

ON_{the} TRAIL

Information and analysis bulletin on animal poaching and smuggling

n°11 / 1st October - 31th December 2015

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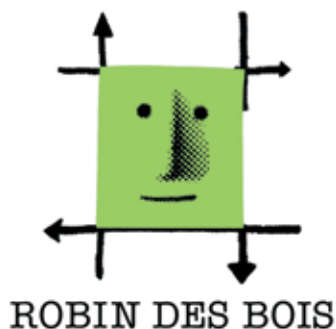
ORIGINAL VERSION IN FRENCH

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ON_{the} TRAIL

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Amazona ochrocephala - detail (cf. p.21)

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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

AMERICA

November 10, 2015

Tabatinga, State of Amazonas, Brazil

Chinese-style traffic. 11,000 reais (\$ 2679 US) and 10 kg of dried seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp., Appendix II) coming from Peru were seized. The suspect was going to Sao Paulo. With the seahorses, he would have made soup. On an average, one dried seahorse is weighing 10 g. So 10 kg amount around 1000 seahorses.¹

ASIA

November 11, 2015

Hong Kong Airport, China

Seizure at the airport post office: 16.8 kg of dried seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp., Appendix II). Maggie has struck again. Thanks to her sharp nose the sea cat is truly out of the bag.²



© Hong Kong Customs

December 11, 2015

Hong Kong Airport, China

Seizure in a postal parcel of 9 kg of dried seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp., Appendix II). 600 to \$ 3000 US per kg depending on quality.³



© SCMP

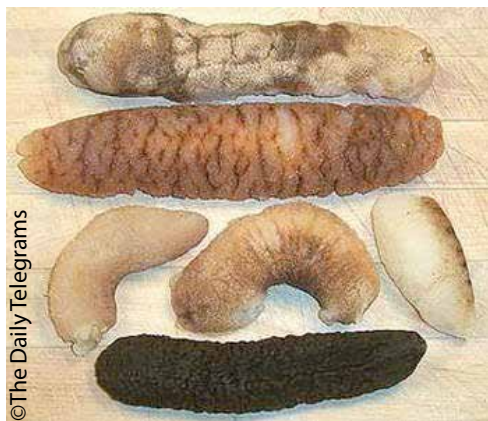
Sea Cucumbers

ASIA

October 3, 2015

Kadakachang, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India

Seizure of 88 kg of sea cucumbers (Holothuroidea class) hidden under coconut bags in a jeep. Four passengers were arrested.¹



October 24, 2015

Near the reef of Chereapani, Territory of Lakshadweep, India

Seizure of 4 to 5 tons of sea cucumbers (class Holothuroidea). Two trawlers, *Holy Cross III* and *Holy Cross VI*, were boarded by the coastguards. 29 Sri Lankan fishermen were arrested. This is the 2nd sea cucumbers seizure in the area (see "On the Trail" n°5 p. 4).²



See "A Sea Cucumber Ending" in "On the Trail" n°4, p.107.

Seahorses and Sea Cucumbers

ASIA

End of December 2015

Ramanathapuram district, Tamil Nadu, India

Seizure on the shore of the Indian Ocean of 23 kg of seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp., Appendix II) and sea cucumber (Holothuroidea class) out of 2 street sellers coming from Thiruppalaikudi 200 km away.³

Corals

EUROPE

Beginning of November 2015

Reggio de Calabre Airport, Calabria, Italy



Through 3 strikes, seizure of around fifty feet of hard corals (*Scleractinia* spp, Appendix II), fire corals (*Milleporidae* spp, Appendix II) and organ-pipe corals (*Tubiporidae* spp, Appendix II) coming in from Central America and Asia. Offenders fined € 15,000.¹



November 10, 2015

Gran Canaria Airport, Province of Las Palmas, Spain

Live corals were discovered in plastic bags on a flight from Madrid. The suspect said it was destined to his private collection, which did not convince the police.²

Mid December 2015

Olbia airport, Region Sardinia, Italy

Seizure of 4 feet of hard corals (*Scleractinia* spp., Appendix II) in the luggage of a passenger flying from the Philippines. The suspect bag was reported from Rome international airport.³



End of December 2015

Manchester, England, United Kingdom



Sentence to 12 months suspended jail of an aquaria fish salesman for traffic of corals listed under Appendix II. A cargo of 500 kg of 136 different live coral species from Indonesia was seized at Manchester Airport. Two other batches were found at the aquarium dealer home. He hoped to deceive customs playing on identification difficulties between the different species of corals protected or not by CITES.⁴

Fishes

AFRICA

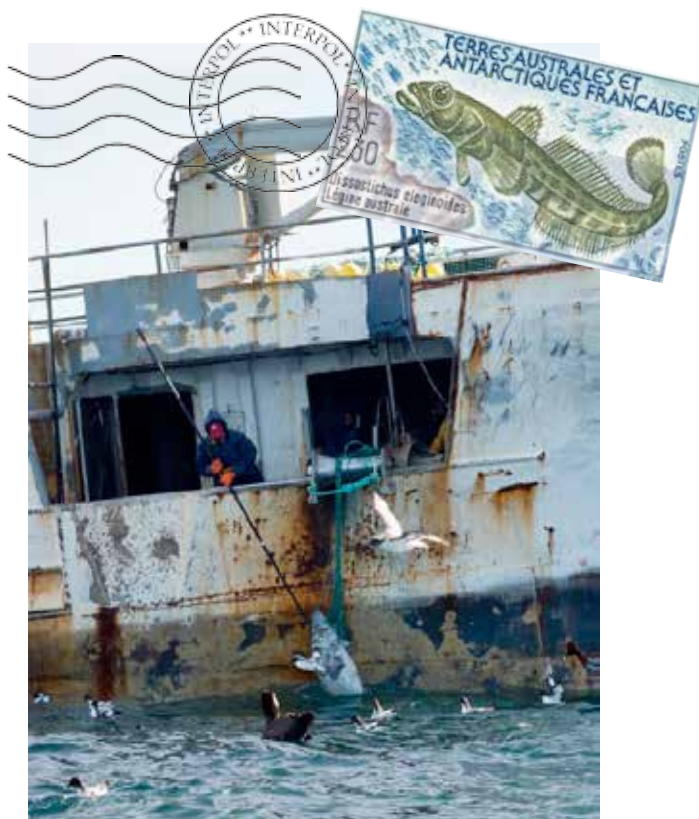
October 12, 2015

São Tomé and Príncipe

Conviction of the captain, chief engineer and second engineer of the *Thunder*, to respectively 3 years, 2 years and 9 months, and 2 years and 8 months in prison and to pay jointly € 15 millions compensation to the State of São Tomé and Príncipe for pollution and environmental damage. It remains to verify that these sentences will be applied. The other members of the crew virtually enslaved would have been repatriated.



The *Thunder* was a pirate ship fishing among other deepwater species the Patagonian toothfish in Antarctic waters. Following a chase with Sea Shepherd, the captain is said to have scuttled in April 2015 in the Gulf of Guinea. Interpol has issued purple notices for 4 other boats fishing without a license in the waters monitored by the CCAMLR (Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources), the *Kunlun*, *Snake*, *Songhua* and *Yongding*.¹



Kunlun



Kunlun

Snake

Songhua

Yongding

AMERICA

October 6, 2015

San Diego, State of California, United States of America

Conviction of Kam Wing Chan to 6 months of house arrest, a fine of \$ 2000 US and restitution of \$ 5000 US to CONAPESCA, Mexican fisheries and aquaculture surveillance Agency, for smuggling totoabas swim bladders (*Totoaba macdonaldi*, Appendix I) and abalone (*Haliotis* genus) from Mexico to China (see "On the Trail" n°8 p. 8). Kaven Co. Inc., the company that served as a cover for the illegal exports, was ordered to pay \$ 50,000 US of compensation to the PROFEPA, Mexican Agency protecting endangered species.²



© L.M. Huey

San Felipe beach, California Bay, 1926

October 11, 2015

Port of Manzanillo, Colima, Mexico

Seizure of 3559 kg of dried fins of Oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*, Appendix II) and 529 kg of fish swim bladders bound for Hong Kong.³



© pulsonslp

Manzanillo Port



November 6, 2015

Ecuador

Dismissal of the appeal of the *Fer Mary* captain and crew against conviction for poaching in the Galapagos Marine Reserve (see "On the Trail" n°10 p. 7).⁴



© John Bruno

November 10, 2015

State of California, United States of America

Appearance of Isaac Zimmerman for trafficking in arapaïmas (*Arapaima gigas*, Appendix II, see "On the Trail" n°10 p. 8). He pleaded guilty and faces up to 10 years in prison. He was released on bail, placed under house arrest and electronic monitoring. He has imported 2 arapaïmas from the Amazon basin to Canada.⁵

November 13, 2015

Province of El Oro, Ecuador

408 shark fins seized from a bus. They were intended for local sale and were already decaying.⁶

November 2015

Antigonish, Province of Nova Scotia, Canada

The bluefin tuna killer

The US has the art of cocooning young women who are bent on wildlife and pose triumphantly beside their trophy or above (see "On the Trail" n°5 p.114 and this issue p. 55). This time, the ridiculous huntress chases bluefin tuna (not listed in CITES). For 3 days of fishing aboard *Zappa 1*, Stephanie Osgood Choate, from Miami, tried to beat the world record for pulling the largest bluefin tuna. At the 11th capture she approached the record with a specimen of 413 kg which was subject to registration and regulatory ringing. The 10 previous tunas were dumped at sea. Not seen not caught! Miss Osgood is the Director of Wild Oceans, an NGO dedicated to the promotion of responsible fishing... The owner of the *Zappa* and 2 crewmembers are under a complaint from Fisheries and Oceans Canada.⁷



Via Instagram

December 14, 2015
Manabi Province, Ecuador

Seized from a fishmonger: 40 sharks including 13 pelagic thresher (*Alopias pelagicus*), 26 blue sharks (*Prionace glauca*) and one shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*). The fins were burnt while the bodies were donated to charities.⁸



Alopias pelagicus

REPEATED OFFENSE
Mid December 2015

Austin, Texas State, United States of America

New appearance of an ex-aquarium director. Ammon Covino, former director of the Idaho Aquarium, was sentenced to one year in prison in December 2013 for illegal trade of rare fish (see "On the Trail" n°3 p. 6). On parole since August 2014, he was again arrested on October 21, 2015. He went back to his bad habits. The judge set the bail to \$ 500,000 US.⁹

ASIA

October 6, 2015

Soekarno-Hatta International Airport of Jakarta, Banten Province, Indonesia

Seizure of 600 kg of oceanic whitetip sharks fins (*Carcharhinus longimanus*, Appendix II), bound for Hong Kong. For 600 kg of fins - they were mixed in packages with ray wings - 3000 sharks were slaughtered.

A kilo of oceanic whitetip shark fins sells on the local market Rp 5 to 9 millions (between 340 and \$ 410 US).¹⁰

October 12, 2015

Surabaya, East Java Province, Indonesia

Poaching of a whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*, Appendix II) of 7 meters and 2 tons. Seized by fishery guards before being cut, the carcass was returned to the sea.¹¹

October 19, 2015

Province of Sistan-Baluchestan, Iran

Seizure on a boat of 30 baby sharks cut in pieces. The boat was confiscated and the owner sentenced to a heavy fine, the exact amount is uncertain.¹²



November 19, 2015
Hengqin, Guangdong, China

Seizure of ornamental fish, including 600 arowana (*Scleropages formosus*, Appendix I), 70 turtles and 40 rays coming from Malaysia.¹³



December 14, 2015
Hong Kong Airport, China

16 kg of dried fins of hammerhead sharks (*Sphyrnidae* family, 3 species in Appendix II) seized in hold baggage. Arrest of a 20 years old guy coming from Mozambique via Johannesburg, South Africa.¹⁴



December 22, 2015
Hong Kong, China

Conviction of 2 directors of seafood stores to fines of \$ 110,000 HK (\$ 14,192 US) for illegal marketing of swim bladders of totoaba (*Totoaba macdonaldi*, Appendix I). The 2 culinary shops are located in the district of Sheung Wan where flavors mingle with remedies and tonics of Chinese traditions and beliefs. From May to November 2015, 450 stores of dried seafood products were inspected by Fisheries Services. The bladders are smuggled in from Mexico through the United States. See "On the Trail" n°7 p. 5, n°8, p. 8, n°10 p. 7 and 8.¹⁵



EUROPE

October 27, 2015

Khabarovsk Krai, Far Eastern Federal District, Russia

Seizure of 500kg of caviar (*Acipenseridae* spp., Appendix I or II) aboard a hearse, 2 men arrested.

A man near Khabarovsk asks 2 funeral employees to transfer the coffin of his wife in a morgue close to the Chinese border in exchange for 25,000 rubles (\$ 400 US). But after speeding on a highway east of Russia, the hearse is intercepted. Inside, no body but a great hiding place for half a ton of caviar. The undertakers say they were duped!

Russian authorities fight against illegal fishing, only 50 legal sturgeon farms exist in Russia and the northern aboriginal peoples can obtain a license to fish sturgeon and produce caviar. Another seizure of caviar in the Khabarovsk Krai: see "On the Trail" n°4 p. 8. See also the map "The Chinese Attraction" p.9.¹⁶



Off Beaulieu-sur-Mer, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, France

Poaching of 5 Atlantic bluefin tunas (*Thunnus thynnus*, not listed in CITES) 4 to 10 kg by a pair of game fishers. Their speedboat was seized. The dead fish were returned to the sea. The poachers couldn't produce of course the regulatory tuna tagging rings.

1- The minimum size or minimum weight for a bluefin tuna catch are 115 cm or 30 kg.

2- In the frame of the recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean for the year 2015, the French Decree of February 11, 2015 is specifying the recreational fishing conditions. Fishing is authorized only from July 13 to August 30 2015 and from September 12 to 25 2015.

3- The practice of recreational bluefin tuna fishing on pleasure boats and charter fishing vessels operating in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean waters is subject to possession of a fishing authorization. Each tuna must be marked immediately after capture. Only fish marked with a ring may be retained on board and landed.¹⁷

Mid December 2015

Caserta, Region Campania, Italy

Seizure of 1500 kg of Atlantic bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*, not listed in CITES) at a fishmonger by Naples coast guards and € 8000 fine.¹⁸



End of December 2015

Bari, Puglia Region, Italy

Seizure in fish markets of 100 kg of European eels (*Anguilla anguilla*, Appendix II) poached in Lake Lesina, the ninth in Italy by surface area. It is connected by 2 channels to the Adriatic Sea. It is a refuge for eels. Just before the Christmas holidays, the controls also multiply in fish farms. Numerous irregularities on conservation, freezing and tracing of products are subject to an official report. 2400 kg of sardines and 1000 kg of other frozen fish have been destroyed.¹⁹



Selling eels along the Lake Lesina

End of December 2015

Caserte, Campania Region, Italy

Seizure of 5 tons of eels (*Anguilla anguilla*, Appendix II), and 3 arrests. The warehouse was questionable, the investigation started. The relevant departments found that the facilities were not up to standard. Oxygenation and recycling of water were failing. The eels have been sent into a pool so called of "stabilization" pending a final decision on their fate.²⁰

The Chinese Attraction



Marine Mammals

AMERICA

October 2, 2015 Province of New Brunswick, Canada

Gregory Logan, a former member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, was convicted in Canada 2 years ago for illegally exporting in USA 250 narwhal tusks (*Monodon monoceros*, Appendix II, see "On the Trail" n°3 p. 4). He is now subject of an extradition request from the US for illegal importation of protected species and money laundering. The New Brunswick Court of Appeal has confirmed the request and ordered the dealer to surrender to authorities within the next 3 days.¹

EUROPE

October 23, 2015 Beringia National Park, Chukotka Autonomous District, Russia

Macabre discovery by the Bering Sea, near Providence Bay. 9 walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus*, Appendix III in Canada) riddled with bullets were decapitated and their baculums (penis bone) torn off.

The penis bone is an object of worship for the Chukchi and other Arctic peoples. It can reach 50 cm long. It would be used by shamans to beat the drums. As for heads, they were severed to sell the ivory tusks. An investigation was opened for poaching in an organized manner.²



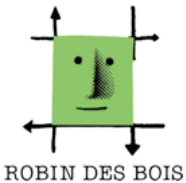


OCEANIA

**November 18, 2018
Sydney, New South Wales,
Australia**



Australian court condemned Kyodo Senpaku Kaisha, owner of the whale factory-ship *Nisshin Maru*, to a fine of 1 million Australian dollars (\$ 708,000 US) for having killed Antarctic minke whales (*Balaenoptera bonaerensis*, Appendix I) in the Australian waters of the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary.³



Corrida in Antarctica

Press release, December 17, 2015

Unfortunately the truce is over. The Japanese matadors wearing again their glaucous muletas and fitted with their scientific spears are going for the whales from December 2015 to March 2016, the austral summer. The hunting permit granted by the Minister of Fisheries, Hiroshi Moriyama, authorizes explosive harpoons and if necessary cold harpoons and rifles. Depending on sea conditions, visibility, shooting distance and the first affected organs, the 3 ammunitions are useful and are compatible. One explosive harpoon shot is made. Residues of penthrite (PETN) and overpressure of the explosive within the whale make inedible 300 to 500 kg of meat. To cover up this unacceptable food waste, cold harpoon is used if necessary for the following attack. It causes internal bleeding that reduces the target's resistance. If necessary, bursts of large caliber bullets riddle the eyes, brain, spinal cord. The apparent death usually occurs between 4 and 20 minutes after. Exceptionally, death throes lasts 1 hour. Concerning brain death, it is more difficult to determine on a complex and developed animal like a whale. The total relaxation of the lower jaw is a reliable indication of death. As a precaution, it is likely but not confirmed in the short description of the hunting permit that an electrical discharge completes the work once the whale is hauled on to the factory ship. They must be sure not to carve up a live whale. It could be dangerous. The whale hunt in Antarctica was suspended after the judgment of the International Court of Justice delivered on 31 March 2014. The Court found that the Japanese scientific program goals could be achieved by other means than the capture and killing of whales and confirmed that the sale of the meat help to finance the expedition to the South Pole. Under restraint during a year the Japanese whaling army went back to war. It targets 333 common Minke whales (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*) also called northern Minke whale. Maximum length 10 m, average 7-8 m. Weight: 8 to 13 t. Gestation 10 months. Breast-feeding 5-6 months. At birth, the calf is 2.5 m and weighs 300 kg. The hunting season includes the nursing period and it is not uncommon for a mother and her calf being killed in the same strike. A hunting license does not prohibit the capture of female whales with calves. New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, United States of America and each member State of the European Union have raised a strong diplomatic protest against the Japanese stance. By all means, Japan is trying to promote whale meat. Among the latest finds of marketing, a club of 28 exclusive restaurants offering foreign tourists a variety of dishes of defrozen meat and a professor emeritus claims that eating whale meat prevents Alzheimer's disease.



Japanese whaling's area for 2015-2016

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

December 3, 2015

Ilot Mtsamboro (6 km from the main island), Region of Mayotte, France

Discovery of 80 carcasses of green turtles and hawksbill turtles on the beaches of the islet, which serves as a transit point for immigrants from Comoros.¹

December 10, 2015

Togo, bordering Ghana

Seizure of 12 shells and a night arrest.²

AMERICA

October 2, 2015

Santa María Tonameca, State of Oaxaca, Mexico

Seizure of meat, fins and 84 olive Ridley eggs. Two women arrested.³



Beginning of October 2015

Tomatlan, Jalisco, Mexico

2 individuals were arrested with 436 olive Ridley eggs. The eggs could not be placed back on the beach of Majahuitas. After being shifted, they were no longer viable.⁴

REPEATED OFFENSE

October 28, 2015

Brunswick, Georgia State, United States of America

Sentenced to 21 months in prison for poaching of loggerhead turtle eggs on Sapelo Island. Lewis Jackson, 61, was caught with 84 boiled eggs, bagged and ready for sale. He was then on parole after a first sentence for poaching 156 eggs.⁵



October 2015

Jaco, Province of Puntarenas, Costa Rica

Stolen on Hermosa beach, 283 Kemp Ridley turtle eggs are discovered in an "incubator" car.⁶



October 2015

Tonosi, Province of Los Santos, Mexico

Seizure of 843 turtle eggs. Four arrests including 2 women.⁷

October 2015

San Martin Texmelucan State, Mexico

45 turtles caught the bus with a woman who intended to sell them. The police prevented her.⁸

October 2015

Canton of Santa Maria, Province of Guanacaste, Costa Rica

The duo was arrested with 315 Kemp's Ridley turtle eggs. All eggs were destroyed because of being shaken so much there was no more hope of life inside.⁹

November 18, 2015

Tonosi, Province of Los Santos, Panama

3460 turtle eggs were seized in a car with 2 suspects.¹⁰

ASIA

October 3, 2015

Batu Ferringhi Beach, Penang State, Malaysia



During the night, the green turtle arrived on the beach to lay her hundred eggs. The next morning when she left among the shots taken by the smartphones of the hotel guests, there were only 5 eggs left in the nest.¹¹



November 4, 2015

Sandakan, Sabah, Malaysia



The photo caused a stir. Revealed in November it was taken in August 2015. It shows Datuk Seri Ismail

Sabri Yaakob, Minister of Rural Development, seated at the restaurant Indah Keranamu in Sandakan. Sea turtle eggs are on the menu. The minister said he merely responded to an invitation and he has not eaten any. In the process, he admitted to be ignorant of the law prohibiting the holding of green turtles and hawksbill turtles or all parts and derivatives of these species or their consumption. The Minister of Culture, Tourism and Environment of Sabah suggests that eggs were brought by one of the dinner guests. This feast was organized by the local representatives of the ruling party, UMNO (United Malays National Organization). The fight against poaching of sea turtles is a major objective of the Department of Wildlife in Sandakan, near the National Turtle Islands Park.¹²

Mid November 2015 Waters of Sabah, Malaysia

Interception of an outrigger canoe, seizure of 3000 eggs and the boat. Arrest of the fisherman. A few kilometres away, the Bakungan Kecil, Selangan and Gulisan islands welcome green turtles and hawksbill turtles.¹³

**December 9, 2015
Ha Dong District, Province of Hanoi, Vietnam**
Seizure of 5 hawksbill and green turtles. Arrest of the dealer.¹⁴

**December 11, 2015
Sandakan, Sabah, Malaysia**
Seizure of 430 eggs.¹⁵

**REPEATED OFFENSE
December 17, 2015
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam**
New seizure of a green turtle in that restaurant where a similar offense had already been committed in July 2014.¹⁶

Various Marine Species

**November 13, 2015
San Francisco, California, United States of America**
54 year-old Michael Polenske, a well-known art and fine wine seller in Yountville, was sentenced to 3 years of probation, to 120 hours of public service and to a \$ 63,232 US fine for importing threatened species between 2007 and 2011.
With the complicity of Hedley's Humpers (international logistics coordinator specialized in the transport of artworks), he imported to the United States sea turtle shells (*Cheloniidae* spp., Appendix I), whale and sperm whale vertebrates (*Physeter macrocephalus*, Appendix I), killer whale jaws (*Orcinus orca*, Appendix II), seal skulls and giant clam shells (*Tridacna gigas*, Appendix II) to the United States. He bought them in France and Belgium and imported them under the designation of wooden, plaster, or plastic oval and abstract sculptures or as garden decorations made of stone (see "On the Trail" n°8 p.10).

Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles

AFRICA

**REPETEAD OFFENSE
October 13, 2015
Ambohimananambola, Vakinankaratra Region, central Madagascar**
Seizure of 305 turtles including radiated tortoises (*Astrochelys radiata*, Appendix I) and spider tortoises (*Pyxis arachnoides*, Appendix I). The police infiltrated a poaching network. A Sri Lankan and 3 acolytes from Madagascar were arrested on the road. 305 turtles were packed into 3 bags in the trunk of the car. A tortoise on the island sells between 12,000 and 35,000 ariary (between 3.7 and \$ 11 US). The man from Sri Lanka would be the band leader and this would not be his first attempt.¹



**October 21, 2015
Mahajanga, Boeny Region, north of Madagascar**
Discovery of corpses of young turtles including Angonoka turtles (*Astrochelys yniphora*, Appendix I) in a garbage bin. The traffic aborted. According to investigators, the hundreds of turtles captured in the south of the island should have taken the path of the black market in Southeast Asia by boat from the port of Mahajanga. There was a glitch in the smuggling plan. The turtles died in boxes in the sun and were discarded in the garbage.²

**October 23, 2015
Ivato International Airport, Analamanga Region, Madagascar**
Seizure of 2 suitcases containing 419 radiated tortoises (*Astrochelys radiata*, Appendix I). The scanner was broken, customs officials conducted a hand search in 2 suitcases belonging to a Chinese citizen returning to Guangzhou and found the turtles muffled in baby diapers and tucked into socks both to prevent them from moving and to absorb droppings. 25 turtles died in the first days of quarantine.³



November 13, 2015

Beloha District, Androy Region, southern Madagascar

Seizure of 1500 radiated tortoises (*Astrochelys radiata*, Appendix I). Around 3 am, in the village of Soamanitra, sworn officers discovered 1500 turtles, almost all of which were alive. Surprised at the scene, the suspect confessed he recently sold 200 juveniles at a price of 10,000 ariary per specimen (€ 2.25). A woman living Tulear is also on the radar screen of justice. The turtles were temporarily left to the care of a villager.⁴

November 16, 2015

International Julius Nyerere Airport in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Seizure of 201 turtles, probably radiated tortoises (*Astrochelys radiata*, Appendix II) bound for Malaysia via Dubai. Arrest of 2 Tanzanians. The road from Madagascar to East Africa and Asia is often used. The seizure is estimated at Sh 35.5 millions (\$ 14,070 US) or \$ 70 US per turtle. The turtles were grouped by 3 or 6 in a sock covered with sanitary napkins.⁵

November 30, 2015

Forest Akaikiarivo to Itampolo, Atsimo-Andrefana Region, Madagascar

Seizure of radiated tortoises (*Astrochelys radiata*, Appendix I) and spider tortoises (*Pyxis arachnoides*, Appendix I). Encircled by police forces in the spiny forest, 7 people including a minor and a little girl were arrested in possession of 35 live turtles, 700 butchered turtles and hundreds of kilos of grilled meat. In the south of the island, hunger would drive a portion of the population to turn turtles into barbecues after having captured them in number in the protected area. The 2 underaged were released.⁶

December 25, 2015

International Airport of Antananarivo-Ivato, Analamanga Region, Madagascar

Seizure of 547 babies radiated tortoises (*Astrochelys radiata*, Appendix I) all alive except 7 in 4 suitcases bound for Bangkok and detention of a Chinese citizen. The maximum theoretical value of the booty would have fetch one million dollars in China. The survivors will be released into their favorite areas of Anosi and Androy where they are likely to be recaptured for the 2nd or 3rd time by looters.⁷

AMERICA

October 18 2015

Barcelos, State of Amazonas, Brazil

Found in bags, 59 turtles were seized in a boat in Barcelos on the Rio Negro. Otherwise, they would have been sent to the markets of Manaus 400 km downstream. 3 people in custody.^{7bis}

October 20, 2015

Hudson County, State of New Jersey, United States of America

Conviction of Patrick Elfers, 48, to 5 years of probation and a fine of \$ 30,450 US for the sale on the internet between 2011 and 2014 of 40 turtles including spotted turtles (*Clemmys guttata*, Appendix II), wood turtles (*Glyptemys insculpta*, Appendix II) and Eastern box turtles (*Terrapene carolina*, Appendix II). Sent by parcel post, the victims were stacked into tubes socks. The trafficker is prohibited from possessing any wild animal and his computer connections with wildlife sale sites will be monitored.⁸



November 17, 2015

Boa Vista, Acre, Brazil

Dehydrated, 2 Arrau river turtles (*Podocnemis expansa*, Appendix II) were found marooned at home. For another reason that animal trafficking, the occupant was already jailed. He will, however, pay a sum of 5000 reais (\$ 1200 US) for each turtle.⁹



November 17, 2015

Caracai, Roraima, Brazil

The largest seizure in 10 years. In all, 270 Arrau river turtles (*Podocnemis expansa*, Appendix II) were found on a boat on the river Ajarani in Virua National Park. Some might be more than 100 years old and would have been sold \$ 50 US a piece. Arrest of 2 persons and fine of 2.6 millions reais, or \$ 600,000 US.¹⁰



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Beginning of December 2015

Centro, Tabasco, Mexico

The house served as incubator for 19,500 eggs of Arrau river turtles (*Podocnemis expansa*, Appendix II) waiting to hatch. In fact, none of them were viable, they have been destroyed.



© Corpoamazonia

Measuring up to 90 cm and weigh 100 kg, this aquatic turtle is very appreciated in the kitchen. Males are almost 2 times smaller than females. The female lays in low water period 60 to 140 eggs.¹¹



December 12, 2015

Mariscal Nieto, Moquegua Region, Peru

Rescue of 2 yellow-footed tortoises (*Chelonoidis denticulata*, Appendix II) in the city park. They were in very poor condition, malnourished and dehydrated.¹²



ASIA (except India)

October 4, 2015

Benapole, Jessore District, Bangladesh. Indian border

Seizure of 169 turtles including Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix II). They were hidden in bags and luggage in a bazaar alley. Members of the 26th Battalion in charge of border surveillance approaching, traffickers fled.²¹



October 8, 2015

Hong Kong International Airport, China

Seizure of 23 black pond turtles (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*, Appendix I) worth \$ 23,000 HK (\$ 2968 US) coming from New Delhi, India.²²

October 13, 2015

Korangi Industrial Area, Karachi State Sindh, Pakistan

Night-time discovery of 62 turtles including Afghane tortoises (*Testudo horsfieldii*, Appendix II) and black pond turtles (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*,

Appendix I) abandoned along the EBM causeway to a bridge. 25 were dead; the others were later released in a dam reservoir.²³



October 18, 2015

Barangay d'Old Guinlo, Taytay, Palawan Province, Philippines



Heosemys leytensis

Seizure of 979 turtles including Southeast Asian box turtles (*Cuora amboinensis*, Appendix II), Asian leaf turtles (*Cyclemys dentata*, Appendix II) and Philippine pond

turtles (*Siebenrockiella leytensis*, Appendix II) destined to the Chinese market. 3 people arrested.

In June 2015, over 4,000 turtles of the same species had been seized from a Chinese citizen based in the Philippines (see "On the Trail" n° 9 p. 14). Unit price on the Chinese market: between 8000 and 12,000 Philippine pesos (between 171 and \$ 256 US). On the local market the price is rising because the supply is decreasing : it was 60 to 70 P (between 1.28 and \$ 1.49 US) per kilo a few years ago ; today it is 250 to 350 P (between 5.33 and \$ 6.40 US) per kilo.²⁴

November 9, 2015

Karachi, Sind, Pakistan

Seizure of 40 black pond turtles (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*, Appendix I).²⁵

November 19, 2015

Shanghai, China

Seizure of more than 2000 live turtles including Southeast Asian box turtles (*Cuora amboinensis*, Appendix II), pig-nosed turtles (*Carettochelys insculpta*, Appendix II) and black pond turtles (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*, Appendix I). Officially the 6 crates imported from Indonesia contained shellfish.²⁷

December 6, 2015

Patan, developing Central Region, Nepal

Seizure in a small shop of 5 live turtles "threatened" according to the press. Audition of the 2 sellers.²⁶

Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles in India



In 3 months, 60 traffickers were arrested and taken before justice in India and thousands of live and dead turtles were recovered in bags, trains, trucks, airports, hidden lairs. 2 arrests in Kolkata in August 2015 (see "On the Trail" n°10 p. 16) allowed the wildlife crime control bureau (WCCB) to cross-check information on operating modes and the favorite places of traffic. The roots of evil are in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal. The extensions of evil are megacities restaurants and export to Bangladesh, Malaysia, Thailand and China. The flesh, feng-shui and superstitions, pets mania, decoration and pharmacopoeia are the main motives of traffic. "Aquatic turtles are vital for ecosystems. They are the river and lake sweepers and cleaners" reminds Shailendra Sing, director of the Turtle Survival Alliance in India. The more water and bottom are foul, the fewer are turtles because of poaching.

October 8, 2015

International Airport Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

1- Seizure of 200 Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix II) bound for Jakarta, Indonesia, via Kuala Lumpur. 2 smugglers were arrested. The man behind this traffic has been identified as Dinesh Jothimani, wholesaler of aquatic pets. This is the 4th time that smugglers designate him as a traffic leader. He had promised the 2 smugglers Rs 15,000 (\$ 227 US) for the job.

2- Seizure of 119 Indian star tortoises and arrest of a man, 23, boarding on a flight from the Malaysian Airlines to Kuala Lumpur. The tortoises were hidden in his clothing.¹³

October 22, 2015

District of Unnao, trafficking hotspot, State of Uttar Pradesh, India

Seizure of 290 black pond turtles (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*, Appendix I) and arrest of Munna when he came to take them.¹⁴

End of October 2015

Delhi, India

Seizure of 123 Indian flapshell turtles (*Lissemys punctata*, Appendix II) and arrest at a bus station of a woman carrying the 6 bags containing them. The survivors were released in the Lake Keetham tank in December.¹⁵

October 29, 2015

Bisauli, Uttar Pradesh, India

Seizure of 160 turtles of unspecified species.¹⁶

November 15, 2015

Barharwa station, State of Jharkhand, India

Seizure in a train bound for Malda, West Bengal State, of 305 live Indian softshell turtles (*Nilssonina gangetica*, Appendix I). They sell for Rs 10,000 (\$ 150 US) per kg, they weigh between 1.5 and 3.5 kg each. With an average weight of 2.5 kg, the value of the seizure is about \$ 114,375 US. The turtles had been caught in the river Ganges in Varanasi. They were released in the Ganges several hundred kilometers downstream.¹⁷

December 9, 2015

Kathajodi River, Cuttack district, Odisha State, India

Seizure of 12 Indian narrow-headed softshell turtles (*Chitra indica*, Appendix II). They were being sent to Kolkata where one kg of meat sells for between Rs 300 and 400 (4.5 and \$ 6 US). Each weighed at least 10 kg.¹⁸

December 19, 2015

Mainpuri district, Uttar Pradesh, India

Seizure of 100 black pond turtles (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*, Appendix I), 20 Indian flapshell turtles (*Lissemys punctata*, Appendix II) and 4 softshell turtles (*Trionychidae* family, 8 species in India in Appendix I or II) in 10 bags bound for South East Asia through West Bengal. The operation took place at a traffic network leader's home. He fled with others, only one stooge was arrested.¹⁹

December 30, 2015

Mughalsarai, Uttar Pradesh, India

Seizure of 155 turtles at the train station and one arrest.²⁰



EUROPE

Beginning of October 2015

Bagno A Ripoli, Tuscany Region, Italy

Seizure of 28 Hermann's tortoises (*Testudo hermanni*, Appendix II) held in an apartment in shameful conditions in the company of 8 Persian cats.²⁸

Mid-October 2015

Province of Monza and Brianza, Lombardy Region, Savona, Liguria Region, Italy

1- Muggio, rescue of a long neck turtle (*Chelodina longicollis*) endemic to Australia. Found wandering on a busy road, it was recovered by an individual who mistook it for a land tortoise and installed it in his garden. Thanks to a neighbor and ENPA (Ente Nazionale Protezione Animali), it was transferred to an environment more adapted to its needs.

2- Found one morning in a garden the ball python (*Python regius*, Appendix II) was numb. ENPA took charge.

3- Piazza Bologna, Savona. It's the contagion of abandoned Florida turtles. The Savona ENPA has collected 20 during 2015. The shell was broken, it did not survive.²⁹

Mid-October 2015

Aversa (near Naples), Region of Campania, Italy

Discovery of a snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina* not listed under CITES). Originally from the USA and Canada, it has a dreadful bite and is classified in Italy in the list of animal species that are a danger to the health and safety of the public and whose detention is prohibited. It is sometimes waved by the Camorra to intimidate the rivalry or for bravado.³⁰



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Snakes

AFRICA

October 29, 2015 Uganda

The python skin (1.8 m long, *Python* spp., Appendix II) peddler had a spotter and a body guard (a police officer). Both were arrested.¹



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AMERICA

Mid November 2015

Biddeford, Maine, United States of America

Seizure in an apartment of 4 snakes whose possession is prohibited in Maine, one of which is a 3.35 m long, 36 kg albino Burmese python (*Python bivittatus*, Appendix II).²



© Maine Dept of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

ASIA

October 8, 2015

Kailali District, Far-Western Development Region, Nepal

Seizure of a python skin (3.65 m long) and the arrest of the carrier.^{2bis}

December 8, 2015

Lyer Bungalow, Tamil Nadu, India

Seizure of an Indian sand boa (*Eryx johnii*, Appendix II). Rajasekaran was biking with the snake over his shoulder. He had captured the snake in a watering hole and brought it home with the intention of selling it later. He was arrested. His partner in crime during the phase of the transport was bailed out with a fine of Rs . 20,000 (\$ 301 US).³



December 18, 2015

Amman, Amman Governorate, Jordan

Seizure of 130 pythons (*Pythonidae* spp., A. I or II).⁴



© RSCN

EUROPE

November 16, 2015

Genoa, Liguria, Italy

Rescue of a 2.6 m long Burmese python (*Python bivittatus*, Appendix II) in the Bisagno river. The snake was still in good health when found. It had been discarded by its ex-jailers 2 or 3 days before.⁵

OCEANIA

End of October 2015

Perth, Western Australia, Australia

A python (*Pythonidae* spp., Appendix I ou II), cocaine, ecstasy and munitions were found in a high security house. The 29-year-old inhabitant was arrested.⁶



Sauria

AMERICA

October 15, 2015

Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico

53 green iguanas sent via delivery service were seized at the airport (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II). They were sent from Guadalajara, 2300 km away.¹

ASIA

October 11, 2015

Soekarno-Hatta International Airport in Jakarta, Indonesia

Seizure of 8 earless monitor lizards (*Lanthanotus borneensis*). A German citizen had kept the reptiles back. The earless monitor lizards are new in the "On the Trail" bestiary. It is an oviparous lizard species endemic to the Borneo Island. According to Traffic, the species appeared in the international wildlife trade in Europe and Asia in 2008. The state of its populations is unknown. Its limited geographic range is threatened by intensive agricultural practices. The earless monitor lizard should be urgently listed under CITES Appendix I. Although it is prohibited to export the animal in Indonesia, Brunei, and Malaysia, it can be bought in Germany for € 10,000. At least one specimen has been put on sale on the large European reptile markets of Hamm, Germany. This new one may have been destined to the next Terraristika event planned in December 2015. See page 96 under heading "Multi-Species".²



October, 2015

Jiaokan, Guangxi, China

Seizure of 51 geckos at the Vietnamese border.³



October 19, 2015

South 24 Parganas district, West Bengal, India. Bangladeshi border

The 50-year-old perpetrator arrived from Bangladesh during the night and had 7 tokay geckos (*Gekko gekko*) in her bag. She was arrested by the 24th Battalion.⁴

EUROPE

The night of the 4th of November, 2015

Crocodile farm of Pierrelatte, Rhône-Alpes, France

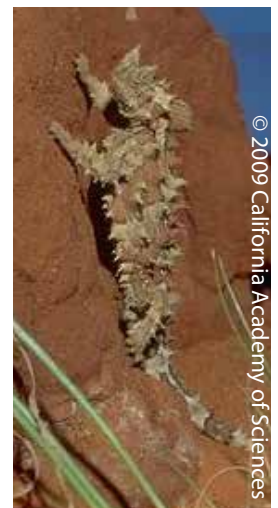
A Komodo dragon (*Varanus komodoensis*, Appendix I) was stolen from the aquatic zoo, heated by the warm water released from the Tricastin nuclear power station. "The small male Komodo dragon weighs 4.5 kg and is 1.20 m long. He is one of the four baby Komodo Dragons that were lent to the zoo in 2014 by the zoo in Barcelona where they were born in captivity", explained Dr. Samuel Martin, veterinary and director of the crocodile farm. "An adult Komodo dragon is disquieting. It can weight up to 160 kg and can grow to be 3 m long, which is about the size of a crocodile." The stolen Komodo dragon is estimated to be worth between € 10,000 and € 20,000 on the black market.⁵

OCEANIA

October 6, 2015

Perth, Western Australia, Australia

Three dwarf bearded dragons (*Pogona minor*), 10 spiny tailed geckos (*Strophurus spinigerus*) and 2 thorny devils (*Moloch horridus*) were saved from a long-distance migratory travel thanks to X ray. The police at the border control decided to scan the parcels that were departing to Slovakia. Since 1999, under Australian law, the exportation of wildlife is subject to permits, which in this case were missing. Wildlife Hotline: 1800 009 623.⁶



Moloch horridus

Various Reptile Species

ASIA

December 5, 2015

Private Zoo of Dipak Mitra, Madhyamgram, West Bengal, India

Seizure of 49 reptiles, of which 8 marsh crocodiles (*Crocodylus palustris*, Appendix I), 6 pythons (*Pythonidae* spp., Appendix I or II) and a king cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*, Appendix II).

Once considered a local hero, Mitra fought against putting snakes to death. Those who encountered a snake in their homes called him for help. In 1977 he opened the Madhyamgram Zoo, which became the "Kolkata Snake Park". However, the zoo control agency recently noted that the conditions of captivity did not conform to the regulatory framework. Therefore, the forest patrol transferred the 49 reptiles amongst which one is a 35-year-old marsh crocodile of 250 kg, to the zoo of Alipore in Kolkata. The crocodiles' jaws were tied and their eyes were folded to reduce the stress caused by the journey in the truck.¹



EUROPE

Mid November 2015

Rome, Lazio, Italy

Roman police searched the house of an individual suspected of drug trafficking. Between weapons, knives and marijuana, they found 15 pythons (*Pythonidae* spp., Appendix I or II) and an iguana (family Iguanidae). The man was at first arrested for illegal drug trade.²

Another deception of the cosmetics industry

The mixture of the fat of the Nile crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*, Appendix II) and jojoba oil (*Simmondsia chinensis*) is the alliance of the best and the worst. The jojoba is a shrub endemic to the Sonora desert, whose grains produce an oil that is analogous to the spermaceti stored in the sperm whale's head. Repcillin is distributed online in South Africa, the United States, and the whole world. "Repcillin gives you the freedom to enjoy life to its fullest, to do everything that makes your day-to-day life fantastic and full, to do the things that you really love".³

19 £ soit \$ 21 US

A photograph of a small glass bottle with a white cap and a label. The label has the word "REPCILLIN" in large letters and "Jojoba Oil" below it. There is also some smaller text on the label.



Birds

AFRICA

October and November 2015

Senegal: a country with a two-tier system of Justice and where seizures are rocketing

Charges have been dropped against Aziz Sall for violation of the Hunting and Wildlife code (see "On the Trail" n°10 p 22) following financial deal made with the Department of Water, Forests, Hunting and Land Conservation. The amount of the transaction is unknown. This legal backdoor had also enabled 2 brothers, jewelers and elephant hair traffickers, to never see the prison door close on them (see "On the Trail" n°9 p 82. Note: it actually was a transaction and not bail payment). Yet Aziz Sall did not get out of a 3 months prison suspended sentence for forging the CITES permits.



The Aziz Sall scandal has no end! 30 of the African grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus* Timneh, Appendix II) seized in September have disappeared from the aviary belonging to the Department of Water and Forests. Beginning of November, 4 of the stolen parrots as well as 2 white pelicans (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*) and 10 protected turtles were found in the hands of traffickers. They were sentenced to 6 months jail and 7 millions CFA Francs (\$ 11,290 US) in damages to be paid jointly.¹



November 1, 2015

A farm close to Hoedspruit, Province of Limpopo, South Africa

Discovery of the body of a female cape vulture (*Gyps coprotheres*, Appendix II).

According to the Birds of Prey Program (BOPP) she was poisoned. Poachers don't like vultures, they signal to rangers the presence of murdered rhino, elephant or big cat.²

November 15, 2015

Kebili Governorate, Tunisia

Arrest onboard a four-wheeler of 5 hunters from the Gulf countries, in possession of 5 vultures and on suspicion of poaching. Immediate hearing and release.³

Mid December 2015

Maroua, Far North Region, Cameroon

Seizure of 158 parrots (*Psittacidae* spp., Appendix II) and 2 arrests. The birds caught in the Bertoua area in the Eastern Region were on the way towards Nigeria according to the local press. From the hands of poachers to the final buyer in Africa, value of a parrot goes from 25,000 CFA francs (\$ 41 US) to 150,000 CFA francs (\$ 250 US).⁴

AMERICA

October-November-December 2015

It is reproduction season for parrots. Depending on the species, one to 10 white eggs are laid. Incubation lasts from 2 weeks to one month. Usually the female cares alone for the eggs, and the male finds the food for her. 10 days after hatching, the baby birds open their eyes. They are covered in duvet with a few grey feathers. The colored feathers grow a few weeks later and the young begin to learn how to fly and practice climbing the tree trunk after 2 months. This long period of vulnerability and learning is taken advantage of by farm workers, forest ravagers and bird smugglers from the city to capture the newborn, raise them more or less well, and sell the survivors later. The damage is tremendous. The baby birds are ripped away from the nest, hauled over distances, cold and dehydrated, they often die on the way.



October 2, 2015

Ivinhema, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil

Seizure of 265 baby parrots (*Psittacidae* spp., Appendix II) in a farm.⁵



October 4, 2015

Alto Paraíso, State of Paraná, Brazil

This time there were 35 of them in the car. The trafficking driver said he captured them from their nests and sedated them. He intended to sell the survivors 300 km away from where they were seized.⁶



October 6, 2015

Fernando Prestes, State of Sao Paulo, Brazil

Yet another seizure of 139 baby parrots (*Psittacidae* spp., Appendix II) from a car. 70,000 reais (\$ 16,000 US) fine.⁷



October 17, 2015

Gurupi, State of Tocantins, Brazil

Seizure of 32 baby parrots (*Psittacidae* spp., Appendix II) and a macaw. The mistress of the house received a \$4000 US fine.⁸



October 20, 2015

Rosana, State of Sao Paulo, Brazil

Two men, 53 and 21 years old, were stopped in their car with 11 blue-fronted amazons (*Amazona aestiva*, Appendix II). One of them was wounded. The plan was to sell them in Sao Paulo for 550 reais (\$ 150 US) each.⁹

October 21, 2015

Sao Paulo, State of Sao Paulo, Brazil

4 peregrine falcon eggs (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I) along with mountain climbing equipment and an egg incubator were seized off an Irish trafficker of international scope. He is 53 years old. He had boarded in Chile. He was flying to Dubai. After his arrest, he suffered a stroke. Goes to show that raiding birds' nests is no good for one's health.¹⁰



October 30, 2015

Aparecida de Goiania, State of Goias, Brazil

In a terrible state, 300 birds including parrots and hyacinth macaws (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*, Appendix I) were seized from a private home. 3 people were taken into custody.¹¹



October 2015

Nuevo Laredo, State of Tamaulipas, Mexico

Seizure of 3 yellow-headed amazons (*Amazona oratrix*, Appendix I). The owner presented forged documents.¹²



Beginning of November 2015

Sao Paulo, State of Sao Paulo, Brazil

Police and the NGO Mata Ciliares were astounded. They have never taken in so many birds at once: 200 baby parrots about 2 months old were seized at the airport. Several of them were wounded.¹³



November 13, 2015

Alto Hospicio, Region of Tarapacá, Chili

Found by accident at a private home, a Patagonian conure (*Cyanoliseus patagonus*, Appendix II) will now soon be returned to her home.¹⁴



November 14, 2015

Sepetiba, State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Seizure of a blue-and-gold macaw (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II) at someone's house. Hotline: 0055 21- 22531177.¹⁵

November 16, 2015

Piura, Region of Piura, Peru

Police cut off the traffickers wings. More than 500 birds were seized including 200 orange-fronted conures (*Aratinga canicularis*, Appendix II), 20 red lored amazons (*Amazona autumnalis*, Appendix II) and 15 keelbilled toucans (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*, Appendix II).¹⁶

November 23, 2015

Morelia, State of Michoacan, Mexico

Handled without the least precaution, the 2 peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I) were in pitiable sight. They were put for sale on a town market by about ten individuals.¹⁷



December 14, 2015

State of Goias, Brazil

Seizure of 101 parrots (*Psittacidae* spp., Appendix II) and 20 macaws. Hotline: 0800-631155.¹⁸



December 14, 2015

Province of Manabi, Ecuador

The 310 blue-fronted amazons (*Amazona aestiva*, Appendix II) were having a ride in the car when their driver was apprehended by police.¹⁹

December 14, 2015

Cartagena del Chaira, Department of Caqueta, Colombia

3 scarlet macaws (*Ara macao*, Appendix II), 2 blue-and-gold macaws (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II) and 2 yellow-crowned amazons (*Amazona ochrocephala*, Appendix II) were voluntarily turned in before sanction. Total value estimated at 34 millions Colombian pesos, that is \$ 10,200 US.²⁰



ASIA

October 1, 2, 4 and 8, 2015

Districts of Jamshoro and Badin, Province of Sindh, Pakistan

Seizure of 27 laggar falcons (*Falco jugger*, Appendix I) and about ten pigeons, conviction of 19 hunters to fines from Rs 25,000 (\$ 241 US) to Rs 40,000 (\$ 385 US). The value of a laggar falcon is of Rs 10,000 (\$ 96 US). When they were discovered by wildlife protection agents, they had their eyes sewed shut. Laggar falcons are used as bait to snare saker falcons or peregrine falcons (see "On the Trail" n°3 p. 23). Some land owners immediately put on pressure for the case to be hushed up.²¹



October 7, 2015

Gazipur, District of Gazipur, Bangladesh

Seizure of 802 birds including blossom-headed parakeets (*Psittacula roseata*, Appendix II), munias (genus *Lonchura*), bank myna (*Acridotheres ginginianus*) and house sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) and conviction of 2 to 1 year prison. The duo colored bank mynas to make them look like common hill mynas (*Gracula religiosa*, Appendix II) so to sell them for more. Price of a pair of parakeets, Tk 2000 (\$ 26 US), a pair of munia, Tk 500 (\$ 6 US), a pair of house sparrows, Tk 400 (\$ 5 US) and a single bank myna, Tk 1000 (\$ 13 US).²²



Psittacula roseata

October 10, 2015

Province of Sindh, Pakistan

Seizure of 22 saker falcons (*Falco cherrug*, Appendix II). Mass transportation. Usually the Peshawar to Karachi bus line carries 1 or 2 or 3 falcons undercover. This time they were 22 perched on the roof in wooden boxes. Each one, if vigorous, can sell up to \$ 10,000 US to falconers in the Middle East. This good catch was made by the Wildlife services and rangers. Other governmental agencies scrambled on site to get their share. In the end, the Sindh Wildlife Services kept the case. The 22 vultures were taken to Karachi. According to the law they should be released. The bus driver and his sidekick were taken into custody.²³

Pakistan

Black market falcons in the diplomatic bags

1 - 12 October. Fahd bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, Saudi prince and governor of the Tabuk province, was given a permit that allows the exportation of 10 falcons. He was damaged by a scandal last year for hunting 2100 bustards in the Chagai district of Baloutchistan.

2 - 9 November. Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, prime minister of the United Arab Emirates and Emir of Dubai, was given a permit to export 25 falcons from Pakistan.

3 - 9 December. The Emir of Qatar, his father and his brother receive the authorization to export 200 falcons from Qatar to Pakistan in order to facilitate the moulting of the domesticated falcons trained to hunt bustards and to re-import them in Qatar. This might be a trick to rejuvenate the livestock in Qatar by exchanging at equal numbers the old falcons with young ones. The moves of falcons, approved verbally or informally, infringe upon the federal law of the country and rules of numerous provinces. All the falcons that are exported from Pakistan to the Middle East with the support of the federal government come from the inland black market.²⁴

October 14, 2015

Jamshoro, Province of Sindh, Pakistan

Seizure of 20 cranes (*Gruidae* spp., Appendix I or II), wings cut, under a seat in the back of a bus coming from Baluchistan and heading in direction of Bannu (1000 km). One died of suffocation. On October 21, 2014, 78 cranes were seized in the Province of Sindh (see "On the Trail" n°7 p. 75).²⁵



Mid-October 2015

Jamshoro toll, Provinces of Sindh and Karachi, Pakistan

They come to Pakistan flying, they leave by bus.

1 - Seizure of 7 falcons in Karachi in a bus heading for Gwadar. The birds were on their way to Iran.

2 - Discovery of 200 migrating shovelers (*Spatula clypeata*) in a bus coming from Larkana and heading to Karachi, 300 km.

3 - The next day, seizure of 40 laggar falcons (*Falco jugger*, Appendix I) in a bus on the same line.²⁶

October 16, 2015

Jask, Province of Hormozgan, Iran

Seizure of 14 falcons (*Falconidae* spp., Appendix I or II) and 14 houbara bustards (*Chlamydotis undulata*, Appendix I). The boat facing the city was so suspect that the crew jumped into the water when the maritime police approached. The 24 precious birds probably coming from Pakistan were going to cross the Arabian Sea to be delivered to falconry gang leaders.²⁷



October 17, 2015

Empress Market, Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan

Seizure of 18 falcons (*Falconidae* spp., Appendix I or II), 2 eagles (*Accipitridae* spp., Appendix I or II), a chukar partridge (*Alectoris chukar*), a gray partridge (*Perdix perdix*), a black partridge (*Melanoperdix niger*), a fishing cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*, Appendix II) and 6



monkeys (*Primates* spp., Appendix I or II). Five vendors were fined to Rs 35,000 (\$ 329 US). The Empress Bird Market is known for its trade in wild animal species. The fishing cat is different from the domestic cat. It has a shorter tail and it is lightly web-footed. As its name indicates, it mainly feeds on fish and also on birds, insects and small rodents.²⁸

October 17, 2015

Singapore

Conviction of a 43 year-old man, Leong Kay Cheong, to 9 months prison sentence for trafficking of 9 birds including 6 melodius laughingthrushes (*Garrulax canorus*, Appendix II) and 3 white-rumped shams (*Copsychus malabaricus*) and to 3 weeks prison for cruelty towards animals. The sentences are running concurrently. He had been arrested in April 2014 at the Changi airport coming from Hô-Chi-Minh-City. The birds had been found in PVC tubes, that they were wrapped in aluminum foil and hidden in trash bags. Without food or water, 7 of them died and the 2 survivors only lasted a few days.²⁹



Garrulax canorus



October 17, 2015

Bandar Abbas, Province of Hormozgan, Iran

Seizure of 7 saker falcons (*Falco cherrug*, Appendix II) from the back seat. They were to take the ferry boat making for Charjah, United Arab Emirates. The driver and his passenger attempted to buy off the policemen with 40 millions rials (\$ 1334 US).³⁰



October, November 2015

**Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa seizes and releases**

Lakki Marwat

1 - October 28. Seizure of 8 falcons in a bus heading for Karachi.

2 - November 6. Seizure of 4 falcons. One arrest. The birds were in wooden crates in a bus heading for Karachi.

Peshawar

1 - November 1. Seizure of 2 saker falcons (*Falco cherrug*, Appendix II). They were caught by nets in Afghanistan and brought to Peshawar before reaching Karachi. The birds estimated worth Rs 6 millions (\$ 56,933 US), were seized from a home in Ittehad Colony, a predominantly Afghan neighborhood. One arrest.

2 - November 3. 10 falcons were released by Imran Khan President of the Pakistani party Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) that runs the province government.³¹



November 3, 2015

Chandigarh, State of Punjab, India

Rescue of 7 barn owls (*Tyto alba*, Appendix II). The young birds found at the foot of a white fig tree didn't just fall out of the nest. No sign of any parents around. No bird droppings. They evidently had just been deposited to the spot by poachers or black magic adepts.³²

**November 10 and 11 and December 3, 2015
Port of Tanjung Perak, Surabaya, Province of East Java, Indonesia**

Seizures made in the following order :

- 1014 birds including 24 common hill mynas (*Gracula religiosa*, Appendix II), 468 white-rumped shamas (*Copsychus malabaricus*) and 408 greater green leafbirds (*Chloropsis sonnerati*).
- 200 greater green leafbirds.
- 2711 birds : 557 common hill mynas, 1411 greater green leafbirds, 712 white-rumped shamas, 20 Australasian larks (*Mirafra javanica*), 8 crested jays (*Platylophus galericulatus*), 2 Oriental magpie robins (*Copsychus saularis*) and an Asian red-eyed bulbul (*Pycnonotus brunneus*).

One arrest. Traffic counted them. Every day on the Pramuka market in Jakarta there is at least 15,000 birds for sale. On December 3, the ferry boat *KM Mahkota Nusantara* coming from Balikpapan unloads cargo and passengers in the Port of Tanjung Perak in Java Island. In the old ferry's lower deck, the Indonesian Agency for the protection of natural resources found 2711 birds shut in Tupperware boxes with holes. The birds need to be able to breathe during transport over land and seas to be sold in Pramuka. Tanjung Perak and Jakarta are 760km apart. The greater green leafbirds compose the majority of this incarcerated population along with the common hill mynas and the white-rumped shamas. These 3 species were mentioned during the summit on trafficking in Asian songbirds that was held from September 26 to 29, 2015 in Singapore.³³



November 11, 2015

Thane, State of Maharashtra, India

Seizure of 2 Indian peafowls (*Pavo cristatus*, Appendix III in Pakistan) and turtles in a pet shop. The solar bird is a national symbol. For this shop owner who runs his business along the Mira Route, peafowls are no more than simple goods. Peafowls are strictly protected by the 1972 Wildlife Protection

Act and the 1960 Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. Turtles originating from Singapore shared this bad lot.³⁴



© DNA India

Mid November 2015 New Delhi, India

Seizure of a Eurasian eagle-owl (*Bubo bubo*, Appendix II). His reminges were trimmed. He may be able to fly again and away within some months. Hotline for poached birds 9871963535.³⁵



© India Biodiversity Portal

Bubo bubo

November 22, 2015 Melung, Province of Central Java, Indonesia



© Steve Garvie

Spilornis cheela

Team work pays in Melung! Rescue of a crested serpent-eagle (*Spilornis cheela*, Appendix II) by the village locals. The man who faces 5 years prison and 100 millions rupees (\$ 7300 US) fine for trafficking in protected animal species had no fear but that was without counting on the villagers: "We had to use force to intimidate him. In the end, he released the eagle and went home empty handed" recounts one of the villagers (see "On the Trail" n° 5 p. 40 and p. 126 and n°6 p. 114).³⁶

November 26, 2015

Thailand

Poaching of an Oriental pied-hornbill (*Anthracoceros albirostris*, Appendix II). He was wounded by a firearm. He was taken to the Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand center. Despite treatment he died.³⁷

End of November 2015

King Fahd Causeway, Province of Ach-Charqiya, Saudi Arabia

Seizure of 674 birds entering from Bahrain. Traffickers took good care of the merchandise. The pick-up truck intercepted on the royal causeway over the Bahrain Gulf was equipped with a double floor hiding a compartment ventilated by fans.³⁸



© Emirates 247

November 30, 2015

Kohat, Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan

Seizure of 10 falcons (*Falco* spp., Appendix I or II) just before the Kohat tunnel in the Karachi bus. They seem to have been trapped in Afghanistan. None of the passengers claimed ownership. The bus crew is being questioned by police.³⁹

December 2, 2015

Huixian, Province of Henan, China



Conviction of 2 students for poaching 12 Eurasian hobbies (*Falco subbuteo*, Appendix II). Yan who sold the birds on the Internet for 1000 yuans (\$ 156 US) per individual was sentenced to 10 years and 6 months prison term and 10,000 yuans (\$ 1564 US) in fine. His accomplice Wang who carried out the poaching was sentenced to 10 years prison and 5000 yuans (\$ 782 US) in fine.⁴⁰



© Tom Tarrant

Falco subbuteo

December 8, 2015

District of Khurda, State of Odisha, India

Discovery of over 20 bird carcasses including 18 Indian peafowls (*Pavo cristatus*, Appendix III) and one heron. Tests for bird flu are negative. According to the villagers the death was caused by poisoned bait made from rice scattered in the forest by poachers wishing to sell the feathers. 10 days later 2 people were arrested. Nets, a deer skull and peafowl feathers were seized from their home while 2 peafowl feather salesmen were nabbed during a celebration in Khurda (see "On the Trail" n°4 p. 35, n°7 p. 25 and p. 26, n°9 p. 26).⁴¹

December 14, 2015

Seberang Takir, State of Terengganu, Malaysia

Seizure of a hornbill (Bucerotidae family, 24 species in Appendix I or II) and 3 white-rumped shamas (*Copsychus malabaricus*) for sale on the Internet and arrest of a 27-year-old man at his home.⁴²

Mid December 2015

Khaf, Province of Khorasan-e Razavi, Iran

Seizure of about twenty bustards (*Chlamydotis* spp., Appendix I) from a sheep pen. After a month of investigations, police conducted a search and found the birds stuffed into plastic bags. The Khaf region in northern Iran bordering Turkmenistan and Afghanistan is on the migration path of bustards from central Asia.⁴³



Mid December 2015

Kuching, State of Sarawak, Malaysia

Seizure of a buzzard (*Accipitridae* spp., Appendix II) and 2 common hill mynas (*Gracula religiosa*, Appendix II) in a shop.⁴⁴

December 16-25, 2015

Samawa, Muthanna Governorate, Iraq

During the war, the falconry continues. At the break of dawn, about a hundred armed men arriving in all terrain vehicles invaded a caravansary of falconries and bustard hunters whose members were of the royal family in Qatar or coming from Kuwait or Saudi Arabia. At least 27 people were taken hostage. The camps had been put in place 3 weeks before, and hosted 70 people. At the time of the intervention, half of the camp was empty, as some hunters and their assistants were in a nocturnal expedition. Wild bustards are on the brink of extinction in Qatar and southern Iraq is the last refuge for them in the Middle East. The hunters established their base camp with the authorization and the protection of the Iraqi government. Yet, the minister of the interior indicates that they ventured into unsafe zones. The Gulf Cooperation Council described the abduction as "an action that harms the bonds of brotherly relations between Arab brothers". The day following the armed intervention, a few survivors managed to cross the border between Iraq and Kuwait. They might have been members of the stewardship personnel. Some of the members of the Al Thani royal family are still missing.⁴⁵

December 18, 2015

Ban Dan Na Kham, Province of Uttaradit, Thailand

Seizure of 1000 red-whiskered bulbuls (*Pycnonotus jocosus*), protected on a national scale and intended to fuel the Chatuchak market in Bangkok (see "On the Trail" n°4 p. 27, n°7 p. 94, n°9 p. 12). The birds were packed into 10 crates in the baggage compartment of a bus running the line between Chiang Rai and Bangkok, 700 km. The driver admitted to have been paid to deliver the birds to Bangkok.⁴⁶



100 birds per crate

December 19, 2015

Dera Bugti, Province of Baluchistan, Pakistan

Seizure of 27 houbara bustards (*Chlamydotis undulata*, Appendix I) departing for Pendjab in the north. The trafficker in bustards, whose meat is deemed an aphrodisiac according to the beliefs spread by emirs in the Gulf, was immediately released. This apparently wasn't the case for the bustards. The ban on hunting bustards in effect has been discussed at the National Assembly. The Parliamentary Secretary for Ports and Transportation showed his anger claiming that India had offered to the Arab princes to come hunt following the ban in Pakistan. To be continued.⁴⁷

December 23, 2015

Turkey. Syrian border.

Seizure of 50 parrots (*Psittacidae* spp., Appendix I or II). The border between Turkey and Syria is a working ground for traffickers of all sorts: oil, electronic material, archeological objects but Turkish armed forces have discovered yet another traffic. The birds are not originated from Syria. No one knows how they got there. They add on to the long list of goods seized that day, 41 mobile telephones, 300 packs of cigarettes and 6 heads of cattle. The birds' fate is unknown.⁴⁸

December 29, 2015

Province of Tehran, Iran

Seizure of 4 saker falcons (*Falco cherrug*, Appendix II) and a peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I). Arrest of 2 traffickers including the gang leader. The birds with their eyelids sewn were destined to the Gulf countries. Reversed *haute couture*, veterinarians worked for hours to unstitch their eyes and give the vultures their eyesight back.⁴⁹



EUROPE

REPEATED OFFENSE

Mid-October 2015

Gozo Island, Malta

Conviction of a bird trapper to € 8000 (\$ 8963 US) in fine and lifetime suspension of his hunting permit. He was arrested while setting up, outside the legal hunting season, of a trap and an electronic decoy. He had already been convicted for setting traps for passerines.⁵⁰



Mid-October 2015

Hérault Department, Region of Languedoc-Roussillon, France

Rescue of a short-toed eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*, Appendix II) wounded and agonizing among the grapevines. One wing had a fracture. Lead bullets were found. The victim was given for care to the rescue center for wildlife run by the LPO (League for the protection of birds) in Villeveyrac and should in time return to the wild.⁵¹



October 22, 2015

Grenoble, Department of Isère, Region of Rhône-Alpes, France

Conviction of 2 men for trafficking in European Goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*). One of them was sentenced to a € 1000 fine and the other to € 20 per day for 90 days, i.e. € 1800 fine. The LPO in the Isère department, the Departmental hunting federation and the NGO Le Tichodrome received damages for expenses forwarded for the birds' medical treatment and reparation for their material and moral prejudice. In total the traffickers will have to put out € 8625.94.⁵²



End of October 2015

Denmark

Seizure and conviction of a Danish citizen to DKK 650,000 (\$ 95,265 US) in fine for illegal sale of 43 birds including yellow-billed amazons (*Amazona collaria*, Appendix II), red-capped parrots (*Purpureicephalus spurius*, Appendix II), sun conures (*Aratinga solstitialis*, Appendix II), electus parrots (*Eclectus roratus*, Appendix II). Part of the profits from his illegal business on the Internet sites fuglemarked.dk and parrot4sale.com, that is DKK 231,000 (\$ 33,855 US), was confiscated.⁵³



Purpureicephalus spurius

End of October 2015

Palermo, Region of Sicily, Italy

Seizure of 65 passerines and a peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I). The 2 itinerant dealers aged 56 and 18, were arrested, questioned and released in waiting for trial.⁵⁴

End of October 2015

Pozallo, Region of Sicily, Italy

Seizure of 1000 birds of various protected species estimated worth in total € 150,000. Crammed into a car trunk, they were about to board the ferry boat heading for the Island of Malta. The driver, a 56-year-old Italian, was arrested. The birds were set free.⁵⁵



FAMILY AFFAIRS

October 29, 2015

Bury, England, United Kingdom

A girl and her father were convicted for having put for sale on Facebook 2 baby peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I) not tagged and of unknown origin. After the seizure, the birds were placed in the nest of a peregrine falcon couple who adopted them along with their 2 other young. They were therefore able to return to their natural habitat.

Verdict: 8 weeks suspended prison term and £ 345 in court costs for each of the accused. The father, Allan Baker, was also assigned to home arrest between 7 pm and 7 am for 8 weeks. The daughter will also have to follow an educational program. The day before the sentencing, a surveillance camera aimed at a nest in Rotherham, at a 1h30 drive from Bury, filmed an individual grasping a peregrine falcon.⁵⁶



Beginning of November 2015

District of Jæren, County of Rogaland, Norway

Sentencing of a hunter for poaching of a peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I) to 25 days in prison, 3 years forbidden to hunt and to pay court costs worth 2000 crowns (\$ 230 US).⁵⁸



November 9, 2015

Audon, Region of Aquitaine, France

Beware the poaching of common chaffinches (*Fringilla coelebs*) and bramblings (*Fringilla montifringilla*) in the department of Landes. This fearsome warrior armed with a shovel and startled out of his sleep attempted to attack friends of the birds and members of the LPO- the league for the protection of birds- creeping along the rows of corn stalks to open the "matoles", small baskets with wire netting used as traps.



Poaching of these passerines is banned since 1976. Poachers take advantage of the halts during the migration to lure them with bait (see "On the Trail" n°6 p. 34, n°7 p. 28, n°10 p. 26).⁵⁹

Beginning of November 2015

Padua, Region of Veneto, Italy

Operation "Bus Stop". Seizure of 400 birds in the baggage compartment of a bus coming from the ornithological fair in Nitra, Slovakia, among which eastern rosellas (*Platycercus eximius*, Appendix II), 2 blue-fronted amazons (*Amazona aestiva*, Appendix II), 2 red-lored amazons (*Amazona autumnalis*, Appendix II), budgerigars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*), cockatiels (*Nymphicus hollandicus*), 11 king quails (*Excalfactoria chinensis*). 17 arrests. Between Nitra and Padua, the birds travelled 790 km under the threat of suffocation.⁵⁷

REPEATED OFFENSE

November 2015

Arles, Region of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, France

Glue hunting.

Seizure of 80 passerines: European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*), European greenfinches (*Carduelis chloris*), bramblings (*Fringilla montifringilla*) and European serins (*Serinus serinus*). Estimated value after sale between € 7000 and 10,000. Arrest of 2 poachers and a watchman. One of the suspects, age 55, has already been convicted in Ajaccio, Corsica, for a similar offense.⁶⁰

November 21, 2015

Lurgan, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom

Seizure of 4 barn owls (*Tyto alba*, Appendix II) for sale on the Internet.⁶¹

End of November 2015

Rome, Region of Lazio, Italy

An apple, ants and chicken were keeping company to the undocumented Patagonian conure (*Cyanoliseus patagonus*, Appendix II) and blue-and-gold macaw (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II).⁶²

December 18, 2015

Annalong, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom

Seizure of a barn owl (*Tyto alba*, Appendix II) put for sale on social networks. Trafficking in small nocturnal raptors is very active in the United Kingdom. Barn owls have been protected since 1985. "This is the 5th in a few weeks" regrets the Northern Ireland environmental agency. The little owls are used as Christmas presents. Hotline 0800 555 111.⁶³



Pangolins

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

The seizure from October 1st to December 31th is equal to 18,720 pangolins

Taking the average weight of 3 pangolins for 1 kg of scales.

Excluding Operation Worthy II

"On the Trail " n°11

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

Continent	Country	US\$/kg	Ref.
Asia	China	185 wholesale price	23
		3081 retail price	23
	India	150	22

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

Continent	Country	US\$	Réf.
Asia	India	15 to 22	22
	Indonesia	330	19
	Malaysia	325	11
	Vietnam	677	33

AFRICA

October 9, 2015

Mont Darwin District, Province of Central Mashonaland, Zimbabwe



Sentencing of 3 Mozambicans to a 9 year prison term for smuggling a pangolin and to a 3 month prison term for illegal immigration. They had been arrested on October 6 in possession of a pangolin. In 2015, 28 people were sentenced to 9 years in prison for pangolin trafficking in Zimbabwe.¹

October 12, 2015

Harare, Zimbabwe

A young female dehydrated and wounded given for care to the Tikki Hywood Trust. Two poachers arrested.²

REPEATED OFFENSE

Mid-October 2015

Uganda

Seizure of 4 giant pangolins (*Manis gigantea*) and arrest of a notorious trafficker. He shoulders on his own the death of several thousand pangolins.³



October 24, 2015

Nampula, Province of Nampula, Mozambique

"How sad the world would be without these creatures" say the wildlife protectors in Mozambique. The mother is dead, she was for sale on the roadside, the little one is going to survive.⁴



October 27, 2015

Near the Victoria Falls Airport, Province of North Matabeleland, Zimbabwe

Seizure of a live pangolin. Three arrests and release on bail for \$ 100 US. "Can you find me some old coins?" In code that means "Can you find me some pangolins?" The 2 dollars coins in Zimbabwe represent an image of a pangolin, a national symbol. 30 years ago it was well seen to give a live one to President Mugabe. The pangolin kidnappers claim they found him on a church step and were taking him to ZimParks.⁵



**November 1, 2015
Gokwe, Midlands Province, Zimbabwe**

Two policemen sentenced to 10 years in prison one of which is suspended and their accomplices to 9 years for trapping and sale of one pangolin.⁶



**Beginning of November 2015
Western Zambia**

Seizure of 6 pangolins in the course of 4 interventions. Two dead, 4 released.⁷

**November 11, 2015
Yaoundé International Airport, Centre Region, Cameroon**

Seizure of 100 kg of pangolin scales. Arrest of the mini-bus driver running the line between Ebolowa and Yaoundé (150 km).⁸

**November 26, 2015
East Cameroon**

Seizure of 14 kg of pangolin scales. One arrest. The gang poaches in the National Deng-Deng Park in the Eastern Region.⁹

**December 9 and 14, 2015
Harare, Province of Harare, Zimbabwe**

1 - Sentencing of man to 9 years prison for being in possession of a pangolin. His accomplice is on the run after having been released on bail.

2 - Sentencing of a man to 9 years in prison for possession of a pangolin.¹⁰



ASIA

October 6, 2015

Wang Kelian, State of Perlis, Malaysia

Seizure of 63 pangolins worth RM 91,000 (\$ 20,459 US) at the border between Malaysia and Thailand. A young man suspected of having captured them from the State of Perak in Malaysia and smuggled them into Thailand ran away leaving the pangolins inside the car.¹¹



© Malaysian Digest

October 20, 2015

Sreekaryam, District of Thiruvananthapuram, State of Kerala, India

Seizure of a large Indian pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) weighting 10.4 kg. Six people aged 24 to 49 were arrested. The provider of the animal was apparently working temp as a forest guard.¹²



© S. Mahinsha

**October 22, 2015
Cam Lo District, Province of Quang Tri, Vietnam**

Seizure of 4 live individuals, total weight 15 kg.¹³



© Tânphong

October 28, 2015

Kuala Kangsar, State of Perak, Malaysia

Court hearing for a 66-year-old woman for suspicious possession of 4 pangolins, 3 females and one male.¹⁴

End of October, 2015

Whenzhou, Zhejiang, China

From small pieces of pangolins to 30 frozen entire ones and from cafés to restaurants, the police unraveled the traffic. The 3 main wildlife butchers including a woman were sentenced to be under restraint and behind bars during 18 and 14 months.^{14 bis}



End of October 2015

Haiphong, Province of Haiphong, Vietnam

Conviction of 4 men for pangolin trafficking between the provinces of Thai Binh and Quang Ninh. The hot head of the mad works was sentenced to 12 months in prison and a fine worth 10 millions dongs (about \$ 450 US). His accomplices received sentences from 7 to 9 months in prison.¹⁵



October 30 and November 5, 2015

Laos, border to Thailand

Seizure of 81 Sunda pangolins (*Manis javanica*) alive. Probable travel: Island of Sumatra, Malaysia by ship, Thailand and Laos on the road, final destination China. One arrest. The pangolins were taken to Laos Wildlife Rescue. After a week of treatment, 48 pangolins were deemed strong enough to be released back into the wild in places kept secret, while 17 of them had died. The last ones' fate is still in balance.¹⁶



November 5, 2015

Taiwan

Seizure of 2 live pangolins in nylon bags in the back of a motorcycle. One arrest.¹⁷



The saddest picture of the quarter

November 6, 2015

Butterworth, State of Penang, Malaysia

Seizure of 46 pangolins. After a tip-off, police came and found the keys on the contact of the Proton Waja and the pangolins in the trunk of the abandoned car.¹⁸



November 11, 2015

Port of Belawan, Province of North Sumatra, Indonesia

Seizure of 91 pangolins, 9 of which were dead, onboard a ship bound to Malaysia. It's a new illustration of the pangolin smuggling route between Sumatra, Malaysia and continental China. The 4 crew members were arrested. The anteaters are estimated worth 400 millions rupees (\$ 30,000 US).¹⁹



November 11, 2015

Province of Nghe An, Vietnam

Seizure of 7 live pangolins in the baggage compartment of a bus linking Hue to Hanoi (700 km). The driver and his assistant were taken into custody. The animals were found in a rack reserved for the driver's use. Transfer has been made to the Pu Mat National Park Rescue Center.²⁰



Mid-November, 2015

Thanh Hoa, Vietnam

1- Seizure of 7 pangolins (*Manis javanica*) (44 kg) and their transfer to a refuge in the National Park of Cuc Phuong.

2- Legal proceedings against the transport of 56 pangolins (232 kg) in the Nga Son district (see "On the Trail" n° 10 p. 29).²¹

November 2015

State of Tamil Nadu, India

A pangolin scale trafficking network dismantled. Pangolins were poached in the Coimbatore and Sathyamangalam forests, Erode District. Eight arrests of poachers and 1st level traffickers. The supposed kingpin, Ravikumar, resident in Chennai, in relation with Chinese buyers, has not yet been arrested. The first middlemen would buy the pangolins from villagers Rs 1000 or 1500 a piece (15 or \$ 22 US). Ravikumar bought the scales for 10,000 Rs/kg i.e. \$ 150 US/kg. It takes 3 to 5 individuals to get 1kg of scales. It depends on their age. The snared pangolins are younger and younger.²²

November 16, 2015

Guangzhou, Province of Guangdong, China

Seizure of 2 tons of pangolin scales coming from Nigeria. The seizure is estimated worth 2.4 millions yuans (\$ 369,798 US) wholesale but would have brought in on the retail business 40 millions yuans (\$ 6,163,305 US). Police have already noted that a gram of scales sells for 20 yuans (\$ 3 US). The 2 suspects wanted to sell them on the Internet.²³

November 22, 2015

Vietnam

24 pangolins rescued from trafficking networks set free. On November 27, an amendment to the Penal procedure code authorized immediate liberation of animals after they are seized.

Three other modifications:

-Crimes against species said to be priority will have to be brought before court unconditionally of weight, quantity or value concerned.

-Illegal possession of wildlife becomes a penal offense.

-Maximum penalty for wildlife crime rises from 7 to 15 years.²⁴



November 23, 2015

Palembang, Province of South Sumatra, Indonesia

Seizure of 27 frozen pangolins and 62 kg of scales. Arrest of a trafficker at work since one year. The scales were going to be sent to Jakarta.²⁵



**OPERATION SHIELD-I
FAMILY AFFAIRS
REPEATED OFFENSE**

Beginning of December 2015

Gwalior, State of Madhya Pradesh, India

Seizure of 27.5 kg of scales and arrest of a couple trafficking for 20 years. Munni, the wife was the sales and delivery woman assisted by her 2 sons Azad and Bablu. Wanted also for poaching and trafficking in tigers in the State of Rajasthan since 2005, they were hiding in Madhya Pradesh. Indian peafowl feathers (*Pavo cristatus*) and mongoose hairs (Herpestidae family), 2 species strictly protected in India, were found at their home as well as more pangolin scales.²⁶



December 7, 2015

Mong Cai, Quang Ninh Province, Vietnam

Seizure of 19 medium-weight pangolins (78.7 kg) of 4.14 kg each. Two people were arrested.^{26 bis}

December 8, 2015

Fangchenggang, Autonomous Region of Guangxi, China

Conviction of a wrongdoer and his accomplice to, in that order, 5 years in prison and a 50,000 yuans (\$ 7700 US) fine and a 2 year prison suspended sentence and a 20,000 yuans (\$ 3080 US) fine for transportation of 26 live pangolins. At least 20 individuals were from Malaysia. The seizure took place in April in Dongxing after the Vietnamese border.²⁷



December 8, 2015

Nga Son District, Thanh Hoa, Vietnam

Conviction of 2 people to a 15 and 18 month suspended sentence for having transported 56 pangolins (see "On the Trail" n° 10 p. 29). Only 19 individuals survived and can be released, now that the legal process has ended. The other ones died due to force-feeding, which they were subject to just before their seizure, and due to poor health conditions in the overpopulated refuge. The magistrates regret that the penal code does not include a proportional sentence to the number of animals that are victims of traffic or cruelty.²⁸



December 12, 2015

Dongxing, Autonomous Region of Guangxi, China. Vietnamese border

Seizure of 50 live pangolins in a car at the border control office. No need for a sniffer dog. "Waves of a stench" were flowing from the car. The driver had been paid \$ 155 US for his trouble and the conveying.²⁹

December 13, 2015

Katmandu, Central Development Region, Nepal

Seizure in the suburbs of 3.2 kg of pangolin scales. Two arrests. Captured and boiled in the eastern forests and the Central Development Region, the pangolins are then scaled. The scales are driven towards China by way of Tibet. In 5 years the market had rocketed.³⁰

December 13, 2015

Kunming, Province of Yunnan, China

Seizure of 9 live pangolins from the luggage compartment of a tourist bus destined for Wuxi, Province of Jiangsu. The passengers and the driver all say they know nothing.³¹



December 17, 2015

Tuen Mun, Hong Kong, China

Seizure of 50 boxes of pangolin meat estimated worth \$ 1.46 million HK (\$ 188,368 US). At about 1 o'clock in the morning, maritime police noticed a suspicious transshipment between 2 land vehicles and a ship. After boarding, the ship was searched and the cargo found. The 8 crew members were arrested. Electrical equipment was mixed with the pangolin meat.³²



FAMILY AFFAIRS

December 2015

Province of Binh Duong, Vietnam

Seizure of 12 pangolins. Vo Ta Dung moved here with the specific intention of doing pangolin business. He rented a house to live in and to stock the animals, and he hired 2 of his nephews. A deal to purchase 3 pangolins for VND 45.7 millions (\$ 2032 US), that is \$ 677 US/pangolin, was made with a woman named Tran Thi Tien. The 2 transporters got caught at the moment they were to pick up the

pangolins. Police searched Dung's home and found 8 others anteaters. Mrs Tien, the provider, turned in to the officers another pangolin she had in her possession and was not arrested for she is caretaker of an infant.³³

December 30, 2015

Pontianak, Province of West Kalimantan, Indonesia

Seizure and disposal of 66 kg of frozen pangolin.³⁴



©Niassa Lion Project

October 24, 2015. Nampula, Province of Nampula, Mozambique (p. 30)

Pangolins and elephants, the fish and wigs network

ASIA

November 22, 2015

Port of Tongzhong, Fangchenggang District, Autonomous Region of Guangxi, China

Seizure of a load coming from Africa of 970 kg of pangolin scales and 307 kg of tips and tusk sections registered as "frozen perch".¹



November 23, 2015

Province of Quang Ninh, Vietnam

Seizure of 860 kg of tusks and over 2 tons of pangolin scales hidden in 1300 crates of "frozen fish heads" coming from Taiwan.²



December 8-9, 2015

Ko Samui International Airport, Province of Surat Thani, Thailand

Seizure of 281 tusks (789 kg) and 12 bags of pangolin scales (587 kg) registered as "wigs", total value estimated at 80 millions baht (\$ 2,229,010 US). The Bangkok Airways flight came from Nigeria, via Singapore. Final destination was Laos. The Ko Samui international airport was inaugurated in 1989 on the Ko Samui Island, internal flights connect the touristic areas of southern Thailand. Genetic analysis of the tusks proves that 168 of them come from African elephants. The origin of the 113 others has not yet been confirmed.³

December 12, 2015
Changi Airport cargo center, Singapore

Seizure of 255 tusks and tusk sections (505 kg) and 324 kg of pangolin scales for a total value of \$ 1.3 million S (\$ 921,417 US) registered as "complete wigs of synthetic textile materials" coming from Lagos, Nigeria and destined to Vientiane, Laos.⁴



Primates

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

AFRICA

October 2, 2015

Misisi, Fizi Territory, Province of South Kivu, Republic of Congo

The 33rd brigade of the Congolese army specifically dedicated to fighting against poaching rescued a female blue monkey (*Cercopithecus mitis*, Appendix II) held captive for 6 months and turned her over to the Lwiro Primates shelter.¹

Mid November 2015

Mubende District, Central Province, Uganda

Seizure of 3 eastern black-and-white colobus skins (*Colobus guereza*, Appendix II) and arrest. He had been waiting for his client for 4 hours by the side of the road with his motorbike and the skins. He was picked up and is now behind bars.²

Mid November 2015

Cameroon

More gruesome findings. Seizure of 12 gorilla skulls, 3 chimpanzee skulls, a drill skull (*Mandrillus leucophaeus*, Appendix I) and 2 non-identified monkey skulls. They were intended for traditional healers. One arrest.³



November 18, 2015

Walikale, Province of North-Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo

Rescue of a young female chimpanzee. She is now at the Lwiro shelter thanks to action from the ICCN (Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation), the UGADEC (Union of Associations for Conservation of Gorillas and Community Development in East Democratic Republic of Congo) and the Jane Goodall Institute.⁴



November 24 and 27, 2015

Boké Region, Guinea

Seizure of 2 baby chimpanzees during 2 separate operations. They were turned over to the Center for the Conservation of Chimpanzees. Four arrests. Moriba who kept a 4-month-old chimpanzee at his home is in relation with the Chinese community. He was sentenced to 3 months jail time and to pay damages.⁵



FAMILY AFFAIRS

Beginning and Mid December 2015

Cameroon

1 - East Cameroon. Seizure of 3 gorilla skulls, a chimpanzee skull and an elephant tail. Two arrests.
2 - Yaoundé. Seizure of 19 chimpanzee skulls. The seller is a pastor. The skulls were gathered in the South by his brother. Why are the skulls painted red? "The Chinese like them that way." "Having one painted red makes the others invisible and so you don't get arrested."⁶



Mid December 2015

Lodja, Province of Sankuru, Democratic Republic of Congo

Seizure of a baby mangabey (*Cercopithecidae* spp., Appendix I or II) on a market place and one more to settle into the Lwiro Center. ⁷



Mid December 2015

Democratic Republic of Congo

Lwiro Primates takes on a young chimpanzee. The poacher was sentenced to an exceptional 17-year prison term. It is yet to be confirmed he will actually do that time. ⁸



AMERICA

October 17, 2015

La Paz, Department La Paz, Bolivia

Seizure of white faced capuchin (*Cebus capucinus*, Appendix II). ⁹

November 23, 2015

La Florida, Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina



Seizure of a young black howler (*Alouatta caraya*, Appendix II) in a multinational company for hygiene products, Kimberly Clark. ¹⁰

ASIA

ORANGUTANS IN INDONESIA

Beginning of November 2015

Forest fires are finally diminishing in Indonesia thanks to the rain. Between July and October 20.7 millions hectares were destroyed including 600,000 hectares of peatland. 500,000 cases of respiratory troubles were reported.

Sunday November 1st, a fire of a different kind destroyed "important" documents in the Finance bureau of Central Kalimantan. Part of the public opinion believes it was arson aimed to destroy proof or clues of responsibility of the agro-business of this sanitary and environmental disaster. On the Island of Sumatra alone, 18 national and international companies dealing in the palm oil trade are under investigation and their directors can't, until further notice, leave the country. Unregulated clearing prior to new plantations are suspected to be the main cause for the uncontrolled brazier. The orangutans, tree dwelling great apes, had nowhere to retreat to. They have just gone through 5 months of hell.

Beginning of October 2015

Province of West Kalimantan, Indonesia

1- Seponti Jaya. She is between one year and 18 months old. Around her there was no trace of her mother. She was cared for by villagers for about 10 days then taken the local BKSDA section in Sukadana after a 3-hour-long walk. She eats and drinks little.



2- Limpang. He is not even a year. He was spotted by people who heard cries at the edge of the forest near a river. He was kept for a month until the village leader convinced the family to turn him over to the rightful authorities. A BKSDA agent, a veterinarian and an assistant came to get him. He is in quarantine for the moment, before joining the other orphans.

3- Kubu Raya. He was drinking from a canal. He was very thin. He apparently followed workers from a palm oil plantation. He ended up stranded in the home of a couple who underfed and mistreated him and who, once they realized the troubles to come, decided to get rid of him. He suffers from respiratory difficulties because of the forest fire smoke. ¹¹



ORANGUTANS IN INDONESIA - FOLLOWED

Mid-October 2015

Simpang Hulu District, Province of West Kalimantan, Indonesia



Rescue of a baby orangutan left for dead in a cardboard box in a courtyard under a hot sun. He had been held hostage of the Merawa village leader who had bought him for £20 (\$ 30 US) from a guy who most probably tore him away from his mother. Found dehydrated and undernourished, he had been fed only concentrated milk and looked "mummified". He was covered with scabies. He survived the 9-hour motorcycle trip between Merawa and the health center in Ketapang. Latest news in November is that he's coming back to life and getting some color back. It's still too soon to say if the hell he went through will affect his growth and learning abilities required prior to any possible return into the wild.¹²

Mid-October 2015
Province of Central Kalimantan, Island of Borneo, Indonesia

Rescue by the BKSDA and the Orangutan Survival Foundation (BOSF) of a young female orangutan who was trying to escape the forest fires and found herself stranded in a palm oil plantation.¹³



Mid-October 2015

Palembang, Province South Sumatra, Indonesia

Seizure of a Sumatran orangutan 6 or 7-year-old and a Javan gibbon (*Hylobates moloch*, Appendix I). Taken too early from their mothers, they lived in the kidnapper's small cages. They suffered abuse, they became addicted to soda and cigarettes.¹⁴

October 17, 2015

Regency of Aceh Tamiang, Province of Aceh, Island of Sumatra, Indonesia

Seizure of a female Sumatran orangutan about a year and a half old. A local who had found her on his land had captured her. She was taken to a shelter of the Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Program (SOCP).¹⁶



October 21, 2015

Bukit Lawang Tourist site, Province of North Sumatra, Indonesia



20 bullets in the body and left eye and machete strikes. Died after 2 days of desperate treatment.¹⁸

October 29, 2015

Southwest Aceh Regency, Province of Aceh, Indonesia

Seizure of a young female orangutan under a year old. Mistakenly, her brutal and abusive adoptive family had named her Josh, when in fact she is a female now re-named Josephine.¹⁹



November 7, 2015

Pekanbaru, Province of Riau, Indonesia

Rescue of 3 baby orangutans, aged 6 to 9 months and trapped 2 weeks earlier in the province of Aceh 500km away. Arrest of 3 people just before concluding their sordid deal with unknown clients. They admitted to having bought each little one for Rp 5 millions (\$ 360 US). They wanted to sell them 25 millions roupees (\$ 1800 US) each. One of the 3 bandits Alif Rhamad, civil servant by profession, was immediately brought into custody but his 2 accomplices escaped. After a short chase, their car left the road. In the back, the 3 orangutans were found in plastic boxes. The 2 males are barely a year and the female between 4 and 6 months. They were

ORANGUTANS IN INDONESIA - FOLLOWED



dirty, stressed, soaking wet and feverish. "It is likely that the 3 babies were from 3 different mothers since orangutans usually only give birth to one baby every six years" explained a specialist.²⁰

November 10, 2015

Province of Central Kalimantan, Indonesia

Rescue of 3 baby orangutans. One male and 2 females.²¹

Mid November 2015

Langsa, Province of Aceh, Indonesia

Sentencing of a student to 2-year prison time and Rp 50 millions (\$ 3653 US) in fine for trafficking in endangered species. The case concerned in particular 3 baby orangutans (see "On the Trail" n° 10 p 77).²²



November 27 to December 7, 2015

Regency of Kapuas, Province of West Kalimantan, Indonesia

39 orangutans, 25 adults and 14 babies were seeking refuge on a 500m long sand bar on the banks of the river Mangkutub. They were pushed there by the forest fires. A rescue team led them to a lesser threatened forest a few dozen km away in direction of Mantangai and Bagantung. On their way, they ran into many illegal logging fields in the forest. The forests are bitten into by both forest fires and chain saws. And orangutans are victims of both.²³



Beginning of December 2015 Indonesia

1- His territory was devastated, the ground was black and covered with ashes. It happened right next to 2 palm oil plantations. "The worst that can be imagined is a magnificent orangutan who could be swinging at the top of the canopy and who is left to wander on the ground searching for a standing tree where to build his nest. "He had gotten into the habit of swiping bananas from a nearby field. Instead of ridding him with bullets, the villagers called for help. After being put to sleep with tranquilizers, he was taken to a waiting enclosure until experts could find an appropriate territory in what is left of the forest. He is 30.



2- One of his kind found refuge after the forest fires in a rambutan plantation, a variety of litchis. He had to be shot with tranquilizer gun. Unfortunately, he was in the heights and fell beside the net. Nothing serious yet, only one cut on the cheek. He is receiving care in Ketapang.²⁴



HOMECOMING

Mid-October 2015

Kuwait - Indonesia

Repatriation of a baby orangutan, 2 years old, from Kuwait. Her condition is satisfactory after the 10 hours flight. She is now in quarantine in Bogor.¹⁵

October 20, 2015

Malaysia - Indonesia

Repatriation of 2 young orangutans to Medan who had been exported to Malaysia 3 months ago. Their return trip was paid for by the Indonesian government, by the conservation program for Sumatran orangutans and by the MASkargo airlines company (see "On the Trail" n°10 p.33). Four individuals, from Malaysia and Indonesia, had been arrested in July 50 km from Kuala Lumpur on a hotel parking lot with the 2 expatriated orangutans. They intended to sell them for nearly \$ 10,000 US. One of the kidnappers pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 6 months prison. The public attorney formed an appeal, considering the penalty to be too lenient. Since 2005, 15 orangutans smuggled into Malaysia have been sent home to Indonesia.²⁵



November 12, 2015

Thailand - Indonesia

Repatriation of 14 Bornean orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus*) in Indonesia.

In December 2008, the ONG Wildlife Friends Foundation in Thailand files a complaint to the Department of National Parks (DNP) with photos and videos regarding the illegal presence of 11 orangutans in a zoo on the island of Phuket. In February 2009, the Department responds that a search has been carried out but no orangutans were found.

In March 2009, the Department announces that 11 orangutans were found in cages along the road Phuket-Phang Nga, and were entrusted to the Kao Prathapchang Wildlife Sanctuary.

In February 2012, 2 other orangutans are seized in the house of a wildlife trafficker in Saraburi in the province of Saraburi.

In May 2012 the Department confirms that there are no charges against the zoo in Phuket given the fact that the animals were found neglected on the public property. Furthermore, it is highlighted that the animals can't be transported back to their country of origin in the next 5 years, as that is the legal time for the owners to reclaim their "properties". The orangutans are being repatriated to Indonesia in a military airplane. There were not 11 neither 13 of them but rather 14, since a baby would have been born during time in captivity in Thailand. The genetic tests confirm that they belong to the lineage orangutan Kalimantan. Most of them were probably only a few months old when they arrived fraudulently to Thailand.²⁶



Beginning of October, 2015

Phi Phi Islands, Andaman Sea, Province of Krabi and Koh Samui Islands, Gulf of Thailand, Province of Surat Thani, Thailand

1 - Phi Phi Islands. Seizure of 3 gibbons (*Hylobatidae* spp., Appendix I) aged from 9 to 18 months and arrest of 3 monkey tamers of about twenty years old in front of a luxury hotel. There would still be approximately twenty gibbons used as attractions on the island. Each one would bring in to their exploiter 5000 bahts (\$ 137 US) per day during the low season and 25.000 bahts (\$ 685 US) per day in the high season. Tourists are encouraged to have their picture taken with the baby gibbons. Each animal exhibitor risks no more than 4000 bahts, i.e. \$ 110 US. The baby gibbons are bought in Phuket for about 25,000 bahts (\$ 700 US). See "On the Trail" n°10 p. 34.

2 - Koh Samui Island. Seizure of 7 gibbons working night and day on the beaches and cities.²⁷



October 5, 2015

Phan Thiet, Province of Bin Huan, Vietnam

Seizure of a long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*, Appendix II) prisoner in a tourist facility.²⁸

October 2015

Province of Ba Ria-Vung Tau, Vietnam

Seizure of 3 gibbons (*Nomascus gabriellae*, Appendix I) from a private home. They were taken to a wildlife shelter in the Bu Gia Map forest.²⁹



Mid-October 2015

Vietnam

Vietnam

Release of 3 long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*, Appendix II) including one in Nha Trang, Province of Khanh Hoa, saved by the very new local club of ENV volunteers.³⁰



October 2015

Province of East Java, Indonesia

Rescue of 6 baby Javan lutungs (*Trachypithecus auratus*, Appendix II). The man selling them on Internet was arrested.³¹



October 21, 2015

Province of East Java, Indonesia

Seizure of 5 Javan lutung (*Trachypithecus auratus*, Appendix II) for sale on the Internet and arrest of the trafficker. He would regularly buy monkeys from a middle man for 300,000 rupiahs (\$ 22 US) and would sell them twice the price on Facebook or the Blackberry messenger service.¹⁷

October 29, 2015

Laos

Seizure of a Bengal slow lorises (*Nycticebus bengalensis*, Appendix I), 3 pygmy lorises (*Nycticebus pygmaeus*, Appendix I) and a white-cheeked gibbon (*Nomascus leucogenys*, Appendix I.) They are all very young and recently caught. Saved from the food or pet market, they were taken to the first and only refuge and help center for wildlife in Laos, the Laos Wildlife Rescue Center. Laos is an important passageway for the smuggled fauna coming from South East Asia going towards China.³²



Beginning of November 2015

Doha, Baladiyah Ad-Dawhah, Qatar

Seizure of a young chimpanzee arrived, Lord only knows how, to the Gulf countries, for sale on Internet. One arrest. The victim was taken to the Doha zoo.³³



November 10, 2015

Soekarno-Hatta International Airport in Jakarta, Indonesia

Seizure of 2 Javan gibbons (*Hylobates moloch*, Appendix I) destined for Kuwait via Abu Dhabi. Arrest of one woman from Kuwait.³⁴



Mid November 2015

Thach Thanh District, Province of Thanh Hoa, Vietnam

Indictment for transportation of 6 black-shanked douc langurs (*Pygathrix nigripes*, Appendix I). Since the beginning of the year the forest department of the province has seized 567 m³ of wood, 291 kg of plant products other than wood, 335 kg of wild animals or animal parts and 80 birds.³⁵

Mid November 2015

Thailand

2 slow lorises (*Nycticebus coucang*, Appendix I) suffering from hypocalcaemia were voluntarily given in by an expat couple leaving Thailand and who had let themselves be tempted by the exotic pets market.³⁶



November 2015

District A Luoi District, Province of Thua Thien-Hue, Vietnam

Seizure of a red-shanked douc langur (*Pygathrix nemaeus*, Appendix I).³⁷



November 20 2015

Khanh Vinh, Province of Khanh Hoa, Vietnam

Seizure and release into the forest of 3 macaques.³⁸

November 23, 2015

Jakarta, Indonesia

Repatriation of a 10 month-old female orangutan. She had been seized in July in Kuwait along with another female who was older and had been sent back to her home country in September (see "On the Trail" n° 10 p. 35).³⁹



**End of November and December 7, 2015
Thailand**

Rescue of a slow loris (*Nycticebus coucang*, Appendix I) and a pygmy loris (*Nycticebus pygmaeus*, Appendix I). The former had been wounded by bullets on the neck and was given for care to the Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand. The latter had been bought on the well-known Chatuchak weekend market in Bangkok 4 years ago but no more wanted in his captive residence, he was turned over to the WFFT.⁴⁰

Beginning of December 2015

Province of Dak Lak, Vietnam

Rescue of a langur (*Pygathrix* spp., Appendix I). A man had found him ensnared in the forest. He took him home, had healed him for a month before contacting ENV.⁴¹



December 15, 2015

Province of Ben Tre, Vietnam

Seizure in a pet shop of 6 macaques (*Macaca* spp., Appendix II) and of a gibbon (*Hylobatidae* spp., Appendix I).⁴²

December 29, 2015

Kozhikode District, Kerala, India

Seizure of skins, 10 kg of meat and 4 skulls of Nilgiri langurs (*Trachypithecus johnii*, Appendix II), guns, and cartridges and 2 arrests. They were not less than 9 perpetrators to lay hands on 7 small monkeys in the forest and cut them up in small pieces. Only 2 of the poachers are in custody, the others escaped.⁴³

December 29, 2015

Thailand

A rhesus macaque (*Macaca mulatta*, Appendix II) and a pig-tailed macaque (*Macaca nemestrina*, Appendix II) were voluntarily turned in. One bit his mistress, 70 stitches, after being trapped in a cage for 7 years. The other is about 12 and has also a long career of exploitation. He first served in a plantation to climb and fetch the coconuts from the trees but as age made him less agile he was exhibited by a photographer on the Hua Hin market.⁴⁴



EUROPE

December 15, 2015

Perpignan, Region of Languedoc-Roussillon-Midi-Pyrénées, France

Seizure of a 3-year-old Barbary macaque (*Macaca sylvanus*, Appendix II). The Diaz neighborhood in Perpignan had a noticeable inhabitant. He was apparently bought from members of the travelling community. The seizure took place under the authority of the judicial administration and the ONCFS (National Office for Hunting and Wildlife). There are rumors going around here about fights organized between Barbary macaques or between macaques and pitbulls.⁴⁵

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.

LEOPARDS

AFRICA

Beginning of October, October 15, and November 9, 2015. Gabon¹

1 - Libreville. Seizure of 2 skins during the attempted sale, amounting to \$ 1200 US, along with ammunition. Arrest of the 2 traffickers.



2 - FAMILY AFFAIRS. Mitzic, Province of Woleu-Ntem. Seizure of a skin. Two brothers and their accomplice arrested.



3 - Seizure of one skin. Two arrests.



**October 9, 2015
Omaruru, Region of Erongo,
Namibia**



Sentencing of Aron Uiseb to a \$ 250 N (\$ 18 US) fine suspended sentence for poaching a leopard. A year ago the animal was caught in a trap, slaughtered and cut up. Such indulgence is making waves.²

**November 1, 2015
Chazanga, Province of Lusaka, Zambia**

Seizure of 2 skins. Arrest of a 26-year-old man, a construction worker. The local community was provided in wild animal skins by a woman from Mozambique.³

**November 16, 2015
Chipata, Eastern Province, Zambia**

Seizure of a skin from a home in the Magazine neighborhood. One arrest.⁴

LEOPARDS IN INDIA

October 13, 2015

Raigad District, State of Maharashtra, India

Discovery of a leopard carcass whose legs had been cut. A wire snare had strangled him to death.⁵

End of October and November 30, 2015
State of Uttarakhand, India



1- Garur. Sentencing of 3 people to 3 years in prison and Rs 25,000 (\$ 382 US) in fine each for trafficking of 2 leopard skins in December 2013.

2- Garur. Sentencing of 2 people to 3 years in prison and Rs 10,000 (\$ 150 US) in fine each for possession of a skin in June 2012.

3- Tharali. Sentencing of an experienced trafficker to 3 years in prison and Rs 10,000 (\$ 150 US) in fine for possession of a skin in April 2013.⁶

November 2, 2015

Pench Tiger Reserve buffer zone, State of Madhya Pradesh, India

Discovery of a 4-year-old leopard electrocuted by wire lines connected to the electrical network. "We don't have enough money to bury the lines going from Barelipur to Karmazari" notes the director of the Reserve "and electrical traps are increasing since the price of meat has rocketed."⁷

Beginning of November 2015

Dibrugarh District, State of Assam, India

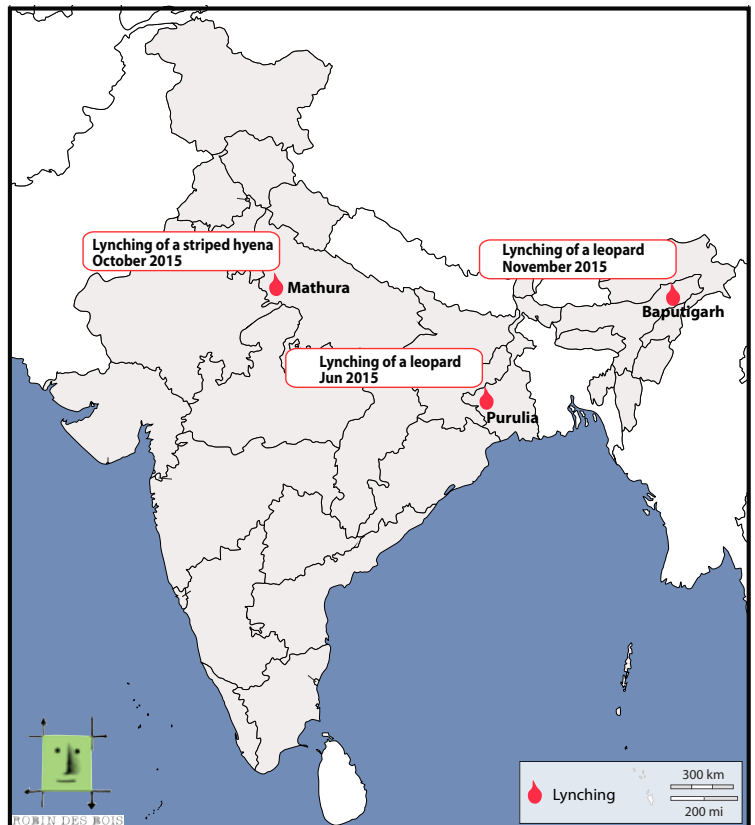
Lynching of a leopard. We will never return to Baputigarh Murari (see "We will not return to Purulia" in "On the Trail" n°9 p. 51).⁸



November 10, 2015

Ghatal, State of West Bengal, India

Seizure of 2 skins from an adult specimen measuring 2m11 and a young measuring 1m45. They come from the North, from Bihar. "We're facing a trafficking network between States" worries a police spokesperson.⁹



November 11, and November 23, 2015

Pune and Satara Districts, State of Maharashtra, India

1- Tamkar the shepherd had lost a goat supposedly killed by a feline or a wandering dog. He poisoned the carcass and left it in the wild displayed for the predator. A leopard is the one who fell into the trap. Tamkar had then retrieved the paws and teeth. Beliefs are that rubbing one's articulations with leopard claws, teeth and bones would heal rheumatisms. Feline urine is also deemed to have medicinal powers.

2- A body was found. He had been amputated of claws and jaw. The leopard was 5 or 6 years old. Between January and mid-November 2015, 38 leopard deaths were registered in this State. 15 were killed intentionally. 11 were hit by trains or cars.¹⁰

November 15, 2015

Raipur, State of Chhattisgarh, India

Arrest near a bus stop of a trio from the snake charming community. They had bought the skin on Khariar Road, State of Odisha and had found a buyer in Raipur for Rs 40,000 (\$ 600 US).¹¹

November 23 and 28, 2015

Rayagada District, State of Odisha, India

Seizure of a skin. Two arrests. They claim to have found the dead leopard in the hills, transported the carcass at home and flayed it just in case they would later find a buyer for the skin.¹²

LEOPARDS IN INDIA - CONTINUED

December 5, 2015

Near Delhi, Delhi National Capital territory, India

5 months old. Front left paw was grinded in a snare. Soon before he had been seen with his mother and a sibling. Leopards are adapting to industrial zones and their surroundings (see "On the Trail" n° 7 p. 48).¹³

December 10, 2015

Machida, State of Odisha, India

Tail and claws missing, the body was covered with wounds.¹⁴

December 12, 2015

Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Maharashtra, India

A carcass was found and a number of poachers were caught later. The National Tiger Conservation Authority calls for all the feline-deaths be considered acts of poaching, unless proven otherwise. In this case, there is nothing that can contradict this hypothesis. The geometry of the wounds does not correspond to deer antlers, the guards are not aware of fights among leopards, and the autopsy suggests that the wounds may be due to shots of a "charra", a local gun type. 15 days after the sad discovery, one horde of at least 20 poachers was spotted inside of the Park, close to a watering hole. 13 of them managed to escape, 7 have surrendered. They claim that they were on a wild boar heels. Two guns are being examined. It is suspected that these poachers have killed and disposed off the leopard.¹⁵

December 12, 2015

Gariaband District, State of Chhattisgarh, India

Seizure of a skin estimated to be worth Rs 2 lakh (\$ 3012 US). Arrest of the trafficker during the attempted sale.¹⁶

December 22, 2015

Punalur, State of Kerala, India

Seizure of 4 teeth and 13 claws taken from the hide of a leopard in the neighboring State of Tamil Nadu. Five arrests. Three real estate agents were willing to purchase the trophies.¹⁷

December 23, 2015

Pithoragarh, State of Uttarakhand, India

A woman was sentenced to 3 years in prison and Rs 10,000 (\$ 150 US) fine for illegal possession of 2 skins. She had been arrested at the border between India and Nepal in January 2013.¹⁸



FAMILY AFFAIRS

Mid-October 2015

Astara Raion, Azerbaijan

Seizure of a skin and arrest of 2 young men from the same family. One of them admitted to having killed a leopard in August 2015 in a mining and forest area, then cut him up. They intended to sell the skin for 10,000-15,000 manats (\$ 9500-14,300 US).¹⁹



December 1, 2015

Minudasht surroundings, Province of Golestan, Iran

The carcass was partly skinned and the 4 paws cut.²⁰



TIGERS

AFRICA

Beginning of November, 2015

Ethiopia

The Indian media reports that 8 tiger skins of which at least 3 comes from the Satpura Tiger Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh in India were seized in April in Ethiopia (see "On the Trail" n° 10 p. 40). In 2009 a police raid in more than 150 souvenir shops in Addis Abeba resulted in the seizure of several tiger skins. Between January and November 2014, 5 Ethiopians and 87 foreign nationals going to Asia were caught red handed at the international airport of Addis Abeba and at Metemma at the border with Sudan, smuggling various goods, including tiger skins. A skin, presumably that of a tiger, was on sale in a bazaar, in the old city of Mutrah in the Sultanate of Oman. At least one private breeding farm of tigers is being exploited in South Africa.²¹

AMERICA



Mid-October, 2015 United States

Great publicity stunt for the stuffers. Kill neatly your old pet -allegedly sick, may it be a tiger- and stuff it!²²

ASIA

October 1, 2015 Punjur, Karnataka, India

Seizure of claws and 6 kg of bones, including a skull. Arrest of an agricultural worker from Tamil Nadu. A well-known NGO who wishes to remain anonymous in this particular case, is of the opinion that the arrest is a perfidy. The man is one of the informers well known by the NGO and by the forest officers who patrol the Tiger Sanctuary of Biligiri Ranga. The chief forest conservateur relies on the facts. The man was found by the side of the street with the tiger relics, while all the other members of the expedition escaped before the arrival of the police: "the investigation is in process and we will know more later on".²³

October 4, 2015 Rajaji National Park, State of Uttarakhand, India

The female tiger had disappeared from cameras and park rangers sight since several weeks. Her 3 tiger cubs are still followed. One of the members of the forest service willing to remain unnamed declared that the poachers from the Bawaria tribe with the help of nomadic hunters are trying to sell the skin for Rs 30 to 40 lakh (\$ 45,500 to 60,600 US) on the international market. On ground declarations are less certain. The chief ranger confirms that contact with the female tiger has been completely cut off. But despite maximal alert there has been no proof of her death.²⁴



October 12, 2015

Province of Jambi, Island of Sumatra, Indonesia

Seizure of the skin of a tiger from the Bukit Tigapuluh National Park and arrest of 3 men aged 32 to 45. 15 tiger poachers and traffickers have been arrested in the province this year.²⁵

October 13, 2015

Kohora, Kaziranga National Park, State of Assam, India

Seizure of a skin and 31 bones. The tiger would have been poisoned in the hills in the Karbi Anglong District. Two people arrested including a forest guard. A third man would have escaped. The tiger population in the Park is estimated to be 163. Since 2011, 16 deaths are reported to have natural causes.²⁶

October 14, 2015

Ghaziabad, State of Uttar Pradesh, India

Seizure of a skin worth Rs 6 lakh (\$ 9091 US). Four students arrested.²⁷

October 16, 2015

Kailali District, Far-Western Development Region, Nepal

Seizure of a skin 1m83 long and 60 cm wide and 3 kg of bones. One arrest.²⁸

October 27, 2015

Sathyamangalam, Erode District, State of Tamil Nadu, India

Seizure of 17 claws and several bones presumed to be from tigers. Arrested by police, the 2 neighbors of the Tiger Reserve brought investigators to the remains of a decomposing carcass supposedly having belonged to a prime of life tiger but that also could have been that of a leopard. A third man is implicated, Selvakumar, a tractor driver. The feline remains were uncovered at his home.²⁹



October 30 and December 10, 2015

Amravati, Maharashtra, India

1 – Arrest of Jaiy Tamang and release on bail.

2 – Conviction of 3 poachers (Ranjit, Dalbir and Sarj) for 7 years in prison and a Rs 10,000 (\$ 150 US) fine. The operating chart of the gang linked to the Bawaria and Baheliya tribes is the following: Ranjit and Dalbir provide the traps and other materials such as kits to bivouac to the veteran poachers, and then they buy the tiger skins and bones from them for about \$ 2500 US. They then sell them to Sarju, who resells them to Chacha. Chacha is still in prison waiting for judgment.



Chacha has a business relation with the mentioned Tamang whose real name is Pasang, a busybody well up in wild flora and fauna traffic from tiger bones and skins, pangolin scales, shahtoosh wool to sandalwood and the very profitable caterpillar of the Himalayan highlands. Pasang has connections with Tibet and China. In just 6 months, one of his bank accounts in Kashmir had a deposit of \$ 75.000 US. He runs a billiards hall in Delhi. One of his tiger bone suppliers from Madhya Pradesh is a certain Yunus, 55 years old, currently on the run and married to a Baheliya woman.

Pasang was arrested by the Special Intervention Force in October in Delhi. Following a first claim that was dismissed by the Magistrate's Court, he was released on bail on appeal. The forest administration of Madhya Pradesh decided to contest this decision before the High Court, and in this case will be helped by Kartik Shukul, the counselor of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau of India (WCCB) who supports the strict enforcement of laws against the traffickers and poachers (see "On the Trail" n° 6 p. 52 and n° 7 p. 53).³⁰

November 1, 2015

Bardia National Park surroundings, Far-Western Development Region, Nepal

Another seizure of a skin. Two arrests. Aftermath of the major earthquake and a tense political background favor poaching. All authorities are called upon to increase vigilance.³¹

November 12, 2015

Mae Sot District, Tak Province, Thailand

Seizure of a tiger carcass and skin in a black bag in the back of a luxury car, registered in Bangkok. The animal's organs were placed in an isothermal box filled with ice. Two men who were hired to transport the carcass to Bangkok were arrested. The animal was identified thanks to her skin pattern. She was a female tiger that was photographed in the Thungyai-Huai Kha Khaeng Sanctuary.

The meat was going to be sold to a wholesaler for about 80,000 bahts (\$ 2229 US). A man who killed the tiger, another one who chopped it, and a



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third guy were arrested a few days later. Less than a hundred tigers survive in Thailand, almost all of them in Huai Kha Khaeng. At the time when the mother tiger was shot, she was caring for 2 cubs who were less than 2 years old. They have a chance of surviving alone, if they were not targeted by the poachers and later on the dining table of big wheels in Bangkok and China. "Two young tigers at that age can live on their own with occasional assistance from their mother", indicates an expert.³²

December 2, 2015

Hai Ba Trung District, Hanoi, Vietnam

Seizure of relics of tigers in the trunk of a car. Two people were arrested.³³



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December 10, 2015

Nagbhid Forest, State of Maharashtra, India

Arrest of 3 poachers filmed by a surveillance camera set up to follow the movements of an adult tiger. They were photographed just hours after he passed by. A 4th man is on the run. The gang tracking the tiger had a gun, knives, a flash light to blind their prey and an acoustic device to stun it.³⁴

December 12, 2014

Udumalpet, State of Tamil Nadu, India

Seizure of a skin during the sale. Six arrests including the provider, the son of a police inspector from Coimbatore. The skin will be subject to an in-depth inspection to verify its authenticity.³⁵



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Mid December 2015
Lakhimpur Kheri District, State
of Uttar Pradesh, India

Conviction of Ram Kumar alias Likkha, sentenced to 4 years and



6 months prison time and Rs 50,500 (\$ 760 US) in fine for attempted poaching of a tiger using jaw traps in February 2013 in the buffer zone of the Dudhwa National Park. A patrol managed to free the tiger after 2h30 of efforts.³⁶

REPEATED OFFENSE

December 16, 2015

Nainital, Uttarakhand, India

Seizure of a skin and arrest of 3 men on a motorcycle. An agreement was found with one buyer on a basis of Rs 220,000 (\$ 3313 US). The 3 suspects are from a semi-nomadic tribe living in the northern states of India, who are known to be mostly vegetarian.³⁷

EUROPE

Beginning of October, 2015

Nakhodka, Primorsky Krai, Russia

Arrest of a man who tried to sell a tiger skin. According to the forensic analysis, it originates in a 2 year-old tiger who was freshly shot to death. This is the third poached tiger in Russia this year.³⁸



Beginning of October, 2015

Nizhnevartovsk, Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug, Russia

Seizure of a young Siberian Tiger, 1500 km away from its final destination in China. He was transferred to a rehabilitation center in Moscow. He cannot be released into the snowy forest, as he is too young and will lose his instinct of self-preservation in captivity.³⁹ See also the map "The Chinese Attraction" p.9.



Beginning of November, 2015

Khabarovsk Krai, Far Eastern Federal District, Russia

Deadly shot of a hunter, who claims that it has been an act of self-defense while he was chasing a wild boar. The investigation is in process to verify his statement. Siberian tigers don't attack men without a reason. In the past, poachers who missed their shot became the victims of tiger who felt being in a kind of self-defense.⁴⁰



November, 2015

Russia

The American middleweight boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr., called Pretty Boy or Money, poses in Russia with a young Bengal tigress, offered by his associates.⁴¹



December 7, 2015

Bastak Natural Reserve, Khabarovsk Krai, Far Eastern Federal District, Russia

Zolushka, an Amur tiger orphaned in 2012 and back into the wild after care in 2013, was caught on a motion sensitive camera with 2 cubs.⁴²



AFRICA

**Beginning of October, 2015
Niassa National Reserve,
Mozambique**

Four lions, one civet (famille Viverridae) and one genet (genre *Genetta*) were poisoned.^{42bis}


**Beginning of December 2015
Kilimandjaro Region, Tanzania**

Seizure of 261 lion claws and 60 teeth. One Vietnamese man arrested.⁴³

**December 2015
Maasai Mara National
Reserve, Kenya, Africa**

Reprisals. An eye for an eye. Masai herds are at the edge of the Reserve. Cattle wander in during the night and find themselves close to the lions who kill and eat some heads. In return, the fresh carcass of a buffalo was covered with Furadan (see "On the Trail" n°4 p. 30 and 83 and n°7 p. 20). 11 vultures and 3 lions died. Eight others suffer from trembling and diarrhea. They are on the verge of death. Hyenas somewhere else in the Reserve would also have fallen victim of this revenge.⁴⁴



ASIA

**Mid-October, 2015
Shanghai, China**

A lion and a lioness (2 and 3 years old) arrive via Singapore Airlines, as a present from the president of Zimbabwe to the president of China to celebrate 35 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the 2 countries.⁴⁵



EUROPE

November 4 and 5, 2015
**Poussan, Languedoc-Roussillon Region,
France⁴⁶**

1 – Seizure of a 14-month-old lion cub, a gun, and a cannabis plantation. The origin of the lion cub is unknown. The madman threatened to kill himself in front of his wife, children and neighbors when the police liberated the big cat that was locked in a 15m² cage.



2 – Seizure of a panther at the neighbor who claims to be a magician. The panther is 16 years old and has been kept in captivity for 15 years in a 4m² cage side by side with magpies, seagulls and hedgehogs.



AMERICA



October 2, 2015
La Paz, Department La Paz, Bolivia

3 people in custody for attempting to sell an ocelot skin and a coat made of ocelot skin (*Leopardus pardalis*, Appendix I) for 300 bolivianos (\$ 43 US).⁴⁷

ASIA

October 18, 2015
Regency of Jember, East Java, Indonesia



Seizure of 3 Bengali leopard cats (*Prionailurus bengalensis*, Appendix II). Hearing of Ida Tri Susanti, 20-year-old student in mathematics. She posted some photos of herself and the trophies online with the caption: "The results of today's hunt... Yum... Yum".

She had trapped and killed the felines in a forest last September and then cooked them. The young hunter has not yet been charged, as the evidence is insufficient. Only a knife was found in her house, which she allegedly used to gut the leopard cats.⁴⁸

November 3, 2015
Bayburt Province, Eastern Black Sea, Turkey
 Rescue of an Eurasian Lynx (*Lynx lynx*, Appendix II) wounded by hunters. He is likely to recover.⁴⁹



November 28, 2015
Nishapur, Khorasan Province, Iran
 Seizure of an Eurasian lynx skin (*Lynx lynx*, Appendix II). One man was arrested. The hole in the skin proves that the animal was killed due to gunshots.⁵⁰

EUROPE

End of October, 2015
Bolzano, Trentino-Alto-Adige, Italy

A man was condemned to a fine of € 5500 for holding a serval (*Leptailurus serval*, Appendix II), a small African feline.⁵¹



Bears



Brown bear in the Chauvet cave (Ardèche, France)
 v. -34.000 / - 32.000

AMERICA

24 and October 25, 2015
State of Florida, United States of America (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II).
Ethical massacre in Florida

The State of Florida is cut out in bear management units. Private owners must allow hunting. In some cases, only bows and barrel loading guns are allowed. Sale of bear's parts is prohibited, donations are allowed. Baits are prohibited except aerosols and fragrant powders, grains, vitamin supplements used for deer hunting. At the time of the shot, the hunter and the bear must both be at least 90 m away from the bait. Bears of both genders are huntable. They must weigh at least 45 kg and not be accompanied by cubs. One bear by hunting license. Hunting licenses, there were over 4000 sold for a quota of 320 bears to kill, and a population estimated at 3000. The \$ 376,900 US harvested will be used for waste management in wildlife reserves and reduction of conflict between bear and human activities.



In 2 days, hunters killed 3 times more than their quota in West Panhandle and 298 bears in all of Florida. At this rate 1000 bears would have been killed in 7 days. The bear hunt was suspended. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has promised it would start again next year. Trafficking in bear gallbladder and paws might know a rebound.¹

November 12, 2015

Province of British Columbia, Canada

Court hearing for trafficking in bear gall bladders and bear paws (*Ursus spp.*, Appendix II).

One Kim can hide another. Sarah Kim, acupuncturist who graduated from the Faculty of Traditional Chinese Medicine in British Columbia would purchase gallbladders from Yon Kim, daughter of a South Korean traditional healer who immigrated to Canada in 2003. Yon Kim had been noticed by police in the United States and in Canada since in October 2014 she had contacted by telephone a bear hunter in Wyoming looking to buy gallbladders and bear paws in order to heal her 21 year old son suffering from strokes, according to what she said. One thing leading to another, both Kims, who are not related had found themselves together on the Merritt parking lot in British Columbia to buy 3 gallbladders and 4 bear paws. Sarah Kim had then bought other gallbladders and deer meat on the bone according to her request directly in her medical office. Unfortunately for her and her accomplice, all the sellers were actually undercover policemen.

The first time Sarah Kim had met him for an appointment, this client had described symptoms that western medicine was unable to treat and bear bile was mentioned as a possible alternative.

Sarah Kim had cut short the meeting saying she kept away from this sort of trafficking. The second time this same client came to her office with the same complaints about the uselessness of today's medicine, Sarah Kim thought for a while then got up and went into the backroom. She came back with a small bottle that she filled with a greenish liquid from a Grey Goose Vodka bottle one third full. Before asking the patient for 100 Canadian dollars, she showed him a bear gallbladder in a plastic bag.

The client needed no more. He actually was a police officer from Vancouver.

Sarah Kim still practices medicine but in March when she will need to renew her authorization

with the traditional medicine faculty she will have to officially inform them of her indictment and will probably be banned from practice at least temporarily. She faces a fine of at least 17,500 Canadian dollars. According to her lawyer, the bile in the bottle of vodka was for her personal use, and when she offered the client a complete treatment worth \$ 1000, it was in fact in the aim of getting rid of this troublesome patient. Her partner's trial has not yet taken place.²



"How much do you want?" Sarah Kim

Beginning of December 2015

State of Alaska, United States of America



Indictment of Theresa Vail, former Miss Kansas and host of "Limitless with Theresa Vail" TV show for killing a brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) without a permit. She had a license to hunt only one bear. She shoots, injures him, fires a

second time to finish her prey off but aims at the wrong target and kills a second bear, a female. Michael Renfro, the hunting guide of Renfro's Alaskan Adventures, and his assistant are also charged for hiding the facts and providing her a new backdated hunting permit. The TV channel describes the show as "the compelling story of a young, grass roots, red-blooded, all-American woman who is on a mission to overcome stereotypes, break barriers...". It is the TV crew who alerted the authorities about what had happened.³

From December 7 to 12, 2015

State of New Jersey, United States of America

Same as Florida. In one day 216 bears killed for an overall quota of 700. At this rate half the state population of American black bears (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) would have been slaughtered in one week. 8200 hunting licenses were sold. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has committed to allow next year licenses to kill in new territories and open an additional hunting time in October.⁴

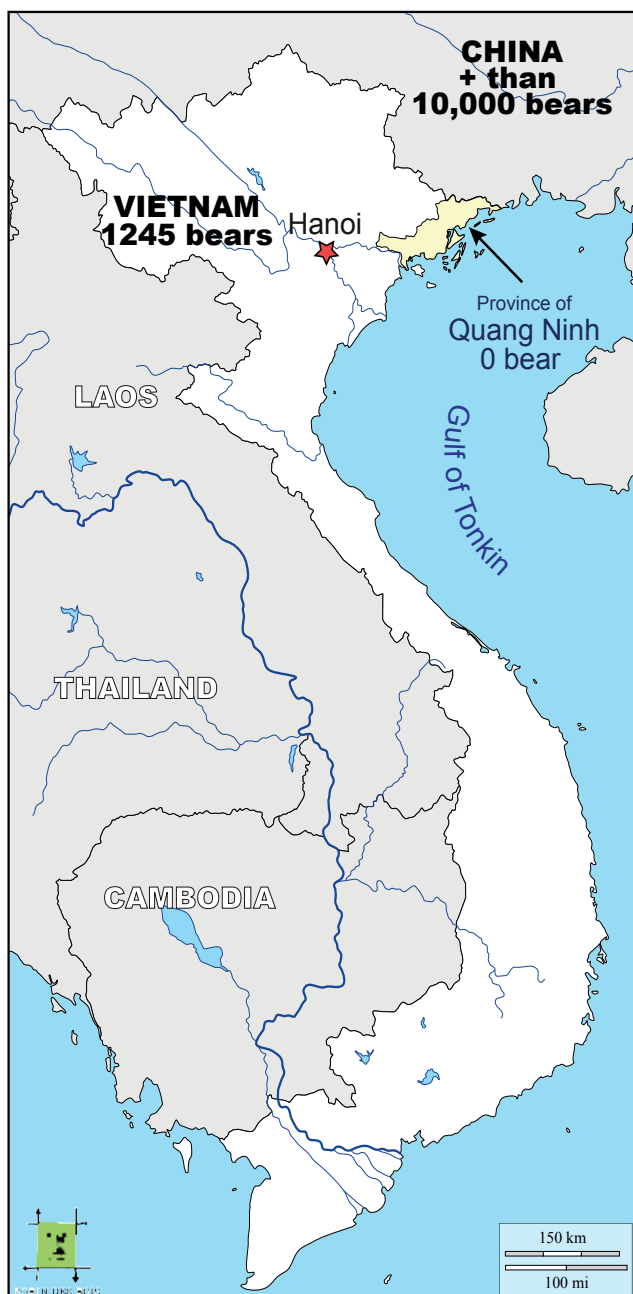


ASIA

21-22 and 30 October 2015

Quang Ninh province, Vietnam

Rescue of the last 9 bears exploited in bile farms in the province (see "On the Trail" n°7 p. 59, n°8, p. 54 and n°10 p. 44). Thanks to the policy of eradication of bear farms, and to the NGO Animals Asia, there would not be any more bears exploited for their bile in the province. There are 1245 left in other provinces of Vietnam and over 10,000 in China.⁵



October 22, 2015

Yingjiang County, Yunnan Province, China

Nocturnal seizure of a head, meat and 2 paws of Asian black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I) in a car and arrest of the driver and a passenger of Burmese nationality.⁶

End of October 2015

Bishan County, Chongqing, China

Seizure by the railways police of 2 Asian black bear paws (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I).⁷



November 9, 2015

County of Qingchuan, Province of Sichuan, China

Seizure of 2 adult Asian black bear carcasses (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I) and one of a bear cub less than 6 months old, meat, 4 bear paws and otter carcasses (*Lutrinae* spp., Appendix I or II) from a small truck stopped for speeding. The lot was bought for 36,000 yuans (\$ 5474 US) including the 4 paws for 13,000 yuans (\$ 1976 US). Two arrests.⁸



November 27, 2015

Manzhouli, Autonomous Region of Inner Mongolia, China

Seizure of 7 brown bear paws (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) hidden in the spare tire compartment and coming from Russia. They are estimated to be worth 38,500 yuans (\$ 5932 US) in China.⁹ See also the map "The Chinese Attraction" p.9.

Beginning of December 2015

Dalat, Sarawak, Malaysia

Voluntary handing over of a sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*, Appendix I). In the region, this is the 4th case of captivity spotted since 2012. The sun bear is also known as the honey bear. To report illegal

wildlife activities call Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) at 019-8859996 (Kuching), 019-8290994 (Miri), 019-8266096 (Bintulu) and 019-8290992 (Sibu).¹⁰

Mid December 2015

Laos

Rescue of an Asian black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I). He was held at the home of a drug dealer who fled.¹¹



December 2015

District Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand State, India

Sentence to 3 years in prison and a fine of Rs 50,000 (\$ 750 US) for possession of an Asiatic black bear's gallbladder (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I). The individual was arrested in June 2013.¹²



EUROPE

Mid-October 2015

Kologriv Nature Reserve, Kostroma Oblast, Russia

Release of 3 brown bears (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) of about thirty kilos. One of them is named Pueschel in honor of Peter Pueschel defender of wildlife for Greenpeace and IFAW who died last year. To date, 11 orphaned bears have been released by the Orphan Bear Rescue Center.¹³



November 22, 2015

Zabaikalsk, Transbaikal Krai, Russia, Chinese border

Seizure of 18 frozen brown bear paws (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) from a freight train destined to China. They were in plastic bags hidden in a wagon filled with coal. A similar seizure took place in August 2015, see "On the Trail" n°10 p. 44.¹⁴ See also the map "The Chinese Attraction" p.9.



December 2, 2015

Zabaikalsk, Zabaykalsky Krai, Russia, Chinese border

Seizure of 11 brown bear paws (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) in a wagon filled of resinous wood destined for China.¹⁵ See also the map "The Chinese Attraction" p.9.



December 21, 2015

Chuguevsky, Primorsky Krai, Russia

Seizure on a train for China of 527 bear paws, one snout and 11 gall bladders (*Ursus* spp., Appendix I or II) and 3 musk deer prepuccial glands (*Moschus* spp., Appendix I or II). The lot was mixed with saw dust in 37 bags.¹⁶ See also the map "The Chinese Attraction" p.9.

End of December 2015

Primorsky Krai, Russia. Chinese border.

Seizure of 8 frozen Asian black bear paws (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I) for a total weight of 8 kg. One Chinese citizen arrested.¹⁷ See also the map "The Chinese Attraction" p.9.

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°11

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

Continent	Country	US\$	Ref.
Africa	Tanzania	7840	16
America	Canada	34,240	39

EASTERN AFRICA

KENYA

October 10, 2015

Ruma National Park, County Homa Bay, Kenya

Rescue of Baraka, 39, who had already been the subject of 2 translocations away from risky areas. When he was rescued by KWS (Kenya Wildlife Service) and DSWT (David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust) he was on the verge of exhaustion, strangled by a wire collar and dragging a tree trunk. He had just somehow escaped a trap.¹



November 24, 2015

Oi Pejeta Conservancy, Laikipia County, Kenya

Poachers set aside the noisy guns and turn to silent poisoned arrows. Two hoodlums sneaked into the mountain sanctuary vital to the future of rhinos. There is where live the 3 last northern white rhinos and where about a hundred black rhinos were regrouped. Rangers noticed the trespassing. The invaders fled by boda boda. A happy ending there where on September 30, a black rhino had been killed.²

December 27, 2015

Mombasa, Mombasa County, Kenya

Seizure of horns (1.4 kg). Two police custody for 7 days despite a request for immediate release.³

OPERATION WORTHY II

November 6 and December 16, 2015

Kasumulu Border station with Malawi, Region of Mbeya, Tanzania



Seizure of 11 rhino horns (53.3 kg) estimated worth \$ 418,000 US i.e. \$ 7840 US/kg. Arrest and conviction of 4 Chinese citizens who received a 20-year prison sentence and an \$ 800 US fine each. In the back of the Toyota Hilux that they had rented for their 3 weeks trip to Malawi, a mechanic called on by border police to inspect the vehicle found a fake gas tank. The horns wrapped in plastic were hidden inside. While the driver was taking care of formalities with the immigration desk, the 3 passengers had attempted to run away.¹⁶ See also p. 64.



ZIMBABWE

December 2015

Lowveld, Zimbabwe

Four rhinos poached, 5 failed attempts in a month. One poacher shot dead, another seriously wounded, 3 people arrested, 5 weapons confiscated and one ranger injured.³¹



-50 including 42 black in 2015

December 31, 2015

Masvingo, Province of Masvingo, Zimbabwe

Sentencing to 35 years in prison of Tawengwa Machona for poaching 4 rhinos in February 2014 in the Sango Savé Valley private reserve near Chiredzi in the Masvingo Province. His sentence will be brought down to 20 years if he manages over the next 5 years to pay back the financial value of the 2 rhinos that amounts to \$ 480,000 US. An agent from the Zimbabwe Secret Services, Munashe Mudenge Mugwira, played a capital role in the organization by providing an official vehicle and rifles. He has been arrested on December 20 in Bulawayo.^{31bis}



SOUTHERN AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

November 2015

Pretoria, Province of Gauteng, South Africa

In September 2015, John Hume, big rhino breeder -he has more than 1000- and owner of a 4 tons stock of horns filed a lawsuit before the High Court in Pretoria against the decision taken in December 2009 by the former Minister of the Environment Martinus van Schalkwyk to ban national trade in horns. Hume's judicial step may be interpreted as the prelude to the end of the ban on international trade and rise of the horn cartel dreamed of by the capitalists in this field. End of November, judges decided in favor of the plaintiff stating there was a direct connection between the entering into force of the embargo and booming of poaching.

The decision against which the Ministry of the Environment has formed an appeal is like a swarm of flies on an open wound. It will enable speculators to sell horns and transport them within the country with all the mishmash of paperwork and formalities and pseudo buyers to illegally send them to Asia in raw form or crushed. To be continued.⁴

FAMILY AFFAIRS

Beginning of October 2015

Louis Trichardt District, Province of Limpopo, South Africa

Court hearing for 6 men after which they were released on bail for poaching in July 2014 of a rhino in the Mapungubwe National Park (see "On the Trail" n°6 p. 62). The horn would have been sold to a Vietnamese buyer. One of the accused, Job Basi Tlou is part of the "horn business". He was arrested after buying 2 horns from an officer on duty member of the Green Scorpions, the specialized unit of the South African parks administration. 3 others of the accused, Podile, Lebala and Masolo Sematla are members of the same family as Michael Simon Sematla, ex-employee of the South African National Parks, convicted in August for having organized underground hunting sessions at the edge of Mapungubwe Park (see "On the Trail" n° 10 p. 76).⁵

October 4, 2015

Mahathunzi, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa⁶

October 2015

Province of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

1 - 4 October. Mahathunzi. Discovery of one carcass.



2 - 25 October. Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Reserve. Another discovery of a carcass. The horns are untouched.



Criticism is pouring down on Ezemvolvo. The organization in charge of wildlife protection in KwaZulu-Natal is sucked in red tape and lack of financial transparency. The Zap Wing (Zululand Anti-Poaching Wing) in Hluhluwe suffers the

consequences of such paralysis at a time when rhinos need reactivity day and night. There is the money to buy 2 new helicopters. Donators kept their promises but the Ezemvelo administrators are unable to agree on the company to buy from. In the meantime, ZAP Wing that regroups 17 private reserves in Zululand call turns to the Bateleurs, a private pilots NGO specialized in environmental protection and urgent transport of wounded animals. See "On the Trail" n° 7 p. 32.⁷

October 13, 2015

Thandeka Game Farm, North Western Province, South Africa

Seizure of a shotgun, ammunition, an ax, a saw and 4 arrests.⁸

2015 toll on October 15th:



October 22, 2015

Kruger National Park, South Africa

2 suspects arrested from Mozambique with a forged gun and ammunition. 156 people were arrested in the Park in the last 12 months. South Africa now regularly communicates on the toll of arrests and rarely on the toll of poaching.⁹

October 24, 2015

Zululand Rhino Reserve, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

An armed suspect arrested. He was wounded during the arrest.¹⁰

October 27, 2015

Nelspruit, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa

Conviction of 2 young men aged 20 years to 14 years in prison each. They killed 2 white rhinos and dehorned one of them in Kruger National Park in January 2013. They had been caught by the tracking of Killer, the Malinois shepherd (see "On the Trail" n°10 p. 49). "Most of the poachers are from Magude and Massingir villages in Mozambique, where syndicate bosses promise youngsters money if they return with a rhino horn," states judge advocate general Isbet Erwee.¹¹



October 28, 2015

Louis Trichardt, Province of Limpopo, South Africa

Sentencing of a man arrested in May 2014 to 11 years in prison. He and his accomplice were spotted and arrested before slaughtering the rhino. They were carrying a rifle and an ax when they were brought in. Attempted killing of a rhino is a crime punished as severely as actually succeeding in committing it.¹²



October 29, 2015

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

Death of 2 poachers and 3 rhinoceros. Two horns on the battle scene.¹³



October 29, 2015

Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa

Arrest of 2 suspects of 39 and 23 in possession of firearms and ammunition by the Kruger National Park Rhino Task Team, a new task force combining the national police and SAN Parks, allegedly incorruptible.¹⁴

November 3, 2015

Private Phinda Resource Reserve, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

One bullet in the left hind paw crosses the chest and reaches vital organs before exiting through the right side. Very large caliber.¹⁵



November 6, 2015

Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa

Arrest of 4 poachers aged 22, 23 and 25 just before they finish off their victim.¹⁷

Night of November 11, 2015

Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park and Phinda Private Reserve, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

Poaching of 2 rhinos.¹⁸



November 12, 2015

Klerksdorp, North West Province, South Africa

Conviction of a Mozambican citizen, 33, to 8 years in prison for illegal possession of a firearm. Arrested in July 2013 in Klerksdorp with 5 other suspects. In the car there was a gun with a silencer, an axe and bloody clothing. Three suspects released on bail did not respond to court summons. They are under an arrest warrant. After serving two thirds of his sentence, the convict may be paroled.¹⁹



November 17, 2015

Nelspruit, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa

Release on bail of R 5000 (\$ 350 US) of André Mabunda for health reasons. He is a guide in the South African National Park Service. Mabunda wore part of his uniform when he was arrested. He was shirtless, he had just cut off the horn. His shirt and 3 cellular phones were found near the rhinoceros body. Waiting for the trial, he is banned from the Park. See "On the Trail" n°6 p. 77 and n°7 p. 65.²⁰

November 19, 2015

Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa

Arrest of a man and 2 women 20 to 25 years old. A phone call warned the Hawks in Mpumalanga area. All access doors to the Park were put under reinforced surveillance. A suspicious vehicle was stopped. Under the motor there was an A375 rifle. The silencer and ammunition were in the trunk. A fourth person has fled.²¹

Weekend of November 21, 2015

Hoedspruit, Limpopo Province, South Africa

Poaching of 2 rhinoceros at full moon.²²



OPERATION RINGLEADER

November 24 and 25 and December 2, 2015

Provinces of Gauteng and of the North-West, South Africa

Seizure of 4 entire horns and horn sections for a total value of R 1.2 million (\$ 83,807 US), 8 luxury cars, an electrical saw, 3 ladders, 13 fire arms and various poaching gears and arrest of 14 suspects among which 3 police officers and a Chinese citizen. Total value of the goods seized is estimated at R 6 millions (\$ 419,037 US). The 3 police officers and Chinese citizen were released on bail for R 500 (\$ 35 US) and R 20,000 (\$ 1400 US). Investigations began in 2013.²³

End of November 2015

Kruger National Park, Crocodile Bridge section, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa

Seizure of a rifle with a silencer, ammunition, an axe, 3 cellphones and backpacks. Death of a poacher and arrest of a second.²⁴



Beginning of December 2015

Province of Gauteng, South Africa



A bullet in his right side. Preventively de-horned. Medical care dispensed by Saving the Survivors.²⁵

Beginning of December 2015

Nelspruit, Province of Mpumalanga, South Africa

Release of the 3 policemen and ex ranger accused of poaching. They had been arrested in May 2014 (see "On the Trail" n° 5 p. 74). The SAPS (South African Police Service) is in charge of countering corruption. The special unit did not finish their investigations regarding the implication of their 3 members within legal delay. The Nelspruit regional Court has stricken the case out of its list. The 3 presumed "corrupt" had filed 5 requests for bail. They had all been rejected. Now they are free without bail.²⁶

December 3, 2015
iSimangaliso Wetland Park, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

Poaching of a female and her 2 young. Rightly, she was called Ms. Longhorn.²⁷



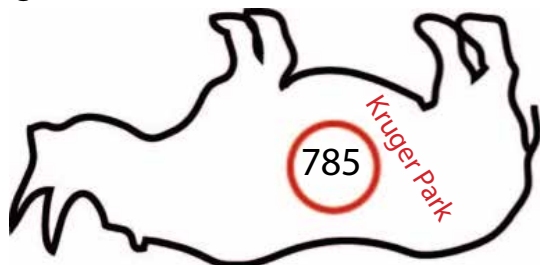
Miss long horn



December 9, 2015
Hoedspruit, Limpopo Province, South Africa

Arrest of 2 Mozambican nationals. Seizure of a rifle with a silencer.²⁸

December 10, 2015
Kruger National Park, South Africa



December 11, 2015
South Africa

A North Korean diplomat was kicked out for being involved in rhino horn trafficking in Mozambique (see "On the Trail" n° 9 p. 60). Arrested on 3 May 2015 in Maputo with 4.5 kg of horn and \$ 99,300 US in cash on him. The South African government gave M. Park Chol-Jun 30 days to leave the country. He and another compatriot had been released on bail for \$ 30,000 US by the Maputo police.²⁹

December 15, 2015
About Hoedspruit, Limpopo Province, South Africa

Late discovery of the dehorned carcass. He was 6 years old. He was a black rhino.³⁰

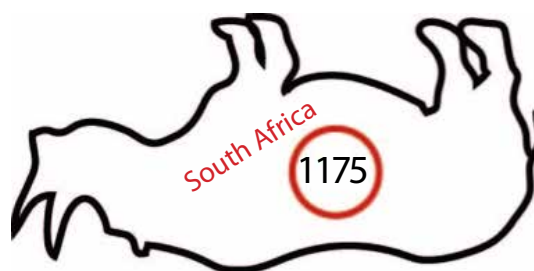
December 20, 2015
Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa

Seizure of 2 horns, a hunting rifle caliber 375 with erased number, ammunition, an ax and 2 arrests. The 3 killers coming from the East were chased in the bush for 30 km. One of them managed to escape and reach Mozambique.³²

December 22, 2015
Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa

Seizure of 2 horns estimated at R 3 millions (\$ 194,128 US), unknown owner and destination.³³

From January to December 2015



BOTSWANA

October 13, 2015
Maun, North West District, Botswana

Appearance for the theft of 3 horns estimated to 3 millions pula (\$ 282,650 US) of Gilbert Monnaalesole, 44, a senior wildlife warden. He is accused of having forced the door of the vault where the horns were stored. He agrees to be remanded in custody while telling his truth: "I am the keeper of the keys to the storeroom so why would I break into it, that would be surprising indeed". Two presumed accomplices were also arrested. Their lawyer was robbed of his mobile phone during a break in the hearing. According to him, only members of the judiciary have been able to achieve this crime. "It is a cheap phone and I believe that whoever took it is after the information inside rather than the phone."³⁴

NAMIBIA

See page 64 and following.

AMERICA

October 2015

The notorious and infamous Corey Knowlton who in the name of the Dallas Safari Club, and with the help of several guides, assassinated a black rhino in May 2015, is suing Delta Air Lines (see "On the Trail" n°9 p. 63). The American airlines company has been refusing since the month of August to transport hunting trophies. "The Delta embargo is a threat to the worldwide industry of hunting safaris which composes the fundamental grounds of conservation of endangered species."³⁵



OPERATION CRASH

October 20, 2015

Cedar Rapids, State of Iowa, United States of America



Sentencing of James Hess, taxidermist, to a 27-month prison term and 3 years parole for buying and re-selling horns (see "On the Trail" n° 9 p. 66). In August 2011 he had bought \$ 16,000 US worth of horns in Oregon so as, according to his declarations, sell them again in Oregon. Failing to find a buyer in that State, he got together with a certain Wade Steffen, ex rodeo star in Texas who was in relation with Felix Kha, who in turn had connections in China. Kha father and son were convicted in 2013. They ran an import- export company. See "On the Trail" n° 1 p. 23.³⁶

October 25, 2015

Johannesburg, South Africa - Miami, United States of America

Two white rhinoceros and 2 lion cubs, coming from the Bester Birds Animal Zoo Park in Pretoria, having travelled through London in an A380 are now in the Centre for Conservation of Tropical Ungulates (CCTU) in Miami.

Mike Bester is a member of the Private Rhino Owners Association (PROA). This translocation is part of an ambiguous and ambitious program that aims to rescue and raise wild species that are threatened and are protected by the CITES. The reality is more prosaic. In fact, the 2 institutions are a zoo and a pet shop. Mike Bester has long been sending felines and wild dogs to Asia to rich collectors (see "On the Trail" n° 8 p. 59). The exile of wild animals is often surrounded with a rowdy publicity that highlights veterinaries, official documents and planes. Therefore, the IAG Cargo Company took advantage of the opportunity to promote its competences in the "the movement of animals of all types, shapes and sizes". The A380 allows us to control



the hold temperature to within one degree of accuracy to keep the temperature as comfortable as possible for these magnificent creatures". IAG Cargo (International Airlines Group) results from the fusion of British Airways World Cargo and of Iberia Cargo.³⁷

OPERATION CRASH

November 12, 2015

New York, State of New York, United States of America



Sentencing for illegal export of 16 libation cups of Linxun Liao to a 2-year prison term followed by 2 years on parole, and repay one million dollars. Seizure of 304 carved ivory pieces. Liao, a Chinese citizen living in Canada and with a family home address in New Jersey had bought from auction houses mainly in Manhattan between March 2012 and May 2013 16 libation cups originated in Asia and Africa. Experts estimate the total value at over one million dollars. Liao would then use his fictitious address in New Jersey to group the cups and prepare for their expedition under false designation with the complicity of an antique dealer set up in China. With the same method, he also was trafficking in ivory.³⁸

November 21, 2015

Vancouver, Province of British-Columbia, Canada

Sale of a horn from the 19th century for 228,000 \$ Canadian (\$ 170,826 US). 4989 grams. That is \$ 34,240 US/kg. Bidding of 4 Asian buyers made the price flare up. Mellissa Carr from Vancouver, who graduated in traditional Chinese medicine says "there's a folklore that a rhino horn is an aphrodisiac because of its shape."³⁹



OPERATION CRASH

December 16, 2015

Las Vegas, State of Nevada, United States of America



Lumsden W. Quan, 47 years old, is an art dealer. He was sentenced to 10,000 \$ in fine for illegal sale of 2 black rhino horns and to 1 year and 2 days in prison followed by 3 years on parole and is forbidden to work in the art and antiques trade (see "On the Trail" n°5 p. 76). The trial of his associate, Edward N. Levine, is scheduled for 7 March 2016. The word "CRASH" means a herd of rhinos. To this day, Operation Crash has enabled the arrest and conviction of 22 traffickers and accomplices and return to the public finances of 5.5 millions dollars.⁴⁰

INDIA

October 3, 2015**Kaziranga National Park, State of Assam, India**

Poaching without retrieving the horn. A sniper rifle with night sight was found at the scene of the crime.⁴¹

October 27, 2015**Island of Majuli, Jorhat District, State of Assam, India**

Mid-October, 2 rhinos left the Kaziranga Park and got lost. They caused certain turmoil in some villages of the Island Majuli along the Brahmapoutre. The carcass of one of these rhinos was found on a sand bank. He was shot dead. His horn was taken. The other vagabond apparently reached on his own the Park 100 km away.⁴²

**End of October 2015****Pobitora Reserve, State of Assam, India**

Esob Ali, former poacher who became an informant for the forest guards, was assassinated during the month of August (see "On the Trail" n° 10 p. 50). This time it is his ex accomplice's turn, known to be an anti-poaching expert, to receive death threats. Before dying Esob found the time and strength to identify the killers. Only one has been arrested, Mohidul Islam. Those who are now threatening Nurul Islam are the same ones who killed Esob. The forest service is worried. "If you do not safeguard them, you cannot expect others like Esob and Nurul to help the department".⁴³

November 8, 2015**Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary, Adalpur, State of West Bengal, India**

The male's carcass is going to be incinerated. It was found in the forest by a routine patrol. Mahananda is not an usual habitat for rhinos. The victim, according to connoisseurs of the area, apparently found home there in solitary since 6 or 7 years after coming from the Gorumara National Park 40 km away.⁴⁴

November 2015**Kaziranga National Park, State of Assam, India**

1 - November 8. One rhino poached. The forest guards' intervention prevented the poachers from taking the horn.

2 - November 16. A poacher was severely injured; he died on the way to the hospital.

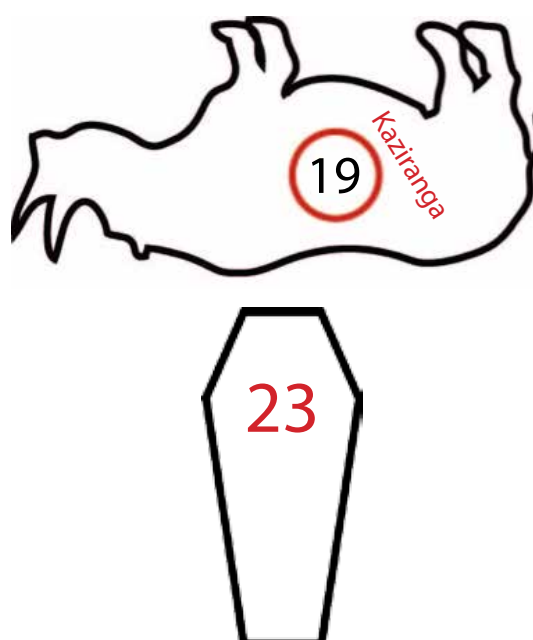
3 - November 20. A group of 5 individuals was signaled inside the Park before dawn. Two of them died in crossfire with the authorities.

4 - November 22. One rhino poached. Near 1 o'clock in the morning the poachers shot about 30 bullets at rangers before escaping with the horn.

The Park continues to be stained by the deaths of men and rhinos. Three poachers killed in 4 days, 21 since the beginning of the year as well as 15 or 16 rhinos according to sources.⁴⁵



2015 toll:

**December 10, 2015****Belguri, State of Assam, India**

Four of them on only one horn. They were selling it, others had poached it.⁴⁶

December 2015**Kaziranga National Park, State of Assam, India**

1 - December 13. Alerted by an informant, security forces intercepted by night a group of 4 or 5 poachers. Two are killed during the fight. A .303 caliber rifle, a silencer, 3 mobile phones, food and ammunition were found on site.

2 - December 23. Poaching of an adult male.

3 - December 26. Poaching of an adult male.⁴⁷



December 29, 2015
Guwahati, State of Assam, India
Seizure of a 900 g fake horn. 4 arrests.⁴⁸

From January to December 2015



MALAYSIA

October 19, December 25 and 28, 2015
Johor Bahru, State of Johor, Malaysia
Arrest and release on bail for RM 5000 (\$ 1191 US) of the wildlife director for the State National Parks for having stolen century old horns exhibited in the Abu Bakar royal museum in the middle of the afternoon. His chauffeur had returned them 2 days later, apparently in good shape. Yusouf Shariff, 46 years old, was at this job since the month of August.

EUROPE

Report of Czech CITES enforcement authorities on the trade in rhino horns 52
Extracts n°1, to be followed in the 12th "On the Trail" issue

Thefts of rhino horns

In the Czech Republic, 7 cases of thefts in museums and chateaus have been documented between 2010 and 2012 with the biggest theft in the EU-at the chateau of Usov where 7 rhino horns were stolen. The investigation revealed that the same group of 3 Czech citizens was behind the thefts in the Czech Republic. It was impossible to prove their links with the Irish criminal syndicate Rathkeale Rovers, or find the stolen horns. Two perpetrators were sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment.

Operation Rhino - pseudo-hunting

From 2010, several Vietnamese traders along with a Czech mediator hired Czech citizens and paid for their trip to South Africa, stay, and licenses to hunt rhinos. This activity lasted at least 2 to 3 years. The hired persons had no hunting experience. The pseudo-hunters were usually in groups of 3 to 4 trucked to South Africa, most of them to the farm in Limpopo Province owned by South African citizen who has been under investigation in South Africa for several years in relation to the Messina gang*. In the farms the hunters were informed that they would hunt rhinos. They were not allowed to film or take pictures during hunting. If the hunters refused to hunt rhinos they were forced to hunt indiscriminately, or the rhino was shot dead by one of the locals. The hunters, subsequently, during interrogations testified that the rhino hunt was witnessed by 2 men in uniforms with Police Limpopo badges (uniforms were different from a state police). After the hunt the pseudo-hunters signed documents in the farm that they surrender the rhinos as trophies and travelled back to the Czech Republic. From the organizers they received a cash prize (about EUR 600) for their involvement. Between 2010 and 2011, the rhino horns from South Africa were illegally sent directly to Vietnam (they did not go through the Czech Republic) with a non-existent Vietnamese company as their addressee in Vietnam. In May 2011, however, South African authorities detected two such consignments at the airport and 4 rhino horns were confiscated. Therefore, the group has changed its strategy and as of the autumn of 2011 started sending horns first to the Czech Republic. In the Czech Republic, the horns were handed over to Vietnamese organizers, who cut them by a special saw into smaller pieces (water cut to avoid burning of the horn) and then sold or sent them to Vietnam. The exports to Vietnam have been carried out in various ways, among others, through other international airports in the EU, for example, Frankfurt in Germany. The finances for the purposes of the trade have been also provided by affluent Vietnamese citizens living abroad, for example in Switzerland. The customs authorities seized in March 2012 at the Vaclav Havel airport in Prague 10 rhino horns and in July, another 8 rhino horns were similarly seized at the airport in Bratislava. During the investigation the hired pseudo-hunters were seriously threatened (including death among others), if they fail to cooperate with the Vietnamese organizers and will testify. Then the Vietnamese organizers tried to change the tactics and for further hunting they hired a real Czech professional hunter. He hunted rhinos in other farm in Northern Cape Province. The hunter received a cash prize of about EUR 2,800. These horns have never been found; according to information from the investigation they were sent to Vietnam hidden in a shipment with speakers. The case is still in the phase of criminal proceedings in the Czech Republic. In 2013, the Czech Republic arrested 16 people (already released from custody and prosecuted in freedom) –these were the organizers and 11 pseudo-hunters. The case has now been returned to the court for further investigation –international cooperation is required as well as hearing of people involved in South Africa and Switzerland.

He turned himself in voluntarily to the police. He is now on parole. His passport is confiscated. He is pleading not guilty.⁴⁹

NEPAL

October 23, 2015
Hetauda, Central Development Region, Nepal
Arrest of a man on the run, Rabi Shrestha, 53, sentenced in absentia in August 2010 for poaching and trafficking in horns in the Chitwan National Park.⁵⁰

October 2015

Transfer to the Island of Sumatra of a black rhino born in Cincinnati. Since 1989, thanks to what Thane Maynard, director of the Cincinnati zoo and botanical garden calls the "never give up attitude", Sumatra rhinos have blossomed in the Midwest. Three babies have been born. The first one, a male, was sent back to the Island of his origins in 2001 and his mating enables the birth of first offspring in 2012. The 3rd black rhino from Cincinnati has just reached a protected sanctuary. This cooperation between the United States of America and Indonesia owes much to the Tropical Forest Conservation Act enacted in 1998.⁵¹

*One of the Messina gang's leaders is Dawie Gronenwald. See "On the Trail" n°6 p. 62, n°7 p. 71-72, 75, n°8 p.65 and n°9 p. 64.

Rhinos and Elephants

EASTERN AFRICA - SOUTHERN AFRICA

OPERATION WORTHY II

January to October, 2015

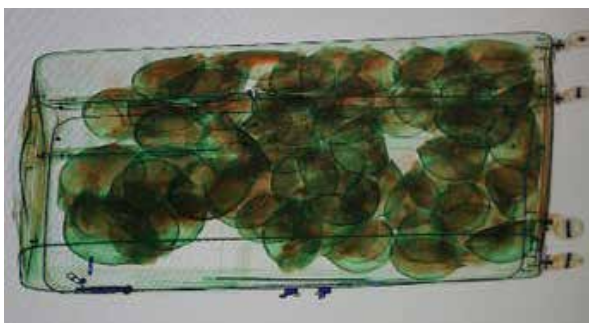
South Africa, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Uganda, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zambia

4.5 tons of tusks and horns were seized by Interpol and by 11 African countries (see also p. 58).

25 criminal groups, extended to Asia including Singapore and Thailand are investigated.

376 people were arrested.

Additional seizures included 2029 pangolin scales, 173 live turtles, 55 kg of sea cucumbers, warthog teeth, big cats and python skins, 532 cartridges and 7 firearms.¹



Turtles suitcase

SOUTHERN AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

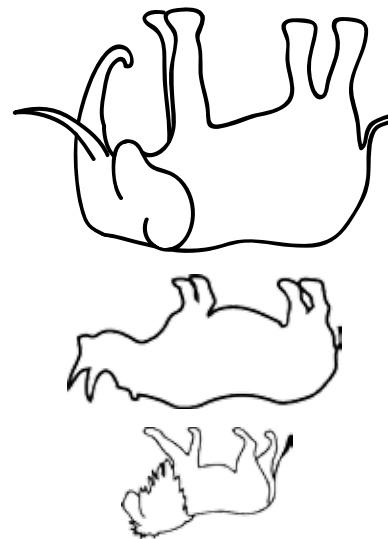
November 12, 2015

KwaDukuza, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

Seizure of 2 horns and ivory pieces close to a commercial center. The suspect appeared in court.²

NAMIBIA

NAMIBIA: THE BIG THREE ARE IN DANGER



Pohamba Shifeta, the minister of environment and tourism, staggers between traps that were set up for elephants, rhinoceros and lions. The strings of the traffic are pulled in the higher spheres.

Mid-december.

The director of Namrights (National Society for Human Rights of Namibia) sends a report to the general police inspector accusing several political figures of having been involved in the poaching of rhinoceros and elephants. The general inspector claims that they had not received the report. The minister requires further information from Namrights.

December 18.

The guards resist. They don't want to move. They call in trade unions and advance family and health-related problems. The official mail addressed to them washes away all suspicions of poaching or corruption. It also justifies their transfer in the name of the superior interest of public service, and indicates that several civil servants of the Ministry have also been appointed to other working places. However, the revolt does not stop here. At the beginning of the year, the Ministry disclosed its project of restricting the slaughtering of rhinos by relocating elsewhere the guards that had been working in the Etosha Park for a long time (see "On the Trail" n° 9 p. 58 and n° 10 p. 46). Sometimes the cases of Mauser 9 mm guns lie on the ground, next to the rhinoceros carcasses found in the Park or near it. The guards have been using the Mauser in the Etosha Park since the 70s.^{2bis}

October 9, 2015

Rundu, Okavango Region, Namibia

An Angolan national, Eduardo Augusto, was arrested for the illegal possession of 2 elephant tusks. He requested in vain to be released on bail.³

October 21, 2015

Puros, Kunene Region, Namibia

Discovery of a black rhino carcass, dehorned and shot with 5 bullets. The Ministry of Environment and Tourism promises a reward of \$ 60,000 (\$4440 US) for any decisive information.⁴

Namibia:

-1 in 2009

-1 in 2010

-1 in 2011

-2 in 2012

-4 in 2013

-25 in 2014

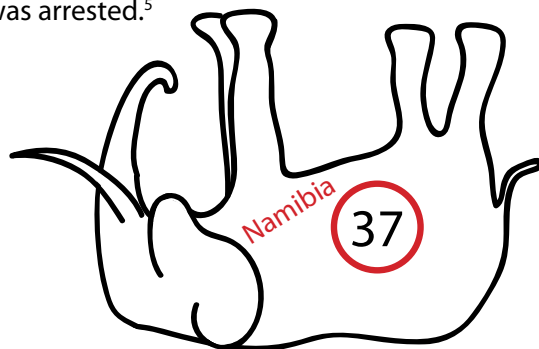
-Between January 1 and October 21, 2015:



November 11, 2015

Rundu Kavango Region, Namibia

Seizure of 2 elephant tusks. A Namibian national was arrested.⁵



November 16 and 17, 2015

Etosha National Park, Kunene Region, Namibia

Two dead black rhinoceros were discovered, including one female who was previously dehorned on a precautionary basis. The poachers worked hard at tearing the roots of the horn. The baby rhinoceros that was with the mother and depended on her disappeared.⁶

December 4, 2015

Windhoek, Namibia

The lawsuit against 4 Chinese expatriates who were involved in an attempt to smuggle 14 rhinoceros horns and a leopard skin back in March 2014 is bogged down (see "On the Trail" n° 10 p. 47). The court considers that the proof of involvement of the first 3 men is not valid, and therefore, it cannot be held against them. Li Xia Olang, Li Zhi Bing and Pu Xuexin were not formally warned that everything they said during the examination of their request of release on bail would be held against them during the trial. Their constitutional rights were not respected.⁷

December 21, 2015

Opuwo, Kunene Region, Namibia



Conviction of a Chinese shopkeeper to 10 years in prison and \$ 100,000 N (\$ 6470 US) fine for the purchase of 2 horns. He claims he bought them around Sesfontein for the modest sum of \$ 2500 N (\$ 161 US) to locals. He operates 2 clothing stores in Oshakati.⁸

The unofficial investigation of Oxpeckers clearly shows that the Chinese citizens who come to the country to establish transportation companies or export-import companies, or those who open clothing stores or grocery stores, often contribute to the increase of poaching and the increased involvement of locals in the spiral of rhinoceros and elephants poaching. When the raw tusks are not exported, rural families, or people living in the outskirts of cities transform them into bracelets, necklaces or pearls, which are then sold in the Chinese neighborhoods of Windhoek and Rundu.

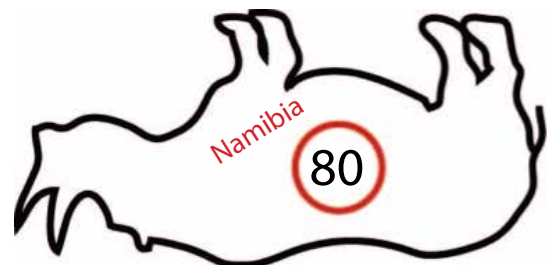
At the beginning of October a former policeman who had become a poacher and a supplier of lion skin and claws to Chinese traffickers, illustrates well that every social group is involved in this process.

A Chinese citizen who had been living in Namibia for a long time highlights that poaching is not worth anything if it is not followed by a subsequent smuggling: "Tusks are worthless here if you can't ship them back to China". Two years ago the most important exit route was the international airport of Windhoek. Since controls have been strengthened, the by-products of poaching in Namibia are smuggled in Botswana and, especially, Zambia before making their big jump to Asia.

End of December 2015

Grootberg, Kunene Region, Namibia

Three adult rhinos poached and death of a baby rhino. Three nationals arrested.⁹



December 2015

Etosha National Park, Region of Kunene, Namibia

One rhino poached

Perseverance of the Anti-poaching Unit of the Park and the skill of the agents operating on land and by air could be fruitful. One single case of rhino poaching has been recorded in December 2015, compared to about twenty cases in December 2014.¹⁰

EASTERN AFRICA

MOZAMBIQUE

December 28, 2015

Maputo, Mozambique

106.3 kg of ivory, 16.2 kg of rhinoceros horns, 2.6 kg of lion claws and 4.9 kg of cannabis were confiscated at the airport and harbor of Maputo between August and December of 2015 and were destroyed by incineration under reinforced police protection. This is the second destruction of the year. See "On the Trail" n° 10 p. 52.¹¹

UGANDA

November 30 and December 3, 2015

Entebbe and Kampala International Airports, Uganda

1- 36 kg of ivory and 3 kg of rhinoceros horns were confiscated during an attempt to export them to Vietnam, through the DAS Handling Ltd. The illicit shipment estimated to be worth 637,560,000 shillings or \$ 186,000 US was hidden in a wooden case, officially transporting timber samples. Two Vietnamese citizens were arrested.



2- Seizure of 9 kg of raw and worked ivory in the house of 3 Vietnamese partners in crime living in Bunga in the southern outskirts of Kampala. Estimated value: 356,640,000 Sh (\$ 103,133 US).¹²

SOUTH SUDAN

October, 2015

Aweil and Warawar, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, South Sudan

1- A South Sudanese national was arrested for the possession of false documents authorizing him to trade ivory. He was going to sell 2 tusks to a trafficker that was not found.

2- A piece of rhinoceros horn was found at a Sudanese citizen. He was not arrested in order to take care of the relationships with the Sudanese tribes. "We released him to maintain the peace."¹³

MIDDLE AFRICA

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

October 18, 2015

N'djili International Airport, Kinshasa Province, Democratic Republic of Congo

Seizure of 4 bags weighing 113 kg, containing 60 tips of tusks and 2 white rhinoceros horns to Hanoi, Vietnam on an Air France flight. They could have been stolen from animals in the National Park of Garamba according to the ICCN (Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation). The 2 Vietnamese men who carried the bags have vanished. Before being detected thanks to the newly installed scanners, the 4 bags would have been registered and checked in the Kinshasa Air France office inside the Memling hotel.¹⁴



ASIA

CHINA

October 12, 2015

Hong Kong, Guangdong Province, Shandong Province and Beijing, China

Seizure of 804.4 kg of ivory, 11.3 kg of rhinoceros horns and 35 bear paws, worth 24 millions yuans (\$ 4 millions US) according to authorities. The May 21 network - code name that was assigned to him by the police - had specialized vehicles for transportation, warehouses and a processing plant. This is the biggest wildlife trafficking network ever discovered in the country. The investigation lasted 3 months. The ivory came mainly from Japan and entered in mainland China through Hong Kong. EIA (Environmental Investigation Agency) has just published a report denouncing the shortcomings of the control on ivory sales in the Land of the Rising Sun where every year 1000 dubious origin tusks are marketed through the Internet and traders versed in all the tricks of the sad trade of illegal ivory. For the pre-registration certificate for marketing, the perfect trick is to solemnly affirm that the ivory comes from an inheritance. The written testimony of a neighbor or a relative can do the trick. Photos, records, invoices or other documents proving the age of the ivory are not necessary. The tusks will then be debited in Hankos - personal seals - or sent to China...

INDIA

November 10, 2015

Jalpaiguri, West Bengal, India

5 tusks of a total weight of 5 kg and a piece of rhinoceros horn weighting 150 g, bound for China via Nepal were seized. 5 people were arrested.¹⁶

SECRETES DEFENSES



The CSCL Indian Ocean, 19,100 container capacity, stranded in the Elbe river from the 3rd to the 9th of February 2016, downstream of Hamburg, Germany.

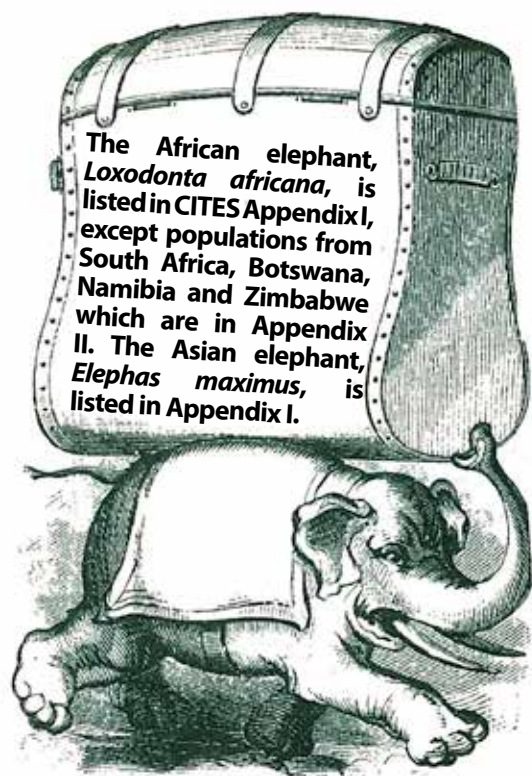
Overseen by the United for Wildlife International, an NGO led by the Duke of Cambridge, international airline and maritime companies signed a partnership agreement in December 2015 to fight against illegal traffic in wildlife, mainly focusing on species that are listed under CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) Appendix I.

However, in their statement of good intent, the signatories failed to engage in filing a complaint against the loaders, airport and port officers, crew, and the passengers who –either due to negligence, a lack of diligence or deliberate intention- facilitate smuggling or become accomplices. The declaration highlights several times that since the containers are sealed before the loading, the capacity to detect any illegal traffic is limited. On the same subject, see “On the Trail” no.9, p. 78: “Dangerous Liaisons”.

Elephants

“On the Trail” n°11 Black market raw ivory quotation from media or customs sources

Continent	Country	US\$/kg	Ref.
Africa	Uganda	300	75
	Tanzania	602	25
		3231	26
	Zimbabwe	253	30
		250	34 38 43 45
Asia	Hong Kong/ China	1290	74
			73
			77
	China	10,776	75



NORTHERN AFRICA

ALGERIA

December 1, 2015

Boudouanou and Dar el Beida, Boumerdès Province, Basse Kabylie Region, Algeria

Seizure of 2 carved tusks, a hundred of worked ivories of a total weight of 20 kg, 12,000 bottles of alcohol, 600 cartons of cigarette, walkie-talkies, 10 mobile phones, and significant amounts of money in Algerian, Chinese and American currencies. Three Chinese and an Algerian national were arrested.

"These objects containing this precious loot were stolen in several African countries before being exported to the eastern suburbs of Algeria, waiting for their final delivery to China."¹



EASTERN AFRICA

ETHIOPIA

Mid November, 2015

Gambela, Ethiopia

Seizure of 2 tusks heading for Addis-Abeba (500 km).²

End of December, 2015
Bole International Airport, Addis-Abeba, Oromia Region, Ethiopia

Seizure of tusks and ivory bracelets. A Chinese passenger was arrested.³



KENYA

October 1, 2015

Kibera, Nairobi Region, Kenya

An Australian national of South Sudanese origin was ordered to a fine of one million shillings (\$9535 US) for the possession of 5 ivory bracelets, estimated to be worth Sh 200,000 (\$ 1907 US). If she fails to pay she will have to carry out a sentence of 5 years in prison. She was stopped on the 25th of September at the Nairobi Airport as she was about to fly to China.⁴



© Public Prosecutions
Kenya



Beginning of October, 2015
Makindu, Makueni County, Kenya



PURPLE NOTICE

Life-long sentence or a fine of 30 millions shillings (\$ 286,057 US) for the illegal possession of 2 tusks. The man claims that he was the victim of manipulation. The Kenya Wildlife Service (KSW) discovered the tusks close to his hiding place. The Court considered that there is no doubt regarding his guiltiness.⁵

October 13, 2015

Kenya

Interpol released a notice following a Kenyan request against of the Guinean Morlaye Cherif, alias Musa Cherif. A load of 95 kg of ivory was confiscated from him on the 1st of July in 2014 in Gilgil, in the Nakuru County (see "On the Trail" n° 6 p. 76). Interpol describes the modus operandi, indicating that the "painting of ivory in brown paint, concealed through dagaa fish packaging with view of avoiding detection by canine unit (sniffer dogs)". "On the Trail" has highlighted some similar tricks in the past, especially regarding the mixing of ivory with snails stuffed with garlic (see n° 1 p. 28, n° 2 p. 53 and 56, n° 3 p. 60 and 66, n° 5 p. 95 and n° 9 p. 75).⁶



© Interpol

November 1, 2015

Kenya

The elephant has been treated for over a year due to cancerous tumors on his genitalia. Today he was speared due to a territory-related conflict with the nomad herders. Upon waking up, he spontaneously moved farther away from the hazardous area.⁷



© Big Life Foundation

November 6, 2015

Taita Taveta County, Kenya

Seizure of 3 pieces of ivory (2.5 kg) in the possession of Eliud mbogho Majani, an important public figure of the county.⁸

November 9, 2015

Oi Maisor Ranch, Laikipia County, Kenya

Urgent treatment of an elephant that has been wounded by gunshots on the front right leg and the back left leg. He was found in the savanna limping and suffering 11 days after. He had to be put to death.⁹



November, 2015

Amboseli National Park, Kajiado County, Kenya

Wounded in the back by a spear, the 16-year-old elephant was anesthetized and treated.

"How is her breathing?"

"Six deep breaths on the minute,"

"If it goes below five breaths a minute we're in trouble,"

She woke up and walked away.¹⁰



Mid-November, 2015

Masai Mara National Reserve, South-West of Kenya

The 2 beautiful tusks of the adult female elephant were found in the shrubs.¹¹



The weekend of November 21, 2015

Namunyak Community Conservancy, Samburu County, Kenya

Seizure of 8 tusks and one man arrested. The 3 suspects drove away with the loot in their hands. Two of them managed to escape. The other one may be sentenced to prison for life, or may be ordered to a fine of \$ 195,000 US.¹²



December 14, 2015

Narok County, Kenya

Seizure of 2 tusks. Four people were arrested and released on bail of one million shillings (\$ 9748 US) each. The carcass is said to have been transported by the rise in the water level of the Mogor river, and deposited on a sandy bank. At birth, the calves have 5 cm long incisor baby teeth, which fall out after their first year. The tusks begin to grow at the age of 2.¹³



The trunk is also used to scratch the eyes

December 30, 2015

Mombasa, Mombasa County, Kenya

Mohammed Hussein Warsame was arrested for the possession of 54 munitions. He claims that he has been involved in poaching activities ever since he was fired from the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) in 2008 and that he still has not received his laying-off benefit. He also claims that his life is in danger: "I fear that KWS officers might gain entry into the cells and kill me. I know how they treat poachers, I have worked with them."¹⁴

MALAWI

FAMILY AFFAIRS

REPEATED OFFENSE

Mid-October, 2015

Rumphi District, Malawi

The father and the son are under 6 charges: illegal possession of arms and munitions, poaching of protected species, possession of a state trophy, illegal loitering, and a watch-firing in a protected area. This is the third time that the father, Justin Fungwe, is arrested for similar charges. "The wind" or in other words gossips, let the police know that some sleazy things were going on in the Fungwe home. When the police has dropped in, they found the meat, the skin and 2 tusks.¹⁵

Mid-October, 2015

Liwonde National Park, Malawi

Rescue of an elephant trapped by its front left leg. Unfortunately, traps are present in all the national parks and other protected areas. Although, they are designed for small or medium sized mammals, the traps ensnared sometimes the big ones. A limping and suffering elephant was signaled. The vets rushed at the scene. They extracted the metal that gashed his leg deeply. Two days later, he was seen close to a water hole in the middle of a family. He will continue to be monitored.¹⁶



MOZAMBIQUE

October 3, 2015

Nampula Airport, Nampula Province, Mozambique

Seizure of 104 kg of ivory departing to Doha, Qatar. Two Chinese nationals were arrested. In the past few years, Qatar has become an important transit point for ivory and for the trade in wild animals between East Africa and Asia. Qatar Airways announced in August its intention to stop the carriage of all animals or their parts that are listed under CITES.¹⁷

Beginning of October, 2015

Niassa National Reserve, Mozambique

Those who seek gold and ivory are scouring the Reserve and are decapitating the elephants.¹⁸



October 16, 2015

Pemba, Cabo Delgado Province, Mozambique

Seizure of 9 tusks. Two men were arrested. They are certainly coming from elephants of the Niassa National Reserve and were bought for 160,000 meticaïs (\$ 4000 US) in the Marrupa district. Two local traffickers planned to sell them in the Pemba neighborhood, the harbor at the Indian Ocean, from where ivory and illegal timber are usually smuggled (see "On the Trail" n° 2 p. 64, n° 6 p. 84, n° 7 p. 83, n° 8 p. 63 and n° 10 p. 51).¹⁹

November 8, 2015

Montepuez District, Cabo Delgado Province, Mozambique

The readers of "On the Trail" have been following the hide and seek between the 2 kingpins: poachers and the wildlife police force of Mozambique (see "On the Trail" n° 6 p 104 and n° 7 p. 86). In the latest episode, Bernardo and Nyenje were caught during the night and were put in jail. We will be back with the next episode...²⁰

End of November, 2015

Niassa National Reserve, Mozambique

15 elephants were killed. All but one of them had their tusks taken. The great reserve is full of thieves. The government, the National Parks Agency and the NGOs want to put a tag on the female elephants that bring their whole family with them. Knowing where the herds of elephants are is one way to protect them, as it allows a fast arrival to the field in case there are any problems. However, it would be catastrophic if these valuable information come to fall into the hands of poachers.²¹

UGANDA

November 25, 2015

Uganda

Seizure of an elephant trunk. Two people were arrested.

It remains a mystery how the elephant's head was split. "You get the tusks, you get the ears and I will just take the trunk?"²²

TANZANIA

October 8, 2015

Tanzania

Two Tanzanian nationals, Manase Philemon and Silvanus Matembo, and the 66 year-old Yang Feng Glan (called "The Queen of Ivory") were arrested. She is accused of being in charge for the traffic of at least 700 elephant tusks (1800 kg) with the destination of Asia. She has been living in Tanzania for 35 years. She worked as a translator for a Chinese public works company. She is really well integrated in East Africa thanks to her excellent knowledge of Swahili and her job as a Secretary General to the Chinese-African Chamber of Commerce in Dar es Salaam, where she also runs a well-known Chinese restaurant. She was trailed for a year now. She felt the trouble ahead of her, so she moved to Uganda. It was only during her visit to her grand daughter in Tanzania that she was arrested. Her first request to be bailed was refused on the 12th of October. Her lawyer affirms that she will plead not guilty.²³



End of October, 2015

Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania

Boniface Matthew Mariango, called "the evil" was arrested. He was supposedly in contact with the "Queen of Ivory". He is suspected to have been managing 15 gangs of poachers in Tanzania, Zambia, Burundi, Mozambique, and in Kenya by supplying them with munitions, firearms and cars.²⁴



December 18, 2015

Mpanda, Katavi Region, Tanzania



Two villagers aged 35 and 50 were sentenced to 42 years in prison for transporting 4 tusks (47.6 kg) estimated to be worth Sh 60 millions (\$ 28,687 US). They had been arrested 2 months before, as they were carrying the ivory on a motorcycle.²⁵

December 18, 2015

Dar-es-Salaam, Dar-es-Salaam Region, Tanzania

Seizure of 156 pieces of ivory (211,6 kg) uprooted from 45 elephants, estimated to be worth 1.43 milliard shillings (\$ 683,708 US) or \$ 3231 US/kg. Two people arrested.²⁶

End of December, 2015

Mpanda District, Katavi Region, Tanzania



Two 20 year-old Burundian refugees were sentenced to 20 years in prison for concealing of 3 pieces of tusks (see "On the Trail" n°9 p. 76). They were contracted to transport ivory from western Tanzania to Dar-es-Salaam, 1100 km away.²⁷

ZAMBIA

REPEATED OFFENSE

Beginning of December, 2015 Livingstone, Southern Province, Zambia



Three men (aged 25, 30 and 37) were sentenced to 5 years in prison for the illegal possession of ivory. They were also sentenced for 5 years for the illegal possession of firearms and 5 years for the illegal possession of munitions. The sentences run concurrently. The trio had been found with 9 kg of raw ivory, with elephant meat and a tail amounting to a total of 180 kg in December 2014. They have already been sentenced in the past for the same charges.²⁸



EASTERN AFRICA

NAMIBIA

See page 64 and following.

ZIMBABWE

**October, November,
December 2015**
**National Park of Hwange,
Northern Matabeleland,
Zimbabwe**

Special deal: 1 kg of cyanide for \$ 10 US! The poison is common in Zimbabwe. The gold mines are full of it, and it gets out of them in full bags. Poisoning animals with cyanide has become more prevalent in the Park since the dreadful episode of the summer of 2013. In Sinamatella, in the heart of the Park, a waterhole has been revisited by a herd of elephants despite the reinforced surveillance of Park rangers. The rangers are paid with a delay of several months. Some of them succumb to the temptation of the easy money of illegal traffic, while others continue to disturb the "work" of poachers who are locals or foreigners coming from Zambia or Mozambique. Several elephants were found dead and complete, the villains did not have enough time to take the white gold.

- October 7. 14 carcasses
- October 13. 26 carcasses
- October 26. 22 carcasses
- October 23. Three elephants were shot in the area of Jambezi, at the edge of the Park. A man who was in the process of cutting up an animal was arrested, while 3 of his partners in crime escaped.

Harare, November 2 and November 4: The press is handcuffed. The chief editor, the responsible of investigations, and a journalist of the Sunday Mail are arrested and released on bail. They are waiting for the trial to be scheduled. They are charged with spreading false information and harming Zimbabwe's reputation. They had just highlighted the responsibility of a police officer, a guard and some Asian expatriates in the mass poisonings.

November 27. In fact, there is much truth in the Sunday Mail's article. A ranger in the Hwange Park's headquarters was arrested. He admits having come down in March 2015 when he killed an adult elephant who carried 36 kg of ivory, and confessed having been afterwards involved in the cyanide poisoning. He questioned 6 of his colleagues who have been dismissed up to the end of the inquiry. One of the managers of the Park was immediately ordered to take up other duties. Part of the poached ivory was laundered and easy to circulate through the country thanks to stamps stolen from the legal ivory stock from elephants that died of natural causes. Apparently, it still happens !

By the end of December the number of poisoned elephants is estimated to be 62. According to the well-informed NGO Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force, at least 103 elephants have been poisoned to death in all the National Parks of the country together with number of vultures, wild-dogs, turtles, antelopes, giraffes and buffalos.²⁹



October 5, 2015

**Border checkpoint of the Victoria Falls,
Zimbabwe**

Seizure of 25 kg of 150 pieces of ivory (of a value of \$ 6320 US or \$ 253 US per kilogram), and a 3 m long python skin. The Zambian trafficker was arrested at the border. His final destination was going to be South Africa.³⁰

October 6, 2015

Harare International Airport, Zimbabwe

Seizure of 8 tusks, as they were departing on a flight of Air Zimbabwe. The destination was not disclosed. The following day Edwin Makuwe, a biologist associated of Zimbabwe's National Parks' management, was arrested along with 2 rangers. The identification number of the tusks reveals an ambiguous origin. They may have been stolen from the vault of the Hwange National Park's headquarters.³¹



Beginning of October, 2015

**Mana Pools National Park, Western Mashonaland,
Zimbabwe**

Seizure of 14 tusks. A set of 12 poachers were identified but have not yet been intercepted. Soon after, an anti-poacher group arrested one of them, a Zimbabwean national, nicknamed Orbit, on a small island of Zambezi, 100m away from the border. He was in a state of complete exhaustion. He was one of the carriers of the gang. He claims that 7 male elephants were killed in 5 days. The mess was supposed to last for 14 days, but he decided with another 2 carriers to cut it short and go home earlier.³²

October 19, 2015

Mangwe, Southern Matabeleland, Zimbabwe

Discovery of a carcass whose tusks have been removed. The elephants coming from Botswana might have been looking for waterholes.³³

October 24, 2015

Harare International Airport, Zimbabwe

Seizure of 173 kg of ivory estimated to be worth \$ 43,250 US or \$ 250 US/kg. Three Zimbabwean and a Malian national were arrested and appeared in court. The destination was to be Singapore. The investigators have not yet confirmed whether this ivory comes from the mass poisonings in the Hwange Park.³⁴

REPEATED OFFENSE

Mid-November, 2015

Kwekwe, Midlands Province, Zimbabwe

Seizure of 37 kg of ivory. Four poachers and traffickers were arrested and appeared in court. Two of them were involved in the cyanide poisoning of 2013 and in a failed attempt to steal ivory from the park's vault.³⁵



At least 4 tusks

**November 21, 2015
Zimbabwe**



Condemned to 9 years in prison.³⁶

REPEATED OFFENSE

November 23, 2015

Kariba, Western Mashonaland, Zimbabwe

Conviction of 4 poachers who were arrested with 7 freshly torn out tusks. One of them was sentenced to 9 years with hard labor for poaching and to 4 years suspended sentence for illegal possession of arms. Another one was sentenced to 9 years in prison with hard labor for poaching. They have also to pay compensation equal to \$ 100,000 US.

The third one was sentenced to 4 years in prison, of which one suspended, for illegal possession of arms. The fourth one, a woman who was accomplice, was given a suspended sentence for 15 months.³⁷



November 23, 2015

Harare, Harare Province, Zimbabwe

Seizure of 10 pieces of ivory (15.2 kg) estimated to be worth \$ 3800 US or \$ 250 US/kg. One person was arrested.³⁸

FAMILY AFFAIRS

End of November, 2015

Kariba, Western Mashonaland, Zimbabwe



Conviction of 2 brothers to 13 years in prison for ivory trafficking and for carrying a weapon without a license. Their sister-in-law was convicted to a suspended sentence for 2 years for receiving stolen goods. In her defense, she claims that she was not capable of informing the police because the closest office is 20 km away and she had just given birth.³⁹

November 26 and December 2, 2015

Between Karoi et Chinhoyi, Western Mashonaland, Zimbabwe



Seizure of 6 tusks. Arrest and sentence to 9 years in prison.⁴⁰

**December 10, 2015
Zimbabwe**

Seizure of 2 tusks (18 kg). Two people were arrested.⁴¹



REPEATED OFFENSE

December 12, 2015

Zimbabwe

Seizure of ivory, estimated to be worth \$ 3000 US. Patrick Mapfumu fled after his release on bail 2 years ago, but was arrested again.⁴²



December 12, 2015

Harare, Harare Province, Zimbabwe

Two women were arrested, 33 and 36 years old, in a car, due to the illegal possession of 25.9 kg of ivory, estimated to be worth \$ 250 US/kg.⁴³

December 20, 2015

Bulawayo, Bulawayo Province, Zimbabwe

Discovery and seizure of 19 kg of raw ivory in a train coming from Victoria Falls. It is possible that the tusks came from elephants in the Hwange National Park.⁴⁴



End of December, 2015

Guruve, Central Mashonaland, Zimbabwe

Seizure of 2 tusks (5.53 kg) estimated to be worth \$1382 US or \$250 US/kg. The 37-year-old Henry Zvitete was arrested for attempting to sell the tusks to his clients who were policemen.⁴⁵

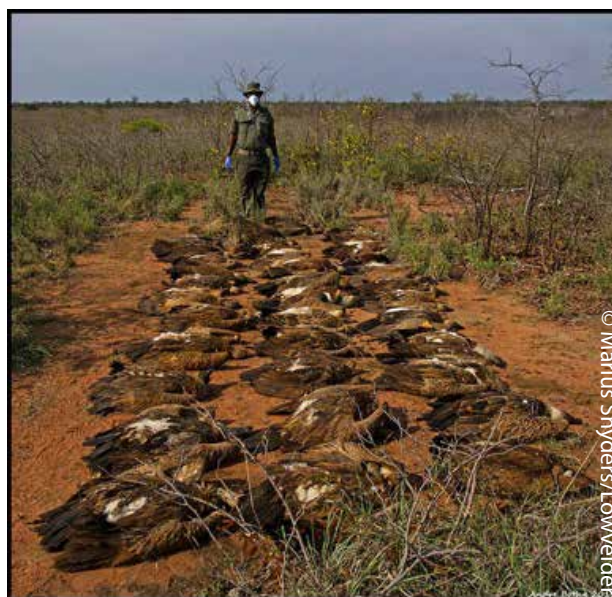
EASTERN AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

October 22, 2015

North of the Kruger National Park, Limpopo and Mpumalanga Provinces, South Africa

The Kruger Park is no longer an elephant sanctuary. 19 elephants have been poached since the beginning of the year. To achieve their goals, the poachers use latest fashion automated pistols, or they resort to poisoning. One elephant was cut up in place, and its tusks were amputated. The spinal cord and the trunk were sprayed with pure Temik. It is a dangerous insecticide even in small doses that should not be left close to children neither close to vultures or lions. 47 carrion eaters birds and 4 big cats died. The gang kept watch for a long time and have taken hold of the dorsal fur of the lions, their paws and their heads, which suggests sorcerer muthi (see "On the Trail" n°4 p. 51 and n°8 p. 61) were familiar with the killing. It took 5 days for the guards to cleanse the place and burn the carcasses.⁴⁶



Southern African Vulture Mortality Summary 2015



28 Feb 2016

Kerri Wolter – www.VulPro.com

Walter Naser – www.Africanvultures.org

Africa's vulture populations are in a steep decline, with most of the species having been up-listed to Critically Endangered by late 2015. The biggest threats are summarized below.

POISONING

During 2015, 598 vultures are known to have died in poison related incidents in southern Africa (South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland, Namibia, Botswana, as well as Zimbabwe and Mozambique south of the Zambezi river). The poisoning is divided into three forms:

- Accidental (Usually through Predator Control – Poison Baiting)
- Intentional eradication by poachers (Vultures are indicator species of poaching)
- Intentional for sale of body parts for Muthi (Juju / Traditional use)

The species breakdown of poisoned birds are population representative, with the most numerous species losing the most individuals as tabled below:

Species / Numbers Poisoned in 2015	CITES Appendix	IUCN Status	
<i>Gyps africanus</i> - African White-backed Vulture	II	CR	164
<i>Gyps coprotheres</i> - Cape Griffon	II	EN	9
<i>Torgos tracheliotus</i> - Lappet-faced Vulture	II	CR	5
Unidentified Vulture Species		-	320
Other Large Scavenging Bird Species		-	100
Total			598

CR: Critically endangered

EN: Endangered



Poisoned Cape Griffon and African White-backed Vulture

Southern African Vulture Mortality Summary 2015 - followed

ELECTROCUTION

During 2015, 50 vultures are known to have died due to electrocution on power-line infrastructure in southern Africa. Most electrocutions however go un-detected / un-reported due to the remote nature of so much of the power-lines in the sub-continent. The majority of electrocutions take place on last-mile infrastructure in the 11 – 33Kv range of distribution lines and mainly in rural areas. Of all the major threats, electrocutions are the easiest to address through identification of 'hotspot' areas and targeted mitigation of dangerous structures.

Species breakdown of birds lost to electrocutions below:

Species / Numbers Electrocuted in 2015	CITES Appendix	IUCN Status	
<i>Gyps africanus</i> - African White-backed Vulture	II	CR	3
<i>Gyps coprotheres</i> - Cape Griffon	II	EN	47
Total			50



COLLISION

During 2015, 32 vultures are known to have died due to collisions with electricity infrastructure in southern Africa. As with electrocutions, detection of incidents is likely extremely low.

Species breakdown of birds lost to collisions below:

Species / Numbers Killed by Collisions	CITES Appendix	IUCN Status	
<i>Gyps africanus</i> - African White-backed Vulture	II	CR	9
<i>Gyps coprotheres</i> - Cape Griffon	II	EN	22
<i>Torgos tracheliotus</i> - Lappet-faced Vulture	II	CR	1
Total			32

Southern African Vulture Mortality Summary 2015 - followed

NEST HARVESTING / POACHING

An emerging or previously un-documented threat to vultures on the continent is the harvesting of nestlings for sale of body parts in the Muthi trade. In one study conducted by VulPro of Tree Nesting *Gyps africanus* - African White-backed Vultures -, and estimated 54% of nests on a 66km stretch along the Limpopo river between Botswana and South Africa failed due to nest robbery. Out of the 107 nests monitored, 56 chicks were taken by poachers.



African White-backed Vulture Nestling rescued from poachers during a anti-poaching patrol on the Limpopo River.

SUMMARY OF NUMBER OF KNOW VULTURE MORTALITIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

The grand total reported is 580 individual vultures, with an additional 100 birds of other species affected by the recorded incidents. Rough estimates are that only 10% of mortalities are reported, so actual losses are likely more by an order of magnitude.

Year	Total
2013	2900
2014	360
2015	580
2016 (Jan & Feb only)	163
Total	4003

These losses represent a significant proportion of the remaining populations of southern African Vulture Species, and these losses are not sustainable for their continued survival.



See also, among others "On the Trail" n°2, p. 2 (The Cyanide Channel) and p. 59, " On the Trail " n° n°3, p.34 (Anti-Superstition and Black Magic Laws) and p.56, " On the Trail " n°4, p.30.

Elephants - followed

BOTSWANA

Beginning of October, 2015

Maun, Nord-Ouest District, Botswana

Seizure of 5 pieces of tusks. A 33-year-old suspect was held in custody.⁴⁷

October 22, 2015

Machaneng, Central District, Botswana

Seizure of 2 tusks. Two men aged 22 and 53 were arrested.⁴⁸

WESTERN AFRICA

BENIN

October 29, 2015

Cotonou, Benin

Seizure of 2 tusks, each weighting 10 kg and cut up in 4 pieces, in travel bags. Three traffickers, one Nigerian and 2 Guineans, were arrested.⁴⁹



MALI

October 29 to November 12, 2015

Gourma-Rharous Cercle, Timbuktu Region, Mali

The poaching of 16 elephants. Since the beginning of the year this number is 73. The elephants in the Sahel are all on the brink of extinction. The communities in Gourma and the State representatives call on the Prime Minister (see "On the Trail" n°1 p. 32, n°2 p. 66, n° 5 p. 87, n°8 p. 71, n°9 p. 73 and n°10 p. 54).

Excerpt from the mail:

"We want to express to you a cri de coeur on the subject of elephant poaching, which became more prevalent since the events in the North of the country in 2012, and has worsened in 2015."

"The population of elephants which is going to progress towards its dry season range and scattered along the string of Gourma ponds would be in peril of death if nothing is done without delay to harass the poachers and even dismantle their well-established network in the Malian Gourma. At the current rhythm of poaching for ivory, the elephants of Gourma are at risk of extinction."

"If the State was to reinforce its presence in the region, it would not only be through the mixed patrol of soldiers and forest service agents. The local civil populations are also able to help to fight against poaching. In fact, the poachers are well known in Gourma, but the locals are reluctant to denounce them, as they are scared of a retaliation." "In this disastrous situation, it is important to implement the following measures:

- the classification of the path of elephants as an unsafe zone of and the establishment of a special force to fight against poaching- called: *Save the Malian Gourma elephants* - in order to avoid the destruction of a local, national, and international natural heritage, the elephants of Mali.

- reinforcing the personnel (forest rangers, national guards) and their equipment in order to ensure the tranquility of the local populations who are stressed and live in fear every day, and also in order to ensure the survival of the elephants who are currently at risk. (...)"⁵⁰

TOGO

October 21, 2015

Lomé, Coastal Region, Togo

A Vietnamese and a Togolese national were sentenced to 22 and 24 months in prison, and to 25 millions francs (\$ 41,656 US) in compensation to the Ministry of the Environment and to the NGO SOS Elephants, for attempting to smuggle 3.8 tons of ivory. According to the genetic analyses made in Washington, 2.5 tons were coming from Gabon (see "On the Trail" n° 4 p 76).⁵¹



Mid-December, 2015

Togo

Two tusks were seized (3.2 kg) and 3 people were arrested. An elephant was poached in the Fazao-Malfakassa Reserve in the central region. A fourth man leading one illegal logging of precious trees inside the Reserve was arrested 2 days later.⁵²



MIDDLE AFRICA

CAMEROON

October 13, 2015

Cameroon

Seizure of a tusk and one arrest.⁵³

REPEATED OFFENSE

FAMILY AFFAIRS

Mid-October

Cameroon

Seizure of carved ivories and the arrest of 2 brothers.⁵⁴



End of December, 2015

**Boumba-et-Ngoko Department, Cameroon.
Waterside of the Central African Republic and of
Congo**

24 elephants were poached in the parks of the region in 2015. Poaching has especially increased in the last quarter of the year.

The assessment of seizures in 2015, as estimated by Tamaffo Nguela, a wildlife conservationist in south east Cameroon, is the following: around 158 tips of tusk, 879.5 kg of meat, panther skins, more than 200 firearms, 69 wire coils, and 4000 sections of steel wire that were used to make traps. 71 people were taken in for questioning and 23 trials were initiated.⁵⁵

CONGO

REPEATED OFFENSE

December 3, 2015

**Ouessou, Sangha Department,
Congo**

David Doum and Alfred Gokananga Bola were sentenced to 3 years in prison for poaching with a firearm. They have to pay a compensation of 3 millions CFA francs (\$ 4838 US) to the Economic Department of Forestry. David Doum had been sentenced before to 2 years in prison in 2014. He escaped 15 days after, and was captured again on the 21st of august in 2015 (see "On the Trail" n° 10 p. 58). His associate was sentenced to 2 years in prison in 2012. He was immediately transferred to a hospital for health-related reasons and did also a moonlight flit.

Théophile Mbangui, head of the anti-poaching group Tala Tala, regrets that the procedures are often hurried over. "There are some poachers who are arrested and then released 3 days after, who begin to call us and flout over on the phone".⁵⁶



December 21, 2015

Dolisie, Niari Department, Congo

Seizure of 35 kg of ivory. 5 people were arrested.⁵⁷



GABON

November 8, 2015

Gabon

Seizure of 6 tusks and 3 arrests.⁵⁸



REPEATED OFFENSE

December 7, 2015

Libreville, Estuary Province, Gabon

206 kg of ivory was confiscated, coming from 21 elephants. Two traffickers were arrested. One of the 2, Amadou Nouhou, is a Water and Forest Service agent. He had already been involved in other wildlife-related affairs in the Ogooué-Ivindo and Haut Ogooué provinces. "They both have been buying ivory in the whole country before exporting it to Cameroon, or even to Togo or Côte d'Ivoire, before its final arrival to Asia", indicates the NGO Conservation Justice.⁵⁹



End of December, 2015

Tchibanga, Nyanga Province, Gabon

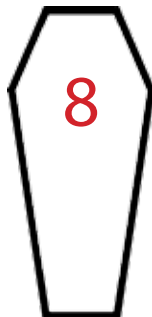
Seizure of 2 tusks and the arrest of 4 poachers. "It is a leak that put police officers in the know".⁶⁰

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Beginning of October, 2015

Garamba National Park, close to the South Sudanese border, Democratic Republic of Congo.

A helicopter noticed the carcass. The footprints on ground reveal the presence of 5 poachers. At the end of their track in the savanna, 8 forest guards and military personnel fell in with their base camp. In the following violent brush, the elephants have lost 4 brave protectors, 3 eco-guards of the ICCN (Congoese Institute for Nature Conservation) and a colonel of the armed forces. The Garamba national Park is in the northeastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo in a remote and unstable region, attended by deserters, by the Lord's Resistance Army, and by horse rider hunters from Chad and South Sudan. Eight of the wildlife defenders and 96 elephants were killed in 2015. The tusks provide an important financial resource for the war and turmoil.⁶¹



October 4 and 9, 2015

Opala Territory, Eastern Province, Democratic Republic of Congo

-October 4. Seizure of 2 tusks and smoke dried elephant meat and arrest of Lieutenant Asumani Sumaili.

-October 9. Seizure of 53 kg of ivory tusks and arrest of Captain Didier Bosongo.

-October 9. Seizure of ivory and one poacher arrested. According to him, the ivory was intended to the Opala garrison.

The elephants were poached in the Lomami forests. The situation is unclear and catastrophic. At least 4 gangs share the area covering the future National Park and buffer zone. The soldiers, when they are not themselves poaching, provide the poachers with ammunition and in exchange receive part of the ivory. Elephants are sold in every form possible. 0,5 kg of meat = \$ 2 US.

The reported death toll is of 28 elephants poached since the month of April 2015.⁶²

FAMILY AFFAIRS

REPEATED OFFENSE

October 21, 2015

Monkoto, Tshuapa Province, Democratic Republic of Congo.

The military court of Boende moved in Monkoto to be interested in this special case and has sentenced 2 brothers, Inkonde Mundele alias Varia and Nkake alias China, to 20 years in prison, due to the poaching of elephants and the illegal possession of firearms. One of the 2 is the head of the Mpenge



Kaboko Military Group. He has been suspended from his position due to acts of poaching in the past. They were arrested on the 17th of July last year. They confessed to have killed an elephant in the La Salonga National Park and to have sent the ivory to Kinshasa. "This judgment should be a lesson for all the poachers who are out there in the Park". The La Salonga National Park covers 33,000 km² and is an important habitat for the elephants and for the bonobos.⁶³

October 22, 2016

Kisangani Bangoka International Airport, Oriental Province, Democratic Republic of Congo

Seizure of 20 kg of ivory a few hours before take-off.⁶⁴



November 2, 2015

N'Djili- Kinshasa International Airport, Kinshasa Province, Democratic Republic of Congo

Seizure of 63 kg and 49 pieces of raw and worked ivory in 2 suitcases departing to Beijing via Addis-Abeba on an Ethiopian Airlines flight. One Chinese national was arrested. The swindler is a link in the chain that connects poachers, soldiers, road or railway transporters, and workshops in Kinshasa where the ivory is cut or carved.⁶⁵



October 25, 2015

Mabenga, Virunga National Park, Nord-Kivu Province, Democratic Republic of Congo

Jean Claude Kiza Vunabandi, ranger on a mission was killed by attackers.⁶⁶



Virunga National Park, Nord-Kivu Province, Democratic Republic of Congo

On the 12th of December, the European Parliament claimed to stop the oil exploration and extraction in the Park. The British oil company SOCO International is accused of endangering the elephants, chimpanzees, lions and crocodiles. See "On the Trail" n°5 p. 89.

December 15-29, 2015

Futur Park of Lomami, Oriental Province and Maniema, Democratic Republic of Congo

Poaching of 11 elephants. 500 alive elephants were counted the last year. The NGOs that co-finance the Park's operation threaten to disengage if the State is unfit to master the poaching. According to the director of ICCN, La Lomani is the last hard core that is viable for the forests elephants of the DRC. Obenge village is situated inside of the future park. Nobody knows if and how it will be left on the field or resettled.⁶⁷

CHAD

October 9, 2015

Zakouma National Park, Chad

An elephant was poached and a soldier was killed.⁶⁸



AMERICA

December 21, 2015

Miami, Florida, United States of America

He appeared in court for ivory trafficking. 54 year-old businessman Raymond J. Reppert Jr. pleads guilty. In February 2014, the parcel that he was trying to send to Guangdong in China was picked out by the customs of postal services in Miami. The investigation that followed, revealed other shipments of worked ivory in March and April with the help of a logistic company in Dania Beach that the man had business relations with. The trial is scheduled on February 25, 2015.⁶⁹

December 22, 2015

Napier, Hawke's Bay, New Zealand



A man was ordered to pay \$ 8000 NZ (\$ 5477 US) for importing 31 worked ivories (see "On the Trail" n° 5 p. 104). He is also responsible for the cost of genetic tests on the items (\$ 410 US). He bought a carved African elephant tusk in France. Following his request, the French or European sender accepted to qualify the tusk as a "decorative object of resin". The shipping occurred in June 2012. He used to resell things online under false designations, such as "fake ivory" or "ox skeleton". He also runs a shop where he sells carved jade and wood.⁷⁰



ASIA

MYANMAR

September 29 and October 10, 2015

Ngapudaw, Ayeyarwady, Myanmar

Everything began when some villagers saw 3 armed men attacking an elephant dead body with an axe, close to the river Supate. Two people arrested, a third at large. Last year 7 people were arrested in the village of Ngapudaw with 4 tusks, each weighing 16 to 25 kg.⁷¹

CAMBODIA

October 4, 2015

International Airport Siem Reap-Angkor, Cambodia

Seizure of 11 dried elephant tails, sections of tusks (46.1 kg), 400 g of teeth and 1.9 kg of claws, probably panther's. Arrest of a 43-year-old Vietnamese national coming from Angola via Ethiopia and South Korea.⁷²



CHINA

November 2, 2015

Hong Kong International Airport, China

Seizure of 38.6 kg of ivory blocks stashed under a thin layer of croquettes for dogs. Value estimated at \$ 386,000 HK (\$ 49,802 US) or \$ 1290 US per kg. The package was sent from Malaysia and actually declared as carrying "Pet Food". The recipient was questioned by police and released on bail.⁷³



THE TAILORS NETWORK- FOLLOWED

(see "On the Trail" n°10 p. 64.

3, 6 and 18 November 2015

Hong Kong International Airport, China

1 - Seizure of 36 kg of ivory arriving from Harare, Zimbabwe, via Dubai. Estimated value: \$ 46,448 US. 19 kg were hidden in the lining of the jacket tucked in the hand luggage of a man age 47. The other 17 kilos were found in the hand luggage of a man age 29.



2 - Seizure of 16 kg coming from Abuja, Nigeria, via Dubai. Estimated value: \$ 20,643 US. 13.5 kg in the lining of a jacket in the luggage of a passenger age 45 and 2.5 kg in his backpack. The man was convicted the day after his arrest to a \$ 65,000 HK (\$ 8386 US) fine.



3 - Seizure of 15 kg in the lining of a jacket in the luggage of a passenger age 32 coming from Abuja, Nigeria, via Dubai. Estimated value: \$ 19,353 US. The smuggler was convicted the day after his arrest to the same fine as the previous tailor.⁷⁴

November 23, 2015

Xiamen, Fujian Province, China

Seizure of 57 tusks in a container carrying sandalwood from Uganda. Chinese media reported an estimate of 8.2 millions yuans (\$ 1,282,424 US) for the 119 kg of ivory, or \$ 10,776 US per kg. A suspect says he bought the ivory in Uganda in June for \$ 300 US per kg. The shipping container has unquestionably passed through Mombasa, Kenya. The ivory was destined to Guangdong province where it would have been processed then sold throughout China.⁷⁵



November 2014 - November 2015

Provinces of Jiangxi, Fujian, Hunan, Guangdong, China

Seizure of 600 kg of raw and carved ivory estimated worth 22 millions yuans (\$ 3,440,650 US) and conviction of Chen Haiyuan, leader of the network, sentenced to 10 years and 6 months prison. This big case had started with the seizure from a car of 22 pieces of carved ivory weighing 13 kg total in the province of Jiangxi in November 2014. The driver was heading towards the Fujian province. The raw ivory was carved in a workshop employing 20 illegal workers in the Hunan province. Chen Haiyuan had begun his business by buying 20 kg of ivory for 8000 yuans / kg (\$ 1200 US) in 2010 in Shenzhen.⁷⁶



In the centre, a mammoth tusk

December 19, 2015

Hong Kong International Airport, China

Seizure of 77 sections of tusks with a total weight of 296 kg estimated by the Hong Kong's Information Services Department to \$ 2,960,000 HK (\$ 381,907 US) or \$ 1290 US per kg. The cargo coming from Namibia was bound to Malaysia, via South Africa and Hong Kong and declared as "assorted handcraft."⁷⁷



End of December 2015

Chimelong Safari Park in Canton, Province of Guangdong, China

It's cold in Canton. One of the baby elephants from Zimbabwe recently sold to China is dead.⁷⁸

INDIA

October 4, 2015

Karahalli, Karnataka, India

Seizure of 2 tusks of 1.06 m long and 26 kg each taken from a 50-year-old elephant shot dead in the neighboring State of Tamil Nadu. Two accomplices are actively sought.⁷⁹

October 15, 2015

Athankaraipatti, Tamil Nadu, India

Three suspected ivory dealers were arrested in the district of Theni and transferred to the neighboring State of Kerala for interrogation. They would be in relation to a certain Babu Joseph, a local leader in ivory trafficking.⁸⁰

October 20, 2015

Hassan district, Karnataka, India

Discovery of a dead elephant age 25 with his tusks hit by 3 bullets in the neck and head. He had fled after the attack and the poachers could not find him.⁸¹

**A golf course at the edge
of Kaziranga Park
October 20, 2015**



The controversy is growing. The elephants, tigers, rhinos, birds and insects of the Park are facing a new type of invader quite different from the needs of local herdsman. In July 2015, the Park conservation authorities noticed that hundreds of trees have been cut to prepare for installation of the 18 holes course. A male elephant calf got tangled up in the fencing around the piece of land. He died. This new activity destined exclusively to the local elite cuts the elephants' migration paths in the Park's buffer zone. The environmental court of the State of Assam ordered to put an end to this new trespassing on the area deemed to be "no development" around the Park, stating that the golf course would injure wild animals' movements and the ecology of the entire protected area. Golf courses are known around the world for their excessive cost in water and overuse of pesticides. The edges of Kaziranga Park are also threatened with the extension of an oil refinery and rise in numbers of quarries. Kaziranga is no exception. Palm oil plantations surround the Dampa tiger reserve in the State of Mizoram and the Corbett reserve in Uttarakhand is gangrened by anarchic development of touristic activities.⁸²

**Simlipal National Park,
Mayurbhanj district, State of
Odisha, India**
Gray series in Odisha.

Between January and October,
50 death including 29
considered suspicious.

From November 3 to December
13, 9 elephants poached by poisoned baits
or intentional electrocution. Empty pesticide
containers were found near the body of a tuskless
adult male age 25 which rescuers could not get
close to for 24 hours. He was watched by an
entire herd. Similarly, the body of a baby elephant
2 month old poached by firearm according to
witnesses and dead from disease according to
foresters was protected by his mother and an adult
male. Poachers come from neighboring Jharkhand,
elephants too. To chase the migrants away, rangers
have used an experimental technique: smoking by



firing clusters of cow dung impregnated with chili. A few days after the use of this primitive biologic weapon, a goose keeper was trampled in a forest reserve by an overexcited elephant. The fight continues. Horses and riders were recruited to hunt the alleged intruders. In the absence of a thorough investigation, it is unclear who invaded whom. Are elephants invading agriculture or agriculture invading elephants?

The network Gajah Bandhu, gathering naturalists, field volunteers, representatives of local populations, forest conservatives for the 7 districts where poaching rages, is pessimistic adding to the initial balance 10 electrocutions in December, 5 accidental contact with power lines and 5 by electric traps.⁸³

Fraud n°1

November 2015

State of Kerala, India.

Kerala isn't light handed with captive elephants. There would be about 700 of them, that is one 5th of all elephants counted in the country. In summer they walk on the burning hot road tar as beggars filling the pockets of their owners. They incessantly march along religious processions and parades in which they must after intensive training fulfill wrenchingly circus games such as pushing amidst an exited mob a 10-ton wheel under a scorching hot sun. In December, the exhausting season of festivals of all sorts exhibiting male elephants and their white tusks corresponds to the musth period, the call to reproduction for the species. Suparna Ghanguly, honorary president of CUPA (Compassion Unlimited Plus Action) explains that during that time the elephants are deprived of water and on a diet. In such circumstances, some become enraged with anger, escape, and in passing kill mahouts or passers-by. Immediately and irrevocably they are deemed problem-elephants, they are tracked down, cornered, poached, put to death and their invaluable tusk are robbed.

A complaint has been lodged by NGO's at the Supreme Court of India in July 2014. The judicial inquiry will last for 4 to 5 years, for gathering all the conflicting testimonies relating to captures in the wild, domestication, exploiting of elephants and cruelty to them. In November, a preliminary victory has been reached. The Supreme Court ordered the elephants riding to be suspended.⁸⁴

Fraud n°2

December 1st, 2015

**Varusanadu and Megamalai Sanctuary, State of
Tamil Nadu, India.**

Tamil Nadu claims to possess a first class anti-poaching mechanism and its forest department have listed in 3 years only 3 cases of violent elephant deaths (see "On the Trail" n°2 p. 67, n°3 p. 67, n° 4 p. 86 and n° 7 p. 113). This encouraging record is tainted by untimely declarations coming from a very active small gang arrested last month with the help of Kerala police forces. Tamil Nadu and Kerala share a border. The 4 rascals claim they have killed 16 elephants and sold 200 kg of ivory, their last operation dating back only some months. For their

expeditions they benefited from the assistance of a local tribe and they would target anything that would come their way such as sambar deer or Nilgiri langurs (*Trachypithecus johnii*, Appendix II). Tamil Nadu authorities don't believe their ears. They'll believe only what they can see. They have undertaken searches of the area the suspects say to have buried the elephants and are content to have found nothing. The suspects were released on bail.⁸⁵

December 19, 2015

Birpara, State of West Bengal, India

Seizure of an ivory tip of 2 kg, an automatic rifle and ammunition. Arrest of 4 poachers. One of them, Bayona Ubin, 38, is a member of the Assam Rifles. It is him which, as a soldier, was the leader of the group and the main shooter of elephants. The gang had poached a rhino in the beginning of the year.⁸⁶

INDONESIA

October 14, 2015

Krueng sabee district, Aceh Jaya Regency, Indonesia

Discovery of 2 carcasses of elephants aged 2 and 15. First observations, bleedings from the mouth and anus, lead to suspect poisoning. On Sumatra Island, 5 elephants poaching have been identified since the beginning of the year.⁸⁷

Mid-October 2015

Province of Bandar Lampung, Sumatra, Indonesia

Sequel of the Yongki poaching (see "On the Trail" n°10 p. 66). According to the Lampung police tusks have been exported. 20 suspects were interviewed. Veterinarians in the province are concerned about the presence of EEHV (Elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus) which could be responsible or the death of several calves since 2012.⁸⁸

SRI LANKA

End of December 2015

Sri Lanka

The end of slavery for 26 elephants held in captivity. The Buddhist clergy and some VVIP (Very Very Important Persons) who used to detain domesticated elephants now have to remove them to a specialized orphanage in Pinnawala. Unfortunately, since they have been exploited in various commercial activities, such as discharging of logs, touristic events, and lucrative entertainment activities in Buddhist temples, they cannot be released into the wild. Most specialists agree that their lives will be better in Pinnawala, where they will be surrounded with veterinaries and mahout than where they were initially held captive and beaten.

The orphanage is in the process of being extended to 10 hectares. Ali Roshan, the main supplier of elephant calves caught in the wild to be enslaved, was released on bail. He had relations with civil servants who provided the buyers with fake birth certificates. In October and November 2014, 4 new elephant calves were seized on his properties in Pannipitiya, 13 km away from Colombo. For further information on elephants held in captivity in Sri Lanka, see "On the Trail" n° 5 p. 97, n° 6 p. 91 and 93, n° 7 p. 91, n° 8 p. 85, n° 9 p. 86, n° 10 p. 64 and 65.⁸⁹

VIETNAM

November 23, 2015

Vinh, Nghe An Province, Vietnam

Seizure of 10 ivory statuettes, each weighing 700 g to 1.5 kg and 9 kg in total, in a bus registered in Laos from Vientiane to Hanoi. The driver and his assistant admitted to being paid for the conveying. Tests are ongoing to verify the authenticity of ivory.⁹⁰



December 17, 2015

Port of Hai Phong, Vietnam

Seizure in a container arrived November 29 from Mozambique of 2204.3 kg of tusks in 380 bags of beans.⁹¹



October 14, 2015

London Heathrow Airport, England, United Kingdom

Seizure of 110 kg of tusks, bangles and beads. The ivory was discovered in an abandoned suitcase arriving from Angola and bound for Hannover, Germany, in terminal 4.⁹²



November 23, 2015

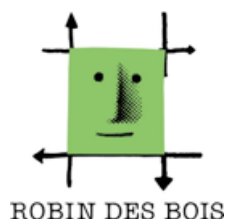
Denmark

Bruun Rasmussen announces discontinuation of sales of ivory and of species listed under CITES appendices. The familial auction house Bruun Rasmussen was founded in 1948 and is now one of the oldest Danish auction houses and the most prestigious in Scandinavia. The decision was taken just before the auction of 2 tusks nearly 2 meters long and 28 kg each and after a heated protest campaign.⁹³

December 7, 2015

Paris-Charles de Gaulle Airport, France

Seizure of 3 tusks sections, 1500 blocks of raw ivory, bracelets and sticks (95.1 kg in all) in the luggage of a Vietnamese couple released after a brief customs restraint. The duo from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, was going to Hanoi, transiting through Paris. The ivory was purchased in Angola. "The Customs Service investigates under international judicial cooperation."⁹⁴



Elephants killed and smugglers released

Press release. December 11th, 2015.

Following an important ivory seizure in Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris in the luggage of 2 Vietnamese traffickers, the NGO Robin des Bois and Fondation Brigitte Bardot deplore that this significant action ended up in the almost immediate release of the suspects. These 2 individuals were transiting from Angola via Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia and about to leave for Hanoi. They were released after 5 hours police custody.

According to the article L 415-6 of the Environment Code and 132-71 of the Penal Code, they are liable to 7 years imprisonment and 150,000 euros fine.

According to the French customs, these 2 individuals are part of a very well organized network. The legal classification of "organized crime" could be without doubt chosen in this case. Even if a possible fine could be pronounced by the national service of judicial customs by the end of the investigation, it seems clear that it will never be paid.

Most likely, these 2 traffickers were just mules, paid a few hundreds of euros to convoy the ivory.

This precipitated release is totally incoherent with the government's recent communication, claiming that stronger measures were taken to fight the traffic of ivory. On September 15th 2015, a Chinese lady was caught in Beijing Airport for illegal importation of 14.5kg of ivory and was condemned to 6 and a half years in prison (see "On the Trail" n°10 p. 66).

Mammoths

EUROPE

November 2015

Markovo, Primorsky Krai, Russie. Border to China

1- Seizure of 17 mammoth tusks (Genus *Mammuthus*) (194 kg), a carved walrus tusk (1.25 kg) and 500 kg of precious and semi-precious stones. The smuggling was uncovered in the fake floor of a truck belonging to Frenchlayner, a food and tobacco wholesaler. At least one of the tusks came from the theft in a Russian museum. 300 kg of stones were identified as charoite and 4 kg as chromed diopside used in mineral therapy and endemic of the Sakha Republic in the North-East of Siberia, and over 200 kg of white jade and green jade. The lot is estimated worth \$ 305,000 US. The "goods" belong to a Russian businessman.

2-Seizure of 24 mammoth tusks -500 kg- in 2 mini-buses driven by Chinese citizens.

See also the map "The Chinese Attraction" p.9.



Other Mammals



AFRICA

October 9, 2015

Gwembe, South District, Zambia



Seizure of an aircraft and a road vehicle. Arrest and conviction of 5 South African and one Zimbabwean to a fine of K 200,000 (\$ 18,000 US) for the attempted abduction to South Africa of 12 giant sable antelopes (*Hippotragus Niger*, Appendix I). Five did not survive the stress and heat during transportation. In September, a giant sable antelope with horns 1.2 m long was auctioned in South Africa for R 27 millions (\$ 1.96 million US). It was purchased by a breeder trying to produce by mating between remarkable specimens a giant sable antelope with horns measuring more than 1.5 m.¹



Mid-October 2015

Uganda. At the border of Rwanda

Seizure of 30 teeth of hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*, Appendix II) and 2 arrests.²

End of October 2015

Uganda

Seizure of teeth from hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*, Appendix II) and warthogs (*Phacochoerus africanus*). Arrest of a trafficker who had been buying his supplies in the Democratic Republic of Congo for many years. He resold the goods on the market in Kampala.³

November 9, 2015

Beitbridge Matabeleland South Province Zimbabwe

Conviction of 3 South Africans to the equivalent of \$ 23,047 US fine each for attempted exportation of 29 giant sable antelopes (*Hippotragus Niger variiani*, Appendix I) estimated at \$ 279,358 US (see "On the Trail" n° 10 p. 68). Theo Bronkhorst, involved in the execution of Cecil the lion, denies any responsibility in the smuggling attempt. He claims not to have been informed of the purpose of the trio to whom he had sold the antelopes. He operates a small wildlife concession northwest of Zimbabwe.⁴



December 18, 2015

Kilimanjaro International Airport Tanzania

Seizure of a giraffe skull (*Giraffa camelopardalis*) emblematic animal in Tanzania. A man who would be part of the guard of the Emir of Qatar was arrested as he was going to fly for Doha. He would be linked to Kamran Ahmed, wanted by Interpol for having fraudulently expatriated 4 giraffes to Kuwait (see "On the Trail" 7 p. 85). The Kuwait's embassy of in Arusha intervened for the case to be closed.⁵

AMERICA

6, 13 and 23 November 2015

State of Alaska, United States of America

Conviction of 3 hunters and an accomplice whose adventures were celebrated in the TV Show "The Outdoor Syndicate" (cf. "On the Trail" n°10 p. 75).

1 - Clarence Osborne, 63. 5 years probation, fined \$ 65,000 US plus \$ 16,000 US damages to the Noatak Reserve for hunting a brown bear, a moose bull and 3 caribous without a license. All hunting is forbidden to him and he must return his trophies and weapons to the administration.

2 - Fulton Wold, 41. 2 years probation, fined \$ 7500 US plus \$ 1000 US damages to the Noatak Reserve for hunting a moose and a caribou without a license. He must give back his trophies to the administration.

3 - Terry Goza, 71. \$ 7,500 US fine for the hunt of a Dall sheep (*Ovis dalli*) the day he arrived by plane on the hunting ground. This practice is prohibited to avoid the easy shooting of big game spotted during the flight.

4 - Charles W. Dixon, 70, father of the presenter of TV show. \$ 15,000 US fine and \$ 10,000 US damages to the Noatak Reserve for having transported a hunter non resident of the State to the hunting camp. His STOL Quest SQ-4 plane was seized.

Clark W. Dixon, the TV announcer, pleads guilty for his involvement in illegal hunting of brown bears (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) by Clarence Osborne, non-resident of the State of Alaska, through reporting that his father had killed the bear. He also lied about his place of residence and should hand over to justice his 17 game trophies from Alaska.⁶

ASIA

October 28, 2015

Hohhot, Autonomous Region of Inner Mongolia, China



In the morning the border police intercepted a jeep coming from Mongolia. During their inspection, they found the 65 Mongolian horns in the back (*Procapra gutturosa*, not listed under CITES, cf. "On the Trail" n°7, p. 99). This is the third seizure of horns at this border station since the beginning of the year, 387 in total (cf. "On the Trail" n° 7 p. 99).⁷ See also the map "The Chinese Attraction" p.9.

October 29, 2015

Mathura district, Uttar Pradesh, India

Rescue of a striped hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*, Appendix III in Pakistan) beaten with iron bars by a gang of poachers. Alerted by the villagers, veterinarians of the NGO Wildlife SOS and forest guards arrived in time to save the animal from the lynching but too late to save its left eye.⁸ See map page 46.

November 13, 2015

Thailand

Voluntary return of an oriental small-clawed otter (*Aonyx cinerea*, Appendix II). It is the fifth since the beginning of the year to be taken in by WFFT. The otter in a cage is into vogue in Thailand.^{8bis}



November 19, 2015

Can Tho, Can Tho Province, Vietnam

Voluntary return of 2 Oriental small-clawed otters (*Aonyx cinerea*, Appendix II).⁹

Beginning of December 2015

Thailand

Rescue of a 4 months old Sumatran serow (*Capricornis sumatraensis*, Appendix I). He was kept in a private home. The mother was probably poached. Sumatran serows, once widespread throughout the country, now live in remote forests and hills. They are under the combined pressure of logging for firewood and timber. Their fur is highly sought after.¹⁰



December 8, 2015

Gokarneshwor, development of Central Region, Nepal

Seizure of a red panda skin (*Ailurus fulgens*, Appendix I). An arrest.¹¹

December 16, 2015

Bajo Town, Dzongkhag Wangdue Phodrang, Bhutan

Seizure of prepucial glands of musk deers (*Moschus* spp., Appendix I). Arrest of 2 men fined to Nu 50,000 (\$ 753 US). The director general for Department of Forests and Parks service says that in the last 2 years 20 prepucial glands were seized and 1500 deer traps were dismantled. Traffic of prepucial glands would decrease since collecting cordyceps mushrooms is allowed. The prepucial glands and fungi are believed to have aphrodisiac qualities (cf. "On the Trail" n°6 p. 71).¹²



Night of December 19 to 20, 2015

Bankatwa, Bihar, India

Poaching of a blackbuck with 2 horns 61 cm long (*Antelope cervicapra*, Appendix III in Nepal and Pakistan) and hearing of 2 forest rangers. Bankatwa villagers report to the authorities the presence of a black buck. 4 rangers come to the rescue. On Saturday, they capture and bind him to a tree near a temple. On Sunday morning at the same place there is only a few cuts left. The villagers call the police. 2 rangers are suspected, the other 2 fled.¹³

December 31, 2015

Muzaffarabad, Azad Kashmir State, Pakistan

Seizure of 3 prepucial glands of musk deer (*Moschus* spp., Appendix I). An arrest. 10 g musk are worth Rs 50,000 (\$ 474 US).¹⁴

EUROPE

December 6, 2015

Dunadry, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom

The picture of the European otter (*Lutra Lutra*, Appendix I) neck broken by the jaws of the trap along the Sixmilewater river has been viewed 10,000 times in 12 hours on social networks.¹⁵



Mid December 2015

Basel-Stadt, Switzerland

Seizure of 2 markhor heads with horns (*Capra falconeri*, Appendix I, see "On the Trail" n°4 p. 92 and n° 10 p. 69). The hunting trophies were discovered by border guards in the car of a Dutch citizen aged 60. 12 exports of trophy are allowed yearly from Pakistan. There would be to the maximum 2000 markhors in Central Asia.¹⁶



OCEANIA

October 7, 2015

Ouégoa North Province New Caledonia France

Conviction of the former mayor of Ouégoa, Joel Carnicelli, and his accomplice to CFP 100,000 (\$ 939 US) fine each and confiscation of their hunting weapons for the poaching of fruit bats (*Pteropus* spp., Appendix I or II) in January 2014. A 32-year-old man was shot dead during the poaching. This first episode court only concerned the killing of the bats. Former representative claimed that "the weapons were used to knock mangoes down."¹⁷



Multi-Species

AFRICA

Week end of October 2015

Longa, Province of Cwando-Cubango, Angola

300 smoke-dried animals among which many monkeys were uncovered after forest guards opened a suspicious warehouse. Opening 3 others could lead to discovering 1700 more victims. To avoid outbreaks with poachers and their accomplices, the Angola Armed Forces have been called in as reinforcement.¹

October 7, 2015

Buffer zone of the Etosha National Park, Oshikoto Region, Namibia



Seizure of 2 red crested bustards (*Lophotis ruficrista*, Appendix II), 4 duiker antelopes and steenboks (*Raphicerus campestris*), 4 South African spring hares (*Pedetes capensis*), a Toyota Hilux and 4 rifles. New evidence that all strata of Namibian society are won over by poaching fever: it is an elementary school principal who lead the gang. At night, they hanged around the Park with the intention, so they claim, to gather wood. The range of the red crested bustards covers the north of Southern Africa. The population status is unknown.²



Raphicerus campestris

October 13, 2015

Nyamandlovu Ranch, Province of North Matabeleland, Zimbabwe



Discovery of one cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*, Appendix I), 3 zebras (*Equus quagga*), a warthog (*Phacochoerus africanus*), and hundreds of birds all dead from poisoning. A bag containing a white powder was found in the ranch surroundings; no doubt it is sodium cyanide. "Every day we fight against poachers who come with their dogs and set traps beside the river but, until now, they hadn't yet used poison." The chemical trap was next to a water spot. Large tire traces were reported. Several zebra carcasses- this was their favorite drinking spot- were taken by the killers before the guards' intervention. 500 m² of this mass grave had to be decontaminated as best as possible and the carcasses were burned so as to limit the domino effect on vultures and scavenger mammals.³

October 27, 2015

Greytown, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Seizure on the street of crocodile jaws (*Crocodylidae* spp., Appendix I or II), leopard skins (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I), turtle shells, bushbuck skins (*Tragelaphus scriptus*), skulls of various species of snakes. The 4 garage salesmen were simply selling on the bare street. They are 25 to 31 years old.⁴

Beginning of November 2015

Bafoussam, West Region, Cameroon

Seizure in a bus of 300 kg of dried meat from gorillas (*Gorilla* spp., Appendix I), blue duikers (*Philantomba monticola*, Appendix II), bay duikers (*Cephalophus dorsalis*, Appendix II), Peters's duikers (*Cephalophus callipygus*), potamochoerus (genus *Potamochoerus*). The bush meat was coming from the north and heading to the big Douala market. Business is back. The shadow of Ebola is growing apart.⁵

Beginning of November 2015

Maputo International Airport, Mozambique

Seizure of 14 rhino horn sections, 14 lion claws and 49 lion teeth (*Panthera leo*, Appendix II). One Vietnamese citizen arrested. The Mozambique-Vietnam channel is inexhaustible.⁶

Beginning of November 2015

Buffer zone of the Matusadona National Park, Province of West Mashonaland, Zimbabwe

Seizure of serval skins (*Leptailurus serval*, Appendix II), duiker skins, bush meat and fire arms. Three arrests.⁷



November 8, 2015

Gabon

Seizure of a pair of elephant tusks and a leopard skin. Two arrests.⁸



November 10 and 11, 2015

Kangongo, Region of Kavango, Namibia

Seizure of 3 Nile crocodile skins (*Crocodylus niloticus*, Appendix II), one cheetah skin (*Acinonyx jubatus*, Appendix I), one honey badger skin (*Mellivora capensis*, Appendix III in Botswana) and 6 elephant tusks. 24 tusks have been seized since the beginning of the year. Arrest of a man and a woman of Zambian nationality.

Honey badgers is a small omnivorous mammal. They particularly like honey, and are very brave.⁹



Mellivora capensis

Mid November 2015

Mpongwe, Province of Copperbelt, Zambia

Seizure of bush meat. 20 kg of baboon meat (*Papio* spp., Appendix II), 48 kg of warthog meat (*Phacochoerus africanus*), 12 kg of bushbuck meat (*Tragelaphus scriptus*), 56 kg of antelope meat and 4 kg of common duiker meat (*Sylvicapra grimmia*). Three arrests.¹⁰

REPEATED OFFENSE

December 11, 2015

Rustenburg, North West Province, South Africa

Joint teams from the NSPCA (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) and the SAPS (South African Police Service) raided the road accessing Sun City, a sort of amusement park with

a golf course, a crocodile farm and casinos, hotels and fitness centers. Turtles, snakes, dead or alive, by the side of the road or lining it, in cases or jars, were taken from the vast flea market made of cruelty and pillaging. Most vendors escaped and are repeated offenders. They get away with the smallest fine possible and are right back at it.¹¹

Durban, Province of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Springbuck Art & Jewellers. Sale of carved elephant and hippopotamus ivory, lion, tiger, zebra skulls and skins, snake, crocodile, ostrich skins, ostrich eggs, jewelry made of gold and diamond and elephant hairs. Peacefully selling it all for 45 years, 7 days a week. It was sent all over the world by DHL. Durban is the first African port and a threshold to China.¹²



December 16, 2015

Kampala, Central Province, Uganda

Seizure of 24 kg of hippo teeth (*Hippopotamus amphibius*, Appendix II) and 20 kg of giant pangolin scales (*Manis gigantea*, Appendix II). One arrest.¹³



December 18, 2015

Douala, Littoral Region, Cameroon

Seizure carried out by 40 dedicated agents of 67 carcasses of pangolins (*Manis* spp., Appendix II), monkeys (*Primates* spp., Appendix I or II), crocodiles (*Crocodylidae* spp., Appendix I), monitor lizards (*Varanus* spp., Appendix I or II), turtles and porcupines in the Ndokoti neighborhood and central market place, 2 bush meat hubs in this large port city.¹⁴

AMERICA

October 5 and 7, 2015

Waldo and Germantown, State of Ohio, United States of America

Seizure of 5 tigers, 3 American black bears (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) and one brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II). The 2 owners were not in conformity with rules in force in the State of Ohio since the 1st of January 2014. They were lacking an insurance contract, a certificate of conformity with the mandatory living conditions and an emergency plan in case the animals would escape. Ohio has strengthened its surveillance on captive wild animals after the owner of a private menagerie released, just before committing suicide, about fifty lions, tigers, bears and monkeys. Police, unprepared for such an event, found nothing else to do but shout them down to prevent any possible attacks or civil disorder. According to various estimations, there would be between 3000 and 10,000 captive tigers in the United States. In the wild, there are less than 4000.¹⁵

October 2015

Anisacate, Province of Cordoba, Argentina

Seizure at a private home of 5 red brockets (*Mazama americana*, Appendix III), a blue-and-gold macaw (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II) and 7 turtles claimed to have been bred and kept as "pets". Police have doubts.¹⁶

Beginning of October 2015

Valle de Bravo, State of Mexico, Mexico

Writ of sequestration for 15 fallow deer (*Dama dama*, Appendix I), 7 red deer (*Cervus elaphus*, Appendix II), 14 chital deer (*Axis axis*) and a zebra.¹⁷

November 20, 2015

Santa Cruz, Department of Santa Cruz, Bolivia

Crates full of green birds. An anonymous call enabled the seizure of 200 young parrots, 2 turtles and an armadillo at a bus stop.¹⁸



Beginning of December 2015

Cincinnati, State of Ohio, United States of America

Seizure by border police of 2 loads:

1- 631 hawksbill turtle scutes (*Eretmochelys imbricata*, Appendix I) camouflaged with white watercolor paint. At least 29 hawksbill turtle between 60 and 75 years old were killed.



2- Dead king cobras (*Ophiophagus hannah*, Appendix II) stuffed into socks and probably expedited alive so as to be used as breeders. They died during the voyage.¹⁹

December 4, 2015

Portland, State of Oregon, United States of America

Arrest of 2 Malaysians, Eoin Ling Churn Yeng, 35 years old, and Galvin Yeo Siang Ann, 33 years old for trafficking in endangered species via the Internet since 2004. Undercover agents from the US Fish and Wildlife were able to buy from their web site Borneo Artifact 3 orangutan skulls (*Pongo* spp., Appendix I), 5 hornbill casks (family Bucerotidae, 24 species listed in Appendix I, II or III), a langur skeleton (*Cercopithecidae* spp., Appendix I or II), a babirusa (genus *Babyrousa*, Appendix I), a dugong rib (*Dugong dugon*, Appendix I). Ling and Yeo would have also sold to real buyers 16 orangutan skulls, 13 bear skulls and 210 bear claws (*Ursidae* spp., Appendix I or II), 20 hair barrettes made of whale bone (*Cetacea* spp., Appendix I or II) et 12 rhinoceros hornbill helmets (*Buceros rhinoceros*, Appendix I). Yet the 2 traffickers' *modus operandi* was not lacking in caution. All parcels were sent by postal services. Buyers were advised to not follow the progress of their delivery on the Internet and the skulls were sent in separate pieces so as to complicate identification in case of a seizure. They also would provide their clients with some ideas for alibis. "Say that is come from an acquaintance who wished to please you with a gift but you do not know who it is for you have travelled a lot and met many friends all over." They worked with 3 designated providers based in Pontianak, Malaysia.²⁰



Beginning of December 2015

Jamundi, Department Valle del Cauca, Colombia

Seizure of 4 macaws, 3 parrots and 3 turtles from the interior garden of a school. Teaching cruelty: the birds had their wings cut so they could not fly away.²¹



Beginning of December 2015

Solidaridad, Quintana Roo, Mexico

30 common iguanas (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II), 4 common squirrel monkeys (*Saimiri sciureus*, Appendix II) and a scarlet macaw (*Ara macao*, Appendix II) seized from a so called refuge.²²

Pedro Escobedo, State of Queretaro, Mexico

Seizure of a yellow-headed amazon (*Amazona oratrix*, Appendix I), a red-lored amazon (*Amazona autumnalis*, Appendix II) and a keel-billed toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*, Appendix II).

Centro, State of Tabasco, Mexico

Seizure of a yellow-headed amazon (*Amazona oratrix*, Appendix I) and a keel-billed toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*, Appendix II).

Beginning of December 2015

Huaral, Province of Huaral, Peru

Seizure from the shop windows of merchants pleading ignorance of a mitred parakeets (*Aratinga mitrata*, Appendix II), 4 white-winged parakeets (*Brotogeris versicolurus*, Appendix II), an orange-winged amazon (*Amazona amazonica*, Appendix II), a common iguana (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II), 4 yellow-spotted river turtles (*Podocnemis unifilis*, Appendix II), 4 yellow-footed tortoises (*Chelonoidis denticulata*, Appendix II).²³

December 14, 2015

Bucaramanga, Department of Santander, Colombia

Seizure of 2 red-lored amazons (*Amazona autumnalis*, Appendix II), 2 boas and 10 parrots. Sentenced without a crime, they spent several years behind bars in a house. The birds had their wings cut. Hotline: 1023.²⁴

ASIA

REPEATED OFFENSE

Beginning of October 2015

Moc Bai Border control station, Province of Tay Ninh, Vietnam

Seizure of 2 Asian giant tortoises (*Manouria emys*, Appendix II), 4 savannah monitors (*Varanus exanthematicus*, Appendix II) and 2 European polecats (*Mustela putorius*) and arrest of a 20-year-old man. He had done his shopping in Bangkok at the Chatuchak market with the intention of turning it into profits in Hô-Chi-Minh-Ville.²⁵



Beginning of October 2015

Bogor, Province of West Java, Indonesia

Seizure of 14 eagles (*Accipitridae* spp., Appendix I or II) including 10 nestling and 5 civettes (*Viverridae* family) and arrest of Yusuf Supriadi, trafficker in endangered species. He would buy animals from a middleman and sell them via the Blackberry messenger for between Rp 2 and 5 millions (between 136 and \$ 341 US).²⁶

October 2 and 19, 2015

District Koh Tum, Kandal Province, Cambodia

1 - Seizure of turtles near the Vietnamese border and 2 arrests. The motorcycle packed with turtles in 2 saddlebags rode in the middle of the night towards Vietnam. The 2 bikers were taken to the nearest police station.

2 - This time the motorcycle attempted the crossing in daylight with 100 kg of live pythons and turtles covered with dead rats to hide. The motorcyclist escaped through a wheat field.²⁷



October 7, 2015

Battambang, Province of Battambang, Cambodia

Seizure and incineration of 3 bear paws (8 kg) (*Ursidae* spp., Appendix I), 15 kg of muntjac (genus *Muntiacus*, 2 species listed in Appendix I including one found in Cambodia) and 7 kg of civet meat (*Viverridae* family) at the home of a 37-year-old man. Officially he sold mobile phones on his front porch and underground he sold meat and other parts of wild animals protected by national law and CITES.²⁸

October 20, 2015

Ho-Chi-Minh-City, Vietnam

A flash joint operation led by ENV and the Hanoi police enabled the seizure of 11 lorises (*Nycticebus* spp., Appendix I) and a banded krait (*Bungarus fasciatus*) and their transport to the Cat Tien National Park. The monkeys and the snake were for sale on the Internet.²⁹

October 20, 2015

Belaga, Province of Sarawak, Borneo Island, Malaysia

A restaurant owner voluntarily turned over 2 pig-tailed macaques (*Macaca nemestrina*, Appendix II), 2 oriental magpie-robins (*Copsychus saularis*), and 2 soft shell turtles to the SWAT (Swift Wildlife Action Team).³⁰

October 21, 2015

Surabaya, Province East Java, Indonesia

Seizure of 79 kg of meat and 350 kg of marine turtle shells, 90 dried sea horses (*Hippocampus* spp., Appendix II) and 85 kg of sambar antlers (*Cervus unicolor*) from approximately 34 deer. The lot is estimated worth Rp 3 billion (\$ 217,079 US). Arrest of a 61-year-old man.³¹

End October 2015

Province of Prey Veng, Cambodia

Seizure of 171 animals including monocled cobras (*Naja kaouthia*, Appendix II), banded kraits (*Bungarus fasciatus*) and lesser whistling duck (*Dendrocygna javanica*) on a motorcycle. The motorcyclist was touring all the local poachers. The motorcycle was confiscated and kept as evidence and all the animals were released into the wild the next day.³²



October 30, 2015

National Capital Territory of Delhi, India

Arrest of a 42-year-old man living in Nepal and suspected of pangolin scale and tiger skin trafficking. He had been under surveillance for several months and would be part of an international network.³³

November 3, 2015

Quezon City, Region of Metropolitan Manila, The Philippines

Seizure of 6 eye-ring love birds (*Agapornis* spp., Appendix II), 2 brahminy kites (*Haliastur Indus*, Appendix II), one Philippine scops-owl (*Otus megalotis*, Appendix II), 2 long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*, Appendix II), 3 cockatiels (*Nymphicus hollandicus*), 2 jungle crow (*Corvus macrorhynchos*), a passerine and a turtle dove. A elderly couple had built up their own mini-zoo. Free entry. It was for educational purposes. Despite their sweet talk, they still fall under Wildlife Resources Conservation and protection Act of 2001.³⁴

November 4, 2015

Sauraguda, Jeypore, State of Odisha, India

Seizure in an ashram of a grey langur (*Semnopithecus entellus*, Appendix I), 2 turtles, 2 porcupines, sambar antlers (*Cervus unicolor*) and barking deer antlers (genus *Muntiacus*), alcohol and cash. The owner of the premises admitted that the live animals were captive there only temporarily, awaiting to be slaughtered as a sacrifice to the gods.³⁵



Beginning to Mid-November 2015

Special Capital Region of Jakarta, Indonesia

Seizure of a sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*, Appendix I), a clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*, Appendix I), 2 gibbons (*Hylobatidae* spp., Appendix I), 4 birds belonging to protected species, 2 cars, 13 cell phones and about \$ 4000 US. 6 arrests including an agent from the Jakarta International airport quarantine service, 2 traders in wildlife and a Libyan buyer. Cooperation between the national NGO Scorpion and police enabled to dismantle the network which exported live animals to the Gulf countries. Attractive deals were proposed on Internet. Two orangutans had been delivered to Kuwait.³⁶

November 21, 2015

Tiger Reserve Navegaon-Nagzira, Maharashtra State, India

It took outside rangers to go to the end of the investigation. Local guards have too many links with residents poachers. The alarm was given after the discovery of electrical wire on the path of a tigress. Hidden by the night and thickets, the guards posted near 3 traps could catch red-handed a villager age 47 as he came to inspect the traps. Two Nilgai antelopes (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*, Appendix III in Pakistan) were electrocuted. The general feeling is that poachers do whatever they want in the area. Villages benefits of tourism in the reserve and of poaching.

The Navegaon-Nagzira tiger Reserve is part of a mosaic of parks and sanctuaries in the districts of Bhandara and Gondia covering 655 km². In all these would house a dozen tigers and have the capacity to accommodate about fifty.³⁷



Boselaphus tragocamelus

November 30, 2015

A1 highway, Province of Quang Tri, Vietnam

Seizure of a car rented by a woman running a restaurant of 40 animals, pangolins (*Manis* spp., Appendix II), turtles, weasels (genus *Mustela*) and porcupines. The little group was set free, the woman also after questioning.³⁸

November 30, 2015

Hingna, State of Maharashtra, India



Sentencing of 7 persons to 3 years in prison and fines between 15,000 and 30,000 rupees (225 to \$ 450 US) each for having put for sale in 2005 on a market place monitor lizards listed under CITES and birds protected by the national Wildlife Protection Act 1972).³⁹

December 2, 2015

Quang Tri Province, Vietnam

Seizure of 3 pangolins (*Manis* spp., Appendix II) 11 turtles and 6 civets (*Viverridae* family) on a vehicle checked on National Road 1. The driver was not able to explain the origin of the animals.⁴⁰

REPEATED OFFENSE

December 3, 2015

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Seizure of 9 oriental small-clawed otter (*Aonyx cinerea*, Appendix II), 2 tegus (*Tupinambis* spp., Appendix II), 3 African savanna monitor (*Varanus exanthematicus*, Appendix II), a crocodile (*Crocodylidae* spp., Appendix I or II) and a dead red-shanked douc langur (*Pygathrix nemaeus*, Appendix I) bought in Thailand and Cambodia and put for sale on the Internet and in his pet shop.



Phan Huynh Anh Khoa, 22 years old, has been arrested after a 2-year investigation. He also sold pangolins and tiger cubs.⁴¹

Beginning of December 2015
Cochin, State of Kerala, India

Conviction of 2 Japanese citizens sentenced to one year in prison and Rs 45.000 (\$ 674 US) in fine each. The “hikers” had been arrested in June 2015 at the Cochin International airport in possession of snakes, spiders, chameleons, turtles and worms (see “On the Trail” n° 9 p 101).⁴²



December 7 and 8, 2015

Wakaf Tapai, State of Terengganu, Malaysia

One day apart, one man and one woman 60 years old got nabbed at the town pig slaughterhouse. They were in possession of 40 turtles for one, 20 frogs for the other, “katak demam” as said in the country, clearly destined for restaurants.⁴³

December 8, 2015

Guangxi Autonomous Region, China

Seizure of pangolins (*Manis* spp., Appendix II), grey falcons (*Falco hypoleucos*, Appendix II) and barn owls (*Tyto alba*, Appendix II) alive or dead.⁴⁴



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December 11, 2015

Special territory of the Jakarta Capital, Indonesia

Seizure of 4 skins, 7 paws, 2 tails, 1 kg of bones and wallets made of tiger skin and a stuffed hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*, Appendix I), a marine turtle shell, a stuffed crocodile head, 7 crocodile skins (*Crocodylidae* spp., Appendix I or II), a helmeted hornbill skull (*Rhinoplax vigil*, Appendix I), 2 bear teeth (*Ursidae* spp., Appendix I or II) and one supposed rhino horn. Arrest of 2 traffickers. The craftsman claims he has used 12 full hides in one year. Tiger heads and peafowl feathers are major ornaments in Reog Ponorogo, a ritual dance from East Java.⁴⁵



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December 18, 2015

Province of Ba Ria – Vung Tau, Vietnam

Seizure of 3 leopard cats (*Prionailurus bengalensis*, Appendix II), 3 civets (family Viverridae, 5 species in Vietnam listed in Appendix II or III), 10 red junglefowl (*Gallus gallus*), a dozen squirrels (family Sciuridae), 10 kg and more of snakes and a panel of forest birds at the home of an experienced trafficker who had not to now be caught in the net.⁴⁶

December 22, 2015

Phra Yuen, Province of Khon Kaen, Thailand

Seizure from a home of several marmosets (*Cebidae* spp., Appendix I or II), African spurred tortoises (*Geochelone sulcata*, Appendix I), and 7 Burmese starred tortoises (*Geochelone platynota*, Appendix I) sold over the Internet for between 30,000 and 50,000 baht (833 and \$ 1388 US). It has been established thanks to their micro-chip that 3 of them had been stolen during the month of October from a reserve in Burma. Two suspects have been arrested. One of them was keeping an orangutan. The 3 Burmese starred tortoises are going to return to their home country.⁴⁷



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December 22, 2015

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Seizure in a home of 2 otters (*Lutrinae* spp., Appendix I or II) and 4 leopard cats (*Prionailurus bengalensis*, Appendix II) thanks to Education for Nature-Vietnam (ENV).⁴⁸

End December 2015

Zonguldak port, Black Sea Region, Turkey

Seizure of mammoth or elephant tusk sections, sperm whale teeth (*Physeteridae* spp., Appendix I or II) and walrus tusks (*Odobenus rosmarus*, Appendix III in Canada) from a truck unloaded from a Roll-on Roll-off ship coming from Ukraine. Arrest of 2 Ukrainian citizens.⁴⁹



FAMILY AFFAIRS

End December 2015

Amravati, State of Maharashtra, India

Acquittal because of a procedural defect of 3 poachers who had targeted sloth bears (*Melursus ursinus*, Appendix I), tigers and leopards.⁵⁰

End of December 2015

Hanoi, Vietnam

Two wildlife traffickers on Internet arrested in July and sentenced to 18 and 27 months jail.⁵¹



29 and 30 December 2015

Papum Pare District, State of Arunachal Pradesh, India

Seizure thanks to 2 surprise road blocks at the edge of the Midpu forest of giant flying squirrels, porcupines (family Hystricidae), a civets (family Viverridae), 84 birds, deer meat and monkey meat (*Primates* spp., Appendix I or II). It appears the game was ordered by members of the privileged classes to the poachers in search of a little money.⁵²

EUROPE

Beginning of November 2015

Altai Krai, Siberian Federal District, Russia

Seizure inside a car of a snow leopard skull and skin (*Uncia uncia*, Appendix I) and 20 brown bear paws (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II). One arrest. See also the map "The Chinese Attraction" p.9.⁵³



December 2015

Italy - Germany

Terraristika fair takes place 3 times a year in Hamm, north west of Germany. It is a crossroads. In Europe, it is the largest reptiles, amphibians and insects market. It attracts traders from around the world and arouses everywhere in Europe clandestine motions of protected reptiles, insects and amphibians. The last edition was held on December 12. It was an opportunity for specialized services in Germany and Italy to conduct a number of seizures and arrests.

December 1 to 11. Hamm, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. Seizure in a hotel of chameleons, geckos, toads, frogs, salamanders and turtles imported through a company based in Ukraine with a total value estimated at € 30,000.

December 2-13 and 15. Pomigliano d'Arco and Naples, Campania Region, Italy. Seizure in 2 vehicles of more than one hundred reptiles and amphibians, some bound for and others returning from Germany. These include a Savannah Monitor (*Varanus exanthematicus*, Appendix II), 11 ball pythons (*Python regius*, Appendix II), 40 South American venomous frogs and 3 rattlesnakes.

On October 11, a German collector was arrested at Jakarta airport with 8 earless lizards that he was attempting to smuggle (see this issue p. 17).⁵⁴



**December 7, 2015
Burnley, County of Lancashire,
England, United Kingdom**



This quarter's playboy. Does your swimming instructor have a second life? This one did. He was a wildlife trafficker and sold stuffed snowy owls (*Nyctea scandiaca*, Appendix II) and giraffes, sperm whale teeth (*Physeter macrocephalus*, Appendix I), turtle shells, feline skulls and dolphin skulls. He got 24 weeks jail time.⁵⁵

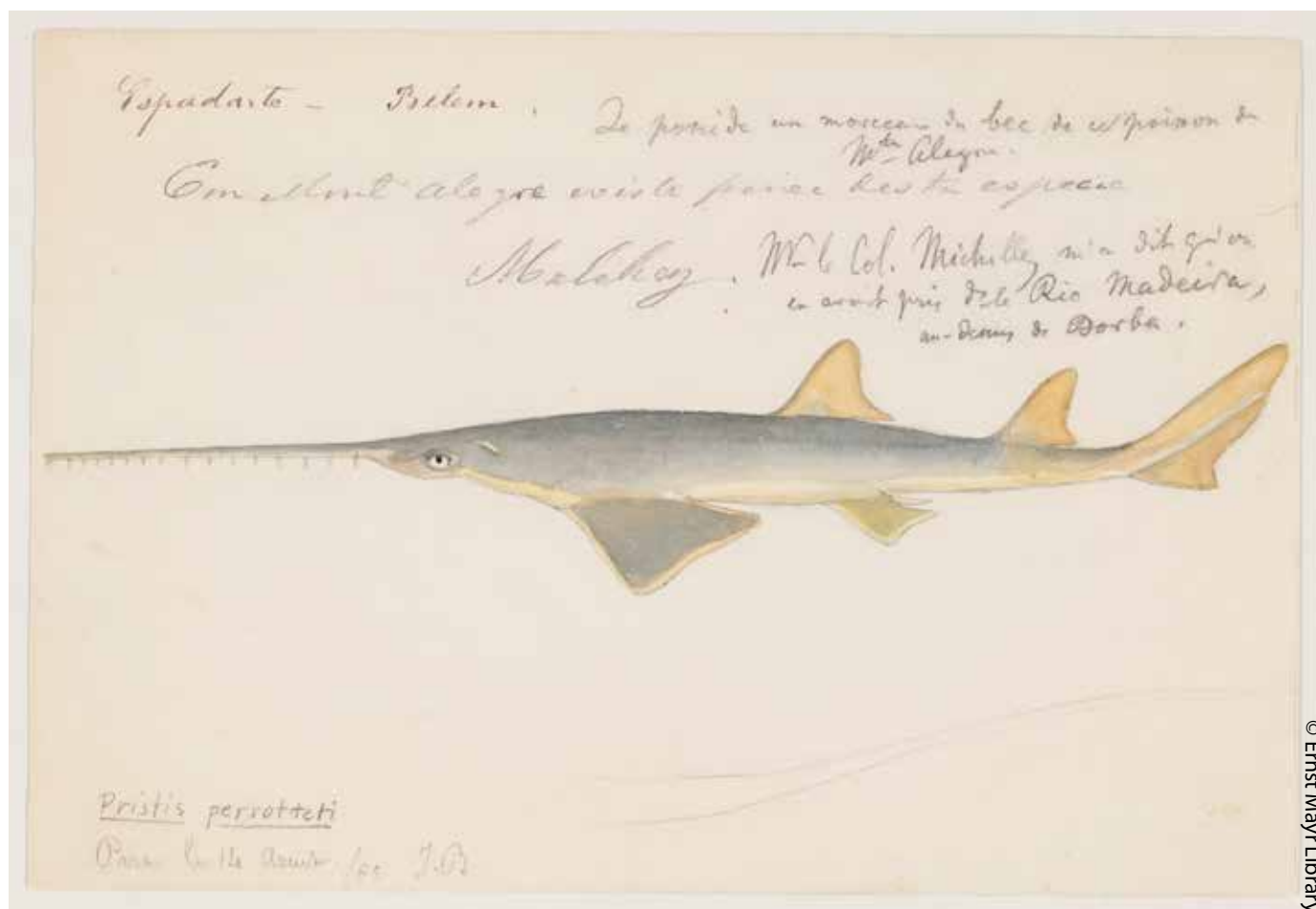


**December 16, 2015
Haringey, Greater London, England**

House search and seizure of a stuffed lion head (*Panthera leo*, Appendix II), a monkey skin (*Primates* spp., Appendix I or II), a sawfish rostrum (*Pristidae* spp., Appendix I), 3 turtle shells, 3 fragments of coral and 4 clams (*Tridacna* spp., Appendix II) sold on the Internet.⁵⁶



© Haringey Police



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Deadly Wave in Brazil

In November 2015, Brazil and the entire world suffered an unprecedented ecological disaster, which spreads all the way to the Atlantic Ocean. Dams containing 60 millions m³ of toxic mud, burst and the submersion waves washed over 700 km of the Gualuxo do Norte, Carmo, and Doce rivers. 19 people died and disappeared.

Rare and protected fishes, locally known as "surubim" (*Steindachneridion doceanum*) and "andira" (*Henochilus wheatlandii*), were bogged down and suffocated. More than 1500 hectares of primary forests were flooded. Mid way to the ocean, the toxic mud damaged the Rio Doce National Park. The Park was founded in 1944 and it is Brazil's oldest national Park with rare tree species such as the Bahia rosewood (*Dalbergia nigra*, Appendix I). The Park has been on the Ramsar Convention's precious inventory of wetlands since 2010. The Rio Doce's waters are the cornerstones of the Park's biodiversity. They provide a habitat for the broad-snouted caimans (*Caiman latirostris*, Appendix I). Animals such as jaguars (*Panthera onca*, Appendix I) and other felines come to drink from the river and back-waters. Capybaras feed on the weeds and the algae on the side and the bottom of the river, and jaguars feed on the capybaras, batrachians, caimans and fish. The Park is one of the last refuges for the solitary tinamou nesting close to the river, and for the masked titi (*Callicebus personatus*, Appendix II) that feed on aquatic insects. The situation is particularly critical for the northern muriqui (*Brachyteles hypoxanthus*, Appendix I), who are completely dependent on the National Park. All the food chains will be contaminated with the metallic pollutants and the mercury that is transported and deposited by the toxic mud.

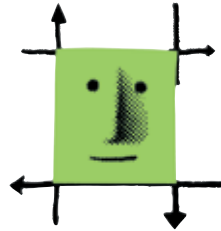
On the 22nd of November, 17 days after the break of the dams, the residual mudslide wave reached the mouth of Rio Doce and the edge of the Atlantic Ocean. The small population of La Plata dolphins (*Pontoporia blainvillei*, Appendix II) that live in-between the saltwater and freshwater are now facing a turbid and unhealthy environment and are confronted with a shortage of food resources. Nevertheless, the immediate effects on the cetaceans' habitat degradation have not yet been evaluated. The disaster could not have occurred at a worst time for the sea turtles, as they are just beginning their reproductive cycles. The leatherback sea turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*, Appendix I) and the loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*, Appendix I) come to the beach to lay their eggs, where they will risk getting stuck in the water mingled with the toxic mud. In this regard, the newborn sea turtles that instinctively swim towards the sea right after hatching are even more vulnerable. Consequently, rescue workers have been urgently patrolling the threatened beaches in order to collect the eggs and place them in beaches where they could be spared.

At the end of November, the mud forms a 6 to 9km large semi circle in the estuary of Rio Doce, and begins to move north towards the Abrolhos marine sanctuary and its coral reefs.

The full extent of the effects of the catastrophe will only be known in a few years from now.

Brazil demands 20 billions Brazilian reais (4.45 billions euros) from the mining company Samarco, a branch of the Brazilian company Vale and the Anglo-Australian BHP Billiton. Samarco's managers and their technical advisors are sued based on the charge of "qualified homicide". The dams may have been under-sized.





ROBIN DES BOIS

ON the TRAIL #11

Sources

Sources are available on request by email to contact@robinderbois.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°11 (December 16, 2015, Haringey, Greater London, England, a stuffed lion head, a monkey skin, a sawfish rostrum, 3 turtle shells, 3 fragments of coral and 4 clams): "On the Trail" n°11, chapter Multi-Species, reference 56.

Institutions

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), CITES, Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas (CONAP), Corporación Autónoma Regional para la defensa de la meseta de Bucaramanga, Department of conservation.nz, Department of Environmental Affairs d'Afrique 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'Ecologie, du Développement Durable et de l'Energie (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, Procuraduría 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 Organizations

African Conservation Foundation, Bhejane Trust, 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, Matusadona Anti Poaching Project, National Wildlife Crime Unit UK, Neotropical Primate Conservation, Olarro Conservancy, Ronald Orenstein, Outraged SA Citizens Against Poaching, 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, 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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