 (US\$16,774)



5 - September 29, seizure of 16 kg of ivory pieces, 15 kg concealed in the tailor made jacket and underpants of a 26-year-old passenger coming from Abuja in Niger via Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, plus 1 kg in his hand luggage. He was sentenced to 2 months imprisonment. Estimated value of the ivories: HK\$160,000 (US\$20,645).⁹²



August 26, 2015

Thailand

Destruction of 4 tons of contraband ivory. Since May 2014, Thailand has been taking drastic measures to control trafficking and improve its image.⁹⁴



Late August 2015

Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, China

Seizure of a postal parcel originating from Africa, with 32 bracelets, chopsticks, and other ivory objects (1.94 kg).⁹⁶



August 30, 2015

Hikkaduwa, Southern Province, Sri Lanka

2 arrests and appearance of a baby elephant that was taken into a Buddhist temple during the Perahera (the Tooth Festival) as an exhibit. The legality of its registration license is doubtful. The Tooth Festival is celebrated for 10 days with nocturnal processions of elephants accompanied by dancers. See "On the Trail" n° 5 p. 98.⁹⁷



September 1st, 2015

Bangalore District, Karnataka State, India

Seizure of 2 tusks (35 kg) and arrest of 7 poachers. Since the beginning of the year, 8 tusks have been seized in the city.⁹⁸

September 2, 2015

High Court of the State of Odisha, India

Afzal Beg, ivory trafficker (see "On the Trail" n° 7 p. 94), has had his request for bail denied. The police suspects him of being involved in the poaching of 5 elephants in the Sambalpur reserve.⁹⁹

September 6, 2015

Qingdao, Shandong Province, China

Sentencing of an antiques dealer to 15 years imprisonment and the confiscation of his goods, valued at 200,000 Yuan (31,300 US\$) for trafficking ivory (131.36 kg) from Japan in 7 packages, transported by the delivery service EMS and declared as "artisanal wooden objects." cf. "On the Trail" n° 9 p. 84.¹⁰⁰



September 2 and 6, 2015

Hong Kong International Airport, China via Amsterdam from Zimbabwe

Seizures of 24 and 51 kg of carved ivory with a value of HK\$750,000 (US\$96,774) and declared as earthenware tiles. The booty was divided into 3 parcels.¹⁰¹



September 14, 2015

Male Mhadeshwara Sanctuary, Karnataka, India

2 elephants killed by firearms discovered 2 km away from each other. Their trunks had been cut off and their tusks removed. The carcasses were incinerated after autopsy.¹⁰²



One poacher under the eye of a camera scanning the big fauna on the move.

September 14, 2015

Nawagattegama, North Central Province, Sri Lanka

Intensive care for a young elephant about 7 years old. He was found near a water point, poisoned with a fungicide of the Curator type. His recovery is not guaranteed.¹⁰³



Septembre 15, 2015

Beijing, China

Sentencing of a woman, a hairdresser by profession, to 6.5 years imprisonment and a fine of 60,000 yuan (US\$9390 US\$) for ivory trafficking. She had been arrested at Beijing airport with 6 elephant tusk segments (14.5 kg) in her luggage, valued at 605,000 yuan (US\$94,685) or US\$6530/kg. She is alleged to have purchased the ivory from a Chinese expat for 20,000 yuan (US\$3142). According to her testimony, she had been in Côte d'Ivoire to explore the possibility of opening a bar or a restaurant and to meet up with her ex-husband. In fact, her stay in Côte d'Ivoire lasted 24 hours, enough time to buy 20,000 yuan worth of contraband ivory. "I thought the ivory was a kind of local product, and I wanted to take it as a souvenir to decorate my home."¹⁰⁴



September 18, 2015

Province of West Sumatra, Indonesia

35 years old. Domestic Elephant. Yongki was found dead, his beautiful 1 m long tusks torn out. He patrolled for years with the rangers in the Timbul Batubara Park to ward off poachers, locate illegal felling of trees and drive wild elephants away from villages and plantations. Great emotion in the country.¹⁰⁵



September 23, 2015

Secunderabad, Telangana, India

Seizure of 2 tusks, valued at 1 crore Rs (US\$150,000) on the international market. Arrest of 3 men: a businessman, the general director of a software company, and a real estate agent. The ivory came from Vizag in Andhra Pradesh. They had hoped to sell it in Hyderabad.¹⁰⁶

July-September 2015

Kerala, India

Kerala. Dismantling of an old and structured ring. The Southern Indian States holds the record for domestic elephants. There are 667, 90% have tusks. They are usually cut near the trunk and grow slowly, offering owners substantial income and elephants relative safety.

Wild elephants in Kerala are thought to number between 3000 and 3500; this figure dating from 2011 is to be considered with caution. "On the Trail" regularly mentions elephants in Kerala. See "On the Trail" n°1 p.35, n°4 p.85, n°6 p.94, n°7 p.93, n°9 p.87, n°9 p.88.

In the first days of July, 5 elephants were lying in the forests near Malayattoor as an echo of the testimony of Kalarikudiylil Kunjumon (see "On the Trail" N°9 p.87). The investigation made fast progress. In the role of chief killer was Vasu alias Veerappan Varattura at work in the forests since 2003. The tusks were transferred to be cut up, worked and transformed into statues of religious idols in sweatshops in Thiruvananthapuram, the capital of Kerala. 45 kg of worked ivory were seized from Vasu's parents who served as his sales agents. On July the 18, Vasu was found hanged in a pineapple plantation where he found refuge. Later a former assistant of Vasu, the appointed tusks carrier, was arrested along with a duo of poachers working in the same forests, but specialising in deer and buffalo meat. A nephew of Vasu was picked up in turn by police. Several suspects complained of having been abused by investigators. The logbook of a certain "Eagle Rajan", 50, a specialist in illegal ivory, was seized at his home. Reading it, investigators learned that Ukkadam, a bus station in Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu, served as a cross-docking platform for carved ivory heading for Bangalore, Bombay,



Ikaramattam Vasu

Kolkata and several ashrams. They also discovered a list of wealthy collectors. Cooperative suspects took forestry service officers to burial sites for poached elephants. During August, it was decided to re-examine the circumstances of death of 90 elephants deemed as victims of “natural deaths” for 2 years and analyse in each case the forest rangers’ findings and the villagers’ testimonies. Between July and the end of September 40 suspects were identified in the State of Kerala. The first estimate of 20 elephants killed by the Organisation is most certainly well below the mark.¹⁰⁷



Ukkadam

EUROPE

July 6 2015

Zurich International Airport, Zurich Canton, Switzerland

Seizure of 262 kg of ivory of an estimated value of US\$413,000, including a kg of lion teeth and claws. The material, divided among 8 suitcases, was being transported by 3 Chinese passengers aged 21-37 years traveling from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and bound for Beijing. First, the Swiss customs officers asked each passenger for a bail of US\$102,000 for their release. They were unable to pay the bail. The trio was able to continue their voyage after having handed over all the cash that they had at their disposal to the Swiss authorities. The amount of the transaction was not revealed. NGOs have protested.



The director of customs at the airport cleared his own name, affirming that the traffickers would be heavily penalised on their arrival in China.

Images from a video surveillance camera at Dar-es-Salaam airport show the complicity of the officers charged with inspecting the passengers. They had “looked the other way” when the suitcases passed through the metal detector...

In late September, 4 security officers at Julius Nyerere International Airport– including 2 soldiers from the Tanzania People’s Defense Force (TPDF) and Ms Li Ling Ling, a woman of Chinese nationality -- were arrested for organizing and facilitating the illegal export of ivory.¹⁰⁸



July 17, 2015

County of Cumbria, England, UK

Seizure of 9 pieces of ivory after investigations on line. A young man aged 20 will be heard by the police.¹⁰⁹

End of August 2015

Toulouse, Midi-Pyrénées, France

Inventory of the ivory stock of the Museum of Natural History. After dating and laser marking illegal ivory will be crushed and burned.¹¹⁰



Other Mammals

AFRICA

July 13, 2015
Mlawula Reserve, Lubombo
region, Swaziland

Among the 3 poachers, there was a ranger. He had been shot by his fellows. 2 guns and 3 carcasses were seized: an impala (*Aepyceros melampus*), a grey duiker (*Sylvicapra grimmia*) and a nyala (*Tragelaphus angasii*).¹



Aepyceros melampus

Beginning of September 2015
Kenya

Seizure of a giraffe carcass and conviction of 5 bush meat merchants fined KES800,000 (US\$7570) each.²

Mid-September 2015
Beitbridge, South Matabeleland Province, Zimbabwe border with South Africa

Again the honest and scrupulous guide, the friend of hunters and of the hunted, the very one who directed and participated in the hunt for the lion Cecil. He is being held liable for the smuggling of 29 giant sable antelopes (*Hippotragus Niger variiani*, Appendix I) between Zambia and South Africa via Zimbabwe. Theo Bronkhorst appeared before the court for this second wildlife offense in 2 months and once again was released on bail (US\$500). The 3 all terrain trucks carrying antelopes in appalling conditions - 2 were found suffocated - got stuck in the mud a few km from the South African border and were intercepted by the Zimbabwe police.⁴



September 22, 2015
Buliisa District, Uganda

Seizure of 33 kg of hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*, Appendix II) teeth ivory coming from the Murchison Falls National Park and the Bugungu Wildlife Reserve. One arrest, 7 fugitives.⁵

Masai Mara National Reserve, Narok County, Kenya

Poaching of a giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*). She was found in anguish, injured by a spear. See. "On the Trail" n° 7 p 96.⁶



© Elephant Aware

AMERICA

July 2015
At the intersection of highways
27 and 11, San Luis Province,
Argentina



5 arrests for the poaching of 3 female pampas deers (*Ozotoceros bezoarticus*, Appendix I). Fine of 174,360 pesos (US\$ 19,225).⁷

August 17, 2015
Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil

Seizure of 82 kg of wild meat, including paca (*Cuniculus paca*, Appendix III) from a freezer in a market. The stall's proprietor claimed not to know for whom the merchandise was being held. He has nevertheless been placed in custody.⁸



© Cláudio Dias Timm

September 2015
Chochola, Yucatan, Mexico

Seizure of a white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*, Appendix III). The captor claims to have found it and "taken care of it." It was in an extremely bad condition.⁹

Young
Odocoileus virginianus



© Steinh, Tom

Mid-September 2015
Palouse, Washington, USA

The grey wolf (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) which was shot in October 2014 was the first to be spotted in Whitman County for nearly a century. Jonathan Rasmussen, the shooter, did not plead self-defense. He killed the wolf to prevent him from attacking his livestock. He risked a year in jail and a US\$5,000 fine. He gets away with a US\$100 fine and a commitment not to repeat the offence for 6 months. It is not sure whether his Remington Model 700 has been seized.¹⁰



© Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

ASIA

July 1st, 2015
Naran, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Region, Pakistan

Seizure of a stuffed markhor (*Capra falconeri*, Appendix I) and a Siberian ibex (*Capra sibirica*, Appendix III under Pakistan) in a hotel. The owner was fined Rs40,000 (US\$3914). The trophies came from Skardu in Gilgit-Baltistan, more than 1000 km away by road.¹¹



July 13, 2015
Bargarh District, State of Odisha, India

Dismantling of a antelope horn trafficking operation, probably four-horned antelopes (*Tetracerus quadricornis*, Appendix III in Nepal) from Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary: seizure of 31 horns and 8 arrests.¹²

July 15, 2015
On the edge of a protected area of the district of Siem Pang, Stung Treng Province, Cambodia.

Poaching of a gaur (*Bos gaurus*, Appendix I) by firearm. Stuffed gaur heads are popular as house decorations.¹³

July 24, 2015
Dindigul District, Tamil Nadu, India

Barbecue of a deer by a group of friends in the forest. 6 of them were arrested including a doctor and a former vice president of a panchayat, a local council of elders. A police inspector escaped.¹⁴

End July 2015
Sonitpur District, Assam, India

3 men sentenced to 7 years imprisonment and Rs50,000 (US\$755) each in fines. In 2014 they had poached deers inside the Nameri National Park and sprinkled the meat with Furadan to keep away flies and slow the



rotting of the meat. Furadan is a carbamate insecticide banned in Europe and used by poachers in Africa and Asia (see "On the Trail" n° 2 p. 37 and n° 4 p. 83). One of the poachers had been wanted for 4 years. Pogag also wreaked havoc in the States of Karnataka and Kerala. Deer are one of the favorite prey of tigers.



According to the last census from 2002, there were 26 tigers in the park.¹⁵

July 30, 2015
Vicinity of Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh, India

Poaching of 2 swamp deer (*Rucervus duvaucelii*, Appendix I) in Hastinapur Sanctuary and sale of the meat. 2 arrests. Deers were electrocuted in "katiya connections" illegal connections diverting electricity from medium voltage lines. The front legs were completely burned.¹⁶



© aloshbennett

Late July 2015
Ho Chi Minh City and An Giang Province, Vietnam

Seizure of two otters (*Lutrinae* spp., Appendix I or II) being sold on the internet.¹⁷



© ENV

August 6, 2015
Tay Ninh Province, Vietnam



Thanks to a customer report to the local authorities, the caged otter (*Lutrinae* spp., Appendix I or II) exhibited in a seafood restaurant was released in a nearby national park.¹⁸

August 12, 2015
Mondolkiri Province, Cambodia



In the back of a Toyota, there was 149 kg of sambar deer (*Rusa unicolor*) meat. The species is considered "vulnerable" by the IUCN. Arrest of 3 hunters aged 25 to 33 years.¹⁹

September 5, 2015
Bangkok, Thailand

He had been trading civets (Viverridae family) on line since March. His discount price was 4,500 baht (US\$125). He was arrested.²⁰

September 7, 2015
Bikaner district, Rajasthan State, India

Murder at daybreak of a police officer by a gang of poachers who were pursuing blackbucks (*Antelope cervicapra*, Appendix III) in a forest around Shobana.²¹



OCEANIA

Night of September 4 and 5, 2015
Major highway from Gohapin to Poya, New Caledonia, French Overseas Territory

Using a floodlight, poaching of a flying fox (*Pteropus* spp., Appendix I or II) perched in a tree at night near route RM5. 3 arrests. One of the individuals is known for cattle theft.²⁷



Multi-Species

AFRICA

Mid-July
Porto-Novo, Ouémé Department, Benin

Seizure of 4 elephant feet, leopard (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I), civet and bushbuck (*Tragelaphus scriptus*) skins, pangolin scales (*Manis* spp., Appendix II), baboon heads (*Papio* spp., Appendix II), crocodile heads and skins (*Crocodylidae* spp., Appendix I or II) and 50 chameleons. The 3 traffickers were released on bail.¹



July 28, 2015
Pobè, Plateau Department, Benin

Seizure of 2 African python skins (*Python sebae*, Appendix II), 10 genet skins, 50 bushbuck skins, and 15 dead chameleons. While the penal code suggests a prison sentence of 3 months to 5 years for animal traffickers, the 2 individuals were set free after an out-of court settlement with the Forestry Administration. Question from the newspapers: are the forest rangers a threat to wildlife in Benin?²



Mid-august 2015
Niassa Province, Mozambique

Arrest of a civil servant from the Maua district for the illegal possession of bushmeat. He was at the head of a group of 9 poachers. He had wanted to fill up on bushmeat before leaving on vacation with his children. He was using his official car. He and his associates were released.³

Mid-August 2015

Kampala, Central Province, Uganda

Anti-wildlife-trafficking operations in 3 districts of the city:

- Kawmpe, seizure of 5kg of pangolin scales (*Manis* spp., Appendix II), 3 serval skins (*Leptailurus serval*, Appendix II), and sitatunga horns (*Tragelaphus spekii*). The offender had a shop in the market at Kalerwe.

- Kamwokya, seizure of 3 kg of elephant ivory, one arrest.

- A "craftwork" specialist was arrested with a leopard skin, serval (*Leptailurus serval*, Appendix II) skins, a python skin (*Pythonidae* spp., Appendix I or II), and antelope horns. She was sentenced to 1.5 years imprisonment and a fine of US\$280. EAGLE Uganda appealed against this judgement: "the fine is too low."⁴

August 2015

Democratic Republic of the Congo

With the help of sniffer dogs, the recovery of 90 kg of meat from wild animals protected under national law and 14 live animals, including African dwarf crocodiles (*Osteolaemus tetraspis*, Appendix I), red-tailed monkeys (*Cercopithecus ascanius*, Appendix II), and turtles. They were released in the Lifoula mangrove swamp and the Mambili River.⁵

August 2015

Togo

Seizure of 3 python skins (*Pythonidae* spp., Appendix I or II), 2 stuffed baboon heads (*Papio* spp., Appendix II), and 4 turtle shells. One arrest.⁶

Mid-August 2015

Kampala, Central Province, Ouganda

Seizure of a hyena skin (family Hyaenidae), a leopard skin, a python skin (*Pythonidae* spp., Appendix I or II) and other parts of protected species, estimated overall at almost US\$9000. 4 arrests; 2 members of the network fled after being warned by a police officer who was suspended.⁷

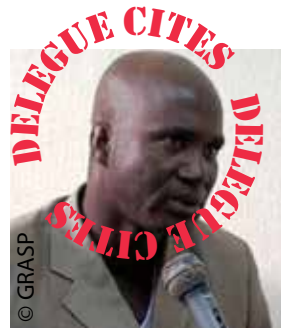
REPEATED OFFENSE

August 19, 2015

Lomie, East Region, Cameroon



Seizure of gorilla and chimpanzee skulls and bush-pig and elephant teeth (*Potamochoerus larvatus*). The two suspects have also trafficked ivory and pangolin scales to China.⁸



August 24, 2015

Conakry, Guinea

Arrest by INTERPOL of the former CITES director in Guinea, Ansoumane Doumbouya. A blank CITES permit was found in his bag. A major trafficker, manager of a dummy company, Barry

Pets Import-Export Company, was also arrested in possession of primates and a permit signed by Doumbouya.⁹

September 1st, 2015

Bertoua, East Province, Cameroon

Seizure of 140 parts or derivatives of lions, rhinos, manatees, protected birds and many elephant tusks. Arrest of a dozen poachers / traders / wholesalers in wildlife on the verge of extinction.¹⁰

September 2015

Kenya

Seizure of bush meat: giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*), zebra (*Equus* kind) and Waller's gazelle (*Litocranius walleri*) and 2 motorcycles. Arrest of the trio.¹¹



September 7, 2015

Alldays, Limpopo Province, South Africa

A pack of Dutch and Belgian hunters spread terror in 3 private ranches among the antelopes, warthogs and elands. Perched on platforms, the fierce and arrogant killers shot the terrified animals driven into exposed areas by hundreds of beaters hired for 5 days and armed with drums. The Europeans will



have the right to return home with the trophies of hunted mammals. Baboons are also thought to have been affected. An investigation was launched. Hunting with beaters is not common in South Africa. The best known and perhaps the deadliest remains that of 24 April 1860 on the occasion of the visit of Prince Alfred, 16, second son of Queen Victoria. 1000 beaters were mobilised. Several were crushed by panicked animals. 5,000 animals were killed. A participant in the royal hunt describes the pleasure and excitement of the little prince: "His Highness was red to the shoulders ..."¹²



Alfred, Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha in adulthood.

September 21, 2015

Ikungi District, Singida Region, Tanzania

A 30 year old man appeared at the police station. One of his parents was in custody. He was carrying a bag. The police officers had been informed from sources outside that this bag was suspect. They proceeded to open it and found 2 pieces of human skulls, 3 pieces of lion skin (*Panthera leo*, Appendix II), 3 bottles of lion oil, 3 pieces of ivory and a python (*Pythonidae* spp., Appendix I ou II). Was it a macabre, wildlife-related superstition to encourage the release of his parent, or a failed attempt to corrupt local government officers? No-one knows.¹³

September 25, 2015

Ruiru, Kiambu County, Kenya

Seizure of 4 leopard skins and 3 elephant tusks poached in Mount Kenya National Park. 3 suspects arrested. Their car broke down and was searched by police.¹⁴

AMERICA

FLYAWAY OPERATION

At the end of June, the FLYAWAY coordinated operation targeted travelers and air freight, and parcels and mail in the United States and South America. See "On the Trail" n° 9 p. 98.

In Colombia and Peru, FLYAWAY was extended to markets and restaurants surveillance.

Bogota (Colombia), seizure of 55 wild animals including a white-faced capuchin (*Cebus capucinus*, Appendix II), 2 yellow-fronted amazons (*Amazona ochrocephala*, Appendix II), 33 items in brown spectacled caiman leather (*Caiman crocodilus fuscus*, Appendix II) with a value of 11 million pesos (US\$4312), 19 wildlife byproducts including oncilla (*Leopardus tigrinus*, Appendix I), boa constrictor skins (*Boa constrictor*, Appendix II), giant anteaters (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*, Appendix II), stuffed spectacle caimans (*Caiman crocodilus*, Appendix II), jaguar legs (*Panthera onca*, Appendix I) and tapir legs (*Tapirus* spp., Appendix I or II).¹⁵

Arequipa (Arequipa Region, Peru), seizure of 5 parakeets (*Psittacidae* spp., Appendix I or II), 4 conures (*Aratinga* spp., Appendix II), a red-masked parakeets (*Aratinga erythrogenys*, Appendix II), a red lored amazon (*Amazona autumnalis*, Appendix II), a white-fronted capuchin (*Cebus albifrons*, Appendix II), a hyacinth macaw (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*, Appendix I), 13 canary winged parakeets (*Brotogeris versicolurus*, Appendix II), 50 frogs of the *Telmatobius culeus* species, 629 butterflies, 125 insects, 5 bats and 7 tarantulas.¹⁶

Beginning of July 2015

San Miguel el Alto, Jalisco, Mexico

Confiscation, pending proof of legality, of 6 stuffed animals: a white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*, Appendix III in Guatemala) 2 coyotes and 3 raccoons. Unless proved legal, they will be permanently seized and used for educational purposes.¹⁷



July 2015

Manacapuru, Amazonas, Brazil

Again at the "Free Market." Seizure of 14 turtles, and of meat from Amazonian manatees (*Trichechus manatus*, Appendix I), pacas (*Cuniculus paca*, Appendix III), South American tapirs (*Tapirus terrestris*, Appendix II), and Red deer. The 150 kg

of meat were turned over to CIGS, the military-run zoo. No arrests.¹⁸



Trichechus manatus

Beginning of July 2015

"Francisco Brown Gantus" zoological eco-center, Campeche State, Campeche, Mexico

For non-submission of legal documents, confiscation of 122 live animals including 4 crocodiles (*Crocodylidae* spp., Appendix I or II), 2 collared peccaries (*Pecari tajacu*, Appendix II except in the United States and Mexico), an oncilla (*leopardus tigrinus*, Appendix I), 3 lemurine night monkeys (*Aotus lemurinus*, Appendix II), a common caracara (*Caracara cheriway*, Appendix II), a common rhea (*Rhea americana*, Appendix II), a white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*, Appendix I), 62 furrowed wood turtles (*Rhinoclemmys areolata*), 7 common slider turtles (*Trachemys scripta*), and one white-lipped mud turtle (*Kinosternon leucostomum*) species.¹⁹

Mid-July 2015

Zoochilpan Zoo, Chilpancingo de los Bravo, State of Guerrero, Mexico

No evidence of legal origin. Confiscation of 266 wild animals. Amongst these were representatives of the following species: the Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*, Appendix I), the oncilla (*Leopardus tigrinus*, Appendix I), the jaguar (*Panthera onca*, Appendix I), the hippo, the giraffe, the buffalo, the spider monkey (*Ateles* spp., Appendix I or II), the patas monkey (*Erythrocebus patas*, Appendix II), the ring-tailed lemur (*Lemur catta*, Appendix I), the red eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) and the painted wood turtle *Rhinoclemmys pulcherrima*, the royal python (*Python regius*, Appendix II), the green iguana (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II), the flamingo (*Phoenicopterus* spp., Appendix II), the black-bellied whistling duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*, Appendix III in Honduras), the military macaw (*Ara militaris*, Appendix I), the red-masked parakeets (*Psittacara erythrogenys*, Appendix II), the Scarlet macaw (*Ara militaris*, Appendix I), the white-fronted amazon (*Amazona albifrons*, Appendix II), the prairie dog (genus *Cynomys*) and the Mexican wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*, Appendix II).²⁰

July 16, 2015 Uberlândia, Minas Gerais, Brazil

Seizure of a caiman (*Alligatoridae* spp., Appendix I or II) and a parrot (*Psittaciformes* spp., Appendix I or II).²¹



July 16, 2015

Reque, Province of Chiclayo, Peru

Seizure of a falcon (*Falco* spp., Appendix I or II) and 8 turtles in the tourists' restaurant Quinta Hawaii. They had been held there for several years. Confiscation of an adult jaguar (*Panthera onca*, Appendix I) which, according to Hebert Castillo Sánchez, was given to his father 23 years ago. 20 days later, no solution had been found for the jaguar. He remains in the custody of the restaurant owner.²²



July 2015

Autlán de Navarro, Jalisco, Mexico

Seizure of a Harris's hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*, Appendix II), a white-tailed hawk (*Buteo albicaudatus*, Appendix II), and a white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*, Appendix III in Guatemala).²³

July 2015

Moroleon Zoological Park, Guanajuato, Mexico

No documentation. The zoo is nevertheless covered by the 2015 National Inspection Program. 36 animals impounded: a yellow-headed amazon (*Amazona oratrix*, Appendix I), a lilac-crowned amazon (*Amazona finschi*, Appendix I), 2 Geoffroy's spider monkeys (*Ateles geoffroyi*, Appendix II), a red-lored amazon (*Amazona autumnalis*, Appendix II), 4 collared peccaries (*Pecari tajacu*, Appendix II except population of the United States and Mexico), a white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*, Appendix III in Guatemala), 2 barbary sheep (*Ammotragus lervia*, Appendix II), 5 common peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*, Appendix III in Pakistan), 3 blackbucks (*Antilope cervicapra*, Appendix III), 15 common sliders (*Trachemys scripta*) and a european mouflon (*Ovis musimon*).²⁴

July 15 to 21, 2015

Zoo Serengeti El y El Jocoqui, San José de Gracia, State of Aguascalientes, Mexico

Confiscation of 111 animals without papers including 4 cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*, Appendix I), 2 large lemurs (*Lemuridae* spp., Appendix I), 2 caracals (*Caracal caracal*, Appendix I or II), 2 Barbary sheep (*Ammotragus lervia*, Appendix II), 5 South African crowned cranes (*Baelearica regulorum*, Appendix II) and 2 grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*, Appendix II).²⁵

Ammotragus lervia



**Between the 3rd and 7th of August, 2015
Bezerras, Arcoverde, Sertânia, Iguaraci, Afogados da Ingazeira and Tabira, Pernambuco, Brésil**

A vast police operation led to the seizure of 204 birds, a margay (*Leopardus wiedii*, Appendix I), a wood tortoise (*Chelonoidis carbonaria*, Appendix II), a common tegu (*Tupinambis teguixin*, Appendix II), an armadillo (family Dasypodidae), and a fox (family Canidae). Traps and 6 firearms were confiscated and destroyed.²⁶



**August 6, 2015
Huehuetenango Department, Guatemala**

Seizure of 2 ocellated turkeys (*Meleagris ocellata*, Appendix III in Guatemala), 20 red-billed whistling-ducks, (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*, Appendix III in Honduras), 3 common iguanas (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II), 3 yellow-naped amazons (*Amazona auropalliata*, Appendix I), a mealy amazon (*Amazona farinosa*, Appendix II), and 3 stuffed armadillos (family Dasypodidae).²⁷

**August 2015
Aguas Verdes, Zarumilla Province, Peru**

A WhatsApp user, shocked by the manner in which monkeys (*Primates* spp., Appendix I or II), budgerigars (*Psittacidae* spp, Appendix I or II), squirrels (family Sciuridae), puppies, roosters, and rabbits at the border between Peru and the Equator were being treated and sold, sent photos to the newspaper El Comercio. Alert number for El Comercio: (+51) 947-031-286.²⁸

**August 2015
Aguascalientes, Aguascalientes, Mexico**

Confiscation of 29 reptiles and amphibians, including a beaded lizard (*Heloderma horridum*, Appendix I or II), a Sumatran short-tailed python (*Python curtus*, Appendix II), and 5 red-eyed leaf frogs (*Agalychnis callidryas*, Appendix II).²⁹



Agalychnis callidryas

**August 14, 2015
Ribeirão Pires, Sao Paulo, Brazil**

Seizure of bullets, firearms, chemical products, and "hunting souvenirs " such as an armadillo shell (family Dasypodidae) and a turtle (family Testudines), capybara paws (*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*) and a stuffed yacare caiman (family Alligatoridae). Fine of 2000 reais or US\$500.³⁰

**August 24
Honduras, transit between Nicaragua and Guatemala**

A Nicaraguan couple was arrested on a bus with 14 yellow crowned Amazons (*Amazona ochrocephala*, Appendix II), 4 white faced capuchins (*Cebus capucinus*, Appendix II), a Scarlet macaw (*Ara Macao*, Appendix I), a military macaw (*Ara militaris*, Appendix I) and 4 Swainson's toucans (*Ramphastos swainsonii*).³¹



**September 2015
Aguarico Canton, Orellana, Ecuador**

5 Peruvians were arrested with 2 collared peccaries (*Pecari tajacu*, Appendix I or II), 7 turtles, and wood that had been cut illegally.³²



**September 2015
Tulum, Quintana Roo, Mexico**

Mistreated television stars. 12 animals in a deplorable state, including a jaguar (*Panthera onca*, Appendix I), a puma (*Puma concolor*, Appendix I or II), a tufted capuchin (*Cebus apella*, Appendix II), a Morelet's crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletii*, Appendix II), and two boa constrictors (*Boa constrictor*, Appendix I or II) were discovered while they were being transported for the recording of a television show.³³



September 2015

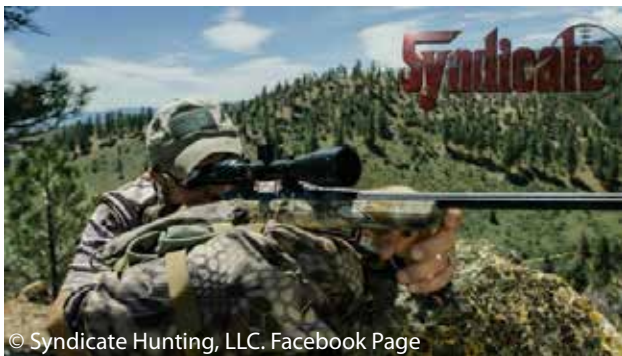
Tulum, Quintana Roo, Mexico

A Morelet's crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletii*, Appendix II), a jaguar (*Panthera onca*, Appendix I), a puma (*Puma concolor*, Appendix I or II), a Geoffrey's spider monkey (*Ateles geoffroyi*, Appendix I or II), and several snakes were seized from a pick-up truck.³⁴

September 14, 2015

Noatak National Reserve, Alaska, United States of America

Clark Dickson and Lance Walker, the main characters and directors of "Syndicate", a reality show on hunters in action, were brought to court along with 8 accomplices for having hunted down and killed dozens of brown bears (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II), moose (Genre alces), caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*), Dall sheep (*Ovis dalli*) and wolves (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) over several successive years, without permit. All of their hunting practices were completely illegal. No permits. No permission to camp. No permission to conduct fly-over surveys of the area with a Stol Quest SQ-4. The Sportsman Channel documentaries had been falsified. This tv-lie reminds us of "Canada in the Rough," another convicted television show. See. "On the Trail" n°5 p. 108.³⁵



September 18, 2015

Uvita, Puntarenas Province, Costa Rica

Poaching of a Central American tapir (*Tapirus bairdii*, Appendix I). Arrest of one man accused of carrying illegal weapons and suspected of organizing hunting parties in protected areas.³⁶



Pictured with a murdered Baird's tapir

From September 1 to 20, 2015

Tapaua, Amazonas, Brazil

Seizure of 167 kg of arapaima (*Arapaima gigas*, Appendix II) meat and of 13 turtles from the Abufari Reserve.³⁷

September 2015

Antioquia Department, Colombia

Police seized a red-footed tortoise (*Chelonoidis carbonaria*, Appendix II), a paca (*Cuniculus paca*, Appendix III), a yellow-crowned amazon (*Amazona ochrocephala*, Appendix II), a military macaw (*Ara militaris*, Appendix I), a white-headed capuchin

(*Cebus capucinus*, Appendix II), and a toucan from the hands of a 44-year-old trafficker. They had been destined for the black market.³⁸



ASIA

July 1, 2015

Cao Bang province, on the border with China, Vietnam

Seizure from a coach of 2 crates containing 3 cobras (Family Elapidae, Appendix II), a pangolin and 5 kg of pangolin scales (*Manis* spp., Appendix II). The driver was taken into custody.³⁹

July 16, 2015

Taoyuan, Taoyuan County, Taiwan

Seizure by coastguard of 469 Chinese three-keeled pond turtles (*Mauremys reevesii*, Appendix III), 2286 yellow-margined box turtles (*Cuora flavomarginata*, Appendix II), 920 yellow pond turtles (*Mauremys mutica*, Appendix II), 12 cobras (family Elapidae), 2 beauty rat snakes (*Orthriophis taeniurus*), 5 frozen pangolins (*Manis* spp., Appendix II), 533 kg of camphor wood (*Cinnamomum camphora*) and 33 kg of Taiwan cypress wood (*Chamaecyparis taiwanensis*) bound for China. 5 arrests.⁴⁰

July 19, 2015

Phachi River Wildlife Sanctuary, Ratchaburi Province, Thailand

Seizure of 2 dead stumped-tailed macaques (*Macaca arctoides*, Appendix II), one live turtle, 5 lizards, 2 rough neck monitors (*Varanus rudicollis*, Appendix II), a boar's head (*Sus scrofa*), a gun and bags of fertilizer. Interception of 3 Karen ethnic group poachers by a patrol of 8 rangers.⁴¹



July 21, 2015

Ratanakiri Province, Cambodia

Seizure of 2 gaur heads (*Bos gaurus*, Appendix I), 60 kg of gaur and deer meat, and AK 47 ammunition. A man was fined 20 million riels (US\$5,000) for wildlife trafficking.⁴²



July 23, 2015

Dadong District, Liaoning, China

3 verdicts for the illegal sale of wild animals or wild animal parts

1: a person recently convicted of selling a macaque (*Macaca* spp., Appendix I or II) was exempted from punishment.

2: a 34-year-old recently convicted of selling 140g of ivory, valued at 5833 Yuan, (US\$912) was also exempted from criminal punishment

3: the owner of a store that sold hornbill (family Bucerotidae) beaks and small ivory articles was sentenced to a suspended prison term of one year and a fine of 10,000 yuan (US\$1565).⁴³



July 30, 2015

Bandung, West Java Province, Indonesia

Seizure in a shopping bazaar of tiger skins and furs, ivories, stuffed marine turtles (*Chelonioidea* spp., Appendix I), pangolin (*Manis* spp., Appendix II) and sun bear (*Helarctos malaynus*, Appendix I) parts, deer antlers and skins (*Cervidae* family) and birds of paradise.⁴⁴

July 2015

Tianjin, China

Sentencing of a trafficker to a suspended prison term of 2 years and a fine of 40,000 Yuan (US\$6260) for attempting to import 1.605 kg of raw ivory and 32 pangolin scales of a total value of 110,000 Yuan (US\$17,309), originating from Equatorial Guinea. He benefitted from the leniency of the court owing to his detailed confession.⁴⁵



FAMILY AFFAIRS

Early August 2015

Dehong, Yunnan Province, Southwest China

Seizure of 219 tiger bones, claws and teeth, lion paws, ivory jewelry, rhinoceros horns, snake skins, and deer antlers valued at 1.3 million yuan (US\$220,000). "I have been with the police for 20 years, and I've never seen anything like it." The manager of the store specializing in "artisanal wooden objects" was arrested, along with her son, who is a mechanic, and her nephew.⁴⁶



August 2015

State of Uttarakhand, India

Lay off of the Head Conservator of Forests. An official report accused Mr Sharma of connivance with poachers. He is alleged to have refused to examine 100 cases of poaching, and to have encouraged trafficking and human activities incompatible with the management of wildlife in the parks and reserves through his negligence. Corruption and tolerance for poaching are said to be frequent in all of the State's forest services. The general secretary of People for Animals, which under the Right to Information Act obtained a copy of the report, says that "Sharma was not acting alone" and "the impunity with which some officials acted indicates that even the Forest Minister himself is not above blame."⁴⁷

August 4, 2015

Sungai Rengit, Johor State, Malaysia

Seizure of 77 birds and 255 turtles. 2 people arrested.⁴⁸

August 4, 2015

Nghi Loc District, Nghe An, Vietnam

Traffic control on the N1A. The car, registered in Laos, was carrying 4 bear paws (12.4 kg) and 16 turtles (32.4 kg). The driver was 32 years old. The car, the animals, and the animal parts were all seized.⁴⁹



August 4, 2015

Yuwangtai District, Henan Province, China

A man received a suspended sentence of 3 years imprisonment and a fine of 20,000 yuan (US\$3142) for the illegal sale of ivory (1,585 kg valued at 66,042 yuan or US\$10,375) and of a Saiga antelope (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II), valued at 30,000 yuan (US\$4713).⁵⁰



August 6, 2015

Louis Trichardt, Limpopo Province, South Africa

Michael Simon Sematla, an ex-employee of South African National Parks, was given a suspended sentence of 2 years imprisonment and a fine of R15,000 (US\$1078). He had organized secret hunting parties for his own benefit at the edge of Mapungubwe National Park. The inquiry began after the discovery of a giraffe body. 12 of his hunting clients have admitted their guilt and paid a fine.⁵¹



**Langsa, Aceh Province, Sumatra, Indonesia
August 6th 2015**

The 29 year-old student was putting baby orangutans for sale on Facebook. He was arrested thanks to the cooperation of the local branch of the Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA), the police and 2 NGOs (Orangutan Information Center et Center for Orangutan Protection). Along with the 3 orangutan babies (*Pongo abelii*, Appendix I) whose mothers were probably killed, 2 red-backed sea eagles (*Undue haliastur*, Appendix II), a great argus (*Argusianus argus*, Appendix II) and a stuffed Sunda clouded leopard (*Neofelis diardi* Appendix I) were seized. The Aceh region is a hub for trafficking in red-haired primates. Locally purchased for 1 million rupiah (US\$74), a young orangutan is resold for 5 to 10 million rupiah (US\$370 -740) in Medan, capital of North Sumatra. In Java, the prices go up to between 40 and 100 million rupiah (US\$3400 to 7400) while in Singapore and Malaysia, they can soar up to 400 million rupiah (US\$34,000). There are said to be only 6,000 free orangutans left on the Island of Sumatra.^{51 bis}



**August 23 2015
Pasig, Metro Manila, Philippines**

Seizure of a Burmese python (*Python bivittatus*, Appendix II), 1249 tarantulas (sub-order Mygalomorphae), 158 scorpions (order Scorpiones), 28 frogs, 4 gerbils (family Muridae) and 5 geckos valued in total at 1 million pesos (US\$21,409), thanks to information posted on social media.⁵²



**August 26, 2015
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

Seizure of 1241 wild animal by-products, including 5 skins, 309 skin fragments, 471 claws, 25 canine teeth and 17 paws from tigers, elephant bristles in tufts, 362 bracelets and jewelry items made with elephant hair, 30 skins and 22 unidentified animal parts. Arrest of 2 men and a woman of Indian nationality. The "merchandise " came from India. Overall estimated value: RM 100,000 (US\$24,000).⁵³



Bracelets made of elephant hair



**September 2015
Yongjia County, Zhejiang Province, China**

Seizure of 130 frozen pangolins, 65 bear paws, 1568 animal parts, and 100 bank accounts. Rescue of 600 animals, including 370 pangolins, Chinese giant salamanders (*Andrias davidianus*, Appendix I), leopard cats (*Prionailurus bengalensis*, Appendix II), and turtledoves (*Streptopelia turtur*). The trafficking network was shut down. 65 people were arrested including hotel, restaurant, and leisure farm operators. According to the inquiry, over 10,000 living animals were "tranquilized " before being shipped as meat to over 10 Chinese provinces. Upon arriving at their destinations, the animals were awakened by injections with a stimulant before being offered to clients and cooked. Hydrogen peroxide, used to whiten pangolin meat that had been kept frozen for too long, was found at the site. The pangolins' stomachs had been injected with syringes filled with a mix of water and lime so that they would weigh more.



In the Chinese market, a living pangolin can be sold for up to 1400 Yuan/kg (US\$219/kg), a frozen pangolin for 500 Yuan/kg (US\$78/kg), and a bear paw 1000 Yuan/kg (US\$156/kg).⁵⁴

September 6, 2015

Dhaka, Bangladesh

Seizure at "Leather Boutique" of tiger and fishing cat bones and skulls (*Prionailurus viverrinus*, Appendix II), tiger, deer and snake skins, and 20 bags made with protected animal skins. The boss and sales assistants fled.⁵⁵

September 21, 2015

Phong Nha-Ke Bang, Quang Binh Province, Vietnam

18 specimens released by the park's animal sanctuary: a stump-tailed macaque (*Macaca arctoides*, Appendix II), a northern pig-tailed macaque (*Macaca leonina*, Appendix II), 2 rhesus macaques (*Macaca mulatta*, Appendix II), 10 Indonesian box turtles (*Cuora galbiniifrons*, Appendix II), 2 brush-tailed porcupines (*Atherurus macrourus*), and 2 Asian palm civets (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*, Appendix III in India). Since the beginning of the year, the rescue center has received and cared for 105 wild animals and released 46 others.⁵⁶



September 23, 2015

Cat Tien National Park, Dong Nai Province, Vietnam

Seizure of traps and other hunting tools, 2 sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*, Appendix II), a monitor lizard (*Varanus* spp., Appendix I or II), a monkey (*Primates* spp., Appendix I or II) and 2 lesser mouse-deers (*Tragulid kanchil*) stashed in bags inside a tent illegally installed in the park. 2 arrests. Seized pangolins and other animals are not often released into their natural environments even if they are healthy. The police and the justice system wish them to remain in custody until the trials are finished,



which can last for months and years. During the wait, many seized animals die in overcrowded shelters. Feeding a pangolin for a month costs 1.41 million Vietnamese dong (US\$62.70).⁵⁷

September 23, 2015

Stung Treng Province Stung Treng, Cambodia

Seizure of 8 kg of bushmeat including 3 kg of monkey, 2 kg of monitor lizard (*Varanus* spp., Appendix I or II), 35 kg of deer, 4 kg smoked venison and 39 kg of wild pig plus 6 live monitor lizards which were released. The meat was buried. The saleswoman after being admonished was released on a promise not to repeat the offence. Bushmeat is intensively traded in the province. In May, 86 kg of meat was seized from a private home. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, during the first six months of the year, 1183 kg of wild animal meat were seized.⁵⁸



September 23, 2015

Qissa Khawani Bazaar, Peshawar,

Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Province, Pakistan

Seizure of leopard skins (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I), Himalayan monals (*Lophophorus impejanus*, Appendix I), bears (Appendix I), hog-deers (*Axis porcinus*, Appendix III), foxes and hares. A preliminary



investigation has been launched against Bashir Ahmad Khan Wildlife for violation of the 2015 Protection of Wildlife and Biodiversity Act).⁵⁹

September 28, 2015

Yantai, Shandong Province, China

Sentencing of a man to 5 years imprisonment and a fine of 10,000 Yuan (US\$1571) for the illegal purchase, transportation, and sale of Burmese pythons (*Python molurus*, Appendix II) and lorises (*Nycticebus* spp., Appendix I).⁶⁰



EUROPE

July 29, 2015

Cowdenbeath, Fife, Scotland

Seizure of parts of leopard and bear sold online. Arrest of a 49-year-old man whose identity was not revealed. Number for alerts concerning wildlife: 101 or 0800 555 111.⁶¹

August 3, 2015

London, England, United Kingdom

Theft of a stuffed arctic wolf (*Canis lupus arctos*, Appendix II) valued at £32, 000 (US\$49,252) from the home of the granddaughter of Charlie Watts, drummer in the Rolling Stones. "It's my darling dearest, my love, my life !! I got him this time last year EXACTLY!!! It's his 1 year anniversary of being with meeee!!"⁶²



Charlotte Watts's wolf was used as a towel horse.

August 10, 15, and 29 and September 5, 7, and 15, 2015

Italy

It's the summer holidays. A fresh outbreak of exotic pet abandonments and rescues: an iguana in Palermo (Sicily), a green iguana (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II) in Trapani (Sicily), a ball python (*Python regius*, Appendix II) in an old stove at the bottom of a private garden, in Brianza (Lombardy), 5 boa constrictors (*Boa constrictor*, Appendix I or



Saguinus oedipus

II) in 2 terrariums at the Paolo Diacono Piazza in Rome, and a dozen Florida tortoises in a fountain at a municipal garden in Trani (Puglia). In addition to this, a cotton-top tamarin (*Saguinus oedipus*, Appendix I) perched 10 m high in a pine in Milan was rescued by firefighters. This specimen had in fact been stolen from a zoo in Bergamo on the night of July 4 and 5, 2015.⁶³

September

Germany

Follow-up from last January's seizure of dozens of coats made from wolf (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II), otter (family Mustelidae, Appendix I or II), and ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*, Appendix I) skin in Chorley, England (see. "On the Trail" n° 8 p. 104). The international investigation ended in Germany, where the police found a number of illegal furs, false permits, and falsified official stamps. This trafficker would have shipped the skins to England.⁶⁴



Mid-September 2015

Province of Rome, Italy

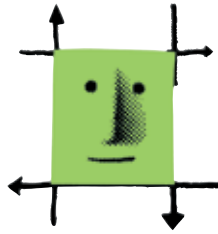
Seizure of lovebirds (*Agapornis* spp., Appendix II), budgerigars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*), zebras finches (*Taeniopygia guttata*), doves (subfamily Columbinae), rabbits, and gerbils (subfamily Gerbillinae). In total, 465 caged birds and rodents for sale were discovered. The "breeding farm" was in a ruined house guarded by 3 dogs. One arrest.⁶⁵

From 7 to 15 September 2015

France

Customs, the National Office for Hunting and Wildlife (ONCFS), the Gendarmerie Nationale (Central Office for the Fight against Harm to the Environment and Public Health - OCLAESF) conducted a joint operation in the ports of Marseille, Toulon, Bastia and Porto Vecchio in Corsica and the airports of Marseille-Marignane, Nice, Roissy and Ajaccio in Corsica. Toll for one week's fight: 35 ivory items and 4 elephant tusks, 17 live European goldfinches and 15 live Hermann's tortoises.

7 more establishments were inspected in the Paris area, 5 are under investigation that may lead to seizures and findings of infringement and 63 suspicious advertisements on the Internet have triggered current investigations. Since the beginning of the year, 475 kg of raw ivory and 575 worked ivory items have been seized by the 3 bodies linked through partnership agreements.⁶⁶



ROBIN DES BOIS

ON the TRAIL #10

Sources

Sources are available on request by email to contact@robindesbois.org indicating the "On the Trail" issue number, section and reference in the title of the event.

For instance, for the last event of "On the Trail" n°10 (From 7 to 15 September 2015, France, 35 ivory items and 4 elephant tusks, 17 live European goldfinches and 15 live Hermann's tortoises): "On the Trail" n°10, chapter Multi-Species, reference 66.

Institutions

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), CITES, Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas (CONAP), Corporacion Autonoma Regional para la defensa de la meseta de Bucaramanga, Department of conservation.nz, Department of Environmental Affairs d'AFRICA du Sud, Douanes allemandes, Douanes chinoises, Douanes de Shanghai, Douanes françaises, Douanes de Hong Kong, Douanes Tchèques, Douanes turques, Gendarmerie Nationale Française, Gouvernement de santa cruz.bo, Gouvernement du Guatemala, IBAMA, Interpol, KWS-Kenya wildlife Service, Lusaka Agreement Task Force, Ministère de l'Écologie, du Développement Durable et de l'Énergie (France), Ministère de l'Environnement de l'Equateur, Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation, National News Bureau of Thailand, Office Central de Lutte contre les Atteintes à l'Environnement et à la Santé Publique (OCLAESP), Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage (ONCFS), Oxpeckers Investigative Environmental Journalism, Procuraduria Federal de Protección al Ambiente (Profepa), Sistema Nacional de Areas de Conservación, South Africa government online, South Africa National Parks, South African Police Service, South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN), The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions Kenya, The United States Department of justice, The Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, UNESCO, UK Border Force, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Zambia Wildlife Authority.

Non Gouvernemental Organisations

African Conservation Foundation, Big Life Foundation, Bornfree Foundation, The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, Catalogue of Life (Species 2000 ITIS), Centre for Orangutan Protection, Conservation Justice, EAGLE Network, Education for Nature - Vietnam (ENV), Elephant Aware Masai Mara, Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), Encyclopedia of Life (EOL), Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, Foundation Franz Weber, Friends of Maasai Mara, Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP-UNEP), Hands Off Our Elephants, Hong Kong for Elephants, International Animal Rescue, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), Iran Environment Wildlife Watch, Kenyans United Against Poaching, Last Great Ape organization (LAGA), Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux (LPO), Limbe Wildlife Centre, Lwiro Primates, Mara Elephant Project-Escape Foundation, Mara Triangle, National Wildlife Crime Unit UK, Neotropical Primate Conservation, Olarro Conservancy, Ronald Orenstein, Outraged SA Citizens Against Poaching, Projet d'appui à l'Application de la Loi sur la Faune sauvage (PALF), Project Rhino KZN, Robin des Bois, Save The Elephants, Saving The Survivors, Scorpion, Sea Shepherd, SOS Elephants, Species Survival Network, Talff-Enforcement, Tikki Hywood Trust, TRAFFIC, Tsavo Trust, Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA), Union Internationale pour la Conservation de la Nature (UICN), Walk With Rangers, Wildlife At Risk (WAR), Wara Conservation Project, Whales and dolphins Conservation, Wildleaks, Wildlife Conservation Society, Wildlife Crime Hotline – Cambodia, Wildlife Direct, Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand, Wildlife SOS India, Wildlife Crime in India, Wildlife Trust of India, Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force.



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