

# ON<sub>the</sub> TRAIL

The defaunation bulletin  
n°36. Events from the 1<sup>st</sup> April to the 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2022



Quarterly information and analysis report on endangered  
animals poaching and smuggling  
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# ON<sub>the</sub> TRAIL

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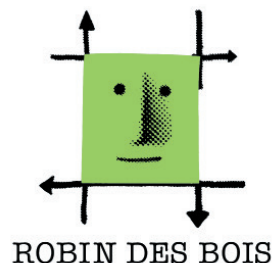
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# NOTE AND ADVICE TO READERS

"On the Trail", the defaunation magazine, aims to get out of the drip of daily news and to draw up every three months an organized and analyzed survey of poaching, smuggling and worldwide market of animal species protected by national laws and international conventions. "On the Trail" also relates ongoing trials and the evolution of regulations and sanctions.

- A single event may refer to several species (e.g. simultaneous seizure of ivory, bear bile and snake skins); it is then analysed in the "Multi-species" chapter, with the exception of events that bring together the following species and which have their own chapter:

- Pangolins + elephants / felines
- Elephants + felines
- Elephants + rhinos / hippos / sperm whales / walruses
- Marine and freshwater multispecies (simultaneous seizure of several aquatic species)
- Multi-species reptiles (simultaneous seizure of several reptile species)

- Geographic regions at the continental scale are based on the UN classification.

- The US\$ conversion rates used are those applicable during the month of the event.

- The main sources are indicated at the end of each event. Each event reported and/or analysed is from a recension of one or more articles or press releases. This critical review eliminates inconsistencies in date, price and quantity if necessary, and if possible mistakes or looseness about the description of the species. The original source(s) are enriched by cross-checking and additional information from previous issues of "On the Trail", by Robin des Bois' investigations and archives, and by international bibliography and iconography. Details of the sources are available on request by email to [contact@robinderbois.org](mailto:contact@robinderbois.org) indicating the "On the Trail" issue number, chapter and reference of the event.

Robin des Bois thanks the Species Survival Network, the NGO Save the Elephants and the Eagle Network for their alerts which enrich the daily monitoring carried out by the "On the Trail" team.

- When a species is CITES-listed at the time of the event, the Appendix is specified after its scientific name.

## CITES APPENDICES

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (182 Member States).

**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.

## PICTOS



**Human death.** Guard, ranger, policeman, poacher... by firearm or other means.



**Judgment and sanction.** Condemnation, acquittal, fine...



**Trapping.** Poaching by jaw trap, snare, net ...



**Poisoning.** By chemicals, pesticides and medicines: cyanide, carbofuran, diclofenac, M99 ...



**Full moon.** Moonlight poaching

## ACRONYMS

**EAGLE** : Eco Activists for Governance and Law Enforcement

**ENV** : Education for Nature – Vietnam

**IBAMA** : Instituto brasileiro do meio ambiente e dos recursos naturais renováveis

**IEW** : Iran Environment and Wildlife Watch

**KWS** : Kenya Wildlife Service

**LAGA** : The Last Great Ape Organization

**OIC** : Orangutan Information Centre

**PROFEPA** : Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente

**SAPS** : South African Police Service

**SPCA** : Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

**SSB** : Sashastra Seema Bal

**SVW** : Save Vietnam Wildlife

**SWT** : Sheldrick Wildlife Trust

**USFWS** : United States Fish and Wildlife Service

**WCCB** : Wildlife Crime Control Bureau

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## AFRICA

### SOUTH AFRICA

**May 11, 2022**

#### **Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Reserve, KwaZulu-Natal Province**

Death of a suspected poacher during an exchange of fire with an anti-poaching patrol.

Save the Beasts, May 12, 2022.<sup>1</sup>



### CAMEROON

**June 22, 2022**

#### **Bouba Ndjidda National Park, North Region, Cameroon. Border with Chad.**

In 2015, 2018 and 2022, the park experienced one tragedy after another (see "On the Trail" n°8 p.78 and n°20 p.96). On June 24, the eco-guard Saoulhoul Blaise was killed while the regular armed forces were trying to repel poachers and gold seekers out of the park.

Cameroon News Agency, June 24, 2022; Big News Network, June 25, 2022.<sup>2</sup>



### MALAWI

**April 27, 2022**

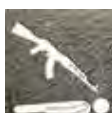
#### **Kaliati, Southern Region, Malawi**

Violent death of Given Gondwe near Liwonde National Park. He and his team

had just participated in the seizure of a rhino horn and the arrest of a poacher named Phiri. Tensions rose and witnesses sided with Phiri and tried to free him. Despite the riot, the rangers fled with Phiri and the horn. They soon realized that Given Gondwe was missing. When they rushed back

to the scene, they found him unconscious and badly beaten. Upon arrival at the hospital, Given was dead. 22 people are being questioned by the police to find out who committed the crime.

African Parks, April 29, 2022; Face of Malawi, April 29 and May 7, 2022; Peter Milton, May 4, 2022.<sup>3</sup>



© Liwonde National Park

## NAMIBIA

**June 19 and 21, 2022**

#### **Kombat and Otavi, Otjozondjupa Region, Namibia**

Death of a man suspected of poaching. Together with 3 armed accomplices, he had broken into the Salzbrunnen Farm estate. An exchange of fire took place between 2 guards and the intruders. The body of Simon Seveleni, aged 37, was identified by his family. The 3 fugitives were arrested on Tuesday night in Otavi. Wilhelm Goaxab, a farm worker, was charged with murder and released on bail of 3,000 NA\$ or 193 US\$.

Namibia News Digest, June 20 and 22, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

## UGANDA

**May 14, 2022**

#### **Uganda**

Samuel John Mwandha, the Executive Director of the UWA (Uganda Wildlife Authority), was heard by the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights. UWA manages 10 national parks, 12 wildlife reserves, 5 community wildlife management areas and 13 sanctuaries. In 10 years, 21 complaints of human rights violations have been filed, 18 following events in or around Mount Elgon National Park and 3 following events in Murchison Falls National Park. Most of the conflicts between UWA officers and civilians result from land appropriation disputes, rebellions, acts of violence against officers including attempts to steal their weapons.

The UWA also states that medical and hospital care is provided to all, regardless of responsibility, after clashes between civilians and rangers. The UWA adds that in some cases, injured persons prefer to stay away from medical assistance to avoid being held accountable for their actions by investigators. The UWA denies all reports of clandestine detention centres.

The final report criticises the UWA for not deploying enough rangers in the field, which exposes them to repeated and sometimes fatal assaults, and for being unable to provide clear evidence of the cadastral boundaries of the parks, which favours creeping colonisation and leads to scenes of violence. In 10 years, at least 17 rangers and 9 alleged poachers have died during UWA operations.

The Independent (Uganda), May 14, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

## ZAMBIA

**April 16, 2022**

### **Pemba, Southern Province, Zambia**

Two people died and 3 were injured. Two elephants considered to be "problems" were killed. They were shot on a Saturday and immediately the villagers swarmed with knives and crowbars to cut up the meat, "a gift from heaven," and the tusks. It is easier to share hundreds of kg of meat than a few kg of ivory. The hunt turned into a riot. A DNPW (Department of National Parks and Wildlife) guard fired, killing 2 and injuring 3. Following the investigation, he could be charged with manslaughter.

Zambia Daily Mail, April 18 and 20, 2022.<sup>6</sup>



Rajkumar Jatav



Neeraj Bhargava



Santram Meena

## ZIMBABWE

**End of May 2022**

### **Chirundu, Mashonaland West Province**

Two suspected poachers died in a clash with rangers. "Fresh" ivory was reportedly recovered at the scene along with a firearm.

TimesLIVE, May 31, 2022.<sup>7</sup>



## ASIA

### INDIA

#### **FAMILY AFFAIRS**

**Night of May 13 to 14, 17, 20, and 24, 2022**

#### **Aron Forest and Bidhoria, Guna District, State of Madhya Pradesh, India**

200 km from Berasia (ex-Bhopal) timber and poaching mafias reign, and for the first time in Madhya Pradesh a poaching of blackbucks (*Antelope cervicapra*, Appendix III in Nepal and Pakistan) and Indian peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*, Appendix III in Pakistan) resulted in the death of 3 policemen and a poacher at the time of the event and 2 more suspected poachers later on. The global results of the operation that started on the night of Friday May 13<sup>th</sup> to Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup> around 2 a.m. are as follows as of Tuesday May 24, 2022:

- 7 blackbucks decapitated and a dead Indian peafowl.
- 3 law enforcement officials killed: Rajkumar Jatav, 27, Neeraj Bhargava, 38, and Santram Meena, 27.



- Naushad Khan, poacher, killed. His body was found in his village of Bidhoria. But the initial findings of the investigation suggest that he was shot at the scene of the tragedy and brought back to his family by his stooges.

- Shahzad Khan, sand merchant, brother of Naushad Khan, killed. He died in another shooting incident on a hill near Raghogarh while trying to escape from Bidhoria with Jiyah Khan, 28, and a man named Sonu who were wounded along with a policeman, Dharendra Gurjar.

- Chhotu Pathan, 30, killed on Tuesday, May 17, by a patrol near Ruthiyai in Guna district. He was one of the suspected poachers. Pathan reportedly opened fire with his homemade pistol. He was killed by retaliatory fire. A police officer, Vinod Dhakad, was injured by stray bullets during the battle.

- According to police, Jiyah Khan, Shafaq Khan, 27, Nisar Khan, 70, and his son Shahraj Khan, 52, were arrested. According to police, the poachers were trying to kill blackbucks for a wedding ceremony and feast.

- On Friday, May 20, Irshad Khan was arrested near Bajranggarh.

- On Tuesday, May 24, Nawab Khan and Alauddin Khan surrendered to the Guna court. They also live in Bidhoria.

- Two alleged poachers, Gullu Khan, 25, and Dilshad Khan alias Vicky, 25, are still on the run. They are reportedly seeking to hide in the State of Rajasthan. At least 2 houses of the Khan clan in the village of Bidhoria were bulldozed. They had been built near the Aron forest without permission.

Hindustan Times, May 14, 2022; The New Indian Express, May 14, 2022; The Quint, May 16, 2022; The Times of India, May 18 and 24, 2022.<sup>8</sup>

## REPEATED OFFENCE

May 19, 2022

**Muttikulangara, Palakkad District, State of Kerala, India**

Two policemen died of electrocution. At night, they had gone out of their quarters to fish in a pond near a rice field where a plantain banana farmer had set up electric traps. Suresh was arrested. Around 1.30 a.m., a ringing in his house awoke him and warned him that his power lines stretched across the ground had caught and killed what he thought to be a wild boar or another edible beast. He came across the bodies of Havildars Ashok Kumar, 35, and Mohandas, 36. In an attempt to dispel police suspicions, he carried them on his back and on a wheelbarrow a few hundred metres from his home and removed the clandestine electrical grid.



Ashok Kumar



Mohandas

Suresh is charged with manslaughter and concealment of evidence. He is a regular poacher. He is used to kill wild animals and trade or exchange them with members of his community.

In Palakkad, Wayanad and Idukki districts, 4 people have been electrocuted by wild boar traps in the year 2021 alone, and in the same year, at least 6 elephants, one gaur (*Bos gaurus*, Appendix I), 4 bonnet macaques (*Macaca radiata*, Appendix II), one Indian giant squirrel (*Ratufa indica*, Appendix II), a Nilgiri langur (*Trachypithecus johnii*, Appendix II), an Asian palm civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*, Appendix III), 8 golden jackals (*Canis aureus*, Appendix III), 41 Indian peafowls (*Pavo cristatus*, Appendix III in Pakistan) and a muntjac (genus *Muntiacus*) were electrocuted.

Mathrubhumi, May 20, 2022; The Indian Express, May 20 and 23, 2022; The New Indian Express, May 20, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

**Night of May 28-29, 2022**

**Kanai, Bilaspur District, State of Chhattisgarh, India**

Electrocution of a poacher. With 3 others, he had diverted a public power line and stretched an electric wire near a pond where deer come to drink at night. When a spotted deer (*Axis axis*) was trapped, Roop Singh Gond rushed in and was electrocuted while grabbing the body of his victim. The 3 survivors fled. The scene was discovered in the morning by a villager who was passing by. The Times of India, May 31, 2022.<sup>10</sup>



## IRAN

May 2022

**Zanjan Province, Iran**

Mehdi Majall and Mikael Hashemi, 2 forest rangers, were killed by poachers in the protected area of Fileh Khasseh. They were engaged in illegal fishing activities (see "On the Trail" n°32 p. 8). Arrested in May 2021 and sentenced to death in June, the man who was found guilty by the Iranian justice was executed by hanging in May 2022.

Elnashra.com (with Iranian Students' News Agency), May 23, 2022.<sup>11</sup>



May 27, 2022

**Darre Bagh Protected Area, Fars Province, Iran**

Around 8:30 p.m., Mohammad Farahmand, a forest ranger, and Reza Bahrampour, his assistant, were killed. Alerted by the municipality of Bavanat at the end of the afternoon, they were about to arrest 2 men who had just poached a wild sheep (*Ovis vignei*, Appendix I) after 2 regulatory warning shots. Instead of surrendering, the 2 poachers shot the wildlife protectors at close range. A third man, member of the anti-poaching team, was wounded in the shoulder. The 2 criminals quietly left the crime scene believing that they had finally gotten rid of their 3 pursuers. The miraculous survivor, Ali Asadi, was able to give the investigators some information on the profile of the fugitives before being taken to the hospital.



Reza Bahrampour



Mohammad Farahmand

The families of the 2 "martyrs" in Bavanat and Khorrambid were comforted by Ali Selajgeh, Vice President and Executive Director of the Environment Department. He expressed his hope that the murderers of the wildlife protectors will be arrested as soon as possible and met with the head of the provincial Special Intelligence Service, the prosecutor and the Governor of Bavanat prefecture in this regard.

Khabaronline, May 28, 2022; Fararu, May 29, 2022.<sup>12</sup>



# PANGOLINS

All 8 species of pangolins are listed under CITES Appendix I: the 4 African species (the giant pangolin *Manis gigantea*, the Temminck's ground pangolin *M. temminckii*, the long-tailed -black-bellied- pangolin *M. tetradactyla* and the white-bellied pangolin *M. tricuspis*) and the 4 Asian species (the Indian pangolin *Manis crassicaudata*, the Philippine pangolin *M. culionensis*, the Sunda pangolin *M. javanica* and the Chinese pangolin *M. pentadactyla*).



The pangolin seems to be interested in the foot of the putto  
Drawing Jacques de Sève, Histoire naturelle générale et particulière  
(Natural History, General and Particular), by M. de Buffon. 1763.  
gallica.bnf.fr Bibliothèque Nationale de France (National Library of France)



## WESTERN AFRICA

### CÔTE D'IVOIRE

**April 13 and 22, 2022**

#### **Côte d'Ivoire**

Diakité Cheick Hamed Ali was arrested on April 7 in possession of 328 kg of pangolin scales. The sponsor of the crime network was sentenced to only one month in prison, a paltry sentence. Several hundred pangolins were killed. EAGLE, April 13, 2022; EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire, April 2022.<sup>1</sup>



#### **FAMILY AFFAIRS**

**June 30 and July 12, 2022**

**Guiglo, Mountain District, Côte d'Ivoire**



- Seizure of 153 kg of scales divided into 2 bags. The younger brother was going to deliver them to his elder brother at the market. Both of them got their supplies in Liberia.

- The siblings were sentenced to 15 days in prison! They remained in custody for 12 days.

EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire, June and July 2022.<sup>2</sup>

### GHANA

**Beginning of April 2022**

#### **Kibi, Eastern Region, Ghana**

Handing over of a white-bellied pangolin purchased as a pet. After seeing an awareness poster from the NGO A Rocha Ghana at the Osino police station, he immediately contacted the NGO to arrange the release of the pangolin.

A Rocha Ghana, April 4, 2022.<sup>3</sup>



**May 16, 2022**

#### **Ghana**

Too late for him. The volunteers in charge of their protection came across a dead pangolin on the road, being sold by a young poacher.

Alliance for Pangolin Conservation - Ghana, May 16, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

### LIBERIA

**April 2022**

#### **Liberia**

After a successful rehabilitation to the wild by the NGO Libassa Wildlife Sanctuary, 2 white-bellied pangolins have returned to the forest at a confidential location. One was rescued from a poacher in Boni County and the other was confiscated from children who were abusing him in Voinjama, Lofa County.

Tikki Hywood Foundation, April 12, 2022.<sup>5</sup>



### NIGERIA

**January-April 2022**

#### **Nigeria**

From January to April 2022, the Pangolin Conservation Guild Nigeria (PCGN) rescued 5 long-tailed pangolins from trafficking. On World Pangolin Day on February 19, a PCGN team toured the fresh markets of Olola and Oluwo and stopped at the Ikorodu garage where Professor Morenikeji read tributes to pangolins in the Yoruba language to a packed and interested crowd. Morenikeji is the driving force behind the One Health Development Initiative in Nigeria. The One Health concept promotes a comprehensive approach to public health, taking into account interactions with animals and the environment.

Pangolin Conservation Guild Nigeria, April 2022.<sup>6</sup>

**May 12, 2022**  
**Lagos State, Nigeria**



Seizure of 397.5 kg of pangolin scales. Arrest of Babangida Mahmoud and Olamilekan Adenekan, Nigerian nationals, Mory Berrette, a Guinean national, Fofou Dadjo Evariste, a Cameroonian national, and 3 Vietnamese, Phan Viet Chi, Phan Hong Quan and Duong Van Thang. The latter 3 are also believed to be linked to the large seizure of pangolin scales and ivory on July 28, 2021 in Lekki, Lagos State (see "On the Trail" n°33 p.21). SEEJ-AFRICA (Saving Elephants through Education and Justice), July 20, 2022; News Front Online, July 21, 2022; Nigeria Customs Service, August 3, 2022; Wildlife Justice Commission, August 4, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

**June 27, 2022**  
**Nigeria**

Release of a 1.3 kg pangolin rescued from trafficking at an unspecified location. Pangolin Conservation Guild Nigeria, July 3, 2022.<sup>8</sup>

## CENTRAL AFRICA

### CAMEROON

**April 19, 2022**  
**Akonolinga, Centre Region, Cameroon**

Five traffickers arrested with 90 kg of pangolin scales. The network consisted of poachers from surrounding villages, collectors, middlemen, and a driver. EAGLE, April 20, 2022; LAGA, April 2022.<sup>9</sup>

**April 23, 2022**  
**Yaoundé, Central Region, Cameroon**

The equivalent of 1,500 pangolins killed. Three traffickers were arrested with 386 kg of scales hidden in a shipment of corn. The Malian and 2 Cameroonians were smuggling pangolins and grey parrots across the border with the Central African Republic in the Yoko and Ntui regions, which are known for wildlife trafficking and lax authorities. EAGLE, April 23, 2022; LAGA, April 30, 2022.<sup>10</sup>



**Beginning of June 2022**  
**Cameroon**

Release of 3 white-bellied pangolins into the dense forest after months of care and relearning to live in the wild.

Tikki Hywood Foundation, June 15, 2022.<sup>11</sup>

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

**May 30, 2022**

**Vurra Border Post, Ituri Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo. Border with Uganda.**

Seizure of 4 tonnes of pangolin scales in a van by ICCN (Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature) and the police. Two arrests. Adams Cassinga, May 30, 2022.<sup>12</sup>

## EASTERN AFRICA

### KENYA

**June 14, 2022**

**Amboseli National Park, Kajiado County, Kenya**

Arrest of 2 suspects in possession of an unspecified quantity of pangolin scales.

Big Life Foundation, June 2022.<sup>13</sup>

**June 25, 2022**

**Amboseli National Park, Kajiado County, Kenya**

Arrest of 2 suspects in possession of a live pangolin. Big Life Foundation, June 2022.<sup>14</sup>

**June 27, 2022**

**Malomany, Kwale County, Kenya**



Karisa Chome Chengo and Bakari Jawa Mweru were holding a live pangolin who was released back into the Mackinnon Reserve.

The Star, June 28, 2022.<sup>15</sup>



## MALAWI

**April 2022**

**Lilongwe, Central Region, Malawi**

Amputated left hind leg, probably due to a trap. After an operation to remove the exposed bone and 4 months of care, the female pangolin learned to walk again using her tail as a support to replace her missing limb. She was eventually released into a protected area with a tracking device.

Lilongwe Wildlife Trust, June 1, 2022.<sup>16</sup>



**May 12, 2022**

**Mchinji, Central Region, Malawi**

Two men were selling a pangolin hidden in a backpack. Mavuto Jophris, age 33 from Jophris village, and Mandera Masauso, age 34 from Mzuma village, will appear in court.

Malawi 24, May 13, 2022.<sup>17</sup>

## ZAMBIA

**Beginning of June 2022**

**Lusaka, Lusaka Province, Zambia**

Gift Muyanda, a technician, Mulumbwa Sonkoto, a businessman, Chibale Chibuye Bervin, a businessman, Kashida Abel, a businessman, Nkhata Kebby, an electrician, and Witty Siyamusesha, a medical student, were arrested at a shopping centre. They were in possession of a pangolin.

Daily News Agency, June 9, 2022.<sup>18</sup>

## ZIMBABWE

**Beginning of April 2022**

**Harare, Harare Province, Zimbabwe**

The 2 new protégés of the Tikki Hywood Foundation rehabilitation centre are 2 female pangolins, a mother and daughter, just extracted from a trafficker's bag.

Tikki Hywood Foundation, April 8, 2022.<sup>19</sup>



**April 4, 2022**

**Chipinge, Manicaland Province, Zimbabwe**

A teacher, a nurse, and an unemployed man were arrested in possession of 2 live pangolins hidden in the trunk of a car. They were preparing to sell them. Justice Faya, age 42, Pinias Chauke, age 31, and Lovemore Dheya, age 39, all from Checheche, were taken into custody.

Fauna and Flora Zimbabwe, April 7, 2022.<sup>20</sup>

**April 23 and 24, 2022**

**Harare, Harare Province, Zimbabwe**

Stress had dried up her milk. The mother pangolin, traumatized by her capture and transport, gave birth to her baby prematurely in a poacher's bag. Airlifted, she was able to be released, but the cub had to be raised in captivity and then returned to the wild with a cumbersome geolocation beacon on his back.

Tikki Hywood Foundation, April 26, 27 and 29, 2022.<sup>21</sup>



**May 28, 2022**

**Kadoma, Mashonaland West Province, Zimbabwe**

On the Harare-Bulaway road, a live pangolin in a cage was hidden in the trunk of a Honda Fit. Fanuel Hlambeni, age 38, Lovemore Mlambo, age 59, and Tonderai Chandavengerwa, age 31, were arrested.

Zimbabwe Republic Police, May 30, 2022.<sup>22</sup>

**Beginning of June 2022**

**Harare, Harare Province, Zimbabwe**

Seizure of a female pangolin from 4 traffickers. She had not eaten for over a week. She is recovering in the care of the Tikki Hywood Foundation.

Tikki Hywood Foundation, June 8, 2022.<sup>23</sup>



**June 28 and August 12, 2022**  
**Bulawayo, Bulawayo Province, Zimbabwe**



Amen Ndebele was foiled thanks to a confidential tip. He was carrying a whole of pangolin armor. He was sentenced to 9 years in prison.

Center for Innovation and Technology, June 29 and August 17, 2022.<sup>24</sup>

## SOUTHERN AFRICA

### SOUTH AFRICA

**April 8 and 9, 2022**

**Pretoria, Gauteng Province, South Africa**

A 34-year-old man and a 46-year-old woman were trapped by the police. They were selling a pangolin for 50,000 rand (3,450 US\$). Two accomplices were arrested the next day. The female pangolin, weighing 3.84 kg, was handed over to the care of the Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary Hospital.

African Pangolin Working Group, April 8, 2022; Rekord, April 10, 2022.<sup>25</sup>



**April 22, 2022**

**Mahikeng, North West Province, South Africa**

Four people aged 33 to 59 were arrested while trying to sell a pangolin in a shopping mall for 250,000 rand (17,245 US\$). The animal was seized in the vehicle of the traffickers.

News24, 23 April 2022.<sup>26</sup>

**April 26, 2022**

**Midrand, Gauteng Province, South Africa**

Not there to fill up, they left empty-handed and under arrest. Three men and 2 women, aged 32 to 49, were selling a pangolin at a gas station. Seizure of electronic gadgets and 2 vehicles, a Toyota Avanza and an Audi. All 5 will appear in Alexandra court.

SAPS, April 26, 2022.<sup>27</sup>

**May 1, 2022**

**Johannesburg, Gauteng Province, South Africa**

A pregnant Temminck's ground pangolin was rescued from trafficking. Emaciated and dehydrated, she was sedated. A CT scan revealed internal damage and a small embryo, no bigger than a grape. She has been released so that the pregnancy can proceed without stress and the baby can be born in the wild.

Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary Hospital, May 4, 2022.<sup>28</sup>



Two photos taken 3 days apart show how dehydrated the pangolin was.

**May 10, 2022**

**Mkuze, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa**

A male Temminck's pangolin weighing more than 8 kg was "dropped off at a local zoo". Contacted, the veterinary hospital took him in. He was transferred after care to the Phinda Private Game Reserve.

Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary Hospital, May 10, 2022.<sup>29</sup>

**May 19, 2022**

**Midrand, Gauteng Province, South Africa**

A female pangolin weighing 0.9 kg and valued at 250,000 rand (15,650 US\$) was seized from the trunk of a car. Nine men aged between 23 and 44 who were trying to sell her were arrested. Two vehicles, a white Toyota Quest and a silver Tazz, were seized. The pangolin was handed over to the Department of Environmental Affairs and then taken to a veterinarian.

SAPS, May 20, 2022; Midrand Reporter, May 26, 2022.<sup>30</sup>

**Beginning of June 2022**

**Tzaneen, Limpopo Province, South Africa**

Seizure of a 4.8 kg Temminck's ground pangolin. Covered with wounds, emaciated and dehydrated, he was entrusted to the Umoya Khulula Wildlife Centre.

Umoya Khulula Wildlife Centre, June 26, 2022.<sup>31</sup>

**June 1, 2022**

**White River, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa**

The pangolin was wandering in White River. The relevant services were alerted and they went to the scene. In the meantime, the pangolin had died of hunger and thirst. According to the MTPA (Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency), he had probably escaped the surveillance of one or more traffickers. Nicci Wright, director of the Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary Hospital, points out that pangolins that are victims of trafficking are usually left several days without eating or drinking. Lowvelder, June 15, 2022.<sup>32</sup>

**June 6, 2022**

**Limpopo Province, South Africa**

Seizure of a pangolin. Two arrests. Joint operation by SAPS (South African Police Service), K9 Conservation dog unit, Hoedspruit Farm Watch crime patrol, and NGOs Transfrontier Africa and Umoya Khulula Wildlife Centre. African Pangolin Working Group, June 8, 2022.<sup>33</sup>



**June 23, 2022**

**Gauteng Province, South Africa**

Arrest of 2 traffickers in possession of a juvenile pangolin. He did not survive. Witnesses of the arrest listened attentively to an impromptu presentation about the pangolins by members of the African Pangolin Working Group. African Pangolin Working Group, June 23, 2022.<sup>34</sup>

**June 24, 2022**

**Johannesburg, Gauteng Province, South Africa**

The police officer Hangwelani Emmanuel Makhuvha and an accomplice were using a SAPS car to transport a pangolin for sale. They were arrested by the police. The female pangolin suffered head injuries and was transferred to the Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary Hospital. X-ray revealed that she was pregnant.

News24, June 28, 2022; African Pangolin Working Group, June 29, 2022; Independent Online, June 29, 2022; Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary Hospital, June 29, 2022.<sup>35</sup>

**NAMIBIA**

**June 4, 2022**

**Epako, Omaheke Region, Namibia**

A 31-year-old man is arrested in the middle of an attempt to sell a pangolin armor for the equivalent of 3,230 US\$ in the Kanaan B district. New Era, June 8, 2022.<sup>36</sup>

**EASTERN ASIA**

**TAIWAN**

**Mid-May 2022**

**Hualien County, Taiwan**

Seizure of 450 grams of pangolin scales, heroin, and methamphetamine from a car stopped for traffic violations. Arrest of the driver and passenger who had not fastened their seatbelts. Yahoo Taiwan, May 23, 2022.<sup>37</sup>

**SOUTHEASTERN ASIA**

**INDONESIA**

**May 31, 2022**

**Parupuk Tabing, Padang City, West Sumatra Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia**



In R.R.'s uncuffed hands, the police led by Stefanus Satake seized 12.8 kg of scales. R.R. is an Internet vendor. Satake is looking for the supplier. In the presence of R.R., he reminded in a press conference at the Padang police station that the crime is punishable by 5 years in prison and a fine of up to 100 million rupiah (6,890 US\$). Padangkita.com, June 8, 2022.<sup>38</sup>

**June 9 and beginning of August, 2022  
Sungai Beliang, Pontianak City, West Kalimantan Province, Borneo Island, Indonesia**



Seizure of 15 kg of scales. Arrest of Tisen. He was trying to sell them via the Internet. He was sentenced to 9 months in prison and a fine of 5 million rupiah (335 US\$). Terkini.id, June 30, 2022; Kompas.com, August 12, 2022.<sup>39</sup>

**June 2022**

**Pontianak, West Kalimantan Province, Borneo Island, Indonesia**



Sentence of W.W. to 7 months in prison. He had been arrested in Sungai Raya, regency of Kubu Raya, on February 16, 2022 with 5 bags containing 89 kg of scales. Kumparan, June 29, 2022.<sup>40</sup>

## End of June 2022

### Pontianak, West Kalimantan Province, Borneo Island, Indonesia

Nine months in prison and a fine of 5 million rupiah (343 US\$) and an additional month in prison in case of non-payment for Jumadi Bin Untung who on February 23, 2022 had been caught in the act of transporting 66.8 kg of Sunda pangolin scales in the regency of Sintang. Antara News, June 28, 2022.<sup>41</sup>



## MALAYSIA

### April 2, 2022

#### Kota Kinabalu, State of Sabah, Malaysia

Anonymous call from a poacher offering a pangolin to a restaurant owner. The latter negotiated a reduced price of 200 ringgits (47 US\$) to save the small specimen of about 2 kg. Far from giving him to his customers, nature lover Vincent Heng immediately handed him over to the Sabah Wildlife Rescue Unit.

New Straits Times, April 4, 2022.<sup>42</sup>

### Beginning of May 2022

#### Port of Tawau, State of Sabah, Malaysia

An abandoned pangolin, locked in a box on a wharf at the old port, probably about to be smuggled overseas. The mammal was handed over to the Sabah Wildlife Department.

The Star, May 9, 2022; Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), May 2022.<sup>43</sup>

## THAILAND

### April 26, 2022

#### Yala Province, Thailand

Seizure of a pangolin and arrest of a trafficker. Mr. Decha confessed to trading protected wildlife as an intermediary between poachers and buyers. The mammal was treated at the Ratchaburi Provincial Wildlife Rescue Center.

Wildlife Justice Commission, May 2, 2022.<sup>44</sup>

## VIET NAM

### 2 avril et 29 juillet 2022

#### April 2 and July 29, 2022

#### Doan Tung and Thanh Mien, Hai Duong Province, Viet Nam

On April 1 at 3:00 p.m., Nong Van Ca bought a Chinese pangolin from a stranger on the street in Yen Bai for 6 million dongs (260 US\$). In the evening, at 8:00 p.m., he sold him via the Internet for 14 million dongs. On April 2 at 8:00 p.m., Ca was surrounded by police at the scene of the transaction. The pangolin was transferred to Cuc Phuong, 120 km away. Nong Van Ca was sentenced to 12 months in prison.

Thanh Niên, May 16, 2022; Bao Hai Duong, July 29, 2022.<sup>45</sup>



## May 5, 2022

### Dak Dang Border Post, Dak Nong Province, Viet Nam. Border with Cambodia.

Ms. Ngan is under house arrest pending trial. On May 5 at approximately 3:00 p.m., she bought a Sunda pangolin for 7.5 million dongs (325 US\$) from a man whose identity remains unknown, who was visiting her with the pangolin in his arms. On May 5 at around 7:00 p.m., Ms. Ngan was arrested by the city police and border police with the 4.2 kg pangolin that she was going to deliver to a regular buyer.

Thanh Niên, May 12, 2022.<sup>46</sup>

## June 2022

### Hanoi Municipality, Viet Nam

Arrest of a pangolin trafficker on the run, Dong Dai The. Since September 2021, he had become the manager of a high-end restaurant in the city of Ninh Binh. Another link in the chain, Nguyen Xuan Tam, was also arrested and another accomplice, Ho Thi Phuong, was arrested in September 2021 (see "On the Trail" n°34 p.15).

Tap chi Doi song va Phap luat, July 3, 2022.<sup>47</sup>



## SOUTHERN ASIA

## INDIA

### Beginning of April 2022

#### Attur, Kodagu District, State of Karnataka, India

Raju and Dharma aka Mari were caught in the act while trying to sell pangolin scales in front of the village health centre. Someone reported them and the Forest Department came to arrest them. They were kept in custody for 15 days for the purpose of the investigation.

Star of Mysore, April 7, 2022.<sup>48</sup>

### April 3, 2022

#### Majhgawan, Katni District, State of Madhya Pradesh, India



Three kilos of pangolin scales seized. One of the 2 traffickers escaped. Vikas Nanka Mehto is being prosecuted while his accomplice is being sought out.

WCCB, April 4, 2022; The Hitavada, April 5, 2022.<sup>49</sup>



**April 6, 2022**

**Old Delhi, Central Delhi District, National Capital Territory of Delhi, India**

Four kilos of pangolin scales seized and 5 traffickers looking for potential buyers arrested at a hotel in the Kashmere Gate area.

The Print, April 7, 2022.<sup>50</sup>

**April 7, 2022**

**Ainlapalli, Balangir District, State of Odisha, India**

A live pangolin snatched from 2 traffickers. Hemasagar Mahananda and Laxmidhar Naik were arrested when they were about to sell him. The animal was handed over to the divisional forest officer.

The Statesman, April 8, 2022.<sup>51</sup>

**April 9, 2022**

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

Intended to be eaten, 2 Chinese pangolins weighing 9.5 kg and 2.9 kg were rescued from the hands of traffickers on the Balipara - Bhalukpong road. Karlin Mangfi and Gyan Bahadur Chetry were smuggling them from Seppa in Arunachal Pradesh.

East Mojo, April 10, 2022; Northeast Now, April 10, 2022.<sup>52</sup>

**April 20, 2022**

**Nakamundia, Ganjam District, State of Odisha, India**

Prafulla Mallik was arrested with 6.9 kg of pangolin scales. He has been handed over to the officials of Digapahandi forest. The investigation is ongoing.

The Statesman, April 21, 2022; Webdunia, April 21, 2022.<sup>53</sup>

**April 21, 2022**

**Korba Bahri, Jashpur District, State of Chhattisgarh, India**

Three traffickers, including a woman, were attempting to sell pangolin scales and 2 boar tusks (*Sus scrofa*). Tara Bai, Pramod Kerketta and Niroj Tirkey were arrested.

The Pioneer, April 22, 2022.<sup>54</sup>

**Night of April 21 to 22, 2022**

**Khatima, Udham Singh Nagar District, State of Uttarakhand, India**

Two poachers were arrested with 3.1 kg of pangolin scales on the Kumrah road. Tole Singh, age 39, and Arun Kumar Singh, age 28, both residents of Nanakmatta, admitted to killing the animal.

WCCB, April 22, 2022; The Times of India, April 23, 2022.<sup>55</sup>

**April 22, 2022**

**Atal, Darjeeling District, State of West Bengal, India**

The 4 individuals from Alipurduar and Dinajpur were transporting in the car a Chinese pangolin captured in Barobisha, on the border between West Bengal and Assam. They were planning to smuggle him to Nepal after a 170 km long journey. They were stopped in their wild venture on Asian Highway n°2 by elements of the 41<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the SSB (Sashastra Seema Bal).

Anandabazar Patrika, April 22, 2022.<sup>56</sup>

**April 24, 2022**

**Bagharpur, Budh District, State of Odisha, India**

A pangolin weighing 11 kg was seized from the hands of Pradesh Mohakud who was turned over to the district forest officials.

KalingaTV, April 25, 2022.<sup>57</sup>

**Night of April 24 to 25, 2022**

**Devale, Ratnagiri District, State of Maharashtra, India**



Sections 39, 44, 48, 48A, and 51 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, weigh on the shoulders of 25-year-old Lalit Satish Sawant. He was arrested by a patrol on a motorcycle on Sunday evening (April 24) with a pangolin in a bag. On Monday he was brought to the Devrukh courthouse and then was taken into police custody for the purpose of the investigation until Friday, April 29.

Akshay Mandavkar, April 25, 2022; Mumbai Tarun Bharat, April 26, 2022.<sup>58</sup>

**April 25, 2022**

**Kolawal, Bastar District, State of Chhattisgarh, India**

They wanted to sell him for 1,054,000 rupees (nearly 14,000 US\$). Three traffickers were arrested with a 17 kg live pangolin. Thirteen accomplices managed to escape.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (India), April 26, 2022; Newstime Express, April 27, 2022.<sup>59</sup>

### **End of April 2022**

#### **Kaikeri, Kodagu District, State of Karnataka, India**

The trio was trying to sell pangolin scales in front of a college. Arrested in possession of 8.75 kg of scales, J.A. Raju, H.G. Nikhil and V.P. Chandra Hodur were taken into custody.

Star of Mysore, April 29, 2022.<sup>60</sup>

### **Mid-May 2022**

#### **Madikeri, Kodagu District, State of Karnataka, India**

Four men were trying to sell a female pangolin and her cub on the side of the Madikeri-Mangaluru road when they were arrested by 7 law enforcement officers.

Public TV, May 18, 2022.<sup>61</sup>

### **May 21, 2022**

#### **Karnikhunti, Kalahandi District, State of Odisha, India**

A pangolin was taken away from a trafficker. Jitendra Kumar of Tagarla Kesinga village was handed over to forest officials and the pangolin to Kalahandi forest officials for safekeeping.

Outlook India, May 23, 2022; The Pioneer, May 23, 2022.<sup>62</sup>

### **May 24, 2022**

#### **Between Uskapalli and Chitapari, Malkangiri District, State of Odisha, India**

In sight of police officers, the motorcycle duo attempted to flee. They were apprehended with a bag containing 1.9 kg of pangolin scales. Irma Sodi, age 33, and Ganga Madkami, age 24, were turned over to the Forest Department for investigation.

Pragativadi, May 24, 2022.<sup>63</sup>

### **May 25, 2022**

#### **Sahipala, Nuapada District, State of Odisha, India**

Six kg of pangolin scales seized. Bikram Majhi of Gujuribhatt was arrested on the Nuapada-Padmapur road.

Prameya News, May 25, 2022.<sup>64</sup>

### **May 26, 2022**

#### **Boko, Kamrup District, State of Assam, India**



Seizure of 2.8 kg of Chinese pangolin scales from a hotel. Hitesh Khaklary and Bijulina Khar Lyngdung, a resident of West Khasi Hills district, were arrested. East Mojo, May 27, 2022; WCCB, May 27, 2022.<sup>65</sup>

### **June 3, 2022**

#### **Dehradun, Dehradun District, State of Uttarakhand, India**

They had killed the pangolins in the forest near the Shakumbhari Devi temple. They had 8 kg of scales and organs in a bundle on the motorcycle. When they saw the roadblock, they turned around. The patrol caught up with them.

Dainik Jagran, June 4, 2022.<sup>66</sup>

### **June 7, 2022**

#### **Khuntigora, Budh District, State of Odisha, India**

The great Indian pangolin, known as "bajrakapta" in Odisha, was under the control of Biseshwar Bagrati until the district STF, using credible information, blocked the road between Kantamal and Baliguda and seized him. He was handed over to the Forest Department to be released in the best possible conditions.

Dinalipi, June 8, 2022.<sup>67</sup>

### **June 7, 2022**

#### **Aurangabad, Aurangabad District, State of Maharashtra, India**

Seizure of 1.8 kg of dried scales in a hotel. Arrest of Shakuntala Devi. An accomplice from the village of Sikaria fled. The media Dainik Jagran points out that "pangolins prefer to live alone and males and females only meet for breeding."

Dainik Jagran, June 8, 2022; Trust News, June 8, 2022; WCCB, June 10, 2022.<sup>68</sup>

### **Night of 18 to 19 June 2022**

#### **Dunguripali, Sonepur District, State of Odisha, India**

Rescue in the night of a large Indian pangolin. Two arrests, Ashok Bisi and Jayakumar Patel.

India News Diary, June 19, 2022; Ommcom News, June 19, 2022.<sup>69</sup>

## **NEPAL**

### **May 4, 2022**

#### **Teku and Shantinagar, Kathmandu District, Bagmati Province, Nepal**

Mandal Giri, age 57 of Dhankuta, was arrested with 100 grams of pangolin scales and one bullet. Police raided his hotel room and found another 4.6 kg. Subilal Singtan, age 32 of Sarlahi, and Subash Bista, age 21 of Okhaldhunga, were also arrested there red-handed while bargaining.

The Himalayan Times, May 6, 2022.<sup>70</sup>

# PANGOLINS, ELEPHANTS / FELINES

## AFRICA

### MOZAMBIQUE

**Beginning of April 2022**

**Cheringoma District, Sofala Province, Mozambique**

14 convictions to prison sentences of 4 to 6 years for poaching pangolins, elephants, lions (*Panthera leo*, Appendix II) and African buffaloes (*Syncerus caffer*) with traps and firearms in and around Gorongosa National Park. Judge César Tite notes illegal colonization around the "coutadas" (game reserves) and "fazendas de bravio" (private game farms) and hopes that the communities attracted by the profits from poaching and from clearing and selling timber will be relocated or encouraged to find other ways to make a living. Club of Mozambique, April 12, 2022.<sup>1</sup>



### ZIMBABWE

**June 22, 2022**

**Inyathi, Matabeleland North Province, Zimbabwe**

Two men sought to sell 203 pangolin scales for the equivalent of 6,000 US\$ (29.5 US\$/scale) and a leopard skin (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) for 1,000 US\$. The pangolin was captured in his living habitat and killed at the home of the main suspect. For the pangolin trafficking, the duo faces 9 years in prison, and for the leopard trafficking, 6 months. Centre for Innovation and Technology, June 29, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

## ASIA

### INDIA

**May 3, 2022**

**Khawasa and Mohgaon Yadav, Seoni District, State of Madhya Pradesh, India**

Three men on a motorcycle were carrying 2.4 kg of pangolin scales. When questioned by the police, they admitted that they had also hidden tiger bones (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I) on the side of the access road to Mohgaon Yadav village. At the scene, 74 bones with a total weight of 5.3 kg were unearthed and seized. Nirpat Kumre, Anil Varkade and Tilakchand Churaman were taken into custody. Naidunia, May 4, 2022.<sup>3</sup>



© Naidunia



# ELEPHANTS



Arjuna's Penance (detail), 7<sup>th</sup> century, Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu, India. Photo Frédérique Carbonnier

The African forest elephant (*Loxodonta cyclotis*) is listed in CITES Appendix I, the African savannah elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) is listed in Appendix I, except populations from South Africa, Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe which are in Appendix II. The Asian elephant, *Elephas maximus*, is listed in Appendix I.

**On the Trail n°36**  
**Black market raw ivory quotation from media or official sources**  
**The values were estimated at the time of the seizures**

**Value of 1kg of raw ivory**

Continent	Country	US\$	Ref. (year)
Africa	Democratic Republic of the Congo	3,000-4,000	17 (2022)
	Kenya	915	26 (2022)
		850	30 (2022)
		347	39 (2022)
	Tanzania	1,000	48 (2022)
		2,890	49 (2022)
	Zambia	160	50 (2022)
	Zimbabwe	170	54 (2022)
		180	59 (2022)
Europe	Netherlands	655	125 (2022)

## NORTHERN AFRICA

### EGYPT

**Beginning of April 2022**

**Cairo International Airport, Cairo Governorate, Egypt**



Seizure of 3 statuettes presumed to be made of ivory from a Hungarian passenger of Egyptian origin disembarking from a Turkish Airlines flight. Al-Ahram, April 10, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

**April 2022**

**Cairo International Airport, Cairo Governorate, Egypt**

Seizure, from a Belgian passenger of Egyptian origin at the disembarkation of EgyptAir flight n°726, of 10 carved ivories and ancient coins, 2 of which are antiques from the Ottoman era (1299-1922) and from the reign of King Abdelaziz ben Abderrahmane Al Saoud (1932-1953). Al-Ahram, April 26, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

## WESTERN AFRICA

### SENEGAL

**June 5 and 22, 2022**

**Dakar, Dakar Region, Senegal**

On June 5, seizure in Dakar Plateau on the parking lot of the restaurant "Aux fins palais" of 35 ivory bracelets, 20 elephant hair bracelets, and a carved elephant tusk (1.49 kg). The overall value is estimated to be 1.83 million CFA francs (3,000 US\$). Mamadou Bamba Thiam was charged with possessing, transporting, and attempting to sell a protected species or its byproducts. On June 22, the Special Court of Dakar ratified the transaction between the trafficker and the national parks for 500,000 CFA francs (820 US\$), declared the public prosecution over, and ordered the lifting of Thiam's detention order. EAGLE, June 6, 2022; EAGLE Senegal, June 2022.<sup>3</sup>



## TOGO

**May 6, 2022**

**Lome, Maritime Region, Togo**

The OCRTIDB (Office Central de Répression du Trafic Illicite des Drogues et du Blanchiment) seized 2 elephant tusks, arrested Issaka and Saidou Moukaila, and presented them to the prosecutor. After admitting the facts, they were placed in the civil prison of Lomé. The ivory came from Burkina Faso.

EAGLE, May 2022; EAGLE Togo, May 2022.<sup>4</sup>

## CENTRAL AFRICA

### ANGOLA

**May 25, 2022**

**Matala, Huila Province, Angola**

Adelino Kambonde Kaluelue, age 54, was sentenced to 7 years in prison for poaching in Bicular National Park. He primarily targeted elephants around Etombe. Three alleged accomplices were acquitted due to insufficient evidence and despite being armed with Soviet assault rifles.

Bicular covers 7,900 square kilometres. The park administrator openly deplores the lack of financial and logistical means to facilitate preventive surveillance and catch poachers in the act. "We only have a budget on paper." "A line of credit was allocated to the park in 2020 but the amount was never allocated to us." Protection of the park depends on occasional funds from the Ministry of the Environment and the provincial government. Jornal de Angola, June 8, 2022.<sup>5</sup>



**From May 27 to June 1, 2022**

**Rivungo, Dirico, Cuando-Cubango Province, Angola. Border with Namibia.**

Dismantling of 4 gangs accused of poaching elephants. Eight arrests, including 2 Namibian nationals. Seven people are on the run. At the base camps, 4 assault rifles, 2 shotguns, 2 axes, 20 rounds of ammunition, 3 solar panels, 2 tents, clothing, and smoked meat were seized. No ivory or other endangered animal parts were seized.

Jornal de Angola, June 9, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

## CAMEROON

**May 19, 2022**

**Ambam, South Region, Cameroon**

Albert Abagha Abagha Messa and Mamadou Aminou were sentenced to 8 months in prison, fined one million CFA francs (1,600 US\$), and ordered to pay jointly and severally 3,500 US\$ in legal costs and 59,140 US\$ in damages for possessing and attempting to sell 9 elephant tusks.

LAGA, May 2022.<sup>7</sup>



## GABON

### **March 30 to April 2 and August, 2022 Moabi, Nyanga Province and Libreville, Estuaire Province, Gabon**



Binghuade Li, the Chinese team leader of the JSD logging company, had bought 3 carved tusks from John Estrin Moukanga, who had bought them from Stéphane Ete Mihindou.

The seizure of the tusks and the arrest of the 3 traffickers are to the credit of the Water and Forests agents and the gendarmes of Moabi with the legal and logistical support of Conservation Justice.

Two JSD representatives, Huan Renren and Zhou Shengion, were convicted in June 2020 for trafficking kevazingo (*Guibourtia tessmannii*, Appendix II) (see "On the Trail" n°29 p.23). Kevazingo wood is used in carpentry and cabinet making.

Binghuade Li, John Estrin Moukanga and Stéphane Ete Mihindou were sentenced to 12 months in prison, one of which was suspended, and fined 250,000 CFA francs (385 US\$). They were also ordered to pay jointly and severally 3 million CFA francs (4,630 US\$) in damages.

Conservation Justice, July 2020 April and August 2022.<sup>8</sup>

### **April 4 and July 8, 2022 Haut-Ogooué Province, Gabon**



Four elephant calf tusks. 5.7 kg in total. Arrest of Davy Bitu, Urbain Antsini, and Fred Landangoye. They were transferred to Libreville and detained. They were sentenced to 18 months in prison and fined 1,425,000 CFA francs (2,280 US\$), of which more than one million was suspended.

Conservation Justice, April and July 2022.<sup>9</sup>

### **April 15, 2022 Kango, Estuaire Province, Gabon**

The 3 bags of flour contained 53 kg of raw ivory. Two arrests.

China Internet Information Center, April 16, 2022.<sup>10</sup>

### **April 18 and August, 2022 Mitzi, Woleu-Ntem Province and Libreville, Estuaire Province, Gabon**



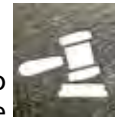
Félicien Adande, a national of Benin, presumably a farmer, arrived at the hotel by cab carrying a backpack. Informed of his arrival, elements of the DGR (Direction Générale des Recherches) and the Water and Forests seized 2 ivory tusks weighing 4.3 kg. Conservation Justice provided its legal expertise. He was sentenced to 24 months in prison, 12 of which were suspended, fined 1,772,000 CFA francs (2,735 US\$), more than 1 million of which were suspended, and ordered to pay 2 million CFA francs (3090 US\$) in damages. EAGLE, April 19, 2022; Conservation Justice, April and August 2022.<sup>11</sup>

### **April 19 and July 8, 2022 Ntsengkelé, Ogooué-Ivindo Province and Libreville, Estuaire Province, Gabon**



Arrest of Nestor Nkorgha Nang in possession of 2 ivory tusks (7 kg). He was sentenced to 12 months in prison, 2 of which were suspended, and fined 400,000 CFA francs (640 US\$). Conservation Justice, April and July 2022.<sup>12</sup>

### **May 2022 Libreville, Estuaire Province, Gabon**



Moussa Banguia was sentenced to 12 months in prison, 4 of which were suspended, and fined 525,000 CFA francs (860 US\$), 250,000 of which was suspended (410 US\$). He was arrested in possession of 4 tusks. Conservation Justice, May 2022; EAGLE, May 2022.<sup>13</sup>

### **May 2022 Libreville, Estuaire Province, Gabon**



Simon Pierre Mezui Ella was sentenced to 12 months in prison and fined 695,000 CFA francs (1,110 US\$) for illegal possession of ivory (see "On the Trail" n°34 p.23). Conservation Justice, May 2022; EAGLE, May 2022.<sup>14</sup>

### **May 21 and August, 2022 Ndjolé, Moyen-Ogooué Province, Gabon**



Seizure of 2 ivory tips. Pre-trial detention for Gladys Roméo Etsela Yeembi. He was sentenced three months later to 2 years in prison, one of which was suspended, fined 500,000 CFA francs (770 US\$) and ordered to pay 1 million CFA francs (1,540 US\$) in damages. Conservation Justice, May and August 2022.<sup>15</sup>

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

### **April 4, 2022 Bukavu, South Kivu Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo. Border with Rwanda.**

Seizure of 32 tusks and sections of tusks. Total weight: 100 kg. Four arrests including a clergyman from Bukavu.

Environews DRC, April 8, 2022.<sup>16</sup>



**May 14, 2022**  
**Lubumbashi, Haut-Katanga Province,**  
**Democratic Republic of the Congo. Border with**  
**Zambia.**

Seizure of 2 tonnes or 1.5 tonnes of raw ivory according to different sources. The total value is estimated at 6 million dollars, 3,000 US\$/kg for 2 tonnes or 4,000 US\$/kg for 1.5 tonnes. Three arrests, 2 escapes. The fugitives are believed to be the masterminds behind the trafficking. As is often the case when it comes to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the information is confusing. The most substantiated information confirms the figure of 1.5 tonnes and that the ivory was seized in trailers. The drivers say they did not know what they were transporting, where it came from, or even where it was going. Other sources say that the ivory was discovered in a "stash." On behalf of the NGO group Natural Resources Network, Sabin Mande told AFP that he saw 18 bags full of raw ivory at the city prosecutor's office. The nationality of the drivers is not known. The destination of the trucks is not known. Were they coming from Zambia or were they heading to Zambia? Mongabay says the ivory came from Zambia but could have originated in South Africa or Zimbabwe. The Lubumbashi raid is credited to ICCN (Congolesse Institute for Nature Conservation) and the police.

Mongabay, May 18, 2022; Africanews, May 19, 2022; Al Jazeera, May 19, 2022.<sup>17</sup>

**June 16, 2022**  
**Butembo, North Kivu Province,**  
**Democratic Republic of the Congo**

Arrest of 2 traffickers in possession of 4 tusks weighing 35 kg in total. The 2 men are believed to be linked to armed groups active in the Virunga National Park.

Adams Cassinga, June 16, 2022.<sup>18</sup>



**June 29, 2022**  
**Aru, Ituri Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo**

27 sections of tusks. Nearly 150 kg. The batch is believed to have been destined for Uganda. The network is believed to have branches in South Sudan. Three arrests.

Adams Cassinga, June 29, 2022; Environews DRC, June 30, 2022.<sup>19</sup>

**REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

**May 2, 2022**  
**Oyo, Department of Cuvette, Republic of the Congo**



Robert Manguet was sentenced in absentia to 2 years in prison, fined 500,000 CFA francs (800 US\$) and ordered to pay 2 million CFA francs (3,200 US\$) in damages for ivory trafficking. An arrest warrant was issued against him (see "On the Trail" n°32 p.25). Projet d'appui à l'Application de la Loi sur la Faune Sauvage (PALF), May 2022.<sup>20</sup>

**REPEATED OFFENCE**

**May 13, 2022**  
**Brazzaville, Department of Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo**

By nearly 42 grams, the 2 tusks cut into 4 pieces weighed 20 kg. Samuel Divin Pembele and Lamine Coulibaly are in pre-trial detention. Samuel Divin is no stranger to crime. He had already been arrested for ivory trafficking in November 2016 in Ouessou (Sangha department) and in February and May 2020 in Owando (Cuvette department). Lamine Coulibaly is of Malian nationality. The 2 rascals attempted to flee on motorcycles but were eventually handcuffed by elements of the Region Security and Intervention Special Squad and the Department's Gendarmerie with technical support from PALF (Projet d'appui à l'Application de la Loi sur la Faune Sauvage). EAGLE, May 2022 ; PALF, May 2022.<sup>21</sup>



**May 13, 2022**  
**Dolisie, Department of Niari, Republic of the Congo**



Two years' suspended prison sentence for Dieu-merci Ndinga Ignoumba. The man embodying God was involved in tusk trafficking. Same sentence for his accomplice Serge Ngatse, a military man. The 2 men were fined 125,000 CFA francs (200 US\$) and had to pay 500,000 CFA francs (800 US\$) in damages (see "On the Trail" n°34 p.25). Dissatisfied with the lenient sentence imposed on the man of God and the man in uniform, the Departmental Directorate of Forest Economy appealed. PALF, May 2022.<sup>22</sup>

## KENYA

**April 5, 2022****Shimba Hills National Reserve, Kwale County, Kenya**

The female elephant calf was injured in the left front leg by a remnant metal trap and was dragging a long steel wire and a branch. The veterinary team arrived on site by helicopter. To secure the operation, the mother was anaesthetized. After 8 minutes, she slumped. The elephant calf was captured and anaesthetized in turn. The metal that was cutting into his leg just above the foot was removed, and the wound was cleaned and treated. The 2 revival antidotes worked well and both mother and daughter were able to walk away with a clean bill of health. Favourable prognosis.

SWT/KWS Tsavo Mobile Veterinary Unit, April 2022.<sup>23</sup>

**April 13, 2022****Nanyuki, Laikipia County, Kenya**

On March 24, 2021, soldiers of the British Army Training Unit Kenya (BATUK) set fire to the savannah while barbecuing. 32 km<sup>2</sup> of savannah and hills burned. Four elephants were burned alive next to the military camp. BATUK's mission is to strengthen the capacity of local rangers to protect elephants from poaching and more generally to contribute to peacekeeping in Africa (see "On the Trail" n°32 p.27). The military and humanitarian cooperation agreement between the UK and Kenya was signed in 2015. A man who was a father of 2 and employee of the Lolldaiga Conservancy was run over by an emergency vehicle while helping control the fire.



The ACCPA (African Centre for Corrective and Preventive Action) announced the day after the fire that it would take legal action to ensure that BATUK compensates the 1,000 residents whose health was affected by the smoke and whose property was damaged by the flames and the devastation of the environment. The United Kingdom claims that BATUK and its soldiers have diplomatic immunity and rejects any responsibility for the fire and the actions that were taken to contain it. The High Court ruled otherwise. According to judge Antonina Bore, "it is evident that Kenya would have jurisdiction for civil claims and liabilities arising from activities in its territory under the agreement while the UK would have jurisdiction for civil claims and liabilities arising from activities in its territory." To add fuel to the fire, the ACCPA and public opinion claim that the BATUK elements involved in the fire start tested positive for cocaine.

Daily Mail, April 13, 2022; Kenyans.co.ke, April 14, 2022.<sup>24</sup>

**April 16, 2022****Kaluku, Tsavo Ecosystem, Kenya**

Favourable prognosis. The deep wound on the left rump of the elephant is from a spear throw. It was cleaned, rinsed with clean water, and sanitized with tincture of iodine. Green clay and antibiotics were applied to prevent infection.

SWT/KWS Tsavo Mobile Veterinary Unit, April 2022.<sup>25</sup>

**April 19, 2022****Mariakani, Kilifi and Kwale Counties, Kenya**

Haffex Sharif Kenga was arrested on July 17, 2021 at 8:50 p.m. in Kwale County with 101 kg of raw ivory in 2 green and white nylon bags fastened with sisal cord. The value of the seizure was estimated at 10 million shillings (92,440 US\$ or 915 US\$/kg). Two other men managed to escape. The trial was postponed because Kenga had to attend the funeral of a relative on the same day.

This is the largest ivory seizure in Kenya since the 183 kg seizure on July 30, 2019 in Makobeni (see "On the Trail" n°26 p.80). The 2 traffickers, John Chisiwa Ngoma and Mwauchi Mgaza, have since been sentenced to 7 years in prison.

SEEJ-AFRICA (Saving Elephants through Education and Justice), July 17, 2021, April 19, and July 19, 2022.<sup>26</sup>

**April 20, 2022****Mara North Conservancy, Narok County, Kenya**

Injured by a spear throw, the elephant is limping. Veterinarian Ephantus Ndambiri and his SWT team arrived on the scene. Favourable prognosis.

Mara Elephant Project, April 28, 2022.<sup>27</sup>



**May 17, 2022**  
**Tsavo East National Park, Kenya**



The case was hopeless. The elephant was lying on his right side. His left ear was purulent with internal otitis and a risk of brain infection. Anaesthetized with a low dose of etorphine, the elephant was awakened with 12 mg of diprenorphine. After 2 attempts to stand up, supported by the ropes of the veterinary team, the elephant definitively collapsed. The initial wound was from a spear throw. SWT/KWS Tsavo Mobile Veterinary Unit, May 2022.<sup>28</sup>

**May 24, 2022**  
**Sosian Ranch, Laikipia County, Kenya**

Rescue of a sub-adult elephant entangled in a snare. Favourable prognosis. Alert was given before a wound formed. SWT/KWS Mount Kenya Mobile Veterinary Unit, May 2022.<sup>29</sup>



**May 25, 2022**  
**Limauro, Meru County, Kenya**

Mr. James Kijuki Samwel, a guard at Kangeta prison, and Martin Mutwiri, a registrar, were going to deliver the 17 kg of raw ivory to Limauro in a government-owned Suzuki Maruti. They saw this scheme as a way to get around without being stopped by the police. Upon arrival near St. Theresa's Church where the meeting with the buyer had been arranged, the 2 officials were surrounded by a KWS (Kenya Wildlife Service) team. Mutwiri pleads not guilty. Kijuki managed to escape. He was recovered a few days later. Like Mutwiri, he was released on bail for one million shillings (8,500 US\$). The seizure is estimated to be worth 1.7 million shillings (14,450 US\$ or 850 US\$/kg). Nation, July 27, 2022.<sup>30</sup>

**May 26, 2022**  
**Olarro Conservancy, Narok County, Kenya**



The elephant had 2 wounds. One on the right front foot due to an arrowhead, the other on the left flank caused several weeks prior by a spear or arrow. The prognosis is guarded as the arrow in the foot was possibly poisoned. SWT/KWS Mara Mobile Veterinary Unit, May 2022.<sup>31</sup>





**June 2, 16, 17, and 29, 2022**

**Oi Kinyei Conservancy, Siana Conservancy, and Mara North Conservancy, Narok County, Kenya**

- The operation was urgent. The arrow was stuck in the calf's rump. The mother was also anaesthetized to prevent her from disturbing the vets. Good recovery for both. Favourable prognosis.

- The wounded elephant left bloody tracks in the savannah that led the rangers to the foot of a small wooded hill. He was sheltering there with another bull. From the helicopter, the medical team observed a bleeding wound attributed initially to a fight with the other male and later to a spear throw. The prognosis from veterinary doctor Ephantus Ndambiri after anaesthesia, sanitation, and recovery is favourable, but rangers must monitor the patient's movements to prevent him from coming into close contact with the local community.

- It was hot. It was 5:00 p.m. The time was not conducive for an anaesthetic, nor was the place. It was happening in the dense bushes. Fearing that the injured, limping, lonely juvenile elephant would not be found, the veterinary team decided to go ahead and operate as soon as possible. The wound just above the right front foot was 20 cm deep but bones and joints were not affected. Favourable prognosis.

- Ephantus, the KWS veterinarian, is still at work with the SWT team and logistics to rescue an elephant with an arrow stuck in his head near the right ear. Favourable prognosis.



Mara Elephant Project, June 2022; SWT/KWS Mara Mobile Veterinary Unit, June 2022; SWT/KWS Rift Valley Mobile Veterinary Unit, June 2022.<sup>32</sup>

**June 5, 2022**

**Doldol and Chololo Ranch, Laikipia County, Kenya**

- A wound in the right ear and shoulder. The elephant was approached by a ground vehicle and sedated with 17 mg of etorphine. He laid down 6 minutes later on his left flank and was treated with hydrogen peroxide, iodine, amoxicillin, and green clay. He was awakened with 48 mg of diprenorphine into an ear vein and 2 minutes later was upright. The prognosis is favourable thanks to the timely alert.



- He limped and the vets were called in. A deep wound was found near the knee of the right front leg. Intervention was successful. The elephant recovered 3 minutes after the revival antidote was injected into the ear vein.



SWT/KWS Mount Kenya Mobile Veterinary Unit, June 2022.<sup>33</sup>

**June 12, 2022**

**Amboseli National Park, Kajiado County, Kenya**

An elephant injured by a spear is reported. He takes refuge in thick bushes. Attempts to care for him are unsuccessful.

Big Life Foundation, June 2022.<sup>34</sup>

**June 13, 2022**

**Amboseli National Park, Kajiado County, Kenya**



Four members of the well-known Echo herd were victims of retaliation after alleged incursions into cultivated or herded land. One female was hit by a spear on the rump. Another female was hit by a throwing weapon on the upper left foreleg. A baby elephant about 30 months old suffered 2 wounds, one on the right abdomen, the other under the sole of the right rear foot. One elephant suffered a 15 cm deep wound inflicted by a spear in the right thigh. The surgery took place at night. All 4 prognoses are favourable. The Echo family is now under pressure from the rural communities.

Echo, who died in 2009 at age 64, was the matriarch since the age of 23 of the herd now known by her name. She had at least 8 calves. As part of the Amboseli Elephant Research Project, a study of elephant behavior, she was followed as early as 1973 by ethologist Cynthia Moss. She and her family have also been the subject of several documentary films produced by the BBC. Echo's offspring are still subjects of scientific study.

SWT/KWS Tsavo Mobile Veterinary Unit, June 2022.<sup>35</sup>



Echo with her final calf, Esprit, in 2005.

**June 14 and 28, 2022**

**Kulalu Camp, Tsavo East National Park, and Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary, Tsavo West National Park, Kenya**



- The elephant is limping and dragging a metal trap on his right front leg. He was anaesthetized from a helicopter with 3.5 mg of etorphine. He came to rest after 6 minutes. The flesh was deeply cut at the level of the carpus. After treatment and recovery, he was reunited with his family. The prognosis is guarded.

- The elephant, about 14 years old, was injured by a trap on his left hind leg. He was anaesthetized with 15 mg of etorphine. After the removal of the trap, the wound was treated with hydrogen peroxide, a tincture of iodine, green clay, and oxytetracycline. The prognosis is favourable.

SWT/KWS Tsavo Mobile Veterinary Unit, June 2022.<sup>36</sup>

**June 16 and July 1, 2022**

**Moi International Airport and Mombasa, Mombasa County, Kenya**

After 15 days in custody, Paolo Brondi, a 68-year-old Italian with a pied-à-terre on Watamu Island, was acquitted by the court. On June 16, he was returning to Turin in Italy when customs officers spotted and seized a 600-gram carved tusk in his suitcase. Brondi maintained that he had bought the object many years ago, before international trade was banned. Not convinced by his claims, the prosecution had asked for 10 to 20 years in prison for the Italian trafficker. But everybody chickened out after the Italian embassy in Mombasa intervened, if we believe press reports. Brondi has been cleared of any offence under the Wildlife conservation and management Act, the only grievance left being that he was naive. A naivety that the NGO SEEJ-AFRICA (Saving Elephants through Education and Justice) questions.

K24 Digital, June 21, 2022; SEEJ-AFRICA (Saving Elephants through Education and Justice), June 22 and July 1, 2022; MalindiKenya.net, July 2, 2022.<sup>37</sup>

**June 20, 2022**

**Kwale, Kwale County, Kenya**



Acquittal of Mr. Makoti, Kwale county official. He was reportedly in charge of local tax collection. On December 15, 2017, he was accused of illegally holding 2 elephant tusks close to the Shimba Hills National Reserve, which is home to less than 100 elephants according to the KWS and less than 50 according to a local expert (see "On the Trail" n°19 p.92). Today in the Kwale court, the closing hearing of the investigation was held.

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Judge J. M. Omido was surprised that the police inspector responsible for the arrest once again did not respond to the summons. This is the fourth time he has failed to appear under various pretexts: he is on leave, he has been temporarily assigned to other duties, he is participating in a training course, he is not on duty for an unexplained reason. Exasperated by all these rebuffs, Omido acquitted Makoti and issued a warrant for the arrest of the elusive police officer. On the same day in December 2017, Said Kuzidi, another Kwale county official, a teacher, had been arrested for illegal possession of a pair of tusks weighing a total of 30 kg. The case is not yet closed. In any case, there is a strange atmosphere in the county services. In April 2021, another official of the county was arrested with 4 ivory pieces with a total weight of 35 kg (see "On the Trail" n°32 p. 28). SEEJ-AFRICA (Saving Elephants through Education and Justice), June 20, 2022.<sup>38</sup>

#### **June 23, 2022**

##### **Meru, Meru County, Kenya**

Ages 19, 23, and 24. Arrested at 4:00 a.m., the 3 young men were carrying 2 tusks cut into 4 pieces. The 5 kg of ivory are estimated to be worth 200,000 shillings (1,737 US\$ or 347 US\$/kg). Nation, June 23, 2022.<sup>39</sup>

#### **June 24 and 30, 2022**

##### **Rombo and Finch Hattons Camp, Tsavo West National Park, Kenya**

- The elephant's footprints and blood trails were followed by KWS rangers. The magnificent elephant was found with the help of aerial reconnaissance. He was hiding in the bushes. Blood and pus were flowing out of the wound in the rib cage that had been opened by a spear. The case was very bad and as feared, he died during the intervention of the medical team.



- The female elephant is limping. She walks on 3 legs. Her right hind leg is injured above the knee due to a throwing weapon. She collapsed 7 minutes after the injection of the anaesthetic. The wound was treated, and the wake-up antidote was injected into a large vein in her right ear. She got up after 2 minutes and joined her family members who were waiting nearby. SWT/KWS Tsavo Mobile Veterinary Unit, June 2022.<sup>40</sup>

#### **June 2022**

##### **Greater Mara, Narok County, Kenya**

Arrest of 3 men in possession of 5 tusks weighing 21 kg. Mara Elephant Project, June 2022.<sup>41</sup>

### **MALAWI**

#### **April 21, 2022**

##### **Blantyre, Southern Region, Malawi**

Chifundo Gwazantini was sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment with hard labor. He had been caught red-handed selling 4 sections of raw ivory for more than 7 million kwachas (9,000 US\$). Malawi 24, April 24, 2022.<sup>42</sup>



#### **April 23, 2022**

##### **Kasungu, Central Region, Malawi**

Blessings Sibande and Divason Phiri were sentenced to 11 years in prison with hard labor. They are guilty of illegally possessing and attempting to sell 22 kg of raw ivory. Malawi 24, April 23, 2022.<sup>43</sup>



#### **May 23, 2022**

##### **Lilongwe, Central Region, Malawi**

Sentencing of Maliko Mndekano Mwale to 10 years in prison with hard labor. He was found guilty of possessing and attempting to sell raw ivory. He wanted nearly 100 US\$/kg. It happened in the center of the city, near the mosque. Malawi 24, May 24, 2022.<sup>44</sup>



### **MOZAMBIQUE**

#### **April 2022**

##### **Gorongosa, Sofala Province, Mozambique**

The 3 schoolteachers had tried last year to sell 6 tusks from poaching in the buffer zone of Gorongosa Park to a Chinese man. They are now being prosecuted. The trial is still to come. Rádio Moçambique, April 19, 2022; e-global, April 20, 2022.<sup>45</sup>

### **UGANDA**

#### **May 27, 2022**

##### **Getom, Eastern Region, Uganda**

Lieutenant Colonel Ariko Robert and his neighbour Alcumar Hellen were trafficking ivory. The large tusk was in the trunk of his car near his home. Natural Resource Conservation Network, May 27, 2022.<sup>46</sup>



## TANZANIA

**April 14, 2022**

### **Tanzania**

34.46 kg. Four sections of raw ivory. An arrest by members of the Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA) based on information provided by the Mara Elephant Project operating in and around the Maasai Mara National Reserve in Kenya. Mara Elephant Project, April 2022.<sup>47</sup>

**Beginning of May 2022**

### **Namtumbo District, Ruvuma Region, Tanzania**

Discovery of 5 tusks near the Hanga Abbey. Weight: 44 kg. Value: 104 million shillings (44,180 US\$ or 1,000 US\$/kg). Suspects fled.

The Guardian (Tanzania), May 14, 2022.<sup>48</sup>

**May 10, 2022**

### **Milonde-Kiuma, Ruvuma Region, Tanzania**

Seizure of 4 whole tusks and 8 tusk sections. Total weight: 20.4 kg. Value: 138.6 million shillings (59,000 US\$ or 2,890 US\$/kg. Three men aged 22, 25, and 36 are under arrest.

The Guardian (Tanzania), May 14, 2022.<sup>49</sup>

## ZAMBIA

**April 1 and July 20, 2022**

### **Kapiri Mposhi, Central Province, Zambia**

Geoffrey Simbeye, age 72, and Patrick Chilumba, age 43, were caught red-handed with raw ivory cut into sections. Weight: 25 kg. Value: 90,467 kwachas (3,974 US\$ or 160 US\$/kg). Chilumba was sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment with hard labor.

Lusaka Times, July 20, 2022.<sup>50</sup>



**Beginning of June 2022**

### **Shamikobo, Southern Province, Zambia**

Three "farmers" aged 40, 47, and 64 and a 30-year-old "businesswoman" are in custody. They were in possession of 4 sections of tusks.

Daily News Agency, June 9, 2022.<sup>51</sup>

**June 14, 2022**

### **South Luangwa National Park, Eastern Province, Zambia**

A female adult elephant is shot. A leg is fractured. After anaesthesia, it was decided to put her down. The one-year old elephant calf was taken care of by the Chipembe Wildlife Education Trust.

Game Rangers International, June 28, 2022.<sup>52</sup>



## ZIMBABWE

**April 2, 2022**

### **Mbizha, Matabeleland North Province, Zimbabwe**

The Victoria Falls-Bulawayo bus collided with a herd of elephants as it left a village. Three elephants died. The 18 passengers and crew aboard the bus were unharmed. The news spread like wildfire. More than a hundred people from Masikili, Mbizha, Lupinyu (20 km away), and even Victoria Falls came to the scene on bicycles, motorcycles, and cars to butcher the victims and share the meat. The collision occurred around 5:00 a.m. The bus was traveling at 90 km/h. This section is known to be crossed during the day but especially at night by wildlife.

ZimEye, April 3, 2022; Fauna and Flora Zimbabwe, April 4, 2022.<sup>53</sup>

**April 4, 2022**

### **Harare, Harare Province, Zimbabwe**

Three men above suspicion are trapped by detectives from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID). Simibio Kakomo, a ranger from Hwange National Park, Shepherd Musiniwa, a police officer in Harare, and Ernest Kabanda, a retired police officer, were trying to sell raw ivory. They went from one appointment to another from the Total station on Julius Nyerere Way to the Kamfinsa Shopping Center. Here they ended up unpacking the ivory and showing it to the buyers, who were none other than sleuths from the CID Minerals, Fauna and Flora. Total weight: 28.35 kg. Value: 703,574 Zimbabwean dollars (4,819 US\$ or 170 US\$/kg).

ZimLive.com, April 6, 2022; The Herald, April 7, 2022; The Chronicle, April 20, 2022.<sup>54</sup>

**April 18, 2022**

### **Bulawayo, Bulawayo Province, Zimbabwe**

Elephant meat donated to the 3 hospitals in Bulawayo for the Independence Day celebration was not received with enthusiasm by the patients. Many complained that they had nothing to eat but the fibrous, inedible, and smelly meat. The hospital directors were not at all thankful.

Africa Press Zimbabwe, April 24, 2022; NewZimbabwe.com, April 24, 2022.<sup>55</sup>

**April 27, 2022**

### **Kamativi, Hwange, Northern Matabeleland Province, Zimbabwe**

Seizure of 4 tusks weighing a total of 13 kg, a fresh tail, an AK47, a loaded 375 caliber rifle, a range of ammunition, 4 axes, and 5 knives. Arrest of 5 men between the ages of 32 and 67.

Pindula, April 28, 2022; Zim Morning Post, May 5, 2022.<sup>56</sup>

**May 1, 2022****Gutu District, Masvingo Province, Zimbabwe**

Arrest of Collin Tapfumaneyi Chizengeni. At his home, he was attempting to sell 21 pieces of raw ivory.

Nehanda Radio, May 6, 2022.<sup>57</sup>

**May 3, 2022****Sentinel Ranch, Matabeleland South Province, Zimbabwe**

Poisoning is suspected for 2 elephants found dead at a waterhole. Tuesday afternoon in the Sentinel Safaris Area, part of the Greater Mapungubwe Trans-frontier Conservation Area (GMTCA) shared by Zimbabwe, Botswana, and South Africa. Poachers come from Beitbridge and central Zimbabwe to hunt elephants, elands, kudus, and warthogs.

The elephants' tusks were still in place, so investigators do not rule out a mess-up by the poisoners.

The Chronicle, May 3, 2022.<sup>58</sup>

**May 4, 2022****Harare, Harare Province, Zimbabwe**

Appearance of Bhekithemba Mathe, Thando Mpala, and Talent Ganya, 3 residents of Harare. They were about to sell 37 kg of raw cut ivory for 2,960 US\$ or 80 US\$/kg. A bargain: the official price of one kg of ivory in Zimbabwe at the time of the incident was 180 US\$. The ivory was allegedly purchased from Mthulisi Moyo in Bulawayo. He is nowhere to be found.

NewZimbabwe.com, May 7, 2022; Harare Live, May 9, 2022.<sup>59</sup>

**May 6, 2022****Matetsi, Matabeleland North Province, Zimbabwe**

The elephant had a metal trap across his mouth. Roger, the vet, anaesthetized him to free him and also anaesthetized his mother. The prognosis was favourable. The pair got back on their feet.

Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust, May 10, 2022.<sup>60</sup>

**May 7, 2022****Ndanga, Masvingo Province, Zimbabwe**

Big crowd in the bush. An improvised market and slaughterhouse opened. A "problem" elephant was shot after being beaten with a stone. It is said that he was vandalizing the protective fences of the fields. What will happen to the ivory?

Fauna and Flora Zimbabwe, May 7, 2022.<sup>61</sup>

**May 16, 18 and 23 and June 1, 2022****Zimbabwe and Botswana**

- Zimbabwe is fighting back in anticipation of the 19<sup>th</sup> CITES Plenary Conference, which takes place from November 14 to 25, 2022 in Panama.

Once again, elephants and rhinos are back on the table. According to Mangaliso Ndlovu, the Minister of Environment, Climate and Tourism, and ZimParks, there are 130 tonnes of ivory and 6 tonnes of horns in the State's vaults. The value of the whole is estimated at 600 million US\$. This estimate is unrealistic. It is intended for domestic public opinion and the international parrot-press. In Zimbabwe, seized ivory has been valued by the Treasury and other authorities at around 100 US\$/kg for at least 3 years and rhino horn at around 8,000 US\$/kg in the SADC (Southern African Development Community) countries. On this basis, the value of Zimbabwe's government stockpile is 13 million US\$ for ivory and 48 million US\$ for rhino horns. This is nothing like the 600 million US\$ promised, some of which is supposed to end up equitably in the pockets of rural communities as compensation for the constraints imposed by sharing space with elephants.

Ambassadors from the Netherlands, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Canada and the United States have been invited to visit the ivory stockpiles and convince other countries of the legitimacy of Zimbabwe's request. "We kindly request the support of the EU for Zimbabwe to be allowed a once off sale of our national ivory stock." But Zimbabwe's plea did not immediately meet the approval of diplomats. On their behalf, the Swiss ambassador responded that, "Conservation and prevention of illegal wildlife trade is an international issue because of the involvement of criminal syndicates in illegal wildlife trade hence there is need to strengthen international cooperation." In Geneva in 2019, the identical request made by Zimbabwe, Namibia, Botswana and South Africa had been rejected by the CITES Conference of the Parties.

- Mangaliso Ndlovu confirms that Zimbabwe is prepared to act outside CITES if it persists in preventing the country from reaping the full benefits of its natural resources. "If this CITES [plenary meeting in Panama] is not decisive on this critical matter, we will be left with no choice than consider engaging our affairs outside CITES."

- An African Elephant Summit is being held May 23-26, 2022 at the Safari Lodge in Hwange National Park. 150 participants including ministers, diplomats, and rural community leaders from 16 African countries and observers from national and international NGOs (AWF, IFAW, Conservation Force, IUCN AESG, TRAFFIC, WWF). The Summit was not as successful as Zimbabwe had hoped. Barabara Creecy, South Africa's Minister of the Environment, was not part of her country's delegation. =>

Only 6 African countries were present while Zimbabwe had invited 16. Kenya, Rwanda, Senegal among others were not present. The final declaration was signed by Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, Tanzania and Zambia. It does not ask CITES to authorize under certain conditions the sale of elephant ivory on the international market. Here is the full text:

1. The Government of Zimbabwe hosted an African Elephant Conference for key elephant range states in Africa at Hwange Safari Lodge from the 23rd to the 26<sup>th</sup> of May 2022.

2. The Conference was attended by Ministers and senior government officials from Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, as well as key non-State actors from the AWF, IFAW, Conservation Force, IUCN AESG, TRAFFIC, WWF, and local wildlife NGOs.

3. The conference aimed to reach a consensus on sustainable elephant management practices that benefit both elephants and local communities.

4. The conference emphasized the importance for Africa to speak with a unified voice in international fora. Therefore, a mechanism for lobbying on common issues must be established.

5. The conference noted that while the regional African elephant population is declining, the number of elephants in southern Africa is increasing, demonstrating good conservation practices that ought to be recognised and provide lessons learnt for other countries to emulate. Hence countries with high elephant populations must be heard and listened to, and must benefit from their efforts in conserving their elephants.

6. The conference concurred that the voices of communities that co-exist with wildlife must be included in decision-making because they bear the brunt of living with wildlife.

7. The conference agreed that there is a need for long-term funding for wildlife conservation from a variety of sources including but not limited to wildlife trade.

8. Animal welfare organizations should not only oppose conservation philosophies in key range States but also fund wildlife conservation.

9. The conference further noted the information gap in local and international media about wildlife management and agreed to cultivate good media relations by inviting local, regional, and international media to participate in technical workshops to better understand conservation issues.

10. Furthermore, community involvement in elephant conservation is required at the national, regional, and international levels. There is a need to develop a functional Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) policy and legislation that allow communities to receive benefits that outweigh the costs of management.

11. The conference took stock on the successes and failures on African elephant conservation with key range States highlighting overall success in the conservation of the African Elephant.

12. The conference agreed that elephant range States should not be penalized for their efforts to conserve the species but should rather be commended and supported by the international community for their good management practices.

13. The Conference agreed that current CITES decisions are no longer scientific but based on votes and emotions. As such, there is a need to review the convention and ensure it serves its intended purpose

14. The conference adopted a Hwange Declaration on the Conservation of the African Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) and called upon all key African Range States to endorse and adopt it.

Mr. Ndlovu said, "It's a disappointment for me, the attendance at the summit," while pointing out that, "It's a comfort, though, that the countries that came have 65% of the world's elephant population."

There is nothing new and a stubbornness to consider almost all international NGOs as opponents, even though their narratives help catch the attention of audiences and make nature tourism a major resource in the economies of signatory countries. Point 13 repeats the argument of the proponents of the resumption of whaling in the IWC (International Whaling Commission), that decisions are based on emotion rather than scientific information. The signatory States speak on behalf of the "Conference" and there is nothing in this closing text that would indicate that the NGOs present had any disagreement.

In the days that followed, Zimbabwe and Botswana tempered their ultimatum and explained as best they could and against all logic that their eventual withdrawal from CITES would only concern elephant ivory.

As a side argument in favour of the international trade in ivory and later rhino horn, Zimbabwe and the other countries involved in the case put forward the costs of monitoring and maintenance. It is true that stocks are subject to theft and misappropriation and that, as far as the horns are concerned, they are also nibbled by weevils (see "On the Trail" n°7 p.62). However, the five signatory countries, reinforced by South Africa, do not intend to destroy their stocks by fire or other irreversible means, thus depriving themselves of a necessary cultural revolution at home and a formidable flow of sympathy abroad.

Africanews, May 17, 2022; The Herald May 18 and 26 2022; Elizabeth Margaret Steyn Foundation, May 20, 2022; Pindula, May 27, 2022; The Straits Times, May 27, 2022; Daily Maverick, June 2, 2022; The Independent (UK), June 11, 2022.<sup>62</sup>

**Robin des Bois press releases issued during the 19<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to CITES are available at <https://robindesbois.org/en/category/balisage/faune/pillage-et-commerce/>**



## SOUTHERN AFRICA

### SOUTH AFRICA

**April 23, 2022**

**Hazyview, Mpumalanga Province and Kleinmond, Western Cape Province, South Africa**

Two elephants weighing 5 and 4.5 tonnes died. They were anaesthetized and hung for too long by their 4 legs from a broken-down crane. The antidote administered to wake them up when they came down to earth did not work. If the veterinary plan of Dr. Douw Grobblers, a specialist in rhino and elephant translocation, had gone well, the 2 elephants would have subsequently traveled by truck more than 1,800 km across South Africa, from Hazyview in the north to Kleinmond near Cape Town. Craig Saunders, director of the Hazyview Wildlife Sanctuary, justifies this relocation attempt: "We had to move the elephants away because of the stress they were being subjected to from the routine crop spraying performed by low-flying helicopters at the adjacent farms in Hazyview. The excessive noise and toxic chemicals were seriously affecting them."

Lowvelder, April 25, 2022, and May 5, 2022; News24, April 25, 2022.<sup>63</sup>

**Beginning of June 2022**

**Skukuza, Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa**

Rescue of a juvenile elephant whose right front leg had been entangled in a metal trap for about a week.

Singita, June 6, 2022.<sup>64</sup>



### BOTSWANA

**Beginning of April 2022**

**Maun, North West District, Botswana**

The Elephants Protection Society warns: "They are a lot of elephants coming from the eastern side of Maun, with few wounds from been shot. So please, beware of those animals and keep your distance from elephants."

Elephants Protection Society, April 12, 2022.<sup>65</sup>

**April 11, 2022**

**North West District, Botswana**

#### THE HUNT FOR SUPER TUSKERS

Tusk n°1 weighed 48 kg with a length of 238.75 cm.

Tusk n°2 weighed 43.5 kg with a length of 223.25 cm.



According to the hunters, killing super tuskers whose sexual vigor is declining does not affect the overall reproductive capacity of the species. Elephant experts say, on the contrary, that the hunting of super tuskers leads to the shortening of tusks from generation to generation and even to their disappearance. They also point out that solitary males play an important pedagogical role for juvenile elephants that are no longer dependent on their mothers and clan (see "On the Trail" n°28 p.103).

Leon Kachelhoffer, a professional hunter licenced in Botswana, guided a client from the United States of America. The largest super tusker in the NG13 region of northern Botswana was killed. The victim, who was in his 50s, was reportedly shot once in the head. Debbie Peake, the spokesperson for the Botswana Wildlife Producers Association, is pleased that the meat was distributed to local people. The Tcheku Community Trust held 4 hunting licences for the year 2022 and sold them to Derek Brink, an industrialist who made his fortune in the wholesale meat trade. He is also the 50% owner of Spar Supermarkets in Botswana. Kachelhoffer is Brink's strong arm. According to Bantu, the chairman of the Tcheku Community Trust, "NG13 hasn't been hunted all along, so this area has been the hiding place for these big elephants. There's never been plowing of fields, and only a few cattle posts exist along the buffalo fence. But there are waterholes and these elephants can live there undisturbed. So we are not shocked that such big elephants are found there."

Bantu says Kachelhoffer, his trackers, and his client killed the elephant near the border with Sector NG14, which through the Kwando River corridor, a tributary of the Zambezi also known as Linyanti or Chobe in its lower reaches, allows elephants to reach Bwabwata National Park in Namibia and eventually Sioma Ngwezi National Park in Zambia and Luengue-Luiana National Park in Angola. All 3 parks are part of the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area. The American client allegedly paid between 80,000 US\$ and 100,000 US\$ to accompany the hunt, participate in the final shooting and possibly receive the right to export the tusks to the United States. Kachelhoffer allegedly paid the Tcheku Community Trust 16,500 US\$. According to Bantu, Kachelhoffer will return to NG13 with another foreign client in late May.

Another super tusker with tusks weighing 41 kg each was killed by a foreign sport hunter guided by Johan Calitz, a South African who has lived in Botswana since 1987 and is a professional hunter specializing in NG41. The NG41 is crossed by the elephant corridor between the Okavango Delta, Chobe National Park, and Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe.

Super tuskers face total extinction in eastern and southern Africa by 2025.

Game Animals of the Past and Present, April 11, 2022; Africa Geographic, April 13, 2022; Daily Mail, April 19, and May 12, 2022.<sup>66</sup>

## NAMIBIA

**April 2022**

### **Namibia**

In New Era, Axel Cramer of the Namibia Professional Hunters Association (NAPHA) is pleased. Since April 22, hunters from the United States of America can legally import trophies from their hunt in Namibia into their country. This was decided by the US courts in August 2021 and the resumption of the trade under the control of the US Fish and Wildlife Service was set for April 2022. Cramer is grateful to the Dallas Safari Club and its members, NACSO (Namibian Association of Community Based Natural Resource Management Support Organisations) and MEFT (Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism) for their combined efforts in getting the moratorium lifted. "The NAPHA members and other concession holders with an elephant on their quota did not stop hunting elephants despite the unwillingness of US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to attend to the processing of the import permits during that time." "There was a shift to find alternative markets for elephants to supplement the US as the key elephant hunting market. Aware that the US' 5-year elephant trophy hunting imports ban was going to diminish elephant trophy hunting revenue and, in turn, wildlife conservation revenue, NAPHA sought and found new international markets for elephant hunting." "Interesting statistical data by a leading research company in Namibia found, however, that only 3% of tourists are indeed conservation hunters. Although they make up only a fraction of the entire market, they account for close to 20% of all the tourism revenue."

The evidence according to Cramer is that international hunters constitute low-volume tourism with low pressure on the environment but comparatively bringing much higher revenue than photographic tourism.

Cramer further says that the Covid-19 period during which foreigners were banned from visiting was used to establish a School of Conservation under NAPHA where all professional and aspiring hunters are educated and trained. He believes that in light of the changing market and continuing drought, the Anabeb Conservancy's decision to move away from cattle ranching into wild game ranching from 2020 onward makes "sense."

The Anabeb Conservancy is located in the Kunene region and covers 1,570 km<sup>2</sup>. Elephants, leopards, cheetahs, lions, caracals, and zebras live there. According to its chairman, the decision was an obvious one to improve the standard of living of the residents: "If you sell one cow you get 125 US\$ and a kudu fetches 935 US\$ or more depending on the size. Therefore, our conservancy decided last year to sell all our cattle and use the land for wildlife hunting and tourism lodges that we have built using hunting revenue."

New Era, October 19, 2020, and April 28, 2022.<sup>67</sup>

## NORTHERN AMERICA

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**June 2022**

#### **New York City, New York State, United States of America**



The director of the Manhattan Art and Antique Center was fined 21,000 US\$. He was selling carved ivory without permit, in particular an ivory pagoda that attract the attention of investigators and ECOs (Environmental Conservation Police Officers). In 1880, the first 8 Game Protectors proudly began serving to protect the natural resources and people of New York State. In 2021, 282 Environmental Conservation Police Officers (ECO's) and Investigators across the State responded to 26,207 calls and worked on cases that resulted in 11,562 tickets or arrests for violations ranging from deer poaching to waste dumping, illegal mining, the black market pet trade, and excessive emissions violations.

Department of Environmental Conservation, June 22, 2022.<sup>68</sup>

## EASTERN ASIA

### CHINA

#### TIANJIN AUTONOMOUS MUNICIPALITY

**April 2022**

#### **Tianjin Autonomous Municipality, China**

Seizure of 72 pieces of carved ivory including cutlery, inlays on a lawn bowling game, jewelry, cigarette holders, ...

Chinese Customs, April 25, 2022.<sup>69</sup>

#### FUJIAN PROVINCE

**June 2022**

#### **Fuzhou Changle International Airport, Fujian Province, China**

Seizure of 26 bracelets and an ivory pendant in several pieces of luggage at the disembarkation of the same flight. Total weight: 1.206 kg.

Chinese Customs, June 20, 2022.<sup>70</sup>

#### GUANGDONG PROVINCE

**May 16, 2022**

#### **Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, China**

Seizure in a parcel from abroad of 35 red jewellery cases each containing an ivory pendant. Total weight: 60.55 grams or 1.73 grams each.

Chinese Customs, May 16, 2022.<sup>71</sup>

**May 2022**  
**Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, China**



A carved tusk into a postal package from Japan and declared to contain "soap," 2.416 kg. Chinese Customs, June 5, 2022; Guangzhou Daily, June 9, 2022.<sup>72</sup>



**June 2022**  
**Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, China**

Seizure of 38 lawn bowling balls with ivory inlays in an incoming postal package.

Lawn bowling balls, see "On the Trail" n°32 p. 38 and 39.

Chinese Customs, June 22, 2022.<sup>73</sup>



**June 30, 2022**  
**Shenzhen Bao'an International Airport, Guangdong Province, China**

Seizure of a painting scroll with ivory tips. The print is allegedly a copy of a work by Chinese painter Gong Xian (1618-1689). Chinese Customs, July 1, 2022<sup>74</sup>

**HUBEI PROVINCE**

**May 2022**  
**Wuhan, Hubei Province, China**

Seizure in an incoming package declared to contain a "gift" of an ivory bracelet wrapped in aluminium weighing 44 grams. Chinese Customs, June 7, 2022.<sup>75</sup>



**HUNAN PROVINCE**

**June 21, 2022**  
**Zhuzhou, Zhuzhou Prefecture, Hunan Province, China**



Cao Jian (assumed name) was sentenced to the equivalent of 7,575 US\$ for ecological damage, 450 US\$ for court costs, and ordered to apologize in 3 media outlets in several provinces. Between March 2015 and May 2016, Cao Jian, knowing that he was engaging in an illegal act, had purchased 24 carved ivories and other by-products of protected species via the Internet and at flea markets. He then sold them in an arts and crafts store. The 15 carved ivories were at the time estimated at the equivalent of 1,560 US\$. Zhuzhou Legal System, June 21, 2022.<sup>76</sup>

**June 23, 2022**  
**Changsha Huanghua International Airport, Changsha Prefecture, Hunan Province, China**

Two ivory bracelets in the luggage of a traveler from abroad. Total weight: 64 grams. Chinese Customs, June 29, 2022.<sup>77</sup>

**JIANGSU PROVINCE**

**May 2022**  
**Nanjing Port, Jiangsu Province, China**

An ivory bracelet discovered in a box, 55.43 grams. Chinese Customs, May 24, 2022.<sup>78</sup>

**LIAONING PROVINCE**

**April 2022**  
**Heping District, Shenyang, Liaoning Province, China**



Cai Moumou (assumed name) was sentenced to 9 months in prison with a one-year probationary period and a fine of 20,000 yuan (3,150 US\$) for selling 8 carved ivories worth a total of 4,082 yuan (640 US\$) between June and October 2021. Ersanli, April 22, 2022.<sup>79</sup>

**SHANDONG PROVINCE**

**Beginning of June 2022**  
**Jinan, Shandong Province, China**

An ivory amulet in the incoming mail, 23.25 grams. Chinese Customs, June 18, 2022.<sup>80</sup>



**June 2022**

**Jinan Yaoqiang International Airport, Shandong Province, China**

The X-rays have spoken again. Seizure of 12 ivory items, mainly bracelets, in the luggage of 7 passengers. Total weight: 748 grams.

Chinese Customs, July 4, 2022; Urban Life Magazine, July 7, 2022.<sup>81</sup>

**SICHUAN PROVINCE**

**Beginning of April 2022**

**Chengdu-Shuangliu International Airport, Sichuan Province, China**



Seizure of 4 ivory bracelets in the luggage of a passenger coming from abroad. They were concealed in a milk powder box and a lunch box. Chinese Customs, April 14, 2022.<sup>82</sup>

**Beginning of June 2022**

**Chengdu-Shuangliu International Airport, Sichuan Province, China**



Seizure of 8 carved ivories including a bracelet and an amulet in the luggage of a passenger coming from abroad. Total weight: 187.89 grams. Chinese Customs, June 15, 2022.<sup>83</sup>

**June 2022**

**Chengdu-Shuangliu International Airport, Sichuan Province, China**

Seizure in the luggage of a passenger from abroad of 23 ivory jewels, bracelets, pendants, an amulet... 1,025.91 grams in total.

Chinese Customs, June 28, 2022.<sup>84</sup>

**June 2022**

**Chengdu-Shuangliu International Airport, Sichuan Province, China**

Three ivory bracelets in 3 pieces of luggage seized from an incoming international flight. Total weight: 155 grams.

Chinese Customs, July 5, 2022.<sup>85</sup>

**YUNNAN PROVINCE**

**Beginning of May 2022**

**Menglian Border Post, Pu'er Prefecture, Yunnan Province, China. Border with Myanmar.**

Seizure of an ivory bracelet, 45.2 grams, from a traveller's hand luggage.

Chinese Customs, May 17, 2022.<sup>86</sup>

**ZHEJIANG PROVINCE**

**April 2022**

**Yiwu, Jinhua Prefecture, Zhejiang Province, China**

65 painting scroll tips seized from incoming packages.

Total weight: 1.266 kg.

Chinese Customs, May 2, 2022.<sup>87</sup>



**June 2022**

**Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, China**



Seizure of 24 pieces of cutlery with ivory handles in the incoming mail. Total weight, including metal, 1,060 grams.

Chinese Customs, July 5, 2022.<sup>88</sup>

## SOUTHEASTERN ASIA

### INDONESIA

**April 10, 2022**

**Mount Leuser National Park, Langkat Regency, North Sumatra Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia**

Suspicious death of 2 elephants. The day after the discovery of the 2 corpses, someone tried to tear off a small tusk. Gunung Leuser National Park is home to between 30 and 60 elephants. The Jakarta Post, April 17, 2022.<sup>89</sup>

**April 10, 2022**

**Kuantan Singingi Regency, Riau Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia**



Arrest of Y.O., I.S. and A.C. alias A.N. Seizure of 4 tusks.

Scorpion Foundation Indonesia, April 11, 2022.<sup>90</sup>

**April 29, 2022**

**Peunaron Lama, East Aceh Regency, Aceh Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia**



A dead male elephant was found in a riverbed that was not easily accessible except by foot or dirt bike. His left hind leg had traces of rope on it. No information on the fate of the tusks.

Antara News, April 30, 2022.<sup>91</sup>

**May 25, 2022**

**Desa Koto Pait Beringin, Bengkalis Regency, Riau Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia**



A 25-year-old elephant, 22 months pregnant, is found dead on a plantation. The birth of the baby elephant was imminent. There were no signs of physical assault, but blood was visible in her mouth, trunk, and ears. The BKSDA (Balai Konservasi Sumber Daya Alam) collected samples of the liver, intestines, and lungs for analysis. There were remains of pineapple in the stomach. Poisoning is suspected.

Jawa Pos, May 25, 2022.<sup>92</sup>

### MALAYSIA

**Mid-June 2022**

**Lahad Datu, State of Sabah, Malaysia**



A reward of 5,000 ringgit or 1,145 US\$ is being offered by the Sabah Wildlife Department to anyone who can provide evidence of the setter of a trap which captured a female elephant calf and severed her right front foot. Veterinarians were forced to amputate it and the approximately one-year-old elephant calf died on June 21.

New Straits Times, June 21, 2022; Daily Express, June 22, 2022 ; Malay Mail, June 22, 2022.<sup>93</sup>





## SOUTHERN ASIA

### INDIA

**April 1, 2022**

**Somvarpet Taluk, Kodagu District, State of Karnataka, India**



Seizure of 2 tusks and a scooter. Three arrests. Star of Mysore, April 3, 2022.<sup>94</sup>

**April 20, 2022**

**Begampur, Hooghly District, State of West Bengal, India**

Seizure of 4 ivory statuettes. One arrest. Hindustan Times, April 21, 2022; The Telegraph India, April 21, 2022; WCCB, April 21, 2022.<sup>95</sup>



**April 24, 2022**

**Jubarnisatapur, Sonapur District, State of Odisha, India**

Seizure of 3 pieces of suspected ivory weighing a total of 10 kg by the STF (Special Task Force). One arrest. Pragativadi, April 24, 2022.<sup>96</sup>

### FAMILY AFFAIRS

**April 27, 2022**

**Kochi, Ernakulam District, State of Kerala, India**

Seizure of movable and immovable property of Umesh Agarwal and his wife, of D. Raja and his wife, of Aji Bright's wife and of Preston Silva's wife with a total value of 7.923 million rupees (104,469 US\$). Umesh Agarwal, D. Rajan, Aji Bright and Preston Silva are suspected by judicial and tax authorities of poaching around 20 elephants in 2014 and 2015 in the sanctuaries of Vazhachal, Thundathil, Munnar, and Parambikulam, of participating in the ivory trade, and of money laundering in complicity with their wives. See "On the Trail" n°19 p.110, n°21 p.95 and n°35 p.29.

The New Indian Express, April 29, 2022.<sup>97</sup>

**May 5, 2022**

**Malpada, Bolangir District, State of Odisha, India**



Seizure of 9 kg of suspected raw ivory. One arrest. Odisha TV, May 5, 2022; Ommcom News, May 5, 2022.<sup>98</sup>

**May 7, 2022**

**Madikeri, Kodagu District, State of Karnataka, India**

Rafiq Ahmed Khan and Fazil Khan were looking to sell a carved tusk. They were arrested on the Mysuru-Madikeri Expressway. The tusk will be subjected to DNA analysis. For the time being, it remains a mystery as to its dating, the identity of the artist, and the location of his workshop. Star of Mysore, May 8, 2022.<sup>99</sup>

**May 23, 2022**

**Hastinapur, Rayagada District, State of Odisha, India**



Two tusks: one weighing 3.07 kg, the other weighing 3.31 kg. Arrest of Jakaba Majhi and Padmana Kadraka near a cashew tree forest. Pragativadi, May 23, 2022; South Odisha Updates, May 24, 2022.<sup>100</sup>



## ELEPHANT GRAVEYARDS IN ODISHA

**May 23 and 26, 2022**

**Bankamundi and Bhurkipada Forest Reserves, Boudh District, State of Odisha, India**

The poachers killed, ripped off the tusks, and hastily buried the 2 corpses which were exhumed with the help of an excavator 3 days after. The district of Boudh would be under the control of the "ganja mafia." Elephants are said to trample the cannabis fields, even feeding on them, and villagers or professionals from elsewhere are said to be recruited by the traffickers to liquidate them and prevent them from harming the plantations. An investigation is underway to unravel the details of the case and to find out who is benefiting from the introduction of ivory on the black market. On June 3, Sushil Hota, Jyotirnanjan Barik, and Sarat Chandra Naik, 3 district forest officers, were suspended from duty.

Argus News, May 26, 2022; Pragativadi, May 26, 2022; The New Indian Express, June 6, 2022; Orissa Post, June 17, 2022.<sup>101</sup>

**Thursday June 2 and Friday June 3, 2022**

**Athgarh Forest Division, Cuttack District, State of Odisha, India**

- Exhumation of the skeleton of a male elephant.
- Exhumation of the skeleton of a female elephant.

Both elephants were allegedly electrocuted and the remains were buried with the complicity of the watchmen and forest agents of the Badamba forest. The investigation is conducted by the Odisha Criminal Investigation Department.

Suspects were arrested (3 watchmen, a forest guard) and 2 officials of the Athgarh forest division are on the run. One of them, Manoj Das, climbed the wall of the forest division headquarters where he was about to be questioned.

The Hindu, June 12, 2022; The New Indian Express, June 14, 2022; Hindustan Times, June 16, 2022.<sup>102</sup>



**Monday June 13, 2022**

**Athgarh Forest Division, Cuttack District, State of Odisha, India**

Local NGOs dedicated to the protection of elephants are calling for full transparency during autopsies. They want independent experts to be present and autopsies to be video-recorded as required by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) during tiger autopsies. "Similar measures need to be put in place in case of elephant deaths to curb the menace of suppressing information." The NGOs are also calling for the forest divisions to be held accountable for the poaching and unnatural deaths of elephants. Such a circular to this effect was issued by the Odisha government in 2012 but has gone unheeded, and the NGOs say it somehow allows forest officials "to turn a blind eye to the foul play." Biswajit Mohanty, one of the pro-elephant activists, drives this point home: "Needless to say, since unnatural deaths continue to be covered up or reported as natural, ivory hunters continue to act with impunity knowing well that the protectors themselves would shield them."

The authorities through the voice of PCCF (Principal Chief Conservator of Forests) Shashi Paul say that all those responsible for poaching and burying elephants will be punished, even if they are State officials.

The New Indian Express, June 14, 2022; Hindustan Times, June 16, 2022.<sup>103</sup>

**Tuesday June 14, 2022**

**Kharod, Athgarh Forest Division, Cuttack District, State of Odisha, India**

New exhumation of an elephant skeleton, a male. The tusks are missing.

OdishaTV, June 15, 2022; Hindustan Times, June 16, 2022.<sup>104</sup>

**Sunday June 19, 2022**

**Athgarh Forest Division, Cuttack District, State of Odisha, India**

A forest ranger and 2 watchmen are arrested. They are suspected of concealing information about the poaching and burial of the elephant whose skeleton was exhumed on June 14.

The New Indian Express, June 21, 2022.<sup>105</sup>

**June 24, 2022**

**Satyajayapura, Satkosia Wildlife Sanctuary, Angul District, State of Odisha, India**

Exhumation of the skeleton of an elephant aged about 20 years who is believed to have been poached in May of the year 2021. The tusks are missing. The remains were found after several hours of digging. Three watchers of the sanctuary were arrested. They are suspected of having been informed of the poaching and of being accomplices in the burial of the body. Two forest officers have been suspended from duty and their boss Harishchandra Pradhan is being actively sought. Investigators are trying to find out whether this new burial case of a suspected poached elephant is related to the four carcasses found underground in the nearby Narasinghpur and Athagarh forests.

The New Indian Express, June 26, 2022.<sup>106</sup>

**Monday June 27, 2022**

**Mandap Reserve Forest, Athgarh Forest Division, Cuttack District, State of Odisha, India**

Exhumation overnight of the 5<sup>th</sup> elephant carcass since the beginning of the month. "It has almost been established that our department's lower-ranked staff are involved in such cases." "We are trying to find out if there is many more such cases. The skeleton's sample has been sent to Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology to determine the animal's sex," says a member of the SIT (Special Investigation Team).

The Times of India, June 29, 2022.<sup>107</sup>

**Tuesday June 28, 2022**

**Athgarh Forest Division, Cuttack District, State of Odisha, India**

Arrest of Jalandhar Nayak alias Jalia and Budhiman Rout alias Budhia in connection with the discovery of elephant carcasses in Athgarh forest division. The main suspect remains on the run.

Prameya News, June 29, 2022.<sup>108</sup>

**Night of 26 to 27 May 2022**

**Madurai, Madurai District, State of Tamil Nadu, India**

Mala had been keeping an approximately 20-year-old elephant in her home for 5 years without any document of origin or certificate of capacity. Neighbours alerted the services. It took 5 hours for the forestry officers to convince the "owner" to let go and to load the domesticated elephant into a truck with the help of a mahout who had been looking after her for a while. The convoy then headed to the specialized center in Tiruchy. "Rupali" was rented for various purposes such as commercial parades and family celebrations. He had been fraudulently imported from Bihar, more than 2,000 km away. Mala is charged with contempt of law enforcement officers and illegal possession of an elephant. Rupali's regular mahout has fled. He is wanted.

The New Indian Express, May 28, 2022.<sup>109</sup>

**May 27, 2022**

**Malasavara, Hassan District, State of Karnataka, India**

The elephant was 20 years old. He was shot and killed. Sixty elephants divided into 3 groups, sometimes merging into 2 groups, frequent the area around Sakleshpur, Belur, and Alur. Conflicts with farmers are at their peak. At the beginning of May and during March, 3 people were trampled by elephants. "We are struggling and fighting to protect the crops that we grow for food." In one year, 5 elephants have died from violence, electrocution, or poisoning.

Telangana Today, May 27, 2022; The Hindu, May 28, 2022.<sup>110</sup>

**June 1, 2022**

**Kandhakoili, Angul District, State of Odisha, India**

9 kg. Duryodhan Pradhan is arrested.

KalingaTV, June 2, 2022; The Pioneer, June 3, 2022.<sup>111</sup>

**June 3, 2022**

**Chikmagalur, Chikmagalur District, State of Karnataka, India**

They had gone fishing in the Bhadra tiger reserve. Shivakumar, Sundares, Mahantesh, Noor Ahmed and Anjanappa, workers of a coffee plantation, came back from their illegal fishing trip with 2 elephant tusks with a total weight of 15 kg and were trying to sell them in the city (more than 130,000 inhabitants). They said that they "stumbled" upon the skeleton of an elephant, "detached" the tusks from the skull and decided to sell them "to pay off their debts." They led the reserve guards to the place of their "discovery" in a river in the middle of the forest.

The Bhadra reserve covers about 500 km<sup>2</sup>. It is forbidden to enter the reserve without prior authorization from the guards. According to this protocol which could not be ignored, they had to hand over the ivory to the guards.

The Times of India, June 6, 2022; The Hindu, June 7, 2022.<sup>112</sup>

**June 4, 2022**

**Rajamahendravaram, East Godavari District, State of Andhra Pradesh, India**

Seizure of 2 tusks in the hands of Yellavarapu Someswar and Paripati Srinivasulu at a bus stop. They were allegedly commissioned by a local trafficking kingpin, a man named Jagan based in Hyderabad, to find a buyer or buyers for an undisclosed fee.

The Hindu, June 5, 2022.<sup>113</sup>

**Night of June 5 to June 6, 2022**

**Pasighat, East Siang District, State of Arunachal Pradesh, India**

The convoy of 10 trucks carrying 10 sub-adult elephants (7 males and 3 females) from the lush Arunachal Pradesh to the dry western Gujarat, 3,700 km, was blocked around midnight by about 100 protesters, mostly students. After checking the documents presented by the mahouts and drivers and asking for the opinion of the authorities of the two States, the forest officials released the convoy. They believe that the "donation" of the domesticated elephants by the owners of Chowkham in Arunachal Pradesh to the Radhe Krishna Temple Welfare Trust in Jammagar cannot be disputed. The Hindu trust claims to have a "hospital" for 150 elephants and 300 caretakers to feed them and provide daily care. Protesters and pro-elephant NGOs are not convinced. Evidence of elephant abuse between and during processions and other events is abundant in southern and western India. They recall that in August 2021, 2 trucks carrying 2 female elephants from Arunachal Pradesh to West Bengal were stopped in Assam and seized by court order. Behind the alleged donation of the elephants were hidden bills. Two convoys with 2 elephants each between Arunachal Pradesh and Jammagar, Gujarat, had already spurred the indignation of a part of the public opinion in October 2021.

Domesticated elephants in India, see "On the Trail" n°7 p.93, n°8 p.85, n°12 p.93, n°13 p.93, n°14 p.91,

n°17p.101 and 102, n°18 p.98 and 99, n°19 p.106 and 111, n°20 p.106, n°21 p.96, n°22 p.98, n°27 p.107, Covid-19 Special Edition p.6, n°28 p.98, n°31 p.34, n°32 p.49 and 50, n°33 p.50, n°34 p.44 and n°35 p.32.

The Arunachal Age, June 6, 2022 ; The Hindu, June 7, 2022 ; Down To Earth, June 10, 2022.<sup>114</sup>

**June 7 to 19, 2022**

**Narasinghpur Tehsil, Cuttack District, State of Odisha, India**

Tuesday, June 7. The elephant, about 10 years old, is found suffering and moaning on the bank of a river. Wednesday, June 8, and Thursday, June 9. Veterinarians and experts from the Nandankanan Zoo and the Centre for Wildlife Health (CWH) of the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) arrive on the scene. The victim was shot in the head, trunk, and leg. The attack occurred 2 to 3 weeks ago according to the veterinarians.

Tuesday, June 14. The elephant, who had seemed to be responding well to treatment and whose wounds were healing, died suddenly. A high fever is suspected. The post-mortem examination will tell more.

Sunday, June 19. Three suspects are arrested. A rifle was seized.

The New Indian Express, June 15, 2022; The Pioneer, June 21, 2022.<sup>115</sup>

**June 12, 2022**

**Sattegala, Chamarajanagar District, State of Karnataka, India**



Seizure of 2 tusks, 15.9 kg, 3 cell phones, and a car. Arrest of 3 men aged 21, 28, and 31 years old all from Chikmagalur. A fourth man aged 26 is still at large.

The Hindu, June 13, 2022.<sup>116</sup>

**June 21, 2022**

**Sapalahara, Sambalpur District, State of Odisha, India**

The half-submerged elephant was stuck in the mud of a pond. For 5 days, rescuers tried to support him with medicine and salt to lick. Finally extracted with a crane, he took his last breath on the bank. The post-mortem examination revealed that he was wounded by a rifle bullet fired from the top of a tree. Three suspects are heard by the police. A homemade rifle was seized from their homes.

Odisha TV, June 21 and 23, 2022.<sup>117</sup>



## Night of June 25 to 26, 2022

### **Palia Kalan, Lakhimpur Kheri District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India. Border with Nepal.**

Vakeel Ahmad and Govind Kumar were trying to cross the border with Nepal on a moped with a tusk, 69 cm long, weighing 4.45 kg. The Nepalese man who was waiting for them fled.

Hindustan Times, June 26, 2022; The Print, June 26, 2022; The Times of India, June 27, 2022.<sup>118</sup>

## NEPAL

### **June 26, 2022**

#### **Sauraha, Chitwan District, Bagmati Province, Nepal**

The domesticated elephants in Nepal are at the end of their rope and the death of Kajalkali, aged 70 years, perhaps more, is a painful testimony to this. She had been imported to Sauraha from Uttar Pradesh to be exploited as an attraction and ride. She worked hard for 2 years carrying tourists and then she started to decline. The vets say that her molars were too worn out to chew the fodder. But her career was not over. The hope was that she would be retired to a protected grassland, a kind of sanctuary that would be an attraction in itself and an act of recognition of her decades of service to man. Alas, this living museum of venerable elephants is only a dream. An Indian broker made an agreement with the Nepalese owner of Kajalkali to repatriate her to India and make her work until the end. He picked her up in 2021 by truck and on the way back turned around, suddenly realizing that his illegal cargo could be seized or turned back at the Nepal-India border. He dropped Kajalkali off in Sauraha at the Parkside Hotel elephant shelter. The former owner refused to take her back into his care. On May 23 and again on June 16, she collapsed despite the care of the NTCN (National Trust for Nature Conservation) and CNP (Chitwan National Park). She died on June 26. The dream could have become reality. The NTCN in Chitwan is caring for Melkali, an 80-year-old elephant.

There are at least 50 domesticated elephants in Nepal whose owners are bankrupt and half of them are over 40 years old.

Online Khabar, June 17, 2022; Nepali Times, July 1, 2022; Association Moey, July 6, 2022.<sup>119</sup>

## SRI LANKA

### **End of May 2022**

#### **Ampara District, Eastern Province, Sri Lanka**

A 67-year-old man is questioned by the police. He was in undocumented possession of what are suspected to be 76 "Gaja Muthu" or "Gaja-Mukta", ivory concretions that sometimes form at the base of tusks. In the memory of the STF (Special Task Force), this is the largest seizure of "Gaja Muthu" ever made in the country.

Gaja Muthu, see "On the Trail" n°15 p. 101, n°19 p. 112, n°22 p. 100, n°23 p. 134, n°24 p. 79, n°32 p. 51 and n°35 p.33.

News 1<sup>st</sup>, May 29, 2022.<sup>120</sup>

## NORTHERN EUROPE

### UNITED KINGDOM

#### **April 29, 2022**

##### **Harrow, Greater London County, England, United Kingdom**



Maharaj Sivasundram, a jeweller in Wembley, was selling gold baby bracelets embellished with "good luck charms" African elephant hair. Weight: 31 grams. He was fined 8,400 £ (11,050 US\$).

The Mirror, April 30, 2022; Watford Observer, April 30, 2022.<sup>121</sup>

#### **June 6, 2022**

##### **United Kingdom**

The new Ivory Act came into force on Monday June 6, 2022. During the month of May, the NGO Two million Tusks found that 165 auction houses in the UK sold 2,754 carved ivories for a total revenue of 842,567 £ or just over one million US\$.

For the last 2 years, "On the Trail" has noticed that Victorian and colonial ivories were fraudulently shipped to China and that Chinese customs seize a part of the parcels.

The Act prohibiting the domestic and international trade, which the English government describes as the most restrictive in the world, has some exemptions. Subject to a permit issued by APHA (The Animal and Plant Health Agency), objects made before 1947 and containing less than 10% ivory, musical instruments made before 1975 and containing less than 20% ivory and objects made before 1918 that are of an "outstanding artistic, cultural or historical value and importance" can be sold. This latter exemption is subject to much criticism. It opens the way to multiple interpretations.

UK Government, June 6, 2022; The Independent, June 6, 2022; The Institute of Art and Law, June 16, 2022; Fieldsports Channel, June 7, 2022; BBC, June 10, 2022.<sup>122</sup>

## WESTERN EUROPE

### GERMANY

#### **May 12, 2022**

##### **Karlsruhe, Baden-Württemberg State, Germany**

Customs officers opened a package from the UK. It contained 6 ivory figurines purchased at an auction house. They were seized. The recipients had no CITES import certificate. According to the spokeswoman from Karlsruhe customs, "the trade in animal by-products, such as tiger bones, ivory, and unfortunately also the trade in live animals, continues to be booming. In addition, tourists like to bring back some vacation souvenirs, such as protected corals, reptiles preserved in alcohol, or even a complete skin. There are no limits to creativity here, to the great displeasure of the animals."

German Customs, May 12, 2022.<sup>123</sup>

## FRANCE

**June 9, 2022**

**Lille, Department of Nord, France**

The auction house SAS Lille Métropole Enchères was fined 4,000€ (4,305 US\$) and ordered to pay 1,500€ (1,615 US\$) in moral damages and 500€ in legal fees to the NGO Robin des Bois for unauthorized possession and sale of elephant ivory. In March 2021, the house had offered up for sale 7 lots of carved ivory objects (statuettes, crucifixes, carved tusk, 8 objects in all) and advertised on the specialized website Interenchères without having previously made the declarations required before any sale of pre-1947 carved ivory containing more than 20% ivory. The objects had been seized by the agents of the French Office of Biodiversity before the sale (see "On the Trail" n°32 p.53). The court did not question the post-1947 dating of the ivories. The SAS Lille Métropole Enchères appealed.

The SARL Xavier Wattebled appeared the same day for the sale of 32 lots of elephant ivory objects without the required authorizations or prior declarations but was acquitted. The judgment does not give any element for understanding the differentiated treatment of these 2 similar cases.

Notes of hearing of Robin des Bois, May 2022; Lille Court, June 9, 2022.<sup>124</sup>



## THE NETHERLANDS

**April 2022**

**Rotterdam, Province of South Holland, The Netherlands**



Seizure of several tusks in postal parcels. The 85 kg of raw ivory are valued at 50,000 € (55,630 US\$ and 655 US\$ /kg). An international investigation is underway. The Rotterdam environmental police are exchanging information with several countries, including Indonesia.

National Police (The Netherlands), April 28, 2022.<sup>125</sup>

## SOUTHERN EUROPE

### ITALY

**Beginning of April 2022**

**Metropolitan City of Palermo, Region of Sicily, Italy**



Seizure in a prestigious hotel whose anonymity has been preserved of several tusks and stools made of elephant feet in the private events room. The tusks were part of the party. They were often photographed and appeared on social media. NewSicilia, April 6, 2022.<sup>126</sup>

**Mid-May 2022**

**Turin, Metropolitan City of Turin, Region of Piedmont, Italy**



Seizure in an antique store of 2 "colonial" tusks with an estimated value of 24,000 € (25,160 US\$). TelecityNews24, May 16, 2022; TorinoToday, May 16, 2022.<sup>127</sup>

**May 31, 2022**

**Brescia, Province of Brescia, Region of Lombardy, Italy**

Seizure by the carabinieri in a private home of 428 carved ivories with a total value of more than 100,000 € (104,850 US\$). The largest piece, 80 cm tall, 7 kg, is a representation of a Geisha. The owners of the house say they "found" them in the attic. Corriere della Sera, May 31, 2022; QuiBrescia, May 31, 2022.<sup>128</sup>

## PORTUGAL

**April 7, 2022**

### **Funchal, Autonomous Region of Madeira, Madeira Island, Portugal**

Seizure of 187 carved ivories at a souvenir shop. 1.4 kg in all, or 7 grams per object. The action is to be put to the credit of the GNR (Guarda Nacional Republicana), the NICCOA (Núcleo de Investigação de Crimes e Contra-ordenações Ambientais) and the SEPNA (Serviço da Protecção da Natureza e do Ambiente).

Público, April 10, 2022.<sup>129</sup>

## EASTERN EUROPE

## POLAND

**May 2022**

### **Warsaw Chopin International Airport, Masovian Voivodeship, Poland**

Seizure of an elephant foot converted into an umbrella stand. It is displayed in the windows of the international airport to inform travellers about the risks of transporting endangered animal by-products, along with a tiger skin, a polar bear fur, and bags made of snake and crocodile skins.

Chopin Airport, May 23, 2022.<sup>130</sup>



© Lotnisko Chopina

"What not to bring back from vacation?"

# ELEPHANTS AND FELINES

## AFRICA

## GABON

### **FAMILY AFFAIRS**

**April 16, 2022**

### **Oyem and Nkout, Woleu-Ntem Province, Gabon**

There were 4 of them and they were looking to sell 2 pairs of tusks and an elephant tail, 3 skins and 5 leopard fangs (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I). Ghislain Kizito Morten Abene Ndouna is believed to be the owner of 2 skins and 5 leopard teeth. Célestin Nguema Ngomo, a retiree, allegedly shot an elephant before extracting the tusks and cutting off the tail. He led the police to the place where the pachyderm was killed. Bones were found. Jean Blaise Aboui, a teacher, is said to be the owner of a pair of tusks allegedly found in the forest. The 3 suspects were presented to the specialized prosecutor in Libreville and remanded in custody. A fourth man, Loïc Mezui M'Assoumou, the son of Célestin Nguema Ngomo, was released due to insufficient information on his involvement in the trafficking.

Conservation Justice, April 18 and April 2022; EAGLE, April 18, 2022; Info241, April 20, 2022.<sup>1</sup>



**June 3, 2022**

### **Ndendé, Ngounié Province, Gabon**

One arrest. Seizure of 3 tusks and 2 skins and 2 leopard fangs (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I). Total weight: 2.08 kg. The gendarmes also confiscated a .12 calibre gun.

Conservation Justice, June 2022.<sup>2</sup>



**June 23, 2022**

**Lambaréné, Moyen-Ogooué Province, Gabon**

This is not the first time in Gabon that court offices, which are supposed to guarantee the security of evidence in ongoing or future trials, have been subject to theft. Thanks to the complicity of a few temporary employees and civil servants, as well as to the precariousness of the buildings and the ease with which it is possible for robbers to break in, theft is not an uncommon occurrence. In 2020, tusks stolen from the court in Libreville were found in Cameroon. In 2015, 300 kg of ivory disappeared from the court in Oyem (see "On the Trail" n°9 p.73). In 2011, 17 tusks were stolen from the court in Makokou.

This time, the 81 kg of raw ivory and the leopard skin (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) that were in the bags and suitcases of Patrice Mba and Christian Madouma when they got out of a cab came from the sealed evidences of the city's court, thanks to the complicity of Yve Kombe, a temporary employee of the Ministry of Justice whose address and identity were kindly given by the 2 traffickers. The "courthouse" of Lambaréné has already suffered 2 similar thefts in 2012 and 2020.



7Jours Info, June 27, 2022; EAGLE, June 27, 2022; Conservation Justice, June 2022.<sup>3</sup>

**REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

**April 21, 2022**

**Nzassi, Department of Kouilou, Republic of the Congo**

Landry Ngoma Sota was sentenced in absentia in August 2021 to 18 months in prison for trafficking in ivory and leopard skin (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) (see "On the Trail" n°33 p.74). "Benefiting" from an arrest warrant, he has just been arrested. The specialized gendarmerie squadron of Pointe-Noire and PALF (Projet d'appui à l'Application de la Loi sur la Faune Sauvage) are pleased with this "extremely important and symbolic arrest which shows that traffickers cannot escape justice and will not benefit from impunity."

PALF, April 2022.<sup>4</sup>

**ASIA**

**CAMBODIA**

**April 6, 2022**

**Roluos, Phnom Penh Autonomous Municipality, Cambodia**

La Seng Nguon, Sok Theara alias Chan Sampichr and Sey Hour have been charged and are on the run and under arrest warrant. In La Seng Nguon's Antiques & Souvenir store, the police seized 48 kg of ivory, 35 kg of tiger (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I) and wild boar teeth and 30 kg of animal by-products that were prohibited from being sold.

Khmer Times, July 20, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

# ELEPHANTS, RHINOS / HIPPOS SPERM WHALES / WALRUSES

## AFRICA / AMERICA

### KENYA / UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

May 26-September 3, 2022

Kenya - United States



- May 26. A reward of up to one million US\$ is promised to anyone who can provide to the US Fish and Wildlife via the US Embassy in Kenya or the DCI (Directorate of Criminal Investigations, Kenya) information leading to the arrest of Abdi Hussein Ahmed and Badru Abdulaziz Saleh, Kenyan nationals.

- May 31. Arrest of Badru Abdulaziz Saleh aka Badro a few kilometres from the border with Somalia.

- August 2. Arrest of Abdi Hussein Ahmed aka Abu Khadi in Maua, Meru County.

- June 16. Extradition of Badru alias Badro to the United States on a Kenya Airways flight to New York.

- September 3. Extradition of Abdi Hussein Ahmed aka Abu Khadi to the United States on a Kenya Airways flight to New York.

The 2 men are suspected of conspiring with Mansur Mohammed Surur, a Kenyan citizen, Amara Cherif, a Guinean citizen, and Moazu Kromah, a Liberian citizen, from December 2012 to May 2019 to smuggle 190 kg of rhino horns, 10 tonnes of elephant ivory and 10 kg of heroin into the United States (see "On the Trail" n°25 p.81). Kromah, aka Ayoub, aka Ayuba, aka Kampala Man, was arrested in June 2019 in Uganda and immediately extradited to the United States (see "On the Trail" n°25 p.81 and n°29 p.42). Cherif was arrested on June 7, 2019 in Senegal and extradited to the United States in early April 2020 (see "On the Trail" n°25 p.81 and n°29 p.42). Mansur Surur alias Mansour was arrested on July 29, 2020 at Moi airport (Kenya) when he got off a plane from Yemen and extradited to the United States on December 18, 2020 (see "On the Trail" n°30 p.41 and n°31 p.42).

On June 1, Mansur Mohammed Surur pleaded guilty before the Attorney for the Southern District of New York. He admitted to conspiring to trafficking rhino horns and heroin into the United States of America. According to him, he merely acted as a middleman for the sale of one kilo of heroin, one black rhino horn and 2 white rhino horns.

The investigations and trials should confirm or refute the existence of a transnational syndicate dedicated to the trafficking of rhino horns, elephant tusks and drugs. To be continued.

International Policy Digest, August 24, 2019; Directorate of Criminal Investigations, May 26 and 31, June 2 and 17, August 2 and September 4, 2022; Inner City Press, June 1, 2022; SEEJ-AFRICA (Saving Elephants through Education and Justice), June 2, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

## EUROPE

### FRANCE

April 2022

Labarthe-sur-Lèze, Department of Haute-Garonne, France



Seizure of a hundred carved ivories by the OFB and by the gendarmes of Muret. The investigation file will tell how elephants, sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*, Appendix I), hippopotamuses (*Hippopotamus amphibius*, Appendix II) and walruses (*Odobenus rosmarus*, Appendix III in Canada) arrived in spare and worked parts in the small town of 6,000 inhabitants.

Gendarmerie of Haute-Garonne, April 19, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

Seizure of hippopotamus teeth, see also pages 120 and 185.

# RHINOCEROSSES



White rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum*). Photo pfaucher

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 Eswatini 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: the Indian rhinoceros *Rhinoceros unicornis*, the Sumatran rhinoceros *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*, and the Javan rhinoceros *Rhinoceros sondaicus*.

**On the Trail n°36**  
**Black market horn quotation from media or official sources**  
**The values were estimated at the time of the seizures**

**Value of 1kg of raw horn**

Continent	Pays	US\$	Ref. (year)
Asia	India	71,900	42 (2012)
		167,033	43 (2022)
Europe	Germany	64,525	45 (2022)



## EASTERN AFRICA

### UGANDA

**May 29 and September 14, 2022  
Entebbe International Airport, Central  
Region, Uganda**

Seizure of 26 fragments of horns weighing 15 kg in total thanks to the vigilance of the dog squad. They were concealed by pineapples in the suitcase of Al-Maamari Maged Mutahar Ali, a Yemeni national. He was accompanied by a Ugandan national, Mustapha Abubakhar.

Al-Maamari Maged Mutahar Ali was fined 120 million shillings (31,650 US\$) and will be deported to Yemen. Mustapha Abubakhar was fined 40 million shillings (10,550 US\$).

The Independent (Uganda), May 29, 2022; New Vision, August 24, 2022 ; Sabasabaupdates, September 15, 2022.<sup>1</sup>



© Uganda Wildlife Authority

### ZAMBIA

**Beginning of June 2022  
Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park, Southern  
Province, Zambia**

The 4 men were heavily armed. Clearly, they were not going to pick mushrooms. They agreed that they were going to "pick" rhino horns. Benjamin Anedal is Angolan, Belters Sililo Swenye-ho Kamonde is Namibian, Kamonde Ushuka and Samayiwa Samayiwa are Zambian. Daily News Agency, June 9, 2022.<sup>2</sup>



© DNPW

## ZIMBABWE

**April 4, 2022  
Masvingo, Masvingo Province,  
Zimbabwe**

Wellington Bonga was sentenced to 9 years in prison for breaking and entering the Savé Valley Conservancy and possessing an FN shotgun rifle with modified bullets with solid heads. His arrest is credited to the K9 team of ATS (Anti-Poaching Tracking Specialists) who, thanks to the mobilization of 11 Belgian Malinois, claim to have arrested 29 rhino poachers in the last 4 years. Zim Morning Post, May 18, 2022.<sup>3</sup>



## SOUTHERN AFRICA

### SOUTH AFRICA

**April 1, 2022  
Skukuza, Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga  
Province, South Africa**

His 2 accomplices escaped, but the poacher was caught by rangers in possession of a .458 Win Mag bolt-action rifle with no serial number, 2 rounds of ammunition, 3 backpacks, and an axe. N. Rich Ricardo Chauke, age 23, an illegal immigrant from Mozambique, was sentenced to 9 years in prison. SAPS, April 3, 2022.<sup>4</sup>



**April 3, 2022  
Kruger National Park, Limpopo and Mpumalanga  
Provinces, South Africa**



© Care for Wild Rhino Sanctuary

A mother rhino was killed by poachers. The orphaned calf, about 2 months old, laid down next to her body and was attacked by hyenas who ripped off part of his tail. Found in extremis, he was transferred to Care for Wild Rhino Sanctuary. Care for Wild Rhino Sanctuary, April 4, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

**April 7, 2022**

**Between Hluhluwe and Mbazwana, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa**

Since January 1, 77 rhinos have been poached. The integrity of the Prime Minister of the province is being questioned by public opinion. KwaZulu-Natal has become the epicenter of the crisis. The Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Game Reserve is being overwhelmed by a tsunami of poaching.

A retired colonel, speaking on condition of anonymity, denounced the inertia of the authorities: "The fact that 77 rhinos have been slaughtered, yet only one arrest has been made, is an appalling indictment on Ezemvelo's readiness [the agency in charge of the fight against poaching in the province] and the shockingly poor level of South Africa's crime intelligence agencies."

A man early Thursday evening was intercepted in his car on Route 22 from Hluhluwe to Mbazwana. He was in possession of a large 375 heavy-caliber hunting rifle. His arrest caused a stir. It was motivated by an anonymous phone call. But there is no indication at this time that this 54-year-old suspect was able to poach 77 rhinos, or even one. Save the Beasts, April 8, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

**April 8, 2022**

**Skukuza, Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa**

- Munandi Mathebula, age 42, and Eugene Malungane, age 36, were arrested in possession of a .375 H&H bolt action rifle, 10 rounds of ammunition, and an axe. The poachers were released on bail and failed to appear at their court date. The former was caught and sentenced to 13 years in prison.



- Cassamo Chauke, age 59, had killed no less than 3 rhinos. A fourth, cut off from his horns but still alive, had to be finished off. The Mozambican illegal immigrant was sentenced to 19 years in prison. SAPS, April 10, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

**April 11, 2022**

**Care for Wild Rhino Sanctuary, Barberton Nature Reserve, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa**

Arrival of an orphan female aged 20 to 24 months. The mother was poached. She was "taken in charge" by an elder known in the refuge for her maternal instincts and her capacities of transmission of the rhinoceros' manners.

Care for Wild Rhino Sanctuary, May 2022.<sup>8</sup>

**April 14, 2022**

**Zeerust, North West Province, South Africa**



Alfredo Siteo and Thomas Mlambo were sentenced to 44 years in prison for trespassing on a game reserve, using a firearm without a licence, poaching rhinos, and illegally possessing 4 horns. The sentences were combined. The 2 men will spend, unless appealed, pardoned, or paroled, 12 years in prison. One "companion" was acquitted for lack of sufficient evidence of his involvement and 2 accomplices are on the run. The minibus carrying the 5 men was the object of a chase on Wednesday, November 20, 2021, near Zeerust. See "On the Trail" n°34 p.54. SAPS, April 16, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

**April 18 and 19, 2022**

**Houtboshrand and Tshokwane Sections, Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa**



- Tracked by a trained dog, the 2 poachers were caught. Raydon Zitha, age 24, and Ernesto Zitha, age 27, were in possession of a rifle whose serial numbers had been erased, 8 rounds of ammunition, and an axe.

- The next day, Maxiye Hlungwana, age 33, and Khensani Chauke, age 26, were arrested in possession of a rifle, 4 rounds of ammunition, and an axe.

The 4 Mozambican illegal immigrants were taken into custody.

SAPS, April 21, 2022.<sup>10</sup>

**April 19, 2022**

**Skukuza, Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa**



A trio of Mozambican illegal poachers were arrested in possession of a rifle (.458 Win Mag CZ 580 Magnum bolt action) equipped with a silencer, 7 rounds of ammunition, a magazine, and a knife. Antony Tembe, released on bail, fled. But Lawrence Flaveo Cuetele, age 21, and Nelson Mhlongo, age 34, were sentenced to 19 years in prison.

SAPS, April 20, 2022.<sup>11</sup>



**April 22, 2022**

**Lower Sabie section, Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa**

Searched by helicopter, 2 poachers were extracted from their hiding place in the bushes. A knife and a shotgun with a silencer as well as ammunition were found on Patrick Nguntshane, age 32, and Freddie Mahlaule, age 48, both from Mozambique, who remain in custody. "We hope by now everyone is aware that whoever attempts to poach inside the park will be caught and brought to book," said Lieutenant General Semakaleng Daphney Manamela.

SAPS, April 26, 2022.<sup>12</sup>



## FAMILY AFFAIRS

**April 23, Décembre 6 and 14, 2022**

### **Skukuza, Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa**

Corruption, money laundering and fraud linked to wildlife trafficking. Two rangers, aged 56 and 60, provided information to rhino poachers in exchange for large sums of money. David Chikwa Maluleke, age 60, and Solly Ubisi, age 56, were arrested and later released on bail.

Five relatives of David Chikwa Maluleke also served time in jail (Joyce Maluleke, Stephinah Mbhombi, Oters Maluleke, Miyelani Maluleke, and Nkhesane Maluleke) and were later released on bail.

Four relatives of Solly Ubisi's family remain in prison (Thandi Makhuvele, Alsina Mkhonto, Ignatia Mnisi, Given Mzimba) pending a review of their cases by the courts.

On December 14, a woman (Eunice Lekhuleni) and a man (Martin Prince Lekhuleni) surrendered at the police station. They are suspected of being active links in the Maluleke and Ubisi corruption chain.

SAPS, April 24 and December 6, 2022; Save the Beasts, April 25, 2022 City Press, August 13, 2022 ; Letaba Herald, December 7, 2022.<sup>13</sup>



The traitors condemned to death the rhinos they were supposed to protect.

**April 26, 2022**

### **Waterberg District, Limpopo Province, South Africa**

A female rhino shot and killed in the early morning. Her shot baby was found lying on her dead mother's leg, trying to drink her milk. If she survives, the orphan will have to be bottle-fed with Rhinomel, a specially formulated milk.

Food for Rhinos, April 26, 2022.<sup>14</sup>



The desperate orphan girl was found wounded, lying on the remains of her mother.

**April 29, 2022**

### **OR Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg, Gauteng Province, South Africa**

Seizure of 12 rhino horns weighing 30.7 kg in the luggage of a South African woman going to Dubai.



Between July 2020 and December 2021, authorities confiscated 125 horns or horn fragments weighing 425 kg in total at OR Tambo airport (see "On the Trail" n°30 p.44, n°31 p.46, n°32 p.61, n°33 p.66 and n°34 p.56). A new seizure of 11 horns took place on January 31 (see "On the Trail" n°35 p.38). Almost all the shipments were destined for Malaysia. South African Revenue Service, April 29, 2022.<sup>15</sup>

**April 30, 2022**

### **Inverdoorn Private Game Reserve, Western Cape Province, South Africa**

The survivor of the Inverdoorn massacre (see "On the Trail" n°34 p.56) gave birth to a premature baby and the mother did not have enough milk to feed him. Knowing that gestation lasts about 16 months, the mother was pregnant at the time of the carnage and during the facial reconstruction care under the direction of veterinary doctor Douw Grobler. On a night in mid-December 2021, she was shot in the head and at close range.

News24, May 6, 2022; Saving Private Rhino, May 17, 2022.<sup>16</sup>



**FAMILY AFFAIRS / REPEATED OFFENCE**  
**May 4, 2022**  
**Giyani, Limpopo Province, South Africa**



Sentencing of Gideon van Deventer, age 53, and Niklaas van Deventer, age 56, to 44 and 54 years in prison. Several sentences run concurrently. They will have to serve 10 and 15 years respectively and will soon be eligible for parole. They have already served half and one third of the sentence in pre-trial detention. They were convicted of poaching in conspiracy of a female rhino and her calf, dehorning, unlawful possession and selling of horns, possession of firearms and ammunition without a licence, and unlawfully entering land with a firearm where wild animals were found. Their last act of rhino warfare was in late December 2016. They had been chased by the Limpopo police and had thrown a horn in a plastic bag through a window of their bakkie (see "On the Trail" n°16 p.65 and n°17 p.77). In 2007, the van Deventer brothers had already been sentenced to years in prison, 10 for Gideon, 5 for Niklaas, for having poached 2 rhinos in the Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Park, KwaZulu-Natal, a year before.  
 Daily Maverick, May 5, 2022.<sup>17</sup>

**May 4 and 6, 2022**  
**Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Reserve, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa**

- Arrest of 2 suspected poachers acting in conspiracy. Seizure of a firearm.
- SAPS and Ezemvelo arrested 3 suspected poachers at their homes near Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Park. Publication of a new appalling toll. 106 rhinos have been poached since the beginning of the year. Save the Beasts, May 12, 2022.<sup>18</sup>

**May 13, 2022**  
**Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa**



Wade Van Staden was sentenced to an 18-month suspended prison term. For 5 years, he must not commit another NEMBA (National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act) violation and must not be found in possession of any rhino parts. The black rhino horn that brought Van Staden to justice was seized from under the seat of his BMW during a road check in October 2020 (see "On the Trail" n°31 p.44).  
 The Citizen, May 14, 2022 ; SAPS, May 17, 2022.<sup>19</sup>

**May 20, 2022**  
**Skukuza, Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa**



One poacher injured in a shootout with park rangers. Two accomplices escaped, but Sam Khoza, age 47, was apprehended in possession of a rifle, some ammunition and a silencer. The illegal immigrant from Mozambique was sentenced to 9 years in prison.  
 Lowvelder, May 24, 2022.<sup>20</sup>



**May 24, 2022**  
**Skukuza, Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa**



Three deterrent convictions and a frantic escape

On March 19, 2017, rangers in the Stolznek section heard gunshots. The suspects were tracked down and apprehended. They were Richard Mkhombo, Isaac Zitha and Oscar Ndlovu. A rifle with serial number filed off, 7 rounds of ammunition, an axe and 2 freshly cut horns were seized. The Skukuza police arrived at the scene and the suspects were formally charged. They were later released on bail pending trial.

On May 12, 2018, Isaac Zitha and Oscar Ndlovu, accompanied by Given Zitha, a Mozambican national who entered South Africa illegally, were again in the act of poaching, this time in the Kingfisherspruit section of Kruger Park. They were pursued by rangers and following an exchange of fire, the 3 poachers, 2 of whom were wounded, were arrested in possession of 2 freshly cut horns, a rifle with serial number filed off and ammunition. They were remanded in custody and charged by the Skukuza police.

On January 17, 2019, Given Zitha on his return from a hearing at the court in Skukuza managed to escape.

For poaching in 2017, Isaac Zitha, Richard Mkhombo and Oscar Ndlovu were sentenced to 3 years on the charge of trespassing, 6 years for possession of an illegal firearm with serial number filed off, 2 years for possession of ammunition, 11 years for poaching a rhino and possession of an axe.

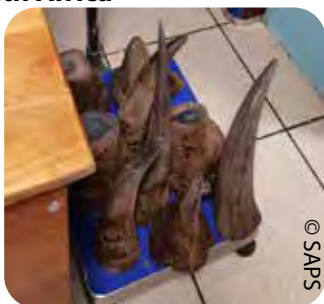
Oscar Ndlovu and Isaac Zitha were sentenced to 44 years in prison for poaching in 2018. Some of these sentences are to run concurrently. Richard Mkhombo is expected to spend 21 years in prison, and Oscar Ndlovu and Isaac Zitha 38 years in prison. Police are still looking for Given Zitha.

Lowvelder, May 25, 2022; SAPS, May 26, 2022.<sup>21</sup>

**May 26, 2022**

**OR Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg, Gauteng Province, South Africa**

With rhino horns weighing 26 kg in his hand luggage, the 41-year-old Singapore-bound man was arrested and will appear in the Kempton Park Magistrates' Court. SAPS, May 26, 2022.<sup>22</sup>



**May 30, 2022**

**Empangeni, Kwazulu-Natal Province, South Africa**

A deterrent sentence. Michael Kleinbaas Masuku, age 45, was sentenced to 28 years in prison for shooting a white and a black rhino in the Hluhluwe Imfolozi Game Reserve. TimesLIVE, May 30, 2022.<sup>23</sup>



**Beginning of June 2022**

**Pilanesberg National Park, North West Province, South Africa**

Big dehorning campaign in the park. It has not been decided on happily and is not considered a miracle solution. It is not a substitute for the 24-hour surveillance systems in the park. The Pilanesberg is one of the poachers' favourite targets (see "On the Trail" n°7 p.65, n°9 p.59, n°10 p.45, n°12 p.69 and 70, n°14 p.63 and 64, n°15 p.77, 78 and 81, n°16 p.68, n°18 p.70, 73 and 74, n°19 p.85, n°20 p.82, n°21 p.77, n°22 p.78 and 80, n°23 p.106, n°26 p.76, n°27 p.87, n°28 p.94, n°31 p.46 and n°32 p.61). Perry Steve Dell, June 15, 2022.<sup>24</sup>

**Beginning of June 2022**

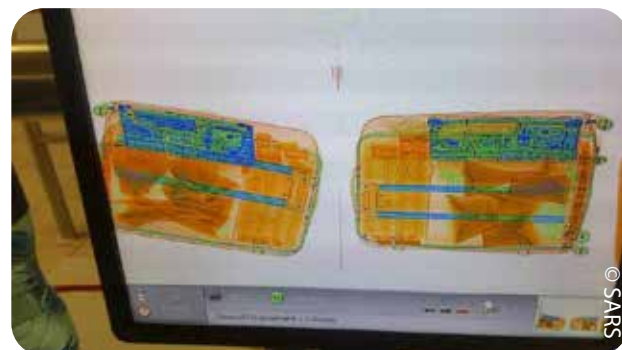
**Kalahari Desert, Northern Cape Province, South Africa**

Frenzy of preventive dehornings in a private reserve in the north of the country, near the border with Botswana. The helicopter flew over it for 31 hours in three and a half days. "Sometimes when a mother and calf are darted they become separated if they run in a different direction." "Before the reversal drug was administered in this cow, we walked her calf right to her side so when they "woke up" they could instantly see, touch and smell each other." The team on the ground is then forced to separate to take care of the 2 at the same time. The rhinos are marked on their backs with a spray to be easily spotted from the helicopter. "We dehorned as many rhinos as we could find last week." "We also found new white rhino calves that the reserve did not know about yet. But unfortunately, the chopper also found 2 older carcasses of poached rhinos that the reserve was not aware." Council of Contributors, June 2022.<sup>25</sup>

**June 3, 2022**

**OR Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg, Gauteng Province, South Africa**

Seizure from the luggage of a passenger flying to Abu Dhabi of 17 horns and fragments of horns. Total weight: 25 kg.



Between July 2020 and June 2022, 507 kg of horns were seized at Johannesburg International Airport. This record is a testament to the vigilance of customs officers. At the same time, it reveals a relentless haemorrhage of horns flowing out of South Africa. According to Interpol, the seizures represent only 10 to 15% of the total volume of smuggled animals and animal parts. Independent Online, June 3, 2022 ; South African Revenue Service, June 3, 2022.<sup>26</sup>

**Monday June 6, 2022**

**Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa**

Arrest of Vusi Mdluli in HiP (Hluhluwe-iMfolozi) Park. Spotted by a trap camera, followed by a helicopter and tracked by the dog squad, he threw away his T-shirt during the chase. "It is common for poachers to try to hide from the Ezemvelo chopper by removing their clothes," says the HiP spokesman. There is no trace in Ezemvelo's statements of weapons or other evidence that would decisively prove the involvement of Vusi Mdluli in rhino poaching or intent to commit it. Perhaps he dropped some evidence during the chase. Daily Maverick, May 31 and June 13, 2022 ; Save the Beasts, June 12, 2022 ; The Witness, June 12, 2022.<sup>27</sup>



**June 7, 2022**

**North West Province, South Africa**

John Hume wants to repopulate the wilderness each year with 100 white rhinos from his ranch. He now has 2,004 of them on the 8,400 hectares of his Buffalo Dream Ranch. He is looking for experts in rhino relocation. He has informed SANParks and private reserves of his project and has not yet received any response from potential partners who would be willing to cover the financial costs of the operation and provide the logistics. John Hume, see "On the Trail" n°35 p.38.

News24, June 7, 2022 ; Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE), June 15, 2022.<sup>28</sup>

**June 8, 2022**

**Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa**

Arrest of 2 armed poachers in HiP by rangers reinforced by the canine unit and by a helicopter flight. Sizwe Tivane and Samkele Sithole from Mpumalanga Province had just rented a house within a stone's throw of the HiP. "The proximity of the house to the park provided the two with a vantage point to observe everything that was happening inside the park. They were not only able to monitor the Field Rangers on foot patrol, but were also able to scan the movement of rhinos," according to Musa Mntambo, spokesperson for Ezemvelo, the province's wildlife management body.

The prevention of poaching in HiP is now consolidated by the presence of a motorcycle brigade. The strengthening of ranger mobility was a recommendation by a report commissioned in 2016, completed in 2019 and swept under the carpet by the then Prime Minister. It was made public in May 2022 after the Democratic Alliance's Freedom of Information Act request. The report also calls for immediate availability of dog squads and systematic checks by guards and dogs of vehicles entering and leaving the HiP.

Ezemvelo has been in turmoil for more than 10 years. Its executive director resigned in 2017 and in 2020 all 11 board members were suspended from their positions following suspicions of mismanagement of the agency, whose annual budget, not counting private contributions, exceeds 1 billion rand or 64.6 million US\$. "Our improved and random deployment of field rangers, as well as the presence of SAPS inside HiP have made it difficult for would-be poachers to fully understand our movements. The K9 Unit is also proving to be a welcome addition to our fight against rhino poachers," says Ntsikelelo Dlulane, the park's new CEO.

Save the Beasts, June 12, 2022; The Witness, June 12, 2022.<sup>29</sup>

**June 10, 2022**

**Hoedspruit, Limpopo Province, South Africa**

Arrival at the shelter of an orphan male aged about 3 months thanks to the aerial means of the "The Bateleurs", an organization which employs several voluntary pilots. A veterinarian proceeded to sedate him before boarding and to monitor him during the transfer. Landed on the airstrip of the private reserve of Kapama, the poaching survivor then reached the refuge by road. The prognosis is favourable.

Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre, June 10 and 11, 2022.<sup>30</sup>

**June 16, 2022**

**Johannesburg, Gauteng Province, South Africa**



The 2 fresh horns were hidden under the engine hood. The car was intercepted in the Van Buren tunnel. The Toyota Fortuner is registered in Eshowe (KwaZulu-Natal province). The horns may have come from KwaZulu-Natal and the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park where rhinos have been subjected to frenetic poaching since the beginning of the year. Save the Beasts, June 17, 2022.<sup>31</sup>

**End of June 2022**

**KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa**

Arrival at the orphanage of a baby rhino whose nasal horn is already visible, about 6 months old, saved by the rangers 3 days after the poaching of his mother. The prognosis is guarded.

Ben Wallace, June 24 and 30, 2022 ; Zululand Rhino Orphanage, June 27 and September 4, 2022 ; Helping Rhinos, July 1 and 12, 2022.<sup>32</sup>



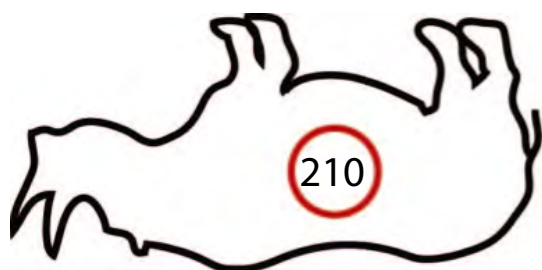
**June 2022**

**OR Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg, Gauteng Province, South Africa**

Seizure of 8 kg of rhino horn within a FedEx package bound for the United States of America that was supposed to contain "wooden art pieces".

Since the beginning of the year, 56 horns have been seized at the airport and 4 horn traffickers arrested. Cooperation with authorities in Malaysia and Qatar also led to the arrest of a trafficker at Doha airport. In the same period, 210 rhinos have been poached in the country and 69 people have been arrested in connection with these events.

Krugersdorp News, September 1, 2022.<sup>33</sup>



**NAMIBIA**

**Tuesday June 14, 2022**

**Etosha National Park, Oshikoto Region, Namibia**

John Grobler, a tireless advocate for Namibia's large fauna, wonders, with statistics, if there will still be rhinos in Namibia in 2025. The rush on rhinos in Namibia, especially the black ones whose horns sell for more money, echoes what is happening in KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. The demand is there, the transfer routes to Asia are being reinvented by the mafias and for the moment "the anti-poaching forces are out of date." The strengthening of financial and criminal sanctions is not enough to put out the fire. Since the beginning of June, patrols in the national park, which covers more than 22,000 km<sup>2</sup>, have produced a disturbing picture. Eleven black rhino carcasses have been discovered. Their deaths date back to 3 weeks and more. Since the beginning of the year, 22 rhinos have been poached.

In an interview with New Era, Namibia's police director says he is stunned and concerned, "I am caught by surprise that after we did a good job by reducing the poaching activities in the country and set up a robust prevention intervention," "the criminal syndicate might have regrouped, re-strategised and saw the loopholes. The market has also probably found another way to acquire rhino horns and other proceeds." The Ministry of Environment spokesperson calls on members of the public who may have useful information to contact the police or his ministry's departments.

John Grobler, June 14, 2022; Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, June 14, 2022; New Era, June 15, 2022.<sup>34</sup>

**Thursday June 16, 2022**

**Etosha National Park, Oshikoto Region, Namibia**



Exchange of fire inside the park. A 19-year-old suspected poacher and a guard were injured. They were taken to Omuthiyagwiipundi hospital. An accomplice was arrested. He is believed to be 26 years old. Others fled, leaving behind backpacks with ammunition, food, clothing and a telescopic sight.

New Era, June 17, 2022 ; Namibia Daily News, June 20, 2022 ; The Namibian, June 21, 2022.<sup>35</sup>

**June 24 and 25, 2022**

**Okangwati, Sesfontein, Kunene Region, Utsathima, Omusati Region, Namibia**

The Namibian police are on alert. According to their spokesperson, seizures in the Kunene and Omusati areas of assault rifles and high-powered guns hidden in bushes and a maize silo may have been linked to a series of rhino poachings in Etosha National Park, some 300-400 km away.

Informanté, June 28, 2022.<sup>36</sup>

**June 27, 2022**

**Etosha National Park, Oshikoto Region, Namibia**

The spokesperson for the Ministry of the Environment announced that a 12<sup>th</sup> rhino was found dead in Etosha Park. Minister Pohamba Shifeta went to the scene. He appointed police commissioner Ndahangwapo Kashihakumwa as head of the anti-poaching force.

Allgemeine Zeitung (Namibia), June 27, 2022.<sup>37</sup>

**Saturday July 9, 2022**

**Ondangwa, Oshana Region, Tsumeb, Oshikoto Region, and Okahao, Omusati Region, Namibia**

Eleven suspects allegedly linked to the recent poaching of 12 rhinos in Etosha Park are being questioned. They were arrested in four hauls by police, domestic intelligence, MEFT (Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism) officers, the Namibian Defence Force and the Blue Rhino Task Force. Two vehicles, five guns, ammunition, torches, cutlasses and 50,000 Namibian dollars (3,100 US\$) were seized. The 11 suspects appeared separately before the magistrates of Ondangwa, Tsumeb and Okahao. They remain in custody pending investigation.

Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, July 9, 2022 ; Namibia Daily News, July 9, 2022.<sup>38</sup>

## EASTERN ASIA

### JAPAN

**May 31, 2022**

**Shizuoka, Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan**



The glass case that housed it was broken during the night. A white rhinoceros horn weighing 5 kg and measuring 40 to 50 centimetres long was stolen from Nihondaira Zoo. It is surprising that the management of the zoo did not take the precaution to display a resin horn.

The Asahi Shimbun, June 3, 2022.<sup>39</sup>

## SOUTHERN ASIA

### INDIA

**May 9, 2022**

**Orang National Park, Darrang and Sonitpur Districts, State of Assam, India**

Surprise in the park. A sub-adult rhino is staggering and bleeding from the head. His horn was cut off with little more care than anaesthetizing him. Attempts to dehorn under anaesthesia had already been spotted in Kaziranga. Two or three poachers were arrested with tranquiliser darts and drugs. They had not had the opportunity to take action. Indian veterinarians are skeptical. They hardly believe the anaesthesia scenario. M99 is not manufactured in India. It is not easily available, except from veterinarians and zoos. Moreover, a professor from Cambridge University tells Mongabay India that such a scenario, if true, can only be achieved with the support of veterinary expertise.

In southern Africa, poaching and dehorning a rhino under anaesthesia is not common but it does happen (M99 and rhinoceros, see "On the Trail" n°2 p.45 and 51, n°6 p.67, n°7 p.71, n°12 p.68, n°13 p.72, n°17 p.77, n°18 p.70, n°19 p.85, n°20 p.81, n°21 p.77, n°25 p.76, n°30 p.47 and n°33 p.64). On the other hand, preventive dehorning preceded by general anaesthesia is a widespread practice. Animals are also voluntarily put to sleep in the savannah to be treated on site by veterinary teams. They are then awakened by an antidote but sometimes do not wake up.

News May 13, 18, 2022; The Hindu, May 13, 2022; East Mojo, June 3, 2022.<sup>40</sup>

**May 29, 2022**

**Suwaguri, Biswanath District, State of Assam, India**

A poacher suspected of being involved in the January rhino poaching in Kaziranga Park (see "On the Trail" n°35 p.41-42) was arrested on Saturday May 28 in Nagaon district. His name is said to be Zagir Hussain or Zakir Hussain. On Sunday night, the police took him to a place near Suwaguri in the neighbouring district of Biswanath where he claimed to have hidden the weapons. When he got out of the cell van, he tried to flee. The police shot him in the leg. He was taken to the hospital in Biswanath and then to the hospital in Tezpur. He was released on bail.

Since May 2021 and the accession of the Himanta Biswa Sarma government, 48 people have been killed and 117 injured while trying to escape from police custody by fleeing or attacking law enforcement officers, according to official reports. For the record, the other poachers allegedly involved in the January poaching are said to be Uttam Khaklary, Asmat Ali aka Nalco, Diluwar Hussain, Aatur Rahman aka Bassa and Abdul Matin aka Kala.

New Delhi Television, May 30, 2022; Time8, May 30, 2022; India Today, May 31, 2022.<sup>41</sup>

**Night of June 2 to June 3, 2022**

**Roing, Lower Dibang Valley District, State of Arunachal Pradesh, and Sonitpur District, State of Assam, India**

Arrest of Habibur Rahman in Roing, Arunachal Pradesh. He is suspected of poaching a rhino in Kaziranga Park in September 2012 and selling 400 grams of horn for 1.6 million rupees or 28,760 US\$ and 71,900 US\$/kg. He had been arrested in 2018 in Biswanath district, released on bail, and has since then disappeared from the radar. Thanks to his tip, a second suspect, Johor Ali, was arrested in Sonitpur district 500 km from Roing and an alleged rhino horn weighing 2 kg was seized.

The Times of India, April 8, 2014; The Sentinel, August 3, 2018 and June 4 and 5, 2022; Sadiya Police, June 4, 2022; Time8, June 5, 2022.<sup>42</sup>



**Night of June 5 to June 6, 2022**  
**Teliapatty, Jorhat District, State of Assam, India**



After receiving confidential information, seizure by the police of an alleged rhinoceros horn weighing 1.158 kg with an estimated value of 15 million rupees (193,425 US\$). Rajen Bauri and Azizul Rahman arrested.  
 The Print, June 6, 2022.<sup>43</sup>

## NEPAL

### REPEATED OFFENCE

**Night of June 30 to July 1, 2022**  
**Malekhu, Dhading District, Bagmati Province, Nepal**

Bam Bahadur Praja has poaching in his blood. Having already been arrested in 2004 for poaching 17 rhinos, sentenced to 15 years in prison, released in 2019, he has just been arrested by the CIB (Criminal Investigation Bureau). He is suspected of being involved in poaching and smuggling horns and hooves of his animal martyr. He was handed over to the authorities of Chitwan National Park where a female rhino and her 3-year-old calf in the winter of 2020 had been poached at the Narayani River. The 2 horns had been cut off (see "On the Trail" n°31 p.50).

Nepal News, July 3, 2022.<sup>44</sup>

## WESTERN EUROPE

### GERMANY

**End of May 2022**

**Leipzig/Halle International Airport, Saxony State, Germany**

German customs seized 16 pieces of rhino horns with a total weight of 6.76 kg valued at 400,000 € (419,400 US\$, or 64,525 US\$/kg). Discovered at the end of May, the wildlife contraband was stuffed into the double bottom of a box filled with sawdust. Germany is a transit country. The horns shipped from Angola were destined for Viet Nam. The Angola/Viet Nam pipeline is well established. In December 2021, German customs discovered 15 sections of rhino horns weighing 3.8 kg taking the same route. Hidden in a loudspeaker and a soldering station, they were covered with expanding foam. Rhinos are extinct in Angola and the horns are certainly from southern Africa (South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe).

Seizures in Viet Nam of rhinoceros horns from Angola, see also "On the Trail" n°15 p. 87, n°22 p. 85, n°29 p. 51 and n°31 p. 49.

Seizure in Thailand of rhino horns in the hands of Vietnamese citizens coming from Angola, see "On the Trail" n°18 p. 80 (August 8 and September 22, 2017).

Bild, May 31, 2022; German Customs, May 31, 2022.<sup>45</sup>







European wild cat (*Felis sylvestris sylvestris*). Photo virag93buranyi

**On the Trail n°36**  
**Black market feline parts quotation from media or official sources**  
**The values were estimated at the time of the seizures**

Animal	Part	US\$	Country/ region	Ref. (year)
Tiger	A dead specimen (145 kg)	5,680	Viet Nam	18 (2022)
Leopard	Skin	13,000	India	55 (2022)
Sunda leopard cat	A live juvenile specimen	20	Philippines	75 (2022)
Lynx	A lynx coat	2,600	United States of America	86 (2022)

AFRICA

GHANA

May 19 and 20, 2022  
Accra, Greater Accra Region, Ghana



Businessman Nana Kwame Bediako, known in Ghana as Freedom Jacob Caesar, has 2 tigers, a male and a female, bought at auction in Dubai, who frighten the neighbours as they grow and disturb them. His ambition was to open a zoo in Ghana and to reinforce the attractiveness of the country thanks to the official presence of tigers, a privilege that only South Africa can "boast" about on the continent. Arriving at the scene after many complaints, the environmental police were not concerned with meddling in this story and harming the image of the prestigious national. They did nothing to reproach him from the point of view of animal welfare and said that at this stage the tigers do not pose a risk to the neighbourhood. It is conceded that in anticipation of adulthood, the tigers must be moved but that it will take time before a new location and enclosure are chosen and built.

Graphic Online, May 19-20, 2022; MyJoyOnline.com, May 19-20, 2022; peacefonline.com, May 22, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

April 22, 2022

Laredo, State of Texas, United States of America.  
Border with Mexico.

After a Schneider's smooth-fronted caiman (*Paleosuchus trigonatus*, Appendix II) in 2020 and a black bear in 2021 (see "On the Trail" n°33 p.77), it is a 3-month-old female tiger that has been seized. She was placed in an approved center which has already taken in 6 tigers since its creation in 2000. Texas' lax laws on the trade and possession of exotic animals encourage the calamitous trend of "domestic" felines.

Laredo Morning Times, April 22 and 30, 2022.<sup>2</sup>



"Minnie" is now safe in the Dallas area.

May 5, 2022

Bexar County, State of Texas, United States of America

It was not a male master, it was a female master (see "On the Trail" n°32 p.70). Fifteen months after the discovery of a tigress cub in a cabin in the middle of winter, Augustina Jean Cabrera, age 50, was arrested for cruelty to animals. She says that in fact the feline belongs to a certain Josh who lives in California. She is released on bail for 5,000 US\$.

San Antonio Express-News, May 6, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

## MEXICO

**June 12 and 15, 2022**

**Tecuala, State of Nayarit, and Peribán, State of Michoacán, Mexico**

- José de Jesús died on Tuesday, June 14, after being bitten on both arms on Sunday by a Bengal tiger. He had been looking after him, as well as a lion, in a private zoo where the regulatory safety conditions are not applied.

- On Wednesday, an adult Bengal tiger was seized from his owner who was letting him roam free in the street of Tecuala, 40,000 inhabitants.

- On April 29, 2022, the Chamber of Deputies approved by 463 votes in favor and one abstention a bill that prohibits having wild felines at home. Until then, it was possible to keep such pets with the permission of Profepa (Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente). The proliferation of tigers in private properties is a consequence of the ban on travelling circuses without prior planning for the fate of the animals. The law must now be voted by the Senate. Congresswoman Melissa Vargas initiated the bill after a lion cub was caught roaming the streets of Ecatepec, a suburb of Mexico City. She also estimates that in the golden triangle of drug cartels in the States of Chihuahua, Durango and Sinaloa, there are more captive Bengal tigers than there are tigers in the wild in India.

Daily Mail, June 16, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

## ASIA

## INDIA

**Beginning of April 2022**

**Maruru, Kodagu District, State of Karnataka, India**

Seventeen claws, one canine tooth, 8 teeth, a piece of skin, and 55 bones are all that remain of a tiger killed by an illegal electric fence meant "to keep wild boars away." He had been butchered and his marketable remains were buried by villagers. Ganesh, Yogesh, Doresh, Natesh, Ramesh, Naveen, and Shekar were arrested.

The New Indian Express, April 3, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

**May 6, 2022**

**Madikeri, Kodagu District, State of Karnataka, India**

They were trying to sell 4 tiger claws near a bus stop. Kumar and Vinu of Gundlupet were arrested by the forest unit police.

Star of Mysore, May 8, 2022.<sup>6</sup>



## FAMILY AFFAIRS

**Night of May 19 to 20, 2022**

**Budhipada, Kendujhar District, State of Odisha, India**



The skin measuring 2.13 metres of a Royal Bengal tiger was seized. A "retaliatory killing" in the forest of Rebana reserve after the 8-year-old feline apparently killed several buffaloes. He was poisoned by Butu Mahakud, aged 30, with the help of other villagers.

The New Indian Express, May 21, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

**June 4, 2022**

**Anjanika, Mandla District, State of Madhya Pradesh, India**



The 2 motorcycles were driving towards Mandla. The 4 bikers Makhan Lal Yadav, Anand Kushram, Manoj Kumar Pandaram and Itwari Posham aged between 27 and 40 years were carrying the skin, head, claws, paws, whiskers of a tiger and teeth of a boar. They tried to escape but were caught.



They said they had poached the tiger and wild boar 4 months ago in Kanha National Park with steel wire traps.

Naidunia, June 4, 2022; ETV Bharat, June 5, 2022; Palpal News June 5, 2022.<sup>8</sup>

## FAMILY AFFAIRS

**June 4 and 8, 2022**

**Bosa Simalu, Sonitpur District; Lahoria Char, Morigaon District, State of Assam, India**



Acting on a tip, forestry officers dug through the garden of a private home and discovered the carcass of a Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*) at the bottom of the hole. The occupant of the house and his family fled during the search. Three people Ajibur Rahman, Hasmat Alia and Mohammad M.L. were arrested 4 days later at the home of relatives in the Morigaon district. They are suspected of having poisoned the tiger with the intention of later selling any marketable by-products on the black market. According to them, they hoped to make a million rupees or nearly 13,000 US\$. The leader of the gang is said to be Ahamad Ali. He is actively sought. The tiger's remains were cremated in the presence of police and elected officials from Sonitpur district. Hub News, June 6, 2022; Northeast Now, June 8, 2022; The Print, June 8, 2022; The Sentinel, June 9, 2022.<sup>9</sup>



## TIGERS - followed

**June 5 and 7, 2022**

**Salgava, Korea District, State of Chhattisgarh, India**

Four men from Salgava Khurd village in Guru Ghasidas National Park are in police custody. They are suspected of being the poisoners of a 6-7-year-old tiger. The NTCA (National Tiger Conservation Authority) has approved for 2021 the establishment of the park on the border between Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh but the announcement is not yet official. The Telegraph India, June 7, 2022; The Pioneer, June 8, 2022.<sup>10</sup>



**June 11, 2022**

**Antharasanth, Mysuru District, State of Karnataka, India**

The decomposed body of a tiger, approximately 7 years old, is discovered in a thicket inside the Nagarahole Reserve. Poisoning is suspected. The death occurred several days ago. The Times of India is not able to specify if the teeth and claws were stolen by the possible poachers. The Times of India, June 12, 2022.<sup>11</sup>



**June 18, 2022**

**Sitapathor, Balaghat District, State of Madhya Pradesh, India**

The decapitated carcass of a tiger is drifting in an irrigation canal near the Rajiv Sagar dam. The claws and teeth have also been stolen, and possibly the whiskers. Tracking dogs have been deployed to trace the tracks. Several people are being questioned under witness status. According to Ajay Dubey, a local animal rights activist, Balaghat has more than 40 tigers but it has become a haven for poachers. No action against incompetent officers is the root cause for this. The Balaghat tiger reserve covers 963 km<sup>2</sup>. It is a link in the corridor between the Kanha and Pench tiger reserves in Madhya Pradesh, the Achanakmar reserve in Chhattisgarh and the Navegaon-Nagzira reserve in Maharashtra. The Times of India, June 19, 2022.<sup>12</sup>

**June 22, 2022**

**Paraswada Tehsil, Balaghat District, State of Madhya Pradesh, India**

The 2 bikers on Baihar road were heading towards Paraswada. They were going to sell 25 Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*) whiskers in Balaghat. Are they from the mutilated tiger found in the water near Sitapathor?

Dainik Bhaskar, June 24, 2022; WCCB, June 24, 2022.<sup>13</sup>



## INDONESIA

**April 24, 2022**

**Peunaron District, East Aceh Regency, Aceh Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia**



Three precious Sumatran tigers (*Panthera tigris sumatrae*) died in traps in 2 different locations near the village. Two, a male and a female, died against each other with a paw caught in a metal noose on an oil palm plantation. The third, a tigress, 500 metres away, had also died in a trap. Her body was decomposing. Two inhabitants of Peunaron were suspected and arrested. At their camp they had metal wire of the same type as the deadly traps and, another indication that they were poaching, feathers of great argus (*Argusianus argus*, Appendix II). They are 2 more who wanted, they say, to get boar meat.

The Jakarta Post (with AFP), April 25, 2022; The Star (with AP), April 26, 2022 Serambi Indonesia Daily, April 29, 2022.<sup>14</sup>



**May 24, 2022**

**Pondok, Bener Meriah Regency, Aceh Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia**

A former prefect of Bener Meriah regency who has been adrift for years (in 2018 he was sentenced to 3 years in prison for corruption) was arrested with 2 partners in the parking lot of a gas station with an adult Sumatran tiger (*Panthera tigris sumatrae*) skin and several batches of bones. Ahmadi was released shortly after being caught in the act, slating a volley from pro-tiger activists fed up with the indulgence towards influential people when it comes to poaching.

Kompas.com, June 3, 2022; Mongabay, June 7, 2022.<sup>15</sup>

## NEPAL

**June 19, 2022**

**Tikapur, Kailali District, Sudurpashchim Province, Nepal**



Strangled by the clutch cable of a moped, the Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*), about 12 years old, was found dead in a bamboo bush by a lookout of the Bardiya National Park and a volunteer of the National Natural Conservation Fund. He was dragging a 3-metre long wooden pole. Against the advice of the local FDA official and village leaders, photos of the corpse being buried circulated on social networks. myRepublica, June 21, 2022.<sup>16</sup>

## THAILAND

**April 5, 2022**

**Sao Thong Hin, Nonthaburi Province, Thailand**

facebook

The trio was selling via Facebook a 4-month-old tiger smuggled from Laos for 400,000 baht (12,000 US\$). The "green cops" of the Environmental Crime Enforcement Department infiltrated the group and arrested Pirapol, age 23, Pornthiwa, age 30, and Chatree, age 41. The tiger was handed over to the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plants. The Star, April 6 and 10, 2022; Bangkok Post, June 23, 2022.<sup>17</sup>



## VIET NAM

**April 15 and mid-May 2022**

**Thanh Hoa Province, Viet Nam**

Seizure at the home of the couple, Do Van Lan and Nguyen Thi Oanh, of the frozen carcass of a tiger weighing 145 kg, 10 kg of bone glue, 5 kg of bones, and 6 claws. The couple was arrested, as well as Hoang Van Hien, the seller who provided them with the dead tiger for the sum of 130 million dongs (5,680 US\$), and Nguyen Van Lieu, who was in charge of the transport. VnExpress International, May 28, 2022; ENV, June 1, 2022.<sup>18</sup>



**April 23, 2022**

**Nghe An Province, Viet Nam**



Sentence of Nguyen Thi Dinh to 2 years and 5 months in prison for having raised 3 or 4 tigers in a cellar according to sources. She had smuggled them from Laos when they were tiger cubs (see "On the Trail" n°33 p.81). Tuoi Tre Online, April 23, 2022; ENV, May 1, 2022.<sup>19</sup>

## EUROPE

### ITALY

**End of April 2022**

**Latina, Province of Latina, Region of Lazio, Italy**

70 km south of Rome, Latina, 126,000 inhabitants and at least 26 tigers. The tigers are either for rent by the event and advertising sector in Italy or for purchase by exhibitionists. The video published by La Repubblica shows only adult tigers, though the most flourishing trade in the tiger sector is the tiger cub. For rent but also for sale in rocky and murderous circumstances as in detail told in "On the Trail" n°27 p.72 with the truck that left Latina on October 22, 2019 towards the republic of Dagestan in Russia, more than 5,000 km away, with 10 tigers in the trailer.

La Repubblica, April 30, 2022; Varese Press, May 1, 2022.<sup>20</sup>

### CZECHIA

**May 24, 2022**

**Between Kačice and Smečno, Central Bohemian Region, Czechia**

Two presumed tiger remains are discovered buried on the side of the road between the 2 villages by police officers from Kutná Hora (100 km from Kačice). This very unexpected discovery in the Czech Republic was made 80 km from Ludvík Beroušek's kennel (in the vicinity of Česká Lipa, Liberec region). Beroušek, Miloš Hrozínke, a taxidermist, and Xuan Vu Le, a Vietnamese businessman, had been sentenced in Ceska Lipa in June 2019 to 2 years' suspended imprisonment, 3 years' imprisonment and 2 years' imprisonment for the killing and export to Asia of tiger parts and other protected animals. Beroušek's sentence was reduced in April 2021 (see "On the Trail" n°22 p.69, n°25 p.63 and n°32 p.76). TV Nova, May 24, 2022; Ekolist.cz, May 25, 2022; Aha!, May 26, 2022.<sup>21</sup>



**AFRICA**

**KENYA**

**April 25, 2022**

**Amboseli National Park, Kajiado County, Kenya**

The lioness was shot several times in the paws and rib cage with a projectile weapon. She was reportedly attacking sheep. She was emaciated and missed teeth. She was buried at the site.

SWT/KWS Amboseli Mobile Veterinary Unit, April 2022.<sup>22</sup>

**May 25, 2022**

**Pardamat Conservancy, Narok County, Kenya**



There is no doubt about the poisoning. It is attributed to carbofuran. The victim's vomit and organs were bright pink and the stick used to dilute the carbofuran was found nearby, bright pink as well and just like the terrible poison. The bait remains and the animal were buried to prevent further poisoning, and the area was swept to prevent further poisoned animals from kicking the bucket.

SWT/KWS Mara Mobile Veterinary Unit, May 2022.<sup>23</sup>

**NAMIBIA**

**April 26, 2022**

**Katima Mulilo, Zambezi Region, Namibia**

Chaka was acquitted by the court. He said the lion's teeth that were seized by law enforcement officials from his pockets were slipped into his pocket without his knowledge when he was searched at a gas station along with 4 other people who were not arrested or questioned because they were not Namibian nationals.

Namibian Broadcasting Corporation, April 26, 2022.<sup>24</sup>

**Beginning of June 2022**

**Otjikondavirongo, Kunene Region, Namibia**



Poisoning of 2 lionesses in the same place where the 3 Musketeers, 3 famous brothers in the movie "Vanishing Kings-Lions of the Namib", had been poisoned in August 2016 (see "On the Trail" n°14 p.52). The dark series had remained without judicial follow-up despite the words of the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism Pohamba Shifeta, who at the time had once again uttered his trademark phrase: "We shall leave no stone unturned to prosecute the perpetrators."

Izak Smit, June 9, 2022.<sup>25</sup>

**UGANDA**

**April 8, 2022**

**Kobushera, Western Region, Uganda**

Under unclear circumstances, a male lion cub weighing about 30 kg injured a man in his garden. He is also suspected of having attacked 3 goats. When a Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) team arrived to capture the cub and relocate him away from human activities, a crowd of villagers was already on his heels with machetes, spears and sticks. The cub was enraged by the noise and the people refused to disperse. With the situation out of control, the UPDF (Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces) soldiers who came to the rescue decided to shoot and kill the cub. The first attempt was not successful. The lion stood his ground, scratched the gunman and was shot by another soldier. Immediately, villagers pounced on the corpse to skin it and share the meat. The UWA team tried to remove them but was overwhelmed by the crowd. Only the head was recovered by law enforcement. The consumption of lion meat had not been reported in Uganda before. Experts' opinions are divided. For some, the meat and organs of the lion are used in black magic rituals. But from another source, who spoke

on condition of anonymity to The Independent, refugees from neighbouring countries may have brought the taste for eating lion into Uganda.

Uganda Wildlife Authority, April 9, 2022; Wildlife Uganda, April 9, 2022; Daily Monitor, April 11, 2022; The Independent (Uganda), April 18, 2022.<sup>26</sup>





## LIONS - followed

### April 25 and Beginning of May 2022 Queen Elizabeth National Park, Western Region, Uganda



After the death of 3 lionesses by electrocution in the fence that protects the Irungu Forest Safari Lodge, the reactions are sometimes unseemly. The director of the Uganda Hotel Owners Association defends the lodge. "Imagine if these lions had made their way into the lodge area and killed guests? Everybody would be on TripAdvisor writing about it and the owner would be out of business." Irungu Lodge boasts about being in the heart of the national park and promises its guests the privilege of seeing lions. The Independent's investigation reveals that before the lions died, the fence had a bad reputation and that villagers next door were suspicious of it. According to witnesses who spoke on condition of anonymity, the fence around Irungu Lodge was under increased voltage on the night of the carnage. Electrocution, poisoning, deadly conflict with humans and also a lure for tourists from all over the world, the Ugandan lion, who now has less than 500 ambassadors, is hated and admired. The king of the jungle is a colossus with feet of clay. He is the one who brings in 1.5 billion US\$ a year to the tourism sector. The Independent (Uganda), May 2, 2022; Al Bawaba, May 16, 2022.<sup>27</sup>

## ZIMBABWE

### Beginning of April 2022 Hurungwe District, Mashonaland West Province, Zimbabwe



A young lion died, unable to free his paw caught in a wire snare.

Tinashe Farawo (ZimParks), April 4, 2022.<sup>28</sup>

### Mid-June 2022 Deka Safari Area, Matabeleland North Province, Zimbabwe



A lion cub is in agony. He lost his right hind paw when he struggled to get out of a metal trap. Bhejane Trust, June 18, 2022.<sup>29</sup>

## ASIA

## SAUDI ARABIA

### Beginning of June 2022 Riyadh Governorate, Riyadh Province, Saudi Arabia



Seizure by SFES (Special Forces for Environmental Security) and anaesthetization of 3 lions at a wealthy Riyadh resident's home before their transfer to a specialized shelter and in a second phase to a zoo such as the Dubai Safari Park.

As of 2018, the keeping of endangered exotic animals in private homes or zoos that are dangerous to public safety has been banned in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, but this still does not prevent the big cats from wandering around in residential neighbourhoods or taking the passenger seat of luxurious cars. MENAFN, June 7, 2022; The National, June 8, 2022.<sup>30</sup>

## IRAN

### June 2022

#### Khomeyni Shahr, Isfahan Province, Iran

Search of a private garden. Seizure of a lioness and 64 birds of protected species.

Parsine.com, June 27, 2022.<sup>31</sup>

## LEOPARDS - *Panthera pardus*, Appendix I

## AFRICA

## SOUTH AFRICA

### May 20, 2022

#### Nieuwoudtville, Northern Cape Province, South Africa



Rescue of a leopard caught in a leghold

trap. Only one toe was engaged in the barbaric device which is sold in all good hardware stores, but it was enough to prevent the feline from freeing himself. He had to be amputated. Had he not been rescued by the Landmark Foundation, he might have extricated himself, risking exhaustion, bleeding, pain, and infection. Thanks to Heritage Aviation, veterinarians arrived on the scene within hours and the approximately 2-year-old, 24 kg male leopard was set free, cared for, and transferred to a suitable habitat. Landmark Foundation, May 20, 2022.<sup>32</sup>



© Landmark Foundation

## UGANDA

### May 7 and June 15, 2022

#### Sanga, Western Region, Uganda

Tindyebwa Amos was fined 556 US\$ or 2 years in prison for keeping a leopard skin in his home and attempting to sell it. He was arrested on May 7.

Natural Resource Conservation Network, June 16, 2022.<sup>33</sup>



## REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

## FAMILY AFFAIRS

May 21 and August 18, 2022

Oyo, Department of Cuvette, Republic of the Congo



A jawbone, a tooth, 2 skins. The loot was hidden in 2 bags full of starch. Mr. Obanga immediately denounced Marie Noëlle Molango and her husband as the owners of the skins and other parts. Mrs. Molango was immediately arrested at her home, but her husband, a police officer by profession, after trying to protect his wife, fled. They were both sentenced to 2 years in prison, fined 1 million CFA francs (1,540 US\$) and ordered to pay 500,000 CFA francs in damages. PALF, May 2022.<sup>34</sup>

June 5, 2022

Owando, Department of Cuvette, Republic of the Congo

Hugues Ahounga and Romain Kengona Fils were carrying 8 teeth and 2 skins from Ewo to Owando in a suitcase. They are experienced in trafficking between the remote villages of Cuvette and the department's big city. The success of the operation is attributed to the specialized squadron of the gendarmerie and the department's Forest Economy Directorate with the support of PALF. EAGLE, June 2022; PALF, June 2022.<sup>35</sup>

April 12, 13 and 27, 2022

Tambacounda, Tambacounda Region, Senegal



Two leopard skins and 3 feet of aardvark (*Orycteropus afer*) were seized by the police. Three people were arrested in flagrante delicto, another at home a few hours later. The 3 animals were poached in the Niokolo-Koba Park.

On April 27, Harouna Camara was sentenced to 2 years in prison, including one month in prison, and Sakhoba Simakha, the fourth suspect, was given a 2-year suspended sentence. They must also pay 1.5 million CFA francs (2,545 US\$) in damages. Toura Simakha and Koutoubo Drame were acquitted.

The aardvark is a small nocturnal mammal that feeds on ants and termites. He is 60 cm tall, up to 1.8 metres long including the tail, and weighs between 40 and 70 kg. He is hunted for his meat, as well as for his skin, claws, and teeth which are said to have therapeutic virtues.

EAGLE, April 14, 2022; Senego, April 18, 2022; EAGLE Senegal, April 2022.<sup>36</sup>

Aardvark (*Orycteropus afer*)

ASIA

INDIA

## FAMILY AFFAIRS

April 5, 6 and 7, 2022

Jashipur, Mayurbhanj District, State of Odisha, India

Sanu Naik, age 23, and Mohammad Hasim, age 35, were trying to sell the skin, claws, and teeth of a leopard at a bus stop. They were stopped by forest officers Chottpadhyay and Ghanashyam Mahanta and their team. After gathering information from the first 2 suspects, Sheikh Khetam Tai, age 26, Sheikh Tajmul, age 23, Babu Juanga, age 28, his nephew Ranjan Juanga, age 19, and Debiprasad Sahoo, age 26, were arrested. The skin is 1.37 metres long and 0.7 metres wide.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (India), April 6, 2022; Pragativadi, April 7, 2022; KalingaTV, April 20, 2022.<sup>37</sup>

## LEOPARDS - followed

**April 7, 2022**

**Khandadhuan, Deogarh District, State of Odisha, India**

Ranjit Nayak, age 36, and Sambaru Nayak, age 28, were busy selling the skin with the tail and 3 paws of a leopard in their village. They had electrocuted him in the forest with the help of Bishnu Luhura from Karangamal village. Twelve metres of electrical wire were seized from their home.

The New Indian Express, April 9, 2022.<sup>38</sup>



**Night of April 9 to 10, 2022**

**Daberi, Kandhamal District, State of Odisha, India**

Acting on specific information, a special force kept a lookout at night on the road leading to the village and arrested Bipin Nayak who was carrying a leopard skin.

Odisha Bytes, April 10, 2022; The Statesman, April 10, 2022.<sup>39</sup>

**April 10, 2022**

**Lakarwas, Udaipur District, State of Rajasthan, India**

The leopard was hanging from a tree by the noose of a motorcycle clutch cable. In the early morning, the worshippers of a temple heard him roar. When they arrived, under the leadership of Lal Singh, the rescuers tranquilized and unhooked the hanged leopard. His head was bleeding. This is the second time in the district since the beginning of the year that such an atrocity has occurred (see "On the Trail" n°35 p.52).

The Times of India, April 12, 2022.<sup>40</sup>



**April 12, 2022**

**Jammu, Jammu District, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, India**

Seizure at a bus stop of an old leopard skin and a medallion with a claw. Arrest.

WCCB, April 13, 2022; Daily Excelsior, April 14, 2022.<sup>41</sup>

**April 20, 2022**

**Banarhat Community Development Block, Jalpaiguri District, State of West Bengal, India**

The carcass of a leopard had been rotting for a few days in a ditch of the Diana tea plantation. It was discovered by workers who alerted foresters. At first sight, they suspect poisoning. The body was taken to Lataguri for a necropsy and cremation. Nearby Diana's garden, a female gaur and 2 gaur pups died near another tea plantation. "It seems that all 3 were struck by lightning."

The Telegraph India, April 21, 2022.<sup>42</sup>



**April 20, 2022**

**Kabuldanga, Jalpaiguri District, State of West Bengal, India**

The leopard entered the village and settled in a straw bale. People made noise and the leopard sneaked into a tea plantation. Foresters from Khunia and Binnaguri arrived on the scene. They set off firecrackers and the leopard attacked Anukul Roy before retreating into the plantation. In the afternoon, the foresters set off the firecrackers again and the leopard attacked Sushil Bhakta, another forester. Nets were set up around the plantation to prevent the cat from causing panic in the village again and to capture him. The 2 injured people are being treated in Sulkapara.

The Telegraph India, April 21, 2022.<sup>43</sup>

**April 21, 2022**

**Pulbhatta, Udham Singh Nagar District, State of Uttarakhand, India**

Seizure of a skin measuring 2.13 metres long and 1.21 metres wide in the hands of Dinanath, a wildlife trafficker. He says he captured the leopard 6 months ago in the Surai forest with a trap and killed him with a knife. All of these leopard skins that are on the road in response to demand are skinned and tanned by underground taxidermists. The Pioneer, April 22, 2022; The Times of India, April 22, 2022.<sup>44</sup>



**Night of April 25 to 26, 2022**

**Ludhiana, Ludhiana District, State of Punjab, India**

Sanjeev Kumar hid the 3 skins in a plastic bag on the roof of his home. They had been there for several months, maybe a year. The man was taken into custody. Investigators understand that he obtains the skins in Jammu and Kashmir.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (India), April 26, 2022; The Times of India, April 26, 2022; The Tribune, April 28, 2022.<sup>45</sup>

**April 27, 2022**

**Kathoutiya, Bahraich District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India**

The "gram pradhan" (village headman) calls the forest guards for help. He says that a leopard has entered the village and injured 7 people. The forest guards arrive on the spot, reinforced by 2 elephants with their mahouts to keep the leopard away. The Divisional forest officer said that the leopard was driven away from the village, that he was about to be captured in a net and that people in the fields surrounded him, that the leopard to get away injured 3 more people, that the rest of the village arrived, that the leopard was killed with a stick and an iron bar despite the forest guard who tried to protect him, that the cars of the guards were smashed by stones, that the 2 mahouts were molested, that one of them was taken hostage, that 2 men in uniform were wounded and that finally the police arrived and managed to restore order. =>



## LEOPARDS - followed

The next day, 64 villagers, including 10 women, were interviewed. The FIR (First Information Report) was registered under various charges including those related to Wildlife Protection Act, Criminal Law Amendment Act 7, creating nuisance, attacking public servants, and obstructing government work. Hindustan Times, April 27, 2022; The Times of India, April 28 and 29, 2022.<sup>46</sup>

**May 3, 2022**

**Hunsur Taluk, Mysuru District, State of Karnataka, India**

Initially, the leopard lived in Nagarhole National Park. Upon arrival, his skin and 4 paws were seized from a man at a junction on the road from Hanagod to Panchavalli. Four accomplices were soon arrested and several others disappeared into thin air. A single-shot rifle was among the exhibits. Four of the suspects are nomads grouped in hamlets in the taluk (district subdivision) and the fifth lives in Abbur.

Star of Mysore, May 3, 2022; The Shillong Times, May 3, 2022.<sup>47</sup>

**May 5, 2022**

**Surroundings of Saintala, Balangir District, State of Odisha, India**

Based on a tip-off, the road from Tikrapada to Saintala was under surveillance and Adikand Gheewala fell into the trap. He was carrying a skin. This is the 28<sup>th</sup> seizure by the STF (Special Task Force) in 2 years.

Ommcom News, May 6, 2022.<sup>48</sup>

**May 12, 2022**

**Varattuparai, Coimbatore District, State of Tamil Nadu, India**



Inside the Anamalai Tiger Reserve, the tea vendor has a chicken coop behind his stall. According to him, one or 2 chickens were disappearing every night. He electrified the chicken coop from dusk to dawn. A leopard was electrocuted when his right front paw hit a bar and his body was found at 7:00 a.m. on Thursday.

Republic World, May 12, 2022; The Hindu, May 12, 2022.<sup>49</sup>

**May 20, 2022**

**Karnapur, Dhenkanal District, State of Odisha, India**



The people of Karnapur burned tyres and blocked the road between Hindol and Angul for several hours to protest against the custody of 3 of their own who a few days ago had set a boar trap and who at the end of the night had actually captured and killed a leopard.

Ommcom News, May 21, 2022; The New Indian Express, May 21, 2022.<sup>50</sup>

**May 20, 2022**

**Nabi Nagar, Bahraich District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India**

Lynched, tied up, bruised, and exhausted, the female leopard under the control of a score of villagers died during her transfer to the veterinary clinic. No one knows what triggered the fury.

The Hindu, May 22, 2022.<sup>51</sup>

**May 22, 2022**

**Ramanguda Community Development Block, Rayagada District, State of Odisha, India**

Jayanta Bibar is in police custody. He was carrying a skin. This is the 29<sup>th</sup> in 2 years.

KalingaTV, May 23, 2022; Pragativadi, May 23, 2022.<sup>52</sup>

**May 24, 2022**

**Saplodi, Pauri Garhwal District, State of Uttarakhand, India**

Burned alive in a cage!

Mukesh Sharma tells The Indian Express: "The woman, identified as 47-year-old Sushma Devi, was killed by a leopard in Saplodi village in the district on May 15, following which forest officials placed cages at 2 different locations in the area to catch the animal. On Tuesday morning around 5:20 a.m., we got information that a leopard was caught in one of the cages. The forest department officials rushed to the spot. They talked to the locals there, but an angry mob led by the local village pradhan attacked the cage. They poured petrol, threw dry grass on the animal, and set him on fire. The forest department officials tried to stop them but the mob from Saplodi and 3 to 4 neighbouring villages was just too overwhelming for them."

There is no evidence that the tortured leopard was responsible for Sushma Devi's death. He was about 7 years old. A FIR (First Information Report) has been written against the village headman and the 149 rioters from Saplodi and nearby villages. No one believes that the legal proceedings will go any further.

Eleven years ago in Dhamdhar in the same district, a leopard was burned alive by an angry mob in front of police and forest officials. The complaint filed by the authorities was quickly withdrawn.

The Indian Express, May 26, 2022; The Times of India, May 26, 2022.<sup>53</sup>

**SATNA, THE DISTRICT OF  
THE ELECTROCUTED FELINES**



**- May 30, 2022**

**Chakra Nala, Satna District, Madhya Pradesh State, India**

The leopard lies in the field near a spring and a water tank surrounded by wooden poles and electric wires. He died in



an ambush. The news spread quickly. Crowds gathered to see and to touch. The poachers didn't have time to cut off the paws, pull the teeth, or grab other marketable byproducts. Post-mortem examination confirms electrocution. Three suspects were interviewed by the forest police. His death follows that of another leopard in the Anusuya forest in December 2021 and that of the mythical tiger Heera (see "On the Trail" n°34 p.63-64). The Satna district is a graveyard of electrocuted felines.

**- June 2, 2022**

**Maharajpur, Satna District, State of Madhya Pradesh, India**

A leopard is again discovered near a water point. Electrocution is suspected and will be confirmed very quickly. Two suspects are arrested.



According to Vipin Patel, forestry officer of the Satna district, electric traps target first wild boar, deer, and other edible game. He notes that the day after the leopard died near the tribal village of Chakra Nala, a wedding ceremony was scheduled. According to Patel, the traps are used to procure meat for parties and leopards are not priority targets.

Naidunia, May 30, 2022; The Times of India, June 2, 2022.<sup>54</sup>

**June 6, 2022**

**Krishnarajapura, Bengaluru Urban District, State of Karnataka, India**

Marijuana and *Panthera pardus*. Dhanraj was caught in the act in the Bharathi Nagar area with a leopard skin worth one million rupees or 13,000 US\$ and over 100 US\$ worth of cannabis. Dhanraj is a history-sheeter. He is multiproduct. Drugs for the students, spotted skins for the middle-class.

The Hindu, June 6, 2022; The Mangalorean, June 6, 2022.<sup>55</sup>

**June 20, 2022**

**Purunakot, Angul District, State of Odisha, India**



Rescue of a 3-year old leopard thanks to the morning alert of some villagers. He was released in the forest of Satkosia, habitat of about twenty leopards who are at the mercy of a multitude of wild boar traps during their nightly trips.

Satkosia, see "On the Trail" n°5 p.29, n°12 p.93, n°22 p.67, n°23 p.88 and 89 and n°31 p.162.

The Times of India, June 21, 2022.<sup>56</sup>

**IRAN**

**May 2022**

**Tang Mehrian, Province de Kohgiluyeh-et-Bouyer-Ahmad, Iran**

Failure. Despite all efforts, a leopard with a bullet wound that was causing panic at the river bank in the protected area was not saved. Two hours after anaesthesia by veterinarians from Shiraz 170 km away, the approximately 3-year-old female leopard died of internal bleeding.

Iranian Students' News Agency, May 28, 2022.<sup>57</sup>

**June 4, 2022**

**Bagh-e Malek, Khuzestan Province, Iran**

The slight comeback of leopards is reported in the mountains. Six years ago, a mother and 3 cubs were photographed near Baghmalek. But the game is far from being won. Hunters are hiding in the steep trails. The body of an adult male leopard has just been discovered by mountaineers. He was killed about a week ago.

The Islamic Republic News Agency, June 6, 2022; Iranian Students' News Agency, June 8, 2022.<sup>58</sup>

**NEPAL**

**Beginning of April 2022**

**Bhimdatta, Kanchanpur District, Sudurpashchim Province, Nepal**



A leopard fell into a trap on the banks of the Majhgaun River near Shukla Phanta National Park and could not escape. He was rescued the next day but did not survive the damage to his spinal cord. It doesn't specify, but the rescuers were probably forced to finish him off.

Violent deaths of the "Big Five" are increasing in the district. An elephant in a sugarcane field along the Doda River in March, a tiger inside Shukla Phanta Park in February. In the Covid-19 period even more than in normal times, people set traps to get meat. "They mostly intend to trap deer and boar but sometimes leopards and elephants also walk into these traps and die," says Laxmi Raj Joshi, head of the National Trust for Nature Conservation.

The Kathmandu Post, April 8, 2022.<sup>59</sup>

## LEOPARDS - followed

**Mid-April 2022**

**Gurjudhara, Kathmandu District, Bagmati Province, Nepal**

Arjun Thing, Balden Waiba, and Dil Bahadur Tamang, ages 23, 24, and 46, were arrested by the police in possession of a 1.3-metre-long leopard skin. Nepal News, April 15, 2022.<sup>60</sup>

**April 15, 2022**

**Budhanilkantha, Kathmandu District, Bagmati Province, Nepal**



Four men between the ages of 24 and 35 were arrested at the East-West Guest House. In The North Face branded travel bags they were carrying a skull and 2 skins 1.31 metres long by 0.6 metres wide and 2.1 metres long by 0.9 metres wide and a leopard skull.

Nepal News, April 17, 2022; Wild Tiger News, April 18, 2022.<sup>61</sup>

**April 27, 2022**

**Birendranagar, Surkhet District, Karnali Province, Nepal**



Dal Bahadur Budha, Bharat Bahadur Budha, and Amar Bahadur Thapa were arrested on the second floor of Sunita Hotel in room number 4 at around 2:00 p.m. They had with them a leopard skin measuring 2.74 metres from head to tail which they had allegedly acquired that morning in a village near Birendranagar.

Makalu Khabar, April 27, 2022.<sup>62</sup>

**May 9, 2022**

**Kyakmi Kothok, Syangja District, Gandaki Province, Nepal**

The female leopard, 15 kg, 1.60 m long, 52 cm high, was beaten to death with clubs. Initially, she was hiding in bushes in the village or on the outskirts of the village. The affair turned ugly when she was harassed by the crowd and, feeling self-defensive, she injured Durga Bahadur Gotame in the ear, hands, and head.

The Rising Nepal, May 9, 2022.<sup>63</sup>

## EUROPE

### RUSSIA

**June 13, 2022**

**Federal City of Saint Petersburg, Russia**



Not everyone can afford to walk in a park on the banks of the Neva with a black panther. This man saw in this exhibition a way to make money. The investigation will tell how he got the feline. He offered to passers-by the chance to pose with the Bagheera held on a leash but without muzzle, in exchange for a nice sum of rubles.

Rossiyskaya Gazeta, June 13, 2022.<sup>64</sup>

## CHEETAHS - *Acinonyx jubatus*, Appendix I

## ASIA

### SAUDI ARABIA

**June 2022**

**Riyadh Province, Saudi Arabia**

Arrest of 2 men of Ethiopian nationality in possession of 2 cheetah cubs.

SABQ Online Newspaper, June 21, 2022.<sup>65</sup>



**AFRICA**

**SOUTH AFRICA**

**Sunday June 26, 2022**

**Noordhoek Wetlands, Western Cape Province, South Africa**



"On the Trail" n°31 p.65 already talks about the wetlands of Noordhoek as a caracal poaching ground. After the NGO Urban Caracal Project, it is the turn of TBOM (Take Back Our Mountains) and James Minye, SAPS inspector, to draw the attention of the public to the practice of trapping and the intensity of poaching of caracals but also of grysboks (genus *Raphicerus*), Cape porcupines (*Hystrix africaeaustralis*) and mongooses (family Herpestidae) in the wetland. In one Sunday, thanks to the expertise of James Minye who at the start of the hike spotted shoe prints and meticulously followed them, 15 traps set by the same poacher were removed. "We saved 15 animals yesterday" summarized the master tracker. "The poachers eat some of the animals but other animals, like caracals they use the meat and sell the skin." "There are people who claim they are sangomas who use the skin to make blankets." "The area is large which is one of the things making things difficult." "If we could get more people, who are made aware of the issue who want to come forward and to learn how to find snares then we can save a lot for conservation."

News24, June 28, 2022.<sup>66</sup>

**EUROPE**

**FRANCE**

**May 3, 2022**

**Château-Gontier-sur-Mayenne, Department of Mayenne, France**

The shelter is more and more solicited to collect abandoned or mistreated caracals and especially servals. A female caracal was born in 2019 in South Africa, exported to Germany in conditions deemed legal and sold in France to individuals who did not have the capacity and permits to hold her. She was later admitted at the request of the State services to the shelter of the "Refuge de l'Arche". Bad surprise, her veterinarians had to intervene to repair the fracture of a hind paw.

Refuge de l'Arche, July 29, 2022.<sup>67</sup>



**May 31, 2022**

**Colmar, Department of Haut-Rhin, France**



He told the court that he thought he had acquired a caracal, a hybrid between a caracal and a Maine Coon cat. Bought as a baby 3 years ago in a pet show in Germany, the 24 kg feline, an authentic caracal, was transferred to the zoo refuge La Tanière. The man was fined 1,000 € (1,050 US\$) for falsifying a document and 500 € (525 US\$) for "keeping a non-domestic animal of a protected species in captivity without having identified it."

L'Alsace, June 1, 2022.<sup>68</sup>



The overweight caracal was confined in an enclosure of about 100 m<sup>2</sup>.

**SERVALS - *Leptailurus serval*, Appendix II**

**EUROPE**

**FRANCE**

**June 19, 2022**

**Tourcoing, Department of Nord, France**

A serval was caught after several hours of straying in the private gardens of Rue de Guisnes. The owner has been identified. An investigation is underway to determine the origin of the wild cat, who was described on his health bulletin as a savannah born of a cross between a serval and a cat.

La Voix du Nord, June 20 and July 13, 2022; Lille Actu, June 20, 2022.<sup>69</sup>



**June 29, 2022**

**Valenciennes, Department of Nord, France**

A serval was discovered and seized in a nightclub by a French Biodiversity Agency team. The serval trend has taken hold in Northern France and Belgium.

La Voix du Nord, June 30, 2022.<sup>70</sup>

## SERVALS - followed

### POLAND

**Beginning of May 2022**

**Bialystok, Podlaskie Voivodeship, Poland**

She was selling a serval skin jacket on the OLX auction site. She pleaded guilty, and if the court in Bialystok accepts the prosecutor's mediation proposal, she will avoid a trial provided that she does not commit a similar crime for one year and she will have to pay 2,000 zlotys or 450 US\$ to the victims' and post-prison assistance Fund.

Gazeta Współczesna, May 12, 2022.<sup>71</sup>

## SNOW LEOPARDS - *Panthera uncia*, Appendix I

ASIA

### KYRGYZSTAN

**End of April 2022**

**Teploklyuchenka and Ak-Bulun, Issyk-Kul Region, Kyrgyzstan**



All that remains of the snow leopard is the 2-metre long skin and the skull. Two men are arrested. First the receiver, then the shooter. The victim was originally from the Syrt Valley in the Ak-Suu district. Kaktus, April 26, 2022; Mediazona, April 26, 2022; Sputnik Kyrgyzstan, April 26, 2022.<sup>72</sup>

## ASIAN GOLDEN CATS - *Catopuma temminckii*, Appendix I

ASIA

### INDONESIA

**May 2022**

**North Sumatra Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia**

Musa Rajekshah, the province's deputy governor, shows himself on the networks while kissing an Asian golden cat, his favorite pet, and draws criticism from Nur Purba Priambada, a veterinarian who retorts: "Keeping wild animals is against animal welfare." "Showing wild animals in the company of people promotes poaching and the illegal trade in endangered species." The Asian golden cat is listed as a strictly protected species as of January 21, 2019. There are no population estimates for Asian golden cats in Indonesia, but the species is dependent on the forest environment and suffers from deforestation and poaching.

Suara, May 26, 2022.<sup>73</sup>

## LEOPARD CATS - *Prionailurus bengalensis*, Appendix II except the populations from Bangladesh, India and Thailand which are listed under CITES Appendix I

ASIA

### VIET NAM

**Beginning of May 2022**

**Dien Bien Phu, Dien Bien Province, Viet Nam**



Seizure of a pair of leopard cats held since March 2021 along with their 3 kittens, barely 30 days old, from individuals.

ENV, May 11, 2022.<sup>74</sup>

## SUNDA LEOPARD CATS - *Prionailurus javanensis*, Appendix II

ASIA

### PHILIPPINES

**April 20, 2022**

**San Dionisio, Province of Iloilo, Philippines**

The Sunda leopard cat had a close call. He was bought for the equivalent of 20 US\$ by his benefactor from people who had him in their hands and were about to kill, cook and eat him. Mr. Beloria then handed him over to the managers of the Sara protected area.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources, April 20, 2022.<sup>75</sup>





AMERICA

FRANCE (FRENCH GUIANA)

May 19, 2022

Remire-Montjoly, Territorial Collectivity of Guiana, France



OFB (French Biodiversity Agency) officers and veterinarians responded to the garden of Arletty Ho-Bing-Huang on Tropicana Avenue. Barking had raised the alarm. The neighbours thought they were retrieving a dog from a mango tree. They discovered the feline. He was anaesthetized, and after a health examination and a little care he was transferred far from the houses and human perils on the side of the dam of Petit-Saut, about a hundred kilometres from Rémire-Montjoly.

Guyane la 1ère, May 19, 2022; French Biodiversity Agency, June 9, 2022.<sup>76</sup>

The OFB in French Guiana displays on its website a remarkable way of living with jaguars that is full of respect and humanity. It depicts the jaguar community from the Pantanal in southern Brazil to Central America, where he was elevated to the rank of deity by the Maya and Aztecs, to French Guiana, where the Wayana, Wayapi, and Kali'na cultures have put the jaguar into stories and weaving. "The jaguar is one of the most beautiful and fascinating species of Latin American wildlife."

In the paragraph devoted to the economic benefits of these live animals, the guide reminds us that the image of the jaguar is used by the tourist industry and that he contributes in his own way to the development of Guiana by attracting tourists and naturalists who wish to see or catch a glimpse of him. His ecological utility is not forgotten. He hunts herbivores and insectivores like peccaries, pacas, armadillos, agoutis, tapirs, sloths and carnivores like coatis. All these species that he used to regulate with the puma are increasingly poached in their dilapidated habitats for the trade of their meat and other parts. "It is important to keep in mind that it is not the jaguar who invades the space of the man but the opposite", summarizes the guide. And the jaguar, in shortage of natural preys, sometimes falls back on domestic animals to feed himself and to teach his two kittens to feed themselves as well, once finished the suckling which lasts 3 months and after which the small ones will remain dependent on their mother until the age of 2 years.

The educational booklet teaches how to distinguish between puma and jaguar attacks, who divide up the job. The jaguar consumes the front parts of wild or domestic prey; the puma, the back parts. And they are said to work in staggered hours, the puma having a preference for the night; the jaguar, for dawn and dusk. Fourteen measures that favour coexistence with the latter are listed and illustrated. The first one is to avoid hunting the natural prey of the jaguar near inhabited areas, the last one is to bring in your dog at night. The authors point out that horseflies and ticks are the main causes of cattle mortality in Guiana, and also advise keeping the oldest and most experienced horned cattle and cows in the herds. "Older individuals help establish group behaviour that proves effective in avoiding jaguar attacks." Donkeys are welcome, too. They are good alerters if predators approach homes and enclosures. OFB officers do not shoot jaguars who have attacked domestic animals or approached homes. They capture them in trap cages, anaesthetize them, and move them to appropriate, remote habitats. "In the near future, the explosive growth of the Guianese population will increase the human influence and the risk of conflicts between humans and big cats. We can already anticipate these conflicts by adopting simple methods. [...] These methods and advice will sometimes require a little time to adapt, sometimes a little investment, but they will allow in the long term a good coexistence [...] with the emblematic jaguar."





## JAGUARS - followed

### MEXICO

#### Mid-April 2022

##### **Mérida International Airport, State of Yucatán, Mexico**

A black jaguar, about 3 months old, was in transit in Merida international airport. He was in a small crate. The documentation that accompanied him was falsified. He was transferred



to the zoo El Centenario. As "On the Trail" proves, Mérida airport is a high place of transit for felines and other clandestine wild animals (see n°2 p.18 and 19, n°4 p.27 and 33, n°5 p.27, n°7 p.18, n°9 p.19, n°20 p.12, n°21 p.8 and 25, n°24 p.61, n°25 p.12, 15 and 32, n°26 p.54, n°28 p.45, n°29 p.115, n°34 p.115 and 146 and n°35 p.44). Milenio, April 11, 2022.<sup>77</sup>

#### **PUMAS - *Puma concolor*, Appendix II, except for the populations of Costa Rica and Panama which are in Appendix I**

### AMERICA

### ARGENTINA

#### End of June 2022

##### **Sebastian Elcano, Province of Cordoba, Argentina**

The puma kitten aged 5 to 6 months was seized in a private home. He had been "found" by the occupants. He was transferred to the refuge of the Ente BioCordoba. The species is threatened by the fragmentation of his habitats, the densification of road networks and other logistic corridors, the reprisals from livestock farmers, the legal sport hunting and poaching.

Córdoba Interior Informa, June 27, 2022.<sup>78</sup>

### CANADA

#### End of April 2022

##### **Cowichan Valley Regional District, Vancouver Island, Province of British Columbia, Canada**

In the province, hunting of adult pumas is permitted from April 1 to June 15 and from September 10 to March 31. The discovery in the Cowichan Valley of 2 puma kittens, decapitated and with their paws amputated, shocked the services in charge of wildlife protection. A call for witnesses is issued. Anyone who knows anything about this case is invited to speak out on the RAPP (Report All Poachers and Polluters) hotline at 1-877-952-7277.

The Cowichan Valley since the first Covid-19 lockdowns has been the scene of much cruelty (see "On the Trail" n°29 p.86 and n°31 p.89).

Conservation Officer Service, May 5, 2022; CBC, May 6, 2022.<sup>79</sup>

#### April 2022

##### **La Pine, State of Oregon, United States of America**

The hunter-poacher had shot a puma before purchasing the hunting tag. The carcass was seized. Oregon State Police, April 2022.<sup>80</sup>

## BOBCATS AND LYNX - *Lynx* spp., Appendix II

### AMERICA

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

#### Beginning of April 2022

##### **Adams County, State of Ohio, United States of America**



Release of a lynx caught in a trap inside a private property by Matt Roberts and Gus Kiebel, both wildlife officers of Ohio's 5<sup>th</sup> Southwestern District. The uninjured feline was released back into the wild.

The Scioto Post, May 17, 2022.<sup>81</sup>

#### Beginning of April 2022

##### **Randolph County, State of Illinois, United States of America**

A hunter had shot a bobcat out of season in Illinois. In order to clear his name, he went to Kentucky where hunting was allowed. His move did not go unnoticed. The summons was delivered to his home but he will be tried in Kentucky.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources, April 15, 2022.<sup>82</sup>

#### April 2022

##### **Clinton County, State of Illinois, United States of America**

Seizure of 4 bobcat pelts. The man had shot the cats over the last 3 years. He had purchased a "non-resident" hunting licence in Kentucky and had obtained certificates allowing the transfer to another State. The "regularization" did not work.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources, April 15 and 30, 2022.<sup>83</sup>

#### End of April 2022

##### **Clay County, State of Illinois, United States of America**

Seizure by conservation police officers of a poached bobcat. One indictment.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources, April 30 and May 15, 2022.<sup>84</sup>

## BOBCATS AND LYNX - followed

**Beginning of May 2022**

**Macon County, State of Illinois, United States of America**

Seizure of a bobcat skull from a taxidermist. The animal had been poached in another county. Illinois Department of Natural Resources, May 15, 2022.<sup>85</sup>

**June 2022**

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

Seizure of 11 Canada lynx coats in a Manhattan store. One coat sold for 2,600 US\$. The management was fined 5,500 US\$. The DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation) was conducting the investigation since September 2021.

Department of Environmental Conservation, June 22, 2022.<sup>86</sup>



### REPEATED OFFENCE

**June 2022**

**Roscommon and Wayne Counties, State of Michigan, United States of America**

A Wayne County resident pleads guilty to poaching a bobcat in Roscommon County in 2021. The arrest of this repeat offender was aided by cross-referencing and the good memory of a conservation officer.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources, June 25, 2022.<sup>87</sup>

## EUROPE

### FRANCE

**May 2, 2022**

**Colmar, Department of Haut-Rhin, France**

Alfred Rebert is sentenced to a fine of 3,000 € (3,145 US\$), of which 1,500 € was suspended, and ordered to pay a total of 4,500 € in moral damages to 6 environmental protection associations for having kept a lynx skull in his home, the origin of which was illegal (see "On the Trail" n° 32 p. 92).

Actu Haut-Rhin, May 4, 2022.<sup>88</sup>



### SLOVENIA

**Mid-May 2022**

**Pri Cerkvi-Struge, Lower Carniola Region, Slovenia**

All that naturalists monitoring the lynx breeding program in Slovenia recovered from one young lynx, the offspring of a resident female and a recently imported male, was the GPS collar and traces of blood in the forest.

LIFE Lynx, August 31, 2022.<sup>89</sup>

## WILD CATS - *Felis silvestris*, Annexe II

## EUROPE

### ROMANIA

**April 20, 2022**

**Curățele, Bihor County, Romania**

A reader alerts the newspaper Bihoreanul about the corpse of a small feline in a ditch at the side of a small road. The editorial staff of the newspaper informs the police. The body is given to the veterinary services of Bihor. The species is identified. She was a female European wild cat (*Felis silvestris silvestris*). The post-mortem reveals that she was pregnant and that she was shot. An investigation is opened to find the person responsible.

Very discreet, European wildcats live in forest areas throughout the continent. Even if they can be confused with domestic cats returned to the wild, they are actually quite distant cousins: the domestic cats would rather be the descendants of wild cats from Africa (*Felis silvestris lybica*). They weigh on average from 3.5 to 5 kg and measure between 50 and 60 cm at the withers. They are threatened by interbreeding with domestic cats, food competition with domestic cats, road collisions, rodent poisons and to a lesser extent human persecution.

Bihoreanul, April 21, 2022.<sup>90</sup>

## MULTI-FELINES

## AFRICA

### CAMEROON

**June 9 and 23, 2022**

**Yaoundé, Centre Region, Cameroon**

Mana Adama and Mario Tchamgne Ndjende were fined 200,000 CFA francs each (328 US\$), ordered to pay 195,000 CFA francs in court costs and ordered to pay jointly and severally 3 million CFA francs (4,920 US\$) in damages for having been in illegal possession of a lion skin and a leopard skin.

LAGA, June 2022.<sup>91</sup>



# WOLVES, HYAENAS, JACKALS AND FOXES



Golden jackal (*Canis aureus*). Photo Alex Alaman

## AFRICA

### MOROCCO

May 17, 2022

**Béni Mellal, Béni Mellal-Khénifra Region, Morocco**

Three months in prison and a fine of 5,000 dirhams (500 US\$) for the 2 men who caught a striped hyaena (*Hyaena hyaena*, Appendix III in Pakistan) in a trap and filmed his agony in the Tagzirt forest on April 22.

Hyaenas are subject to all kinds of hassles. They are victims of bush fires, of reprisals by cattle farmers, of looks discrimination and of an insistent rumour. In alternative or last resort medicines, their brains are believed to have magical properties. The brain of a hyaena is said to be traded around 10,000 dirhams or a little less than 1,000 € and a little more than 1,000 US\$.

Emirates Al-Youm, April 22, 2022; alyaoum24, April 23, 2022; Bladi.net, May 19, 2022.<sup>1</sup>



## CHAD

April 22, 2022

**Zakouma National Park, Guerat and Salamat regions, Chad**

Golden jackals (*Canis aureus*, Appendix III in India), gazelles, warthogs, and other animals of the reserve, this is the tally of 8 poachers who used pesticides to poison the rare water points in this period of heat. Alwihda, April 22, 2022.<sup>2</sup>



The 8 poisoners dried the meat before it was put on the market at the risk of poisoning the consumers.



## AMERICA

### CANADA

**June 6, 2022**

**Courtenay, Province of British Columbia, Canada**

The Pacific Wild Alliance lost. The Supreme Court ruled that the case-by-case air gunning cull of grey wolves (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) or other species in any part of the province according to needs defined by the authorities was legal. The illegality of air gunning, which consists of shooting at the dominant wolf or wolf packs from helicopters, is also not proven insofar as, while helicopter crews and other aircraft are indeed prohibited from carrying and transporting a weapon, exemptions may be granted. According to the provincial government, more than 1,700 wolves have been killed since 2015 and the implementation of the wolf control programme, which officially aims to save caribou from extinction. The predation on caribou by wolves is considered by many experts and NGOs to be marginal compared to the intensive deforestation in British Columbia (see "On the Trail" n°16 p.61-62, n°32 p.95 and n°35 p.65).

Global News, July 7, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

### CHILE

**Beginning of June 2022**

**Villarica, Province of Cautín, Region of Araucanía, Chile**

The Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero (Agriculture and Livestock Service, SAG) filed a complaint against 2 individuals who, in an agricultural estate, opened a cage where a fox was trapped. He was immediately torn apart by 3 hunting dogs. One of the individuals is wearing a SAG uniform. The 3 species of foxes present in Chile are the colpeo fox (*Lycalopex culpaeus*), the Pampas fox (*Lycalopex griseus*) and the Darwin's fox (*Lycalopex fulvipes*). All 3 are listed in Appendix II of CITES.

Diario El Día, June 7, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**April 15, 2022**

**Tyrrell County, State of North Carolina, United States of America**

A red wolf (*Canis lupus rufus*, synonymous with *Canis rufus*, Appendix II) was found dead in a field with a bullet in his spine. Necropsy revealed that his lungs were filled with mud. A reward of 5,000 US\$ is offered for information. Red wolves, see "On the Trail" n°23 p.96 and n°30 p.69.

US Fish and Wildlife Service, May 13, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

**April 25, 2022**

**Oakland, State of California, United States of America**

Trump - Biden: same fight against wolves

- On October 29, 2020, the Trump administration removed grey wolves (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) from the list of endangered species (see "On the Trail" n°31 p.71).

- "On the Trail" n°35 p.64 had anticipated it: the Biden administration appealed against the February 10, 2022, Oakland federal court ruling that removing the grey wolf from the endangered species list was premature and could harm the species' survival and its redeployment in States where it has been eradicated or persecuted.

United States District Court Northern District Of California, April 25, 2022; Defenders of Wildlife, April 27, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

**May 2022**

**State of Minnesota, United States of America**

End of the Tamarack pack of grey wolves (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II). Its sole breeding female was shot outside the park, condemning her lone wolf companion to wander.

Travelers Wolf Project, May 12, 2022.<sup>7</sup>



The female is the fourth collared wolf poached in the last 2 years.

## ASIA

### ISRAEL

**April 6, 2022**

**Haifa, Haifa District, Israel**

Sentencing of an individual to 3 months in prison and an additional 6 months if within 3 years following his release, he commits a similar offense. In Isfiya, Haifa district, in August 2019, he had unleashed his 2 attack dogs on the trail of a striped hyaena (*Hyaena hyaena*, Appendix III in Pakistan) and filmed the hunt. The soundtrack proves that he encouraged "his lions" by howling during the blood bath. He posted the video of the agony on social networks.

Israel Nature and Parks Authority, April 6, 2022.<sup>8</sup>



## MONGOLIA

### End of May 2022

#### Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

A police inspection of the Mungun Zaviya shopping mall revealed the sale of jewelry made of teeth from grey wolf (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) for 65,000-80,000 tugriks (21-26 US\$) and marmot (genus *Marmota*) for 60,000 tugriks (19.5 US\$). According to the police, the animals "could have been illegally hunted". The traders have committed to stop offering these items.

iSee.mn, May 26, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

## EUROPE

### SPAIN

#### April 2022

#### Manzanal de Arriba, Province of Zamora, Autonomous Community of Castile and León, Spain



After the discovery of an Iberian wolf (*Canis lupus signatus*, Appendix II) and 4 red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) dead at the end of March in the hunting ground of the Sierra de la Culebra, an inspection of the site by environmental agents led to the removal of 10 traps carefully surrounded by salt blocks to bait the deer.

Zamora24Horas, April 29, 2022.<sup>10</sup>

### FINLAND

#### April 3 and beginning of September 2022

#### Municipality of Vesanto, Region of Northern Savonia, Finland

On Sunday, at noon, fishermen on the still ice-covered Konnevesi lake see an all-terrain vehicle deliberately drive over a grey wolf (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II). They call the police. The dying wolf is put out of his misery by a specialized team. The driver, a man in his fifties, is identified. A firearm is found on him. He is arrested and he admits the facts. He is released on April 5. At the beginning of September, the police refer the case to the public prosecutor of Eastern Finland for prosecution.

Police of Finland, April 6 and September 1, 2022.<sup>11</sup>

### Beginning of April 2022

#### Kuopio, Region of North Savo, Finland



A man was accused of trying to poison grey wolves (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) with meatballs in Keitele. He was recently acquitted.

Sure, he bought strychnine and xylitol (birch sugar toxic to wolves) to make poison meatballs that he kept in his freezer, he repeatedly searched the area for wolves, his phone exchanges clearly show that he had something against wolves... but the court finds that he did not commit a hunting offence because there is no evidence that he deposited meatballs in the forest. "I gave it up," says the acquitted. As for the man who provided him with the toxic compounds and all the advice on how to make them into deadly bait for wolves, the court cannot convict him of complicity since it ruled that there was no hunting violation.

Yle Uutiset, April 12, 2022.<sup>12</sup>

### FRANCE

#### May 13, 2022

#### Valence, Department of Drôme, France

Jacques Charransol was fined 2,000 € (2,100 US\$), of which 1,500 € (1,570 US\$) was suspended, for shooting a grey wolf (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) in 2020 during a wild boar beat in the Baronnies Park. The young male, about 18 months old, had been fatally wounded.

ASPAS, September 9 and autumn 2022.<sup>13</sup>

**May 31 - October 14, 2022**  
**Montredon-Labessonnié, Department of Tarn, France**



- December 2021. Nine grey wolves (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) who had just arrived in the "zoo des Trois Vallées" (Three Valleys Zoo) escaped or tried to escape. Four were shot by the zoo's management and 5 were anaesthetised by the State agents (see "On the Trail" n°34 p.88). The zoo's operation is suspended.

- May 31, 2022. Withdrawal of 3 Eurasian wolves (*Canis lupus lupus*) at the request of the Prefect. They are transferred to an accredited refuge in Morbihan, region of Brittany.

- Mid-June 2022. The prefectural decree ordering the removal of the Hudson Bay wolves (*Canis lupus hudsonicus*) by August 2022 is cancelled by the Toulouse Administrative Court.

- July 13, 2022. The Castres criminal court acquits the zoo director and 3 keepers. They were suspected of illegal operation of an establishment holding non-domestic animals, and of undeclared work. The family of a little girl who was the victim of a caracal attack will be compensated for moral damage.

- October 14, 2022. The State Council, at the request of the Prefect of the department, overturned the ruling of the Toulouse Administrative Court and validated the prefectural decree ordering the transfer of the Hudson Bay wolves to another establishment.

The reopening of the zoo to the public is subject to the improvement of security and of the animals' housing conditions. Proceedings have also been initiated to withdraw the director's certificate of capacity to exhibit animals to the public. The zoo is likely to close permanently, but the fate of the animals other than the wolves is uncertain. It remains to be seen whether the wolves who have been relocated are housed in acceptable conditions and whether the risks of escape are reduced as much as possible and permanently. A grey wolf or a Hudson Bay wolf on the run would be condemned to reprisals or fatal collisions.

Wolf escapes in France, see "On the Trail" n°31 p.74. Breeding of wolves, see "On the Trail" n°29 p.72.

See also the report "Contrôle des loups détenus en captivité" (Control of wolves held in captivity) by the Prefecture of the Region of Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes - Water Hydroelectricity Nature Department - Wolf Unit, July 15, 2020 (pdf - 2.3 Mb), <https://robindesbois.org/wp-content/uploads/rapport-loups-captifs-vf-Robindesbois.pdf>.

Actu Occitanie, May 10 and June 1 and 15, 2022; Le Tarn Libre, July 13, 2022; France 3 Occitanie, October 14, 2022.<sup>14</sup>

## POLAND

**Beginning of April 2022**  
**Gmina Sosnówka, Lublin Voivodeship, Poland**

Discovery in the forest of the corpse of a grey wolf (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) shot dead. Polskie Radio Lublin, April 12, 2022.<sup>15</sup>

## SERBIA

**May 16, 2022**  
**Zrenjanin, Central Banat District, Serbia**

Golden jackals (*Canis aureus*, Appendix III in India) might well be protected in Serbia, the city of Zrenjanin has called for projects to eliminate them. They are accused of attacking herds that are not guarded by dogs and of attacking deer and pheasants. The winning project leaders will be awarded 700,000 dinars (6,400 US\$).

Environmental NGOs and experts fear that hunters will resort to poisoning, which would have dramatic consequences for protected birds. "In Apatin, where a similar decision had been taken, hunters had the idea of poisoning jackals because it is much easier than hunting them with guns. All they had to do was cut off their tails to collect their reward. More than 150 raptors had been poisoned, including 50 white-tailed eagles [*Haliaeetus albicilla*, Appendix I]."

Milan Ružić, spokesman for the Ornithological Society of Serbia, explains that jackals are sanitary "workers" who feed on dead animals and abandoned slaughterhouse waste. See "On the Trail" n°35 p.143.

021, May 10, 2022.<sup>16</sup>

## SWEDEN

**April 2022**  
**Lycksele, Västerbotten County, Sweden**



Indictment of a 45-year-old man for the sale of a grey wolf (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) fur hat and toque in late summer 2020. He was reported to police by someone who saw his offer on Facebook and asked him unsuccessfully if he had CITES permits. The defendant claims that the clothes were purchased about 50 years ago by one of his relatives in Umeå. "Nobody talked about certificates at the time."

Västerbottens-Kuriren, April 20, 2022; Jaktjournalen, April 21, 2022.<sup>17</sup>

**Beginning of June 2022**  
**Skane County, Sweden**



A woman was fined 2,000 kronor (205 US\$) for selling puppies from a cross between a German shepherd and a grey wolf (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) on the Blocket website. She did not have the necessary permit from the Environmental Protection Agency. Skanska Dagbladet, March 11, 2022; Svensk Jakt, June 2, 2022.<sup>18</sup>





Syrian brown bear (*Ursus arctos syriacus*). Photo Jan Ebr

## AMERICA

### CANADA

**May 15, 2022**

#### **5 km outside of Fernie, Province of British Columbia, Canada**

A grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*, Appendix II) is found dead near a river. The footprints show that 2 people are involved and the police are racking their brains : are they 2 armed hikers acting in self-defence, 2 hunters mistaking a grizzly bear for a black bear, or 2 poachers deliberately shooting a species protected by law? The case would be much easier to solve if black bears (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) and grizzly bears were both banned from hunting in Canada and the United States. The bear had just come out of hibernation and was 6 years old. She could have given birth to cubs for the first time this year. "She's currently at the right age for having cubs, so any time you lose a female such as this from the breeding population, it does impact the overall health of a population in a given area." She was shot through the heart by a high-powered weapon on Sunday morning at dawn. The Elk Valley mourns a dearly departed.

The Free Press, May 17, 2022; CBC/Radio-Canada, May 18, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

## REPEATED OFFENCE

**End of May 2022**

#### **Province of British Columbia, Canada**

An American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) and a moose (*Alces alces*) were killed by strangers, out of season and without valid permits, in September 2018. A DNA comparison of a leg of the moose left at the crime scene with the carcass found at the home of one of the poachers in the United States was the evidence. Their guide, repeat offender Richard Todd Bunnage, was sentenced to 9,200 \$ (7,150 US\$) in penalties and a fine of 36,000 \$ (27,000 US\$). He is prohibited from hunting and guiding for 5 years. Red Deer Advocate, July 11, 2018; Conservation Officer Service, May 31, 2022.<sup>2</sup>



## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### FAMILY AFFAIRS

April 2022

#### St. Anthony, State of Idaho, United States of America



Jared Baum was sentenced to 30 consecutive days in the Fremont County jail, 3 years of probation, 2 years fixed, 2,500 US\$ in fines plus court costs, 10,000 US\$ in penalties, and a lifetime hunting licence revocation. Sentence of Rex Baum to 180 days in prison, 177 of which are suspended and 3 which are to be served in the county jail, to pay 1,400 US\$ in fines and court costs, and to a 10-year revocation of his hunting licence. The revocation of hunting licences imposed on Jared Baum and Rex Baum extends to all 48 member States of the Interstate Wildlife Violators Compact.

The grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*, Appendix II) had been poached in March 2021 (see "On the Trail" n°32 p.102). A reward of 40,000 US\$ was promised to the person who could lead to arrest the culprits. Eight months later, Jared Baum, the son, was questioned by Fish and Game agents and admitted to having fired 40 shots, convinced that it was a black bear running towards the Little Warm River, an unconvincing admission insofar as the black bear hunt was closed at the time of the events. Confronted by knowledgeable officers, Jared admitted that his father Rex was with him and that the 2 murder weapons, Ruger 57 pistols, had been thrown into a pond. Divers from neighbouring Bonneville County were mobilized but the guns remained unaccounted for. Idaho Fish and Game, April 15, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

### OPERATION GAME THIEF

April 2022

#### Cheshire County, State of New Hampshire, United States of America



Fine and one-year suspension of hunting licence for the poacher. In 2020, he shot an American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) after baiting him and a ruffed grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) out of season.

New Hampshire Fish and Game Law Enforcement Division, September 20, 2020 and April 21, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

### Beginning of April 2022

#### Oceana County, State of Michigan, United States of America



Bait used for bears (*Ursus* spp., Appendix I or II) is found in the forest. After a stakeout lasting a few weeks, officers arrested 2 poachers. They admitted to the crime.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources, April 16, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

### April 11, 2022

#### Missoula County, State of Montana, United States of America

The bullet lodged in the paw of a young female grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*, Appendix II) resulted in sepsis. The 2-year-old bear had to be finished off. A reward of several thousand dollars is being offered to find the poacher.

Daily Montanan, June 7, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

### April 14, 2022

#### Mariposa County, State of California, United States of America

Four American black bears (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) were released into the wild. The yearling orphans had been placed at the San Diego Humane Society's Ramona Wildlife Center since the fall. The first 3 had lost their mother to a poacher's shot, the fourth had survived a fire.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife, April 22, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

### April 25, 2022

#### Juneau, State of Alaska, United States of America

An American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) was shot and killed on Moraine Way. Authorities are appealing for witnesses.

KINY, April 29, 2022.<sup>8</sup>

### April 25, 2022

#### Lagrange, State of Maine, United States of America

Shot several times and thrown from a bridge, an American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) was found in the aptly named Dead Stream River. A 2,000 US\$ reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest of the poacher.

FOX Bangor/ABC 7, April 26, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

### End of April 2022

#### Maple Grove, State of Minnesota, United States of America



An American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) is spotted in town with a trap on his paw. Authorities plan to anaesthetize him and to free him.

FOX 9, April 28, 2022.<sup>10</sup>

### May 6, 2022

#### Anchorage, State of Alaska, United States of America

"The Bear Whisperer" faces up to one year in prison and a fine of 100,000 US\$. In May 2017, he and his team members poached an American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) in Kenai Fjords National Park and, after delivering him to a taxidermist, exported the dead animal from Alaska to Maine where he lives. Harvey Neil Anthony, known as the host and producer of "The Bear Whisperer" under the name Blaine Anthony, says he has a connection and secret dialogue with bears while simultaneously extolling legal and sport hunting. A star of the Outdoor Adventure Network, Pursuit Channel, and Hunting Channel Online, he co-hosts a web show called "Freedom Fighters" that opposes immigration, gun control, and universal health care.

Killed in a national park where hunting is prohibited, the black bear was then transported by an accomplice sailor to Berger Bay where hunting is permitted. His death was declared to have occurred in Homer, Alaska.

United States District Court for the District of Alaska, May 6, 2022; The Daily Beast, May 9, 2022; Daily Mail, May 10, 2022.<sup>11</sup>

## OPERATION GAME THIEF

Week of May 9, 2022

### Schuylkill County, State of Pennsylvania, United States of America

The remains of an American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) are found near a railroad track.

Pennsylvania Game Commission, May 12, 2022.<sup>12</sup>

May 12, 2022

### Newtown, State of Connecticut, United States of America

She was popular among the local residents. The American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) was shot on private property. She leaves 2 orphans, who have been placed at the Kilham Bear Center. The Ridgefield police officer was off duty when he fired the shot. He has been placed on administrative leave.

U.S. News (with AP), May 13, 2022; New York Post, May 14, 2022; News 12 Connecticut, May 17, 2022.<sup>13</sup>



May 19, 2022

### State of Florida, United States of America

William Tyler Wood is the sixth member of the Ocala Forest Gang to be tried. With his accomplices, he baited American black bears (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) with expired sweets recovered from supermarket waste bins. With his dogs, he tore the bears apart (see "On the Trail" n°31 p.75, n°33 p.102 and n°35 p.70). He was sentenced to 364 days in prison, followed by 10 years of probation. He is prohibited from hunting, from going to the Ocala National Forest, and from owning a hunting dog or dogs. He must surrender the 14 dogs he currently owns.

His attorney asked the judge to postpone the sentencing in the Marion County Jail until May 31. Uncharacteristically, the judge agreed in consideration of Wood's family background but warned him that if he did not appear on that day, he could face 30 years in prison.

Ocala Star-Banner, May 19, 2022.<sup>14</sup>



May 21, 2022

### New Lisbon, State of Wisconsin, United States of America

An American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) with a trap on his paw is being searched for. The use of drones is being considered to locate him. Thousands of leg-hold traps and snares are sold on Amazon. In recent years, they have been responsible for the amputation of at least 50 bears in the United States and Canada.

Help Asheville Bears, May 27 and June 9, 2022.<sup>15</sup>



May 25, 2022

### Collier County, State of Florida, United States of America

Sentence of Kyle Stevens, age 28, to 6 months of probation, to attend a hunting safety course, and to pay a fine of 500 US\$ plus court costs for poaching an American black bear cub (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) by shooting him (see "On the Trail" n°29 p.73).

Naples Daily News, May 26, 2022.<sup>16</sup>

May 29, 2022

### Blackfoot Valley, State of Montana, United States of America

Two 2-year-old female grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos horribilis*, Appendix II) who were marauding a little too close to homes were captured. One of the sisters, who was healthy and weighed approximately 130 pounds (59 kg), was fitted with a radio collar and moved. The other, who weighed only 90 pounds (41 kg), had to be finished off. She was threatened by a generalized infection after losing her left front paw in a trap. Their mother was known to raid sheds and garages north of Missoula.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, June 3, 2022; U.S. News (with AP), June 4, 2022.<sup>17</sup>



End of May 2022

### Bacon County, State of Georgia, United States of America

Seizure at a private home of the carcass of an American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II). The shooter claimed to have acted in self-defence, but witnesses testified that the bear was in a tree and posed no danger.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division, June 2, 2022.<sup>18</sup>



June 10, 2022

### State of Florida, United States of America

Sentence of Mark Christopher Lindsey, age 29, to 270 days in prison followed by 8 years of probation. He is prohibited from hunting, owning a hunting dog, and going to the Ocala Forest. He is the seventh member of the gang to be tried for "inhumane treatment and torture of black bears" (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II). His attorney requested that Lindsey serve his jail time in Taylor County which is closer to his home and family in Georgia. The judge did not grant this request, emphasizing that the Marion County and Taylor County sheriffs must also give their opinion on this arrangement.

Ocala Star-Banner, June 10, 2022.<sup>19</sup>





**June 16, 2022**

**Little Falls, State of Minnesota, United States of America**

Indictment of Michael J. Thielen. He killed an American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) in his yard at night in late July 2021. It was an adult bear weighing over 200 kg. Thielen said the bear was preying on his chickens and ducks. His partner and son did not dare to go out at night. "I was trying to protect my family," he said after putting the blame on the bear. He killed him out of season and without a permit and with a floodlight to dazzle him. To make sure he got him, he started by placing a bait. He wrapped the corpse in a plastic sheet and when he came back from work, he cut up about 30 kg of meat. The carcass was already full of insects. He cut it up and dumped it in his dumpster. He left the head to the flies and vermin, and a few months later made it into a "decorative" trophy. Star Tribune, June 17, 2022.<sup>20</sup>

**June 23, 2022**

**Creede, State of Colorado, United States of America**

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) knows exactly what it wants. In October 2021, after an anonymous call, a dead female American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II), 7 to 8 years old, was found in a creek of the Rio Grande at Mountain Views RV Resort with a 22 Long Rifle bullet in her chest. Since then, the investigation has stalled and the CPW is re-launching it with a new press release and a 1,000 US\$ reward to anyone who can provide a piece of evidence. Lamar Ledger, June 23, 2022.<sup>21</sup>

**ASIA**

**AZERBAIDJAN**

**June 2022**

**Azerbaijan**

Farid Mansurov, founder of the NGO Good World Animal Rescue and Protection, sounds the alarm. The situation of the Syrian brown bear (*Ursus arctos syriacus*, Appendix II) is deplorable. The mothers are killed when they wake up in



the spring and the cubs are collected by poachers to be sold between 2,000 and 5,000 manats (1,180-2,940 US\$) to individuals, restaurants or leisure centers. As cubs, they attract visitors, as adults, they serve as a source of bear meat for dishes to wealthy people. At least 20-25 cubs were caught in this way in the spring of 2022. Regularly, bears are found wandering in cities, lost, escaped from the hands of their "owners".

Good World Animal Rescue and Protection offers a reward of 500 manats (295 US\$) to anyone who reports an illegally held bear, but the wildlife rehabilitation center in Altiagac (Khizi district) is already full and some cubs have to be housed by volunteers. Moreover, the premises are too small to prevent them from being accustomed to humans and to consider release. The situation seems inextricable. The only solution, according to the president of the Society for the Protection of Animals, is to ban hunting for 10 years. "No one will convince me that hunting is important for the economy of our country. Nothing bad will happen if there is no more hunting."

1News, June 21, 2022; Caucasian Knot, June 25, 2022; Media.az, July 2, 2022.<sup>22</sup>

**AZERBAIJAN – ARMENIA**

**June 2022**

**Vank, Kalbajar District, Azerbaijan- Urtsadzor and Erevan, Armenia**

Transfer of 6 captive Syrian brown bears (*Ursus arctos syriacus*, Appendix II) to the International Animal Rescue sanctuary in Urtsadzor, Ararat Region, Armenia. A fellow lynx (*Lynx lynx*, Appendix II) was transferred to Yerevan Zoo, also in Armenia.



IAR and the Armenian NGO FPWC (Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets) have a joint goal of rescuing approximately 80 bears illegally held in Armenia and the Republic of Artsakh (or Nagorno-Karabakh).

The village of Vank is located in the Republic of Artsakh, a self-proclaimed republic annexed by Azerbaijan. It is historically an Armenian region and is still predominantly populated by Armenians. Aravot, June 17, 2022; International Animal Rescue, June 29 and 30, 2022.<sup>23</sup>

**GEORGIA**

**Beginning of April 2022**

**Tskhinvali, Region of Shida Kartli, Georgia**

The news agency TASS reports that poachers killed a brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) and kidnapped the 3 cubs, aged 2 months. One cub was found in Tskhinvali and handed over to the guard of the nature reserve near Balta in the Znaur district. Photos of the other 2 cubs biting each other or eating from a bowl in anonymous apartments and gardens are circulating on social networks. =>



The environmental movement "Zelenaya Alania" is calling for their release. An appeal to the 32,000 inhabitants of Tskhinvali was launched to collect information and organize the release and return of the hostages to their natural environment. They were fed cookies and condensed milk.

The "Greens" of the self-proclaimed Republic of South Ossetia – the State of Alania contacted experts from the Russian Tver Oblast. They say that after prolonged captivity, human contact deprives the cubs of their ability to be self-sufficient in the forests. A race against time is on.

South Ossetia seceded from Georgia in 1992 and declared itself an independent republic. Its existence is recognized only by Russia, Syria, Nicaragua, Venezuela, and the Republic of Nauru (Oceania). It covers 3,900 km<sup>2</sup> and has 50,000 inhabitants. South Ossetia would like to be attached to Russia like North Ossetia.

Sputnik South Ossetia, April 11, 2022; Agency for Social Information, April 14, 2022; Caucasus Online, April 15, 2022.<sup>24</sup>

## INDIA

**May 1, 2022**

**Parasbani, Bokaro District, State of Jharkhand, India**

Two sloth bears (*Melursus ursinus*, Appendix I) were rescued thanks to the intervention of politician and animal rights activist Maneka Gandhi and her organization People for Animals. Found tied to trees, they were being held by members of nomadic communities. These "madaris" who earn their living by performing street acts with animals have fled. The bears were taken to a shelter.

The Indian Express, May 1, 2022; The Telegraph India, May 2, 2022.<sup>25</sup>

**May 26, 2022**

**Rudrapur, Udham Singh Nagar District, State of Uttarakhand, India**

Seizure of a 138-gram gall bladder of an Asian black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I). Tara Singh Daanu, age 29, was transporting it from her village of Bageshwar to customers in Nepal. "During winters, black bears come down from the heights and become an easy target for poachers," says wildlife expert Pran Chadha.

The Times of India, May 27, 2022; WCCB, May 27, 2022.<sup>26</sup>



**Sunday June 12 to Monday June 13, 2022**

**Amdi, Gariaband District, State of Chhattisgarh, India**

- The carcass amputated of paws, teeth and genitals of an 18-24-month-old male sloth bear (*Melursus ursinus*, Appendix I) is found.

- Three 50-year-old men are arrested. Three claws of the bear are seized along with the antlers and skin of a spotted deer (*Axis axis*).

Devdiscourse, June 13, 2022; The Pioneer, June 14, 2022.<sup>27</sup>

## IRAN

**April 2022**

**Namin, Ardabil Province, Iran. Border with Azerbaijan.**

The prosecutor informs the journalists that the farmer, who is supposed to be the main perpetrator of the violent death of a brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II), has been identified less than 24 hours after the events took place. The victim, who was near the village of Khanazek in the vicinity of Nemin, was chased by a tractor and beaten with a shovel to the point that his hind paws were fractured and his spinal cord was partially paralyzed. According to the prosecutor of Ardabil, the preservation of the environment is a divine commandment and a duty for the human race, not only for the present but also for the future.

The Islamic Republic News Agency, April 24, 2022; Asriran, April 26, 2022.<sup>28</sup>

**End of April 2022**

**Amol, Mazandaran Province, Iran**

Another brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) was taken down. Ecologists from Amol (population over 230,000) found him high up in a protected area on the Caspian Sea and 300 km from Tehran. The body was partially eviscerated and wedged on a stone slab. He was about 2 years old.

Khabaronline, April 27, 2022.<sup>29</sup>



**May 2022**

**Bakan, Fars Province, Iran**

A bear (Ursidae, Appendix I or II) was poached in "Mount Bear" where hunting is prohibited. A bear cub about 1.5 years old is found dead on the side of the Shiraz-Ispahan road. "Drought, habitat destruction, harvesting of forest products, and fires cause bears to cross railways, roads, and approach residential areas, which causes conflicts or collisions with vehicles and can threaten the bear population," says a spokesman for the Bureau of Wildlife Protection and Management.

Khabaronline, May 26, 2022.<sup>30</sup>

## End of May 2022

### Takab, West Azerbaijan Province, Iran

The circulation of cruel images on social networks stirred public opinion and the police took up the case. Skins of brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II), horns of urial (*Ovis vignei*, Appendix I), a firearm, and a club were seized from the suspect's home. Mehr News Agency, May 27, 2022.<sup>31</sup>

## June 3, 2022

### Between Nain and Isfahan, Isfahan Province, Iran

On the Nain-Isfahan road, the traffic police checked a car. There were an unspecified quantity of drugs and an Asian black bear cub (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I) on board.

Mehr News Agency, June 14, 2022.<sup>32</sup>

## KYRGYZSTAN

## April 23, 2022

### Karakol, Issyk-Kul Region, Kyrgyzstan



Seizure of firearms, ammunition, and 2 skins of Himalayan brown bear (*Ursus arctos isabellinus*, Appendix I). There are less than 100 in the country. One arrest.

24.kg, April 26, 2022; Azattyq Ruhy, April 26, 2022; Kloop, April 26, 2022.<sup>33</sup>

## MONGOLIA

## April 12, 2022

### Songino Khairkhan District, Ulaanbaatar Municipality, Mongolia

Seizure of 2 skins, 2 heads, and 4 paws from brown bears (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix I) at the home of M. Gogo Mongolia, April 14, 2022.<sup>34</sup>

## UZBEKISTAN

## April 27, 2022

### Dehkanabad District, Qashqadaryo Region, Uzbekistan

Discovery of the skin of a Himalayan brown bear cub (*Ursus arctos isabellinus*, Appendix I). The man said he found the carcass in Kyzylsay forest on April 5.

The State Committee for Ecology "strongly condemns such atrocities" and will take the case to court. There is great concern for female bears and cubs in the district. On April 22, a hiker photographed a mother with 2 cubs near Terakli in the mountains and rumors are spreading that poaching is still rampant. The Committee reminds that destroying an animal or plant species listed in the Red Book is punishable by a prison sentence of 3 to 5 years. There are reportedly about 500 Himalayan brown bears in Uzbekistan.

Gazeta.uz, April 26 and 27, 2022; News from Uzbekistan, April 28, 2022.<sup>35</sup>

## TAIWAN

## May 9, 2022

### Nantou County, Taiwan

The Asian black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I) had been captured by a trap in October 2020, then freed and placed in the Dongshi refuge for care and training in the wild (see "On the Trail" n°31 p. 77). Released on April 22, 2022, in Dongmao Mountain, he was found dead on May 9, 100 metres from the road to Wujie. The post-mortem showed that he had been in good physical condition and that his death was due to a gunshot.

Yahoo Taiwan, May 19, 2022; Taiwan English News, May 20, 2022.<sup>36</sup>

## VIET NAM

## April 5, 2022

### Vinh Yen, Vinh Phuc Province, Viet Nam

He was spotted in November 2021 selling vials of bear bile (*Ursidae*, Appendix I or II) on his Tik Tok account. ENV (Education for Nature – Vietnam) teams kept an eye on him and discovered that he was also using a Facebook account for his illegal activities. Thanks to the information collected by the NGO, the police intervened at the trafficker's home and seized 42 vials.

ENV, April 5, 2022.<sup>37</sup>





**April 28, 2022**

**Sin Ho District, Lai Chau Province, Viet Nam**



Giang A. Mua was sentenced to 18 months in prison. He had captured a 3 kg Asian black bear cub (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I) and waited for him to get bigger by feeding him with who knows what.

In May 2021, he wanted to sell the bear (see "On the Trail" n°33 p. 106). He was intercepted on the road. He was on a motorcycle with the cub in the back in a wire net. The bear was handed over to the rehabilitation center of Hoang Lien National Park.

ENV, May 5, 2022.<sup>38</sup>

**May 13, 2022**

**Lai Chau Province, Viet Nam**

Two Asian black bear cubs (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I) captured in a cardamom field were seized from a motorcycle traveling from Khun Ha to Tam Duong. The man named Nong or Khong wanted to sell them for VND 130 million or 5,660 US\$.

VietnamPlus, May 14, 2022; ENV, May 17, 2022; The Star (with AFP), May 21, 2022.<sup>39</sup>

**May 25, 2022**

**Hanoi Municipality, Viet Nam**

He was carrying 350 vials of bear bile in his trunk. He owns and runs 7 bear bile farms in Phuc Tho district. He faces 5 years in prison for the illegal transport and trade of bear bile.

ENV, June 9, 2022.<sup>40</sup>



**May 31, 2022**

**Dien Bien Province, Viet Nam**

Seizure of 2 Asian black bear cubs (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I) that Lo Van Bua, age 52, was carrying on his motorcycle. He explains that he bought them from a local. They were probably imported from Laos, a country bordering the province. The cubs, weighing 4 kg each, were entrusted to the Tam Dao shelter.

VnExpress International, June 2, 2022; ENV, June 6, 2022.<sup>41</sup>



**Beginning of June 2022**

**Dien Bien Province, Viet Nam**



While the police were trying to intercept a wildlife trafficker transporting a bear cub, a female Asian black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I) was discovered in a nearby residential garden. It was not possible to determine if it was the same animal. The bear cub underwent a veterinary examination before being transferred to the Tam Dao sanctuary. ENV, June 3, 2022.<sup>42</sup>

**June 2022**

**Son La Province, Viet Nam**

Handing over of an Asian black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I) whose papers have been invalid since 2007. He joined his fellow bears at the Tam Dao shelter. He had escaped the radar of ENV, which had welcomed in December 2021 the evacuation of all captive bears from bile farms in the province. ENV, June 13, 2022.<sup>43</sup>

**June 10, 2022**

**Hanoi Municipality, Viet Nam**

Seizure of an Asian black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I) illegally held in a bile farm. He was among 8 other bears, said to be legal. He was transferred to the Tam Dao shelter. In this fight against bile farms, Hanoi remains a hotbed of activity. It is believed that nearly half of the country's captive bears are concentrated here. ENV, June 14, 2022.<sup>44</sup>

**June 17, 2022**

**Binh Phuoc Province, Viet Nam**



Transfer of a 40 kg male Malayan sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*, Appendix I) to the Cat Tien National Park refuge. He is reputed to be the last bile bear in the province. Experience shows that this claim should be taken with caution.

ENV, June 20, 2022.<sup>45</sup>

## EUROPE

### BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

**June 15, 2022**

#### **Gacko Municipality, Serb Republic, Bosnia and Herzegovina**

The 5-year-old brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) nicknamed Maglic, after the highest mountain in Bosnia and Herzegovina, was the first endangered animal to be fitted with a GPS collar in the Serb Republic of Bosnia. For a month, experts enthusiastically followed his movements in the Sutjeska National Park. But on June 15, the collar stopped transmitting. A team rushed to the scene and found the collar on the ground. The bear's lifeless body was found a few hundred metres away.

DEPO Portal, June 16, 2022; Lov i još ponešto, June 16, 2022; Srpska info, June 16, 2022; Center for Environment, June 19, 2022; Tacno.net, June 23, 2022.<sup>46</sup>



### BULGARIA

**May 15, 2022**

#### **Central Balkan National Park, Bulgaria**



In the presence of the Minister of Environment and Water Borislav Sandov, 3 brown bear cubs (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II), were released in the Central Balkan National Park 180 km from the Rhodope Mountains. In June 2021 they had been rescued from

abandonment and starvation near the village of Barutin in the Rhodope Mountains shared by Bulgaria and Greece after the probable poaching of their mother. In the meantime, after a brief stay at the Dancing Bears Park in Belitsa, they were rehabilitated to the wild at a specialized refuge in Greece. "They were released in a different place from where they were found, their chances of survival are less than 50% but I think they will succeed and enrich the genetic heritage of the national park," the Minister told Bulgaria Dnes.

Ministry of Environment and Water, May 15, 2022; Bulgaria Dnes, May 17, 2022.<sup>47</sup>

## FINLAND

**Beginning of April 2022**

#### **Kajaani, Region of Kainuu, Finland**

To kill brown bears (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) in August 2020, hunters took the shortest route. Several days before the hunting season began, they spread bait in a clearing, but the feeding was spotted by forest rangers. The 4 were fined a total of 10,000 € (11,125 US\$) and their hunting licences were suspended for one year. Iltalehti, April 4, 2022.<sup>48</sup>



**June 20, 2022**

#### **Ylöjärvi, Region of Pirkanmaa, Finland**

A brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) severely injured in his front paw by a trap is hunted down and put to death by wildlife authorities because "keeping him alive would be a clear act of cruelty to him". Police of Finland, June 21, 2022.<sup>49</sup>



## NORWAY

**May 22, 2022**

#### **Lierne, Central Norway Region, Norway**

In a forest where brown bears (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) are protected from hunting by a management plan, a female bear and her 2 cubs were shot by a reindeer herder. There is no evidence of a real or imminent attack being gathered and provided to the police. An investigation has been launched to establish the facts and the shepherd, who now has the status of a suspect, will have to explain why he also shot the cubs, who did not seem to pose any danger to his reindeer.

NRK, May 22 and 23, and November 10, 2022.<sup>50</sup>

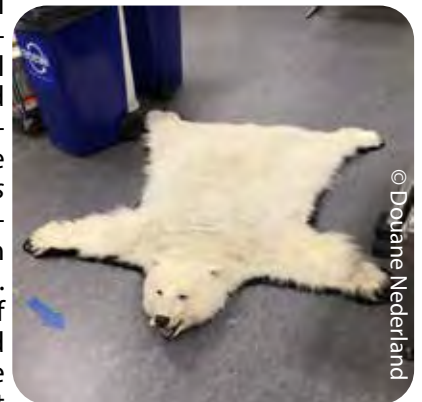
## THE NETHERLANDS

**June 29, 2022**

#### **The Netherlands**

Customs reveal that they confiscated a postal package bound for Italy containing a complete polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*, Appendix II) skin in November 2021. The location of the seizure and the origin of the package are not disclosed.

Dutch Customs, June 29, 2022; Nieuwsblad, June 30, 2022.<sup>51</sup>





## ROMANIA

**May 13 to 15, 2022**

**Rusu Bârgăului, Bistrița-Năsăud County, Romania**

An army officer, a game warden, and 2 experienced hunters from Bihor judet are suspected of poaching and butchering a 250 kg adult brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) and of trying to sell his meat and skin in conspiracy. They are under judicial control for at least 50 days.

Romanian Police, May 16, 2022; Stirile PRO TV, May 16, 2022; Ziare.com, May 16, 2022.<sup>52</sup>

## RUSSIA

**April 29, 2022**

**Sagarchin, Orenburg Oblast, Russia. Border with Kazakhstan.**

The border between Russia and Kazakhstan experienced an unexpected event. In a car, customs discovered 4 brown bear cubs (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) about 2 months old, 2 females and 2 males, whom the driver intended to deliver to Uzbekistan 630 km away. They were temporarily placed in a circus in Orenburg. A few days after the seizure, a part of the truth was revealed.



The management of the zoo in Syzran, a city of more than 160,000 inhabitants in Russia's Samara Oblast, told the web portal 1743.ru of financial difficulties forcing it to part with the cubs. "Nobody wanted them in Russia," he said. "Zoos are closing, they are selling everything. We had to urgently find a new home and a circus in Uzbekistan agreed to take them in. All the original documents and the agreement of the recipient were in the car driven by an employee of the Uzbek circus. The only thing missing was the written authorization from Rosprirodnadzor. It was being validated in Moscow." Rosprirodnadzor is the federal service for monitoring natural resources. "Samara Customs made a fuss over nothing."

While waiting for a permanent solution, the cubs are growing up behind bars in Orenburg. They are fed porridge and powdered milk. "We're going to transfer them soon to bigger enclosures with swings and logs." "They respond to petting." They can never be returned to their natural environment. Their life expectancy is 40 years.

Orenday, April 30, 2022; Newtimes.kz, May 2, 2022; Virtual Customs, May 4 and June 6, 2022; KTV-LUCH, May 5, 2022; Susasin News, May 6, 2022.<sup>53</sup>

**May 6, 2022**

**Okulovsky District, Novgorod Oblast, Russia**



A bear (*Ursidae*, Appendix I or II) has been caged for years in the recreation center "Alenushka" without administrative permit and in violation of the regulations on animal welfare. The management of the center has admitted its guilt and has undertaken to resolve the detention of the animal. Consequently, the solitary bear is still captive and the management, benefiting from mitigating circumstances, was condemned to a fine of... 500 rubles (7 US\$). The director can appeal this derisory sanction which shows that behind the big words, the sad fate of pets and amusement animals in Russia is not about to improve.

Novgorodsky Vedomosti, May 6, 2022; VNovgorod.ru, May 7, 2022.<sup>54</sup>

**May 11, 2022**

**Ust-Koksa, Republic of Altai, Russia**



Sentence of a man to 2 years in prison with suspension. From his car, 15 km from the village of Gagarka, one day in November 2021, he had shot at least 3 times with a Vepr-308 hunting rifle at a male brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) whose carcass was found in the barn of one of his friends. The poacher had asked him for this service while waiting for the end of the winter.

News of Gorny Altai, May 11, 2022.<sup>55</sup>

**May 17, 2022**

**Grozny, Chechen Republic, Russia**

During a photo shoot, a young girl was bitten by a brown bear cub (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II). The facility did not have a licence to keep wild animals. Vladimir Burmatov, head of the Duma (Russian Parliament) Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection, has introduced a bill that would make all those who commercially exploit animals without regard to animal welfare and the safety of their clients criminally liable.

Gazeta.ru, May 17, 2022; Izvestia, May 17, 2022.<sup>56</sup>

**June 2022**

**Irbeyksy District, Krasnoyarsk Krai, Russia**

Two brown bear cubs (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) found in the forest after the alleged poaching of their mother at the end of April were housed, fed, and looked after for a few weeks in a shelter in Krasnoyarsk. Precautions have been taken to avoid irreversible human contact that would prevent them from returning to the natural living conditions they have known for only 2.5 months. Their bedding is made of spruce needles and they regularly eat wild berries. The walls of the enclosures are made of clay. The volunteers who take care of them put on old coats and wear masks and gloves to avoid being recognized and prevent bonding. The cubs are reportedly about to be transferred to the Altai Nature Reserve 600 km from Krasnoyarsk where they will initially live in semi-freedom.

NGS24, April 28, 2022; TVK Krasnoyarsk, June 4, 2022.<sup>57</sup>



**June 9, 2022**

**Republic of Sakha, Russia**

The Ministry of Interior of the Sakha Republic opens an investigation after a video showing the killing of a brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix I or II) was posted on social networks. The bear approaches a bowl filled with food and is killed in an explosion triggered by unknown persons at a distance. There is no certainty about the location, but media and authorities believe that the scene took place in a labor camp in the Sakha Republic.

Regnum, June 9, 2022; Moscow 24, June 9, 2022; Yakutsk-Sakha Information Agency, June 9, 2022.<sup>58</sup>



**Mid-June 2022**

**Tunkinsky National Park, Republic of Buryatia, Russia**

Discovery of the carcass of a brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) killed by 2 bullets. Baikal-Daily, June 16, 2022.<sup>59</sup>

**June 17, 2022**

**Perm, Perm Krai, and Kutuzovka, Khabarovsk Krai, Russia**

The situation of orphaned bear cubs in Russia is similar to that in Azerbaijan, and the rehabilitation centers are insufficient and sometimes in conflict with each other or the authorities.

Anastasia Kozich is planning to create a rehabilitation sanctuary for brown bear cubs (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II). She learns from the experts of the Orphan Bear Rescue Centre founded by Valentin Pazhetnov in Tver Oblast and starts to raise funds. But, on May 12, 2021, when nothing is ready, an agent of Rosprirodnadzor entrusts her temporarily with 2 cubs, 4 months old, found in the suburbs of Perm, that nobody wants to take care of. The 2 cubs are very familiar, so much that the experts of the Orphan Bear Rescue Centre, with whom Anastasia is in daily contact, believe that the rehabilitation is very compromised and that they were probably illegally kept. On May 31, one of the cubs dies of an intestinal obstruction. On June 8, an agent of Rosprirodnadzor confiscates the surviving cub, "Bagrat", under the pretext that his life is in danger. In July, Anastasia is fined 500,000 rubles (6,875 US\$) for destruction of an endangered species.

On June 10, Bagrat is transferred to the shelter of the NGO Save Me of the veterinarian Karen Dallakyan (see "On the Trail" n°30 p.58 and n°33 p.109). Anastasia is dismayed to hear that Dallakyan had mentioned the possibility of releasing him, while her colleagues at the Orphan Bear Rescue Centre are now certain that this would be tantamount to putting him down. Finally, the bear cub is taken to the Utes center in Khabarovsk Krai (in Kutuzovka, 4,700 km from Perm). He should be released in May, after his hibernation. After requests, the prosecutor's office in charge of the environment declares that the Utes center must apply for a special permit from Rosprirodnadzor in order to legally release bears. After investigation, Rosprirodnadzor refuses to approve the release of the Perm bear cub because he does not belong



to the same subspecies as the individuals from Khabarovsk Krai and is not capable of surviving in the wild, which would favour a situation of conflicts with humans.

At the same time, Anastasia is exonerated by the court from the death of the first bear cub.

While discussions are underway to repatriate Bagrat, in a strange twist of fate, the Utes Center reports that "he escaped from his enclosure as a result of a storm that broke the fence." A second bear cub from Chelyabinsk Oblast is also missing. A third was reportedly illegally released in May.

Takie Dela, July 18, 2022.<sup>60</sup>

**June 21, 2022**

**Bolshekhkhtsirsky Reserve, Khabarovsk Krai, Russia**

Discovery of an Asian black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I), killed by 2 bullets, at the side of the highway in Vladivostok. The body is intact. Similar cases have occurred before, but poachers cut off the paws to sell them.

Komsomolskaya Pravda, June 21, 2022.<sup>61</sup>

**June 23, 2022**

**Shimsky District, Novgorod Oblast, Russia**

Sentence of the poacher of a brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) to 400,000 rubles (6,650 US\$) of fines and damages. He must also pay 5,000 rubles (85 US\$) to the center that has been housing the 2 orphaned cubs since March 2022 (see "On the Trail" n°35 p.73).

53 News, June 23, 2022.<sup>62</sup>



**June 28, 2022**

**Gornyi Shchit, Sverdlovsk Oblast, Russia**

A man brags on WhatsApp, with a photo to back it up, about shooting a brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II).

E1.UK, June 28, 2022.<sup>63</sup>



**SERBIA**

**June 1 and 9, 2022**

**Kraljevo, Raska District, Serbia**

Officers from the newly formed Environmental Crime Unit inspect a business owner's property. A wolf (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II), red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), deer (family Cervidae) and 2 female brown bears (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) are held prisoners. The man claims to have "rescued" the animals. He has no permit and he puts the bears on a vegan diet "so that they do not become aggressive"... After a few days of hesitation about what to do, they are transferred to the Palić Zoo in the municipality of Subotica.

RTS, June 1, 2022; Dnevni avaz, June 2, 2022; Večernje novosti, June 2, 2022; Kurir, June 10, 2022.<sup>64</sup>

# ANTELOPES, GAZELLES, WILD GOATS, IBEXES, BIGHORN SHEEP AND PRONGHORNS



Four-horned antelopes (*Tetracerus quadricornis*). Photo Munnabaghel

## AMERICA

### CANADA

**June 7-8 2022**

**Luseland, Province of Saskatchewan, Canada**

Poaching of 3 pronghorns (*Antilocapra americana*, Appendix I in Mexico). The corpses were reported via the dedicated "Turn-in-Poachers" line. They are in a field, about 7.25 km from Luseland. The officers who came to the scene quickly found that the pronghorns had been shot by a small caliber.

SaskTIP, June 12, 2022.<sup>1</sup>



### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**May 2022**

**Gilliam County, State of Oregon, United States of America**

A Mexican bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*, Appendix II in Mexico) had been killed in 2018 on private, fenced land. The poacher was sentenced to a 2,000 US\$ fine, a suspension of his hunting licence for 3 years, an 18-months' probation, and the seizure of his rifle and trophy.

Oregon State Police, May 2022.<sup>2</sup>



## REPEATED OFFENCE

June 2022

**Cody, State of Wyoming, United States of America**



Russell Vick is an incurable poacher. In 2006 in Weston County, he was given a suspended prison sentence for poaching a Mexican bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*, Appendix II in Mexico). Since September 2021, he has been serving a one-year prison sentence, in addition to a 70,000 US\$ fine, for poaching 4 moose (*Alces alces*) in the Bighorn National Forest in Sheridan County between 2007 and 2011.

He has just been sentenced to 2 years in federal prison after serving his Sheridan County jail sentence for poaching a Mexican bighorn sheep in 2012 with Underwood Sr. and Jr.

Northern Wyoming News, September 9, 2021; Casper Star-Tribune, June 30, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

## ASIA

### ARMENIA

June 2, 2022

**Urtsadzor, Ararat Province, Armenia**

Manuk Manukyan, founder of the Foundation for the Protection of Endemic and Endangered Species, is driving through the Khosrov Forest State Reserve when his eye is drawn to the stream on the right side of the road. It is a wild goat (*Capra hircus aegagrus*, Appendix III in Pakistan) killed by a poacher.

The Khosrov Forest State Reserve covers more than 200 km<sup>2</sup>. The forest has been considered a protected area since 334-338 BC, on the initiative of King Khosrov III Kotak. It is home to several species in the National Red Book, including leopards and brown bears.



SHAMSHYAN. com, June 5, 2022; Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Armenia, June 6, 2022; Fact Investigation Platform, July 7, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

June 22 and 27, 2022

**Khosrov Forest State Reserve, Ararat Province, Armenia**

New discovery of the remains of a wild goat (*Capra hircus aegagrus*, Appendix III in Pakistan) by the side of the road. An investigation is underway to clarify the circumstances of his death. Since the beginning of the year, 6 wild goats have been officially poached. In the entire year of 2021, there were only 2, and none in 2020.

On June 27, Manuk Manukyan says he witnessed another poaching incident on Dahnak Mountain. "It is unlikely that the police will discover anything." Khosrov Forest State Reserve, June 23, 2022; Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Armenia, June 23, 2022; Fact Investigation Platform, July 7, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

## INDIA

April 20, 2022

**Kaprada, Valsad District, State of Gujarat, India**



Sentence of Arshad Khan to 3 years in prison and a fine of 10,000 rupees or 130 US\$ for having, in September 2018, brought back from Uttar Pradesh and kept in his farm of Babarkhadak 2 live blackbucks (*Antelope cervicapra*, Appendix III in Nepal and Pakistan) (see "On the Trail" n°22 p.119). They were released in the Vansda National Park. Ahmedabad Mirror, April 21, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

May 8, 2022

**Rattihalli, Haveri District, State of Karnataka, India**



The pick-up truck broke through the checkpoint, fleeing at high speed. The 5 poachers were arrested and found to be in possession of the carcasses of 2 blackbucks (*Antelope cervicapra*, Appendix III in Nepal and Pakistan) and a rifle. Sadiq, age 48, Mohammed Ali Nazeer, age 32, Sayed Mukeeb, age 21, Sayed Nasarulla, age 52, and Sulthan Khan, age 21, all residents of Shiralakoppa in Shivamogga district, have been taken into custody. The New Indian Express, May 8, 2022.<sup>7</sup>



**June 8 and 15, 2022**

**Melghat Wildlife Sanctuary, Amaravati District, State of Maharashtra, India**



The bodies of 5 four-horned antelopes (*Tetracerus quadricornis*, Appendix III in Nepal) and 2 Indian muntjacs (*Muntiacus muntjak*) were found near a waterhole, probably poisoned. Samples are taken to confirm this hypothesis. Arrest of 7 people: Sameer Chatur, Manu Dhande, Prem Singh Kasdekar, Swapnil Dhande, Bansilal Dhande, Sunil Bethekar and Hariram Dhande aged between 20 and 35 years.

The Times of India, June 10 and 17, 2022.<sup>8</sup>

**IRAN**

**May 2022**

**Shahrood, Semnan Province, Iran**

Arrest of 2 hunters and seizure of 2 wild sheep carcasses (*Ovis vignei*, Appendix I). At the home of one of the hunters, the carcass of a third wild goat was discovered in a freezer.

Sarkhat.com, May 28, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

**ISRAEL**

**REPEATED OFFENCE**

**Beginning of 2022**

**Israel**

Indictment of Abdel Salem aka Abu Razla arrested with 2 mountain gazelles (*Gazella gazella*) in the trunk of his car. He had just poached them with 2 acolytes in Shmurat Nahal Bezeq reserve. In 2020, he had already been sentenced to 20 months in prison for poaching a mountain gazelle. He had been released after 13 months and 15 days. Three months later, he was again sentenced to a suspended 30-months prison term for illegal hunting. Erez Barouchi, a judicial police officer at the Israel Nature and Parks Authority explains: "The suspect is a repeat offender who has more than 5 cases of alleged illegal hunting in his history. We decided upon his release to target him. It is important to note that during one of his many hearings, he stated that he was prepared to spend 2 years in jail and not stop hunting. He also stated that he had hunted over 120 deer in his life, so it was quite clear to us that the deer in the area were in danger."

Israel Nature and Parks Authority, June 19, 2022.<sup>10</sup>

**KAZAKHSTAN**

**Beginning of April 2022**

**Karmakshy District, Kyzylorda Region, Kazakhstan**

Arrest of 5 people for poaching saiga antelope (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II).

From April 15 to May 15, environmental police officers throughout the country will increase their patrols in anticipation of the saiga breeding season, when poachers are in full swing. Between the beginning of January and the beginning of May, 7 cases of saiga poaching were detected in the region (see "On the Trail" n°35 p.76 and 77). There had been only 6 during the whole year of 2021 (see "On the Trail" n°34 p.101).

Khabar 24, May 6, 2022.<sup>11</sup>

**April 22, 2022**

**Bayganin District, Aktobe Region, Kazakhstan**

A mixed patrol of policemen and agents of Okhotzooptom, a State wildlife protection service, spotted 2 men on motorcycles in the steppe, near an area where saiga antelopes live. After a chase, the 2 poachers, aged 26 and 50, were arrested. They were carrying the carcasses of 2 pregnant saiga antelopes (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II), a hunting rifle and 10 cartridges.

Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, April 28, 2022.<sup>12</sup>

**Mid-June 2022**

**Oral, West Kazakhstan Region, Kazakhstan**



The 2 inhabitants of the town were accused of having attempted to smuggle 1,169 saiga antelope horns (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II) estimated at 2.5 billion tenge, or 4,375 US\$/horn, into Russia (see "On the Trail" n°33 p.114). Their sentence was severe: 7 and 8 years in prison, a fine of one billion tenge (2.37 million US\$), and reimbursement to the State of 2.5 billion tenge (5.9 million US\$) for ecological damage.

TDK 42, June 14, 2022; My City, July 1, 2022.<sup>13</sup>

**KYRGYZSTAN**

**April 14, 2022**

**Buyga, Osh Region, Kyrgyzstan**

During an anti-poaching operation, A. Toichubaev was caught in possession of the remains of 2 Himalayan ibex (*Capra sibirica*, Appendix III in Pakistan). He immediately paid 200,000 som (2,120 US\$) for ecological damage.

Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision, April 20, 2022.<sup>14</sup>



**May 8, 2022**

**Jeti-Ögüz District, Issyk-Kul Region, Kyrgyzstan**

Seizure of meat from 3 poached Himalayan ibex (*Capra sibirica*, Appendix III in Pakistan) and 2 hunting rifles.

24.kg, May 9, 2022; Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision, May 9, 2022.<sup>15</sup>

**June 18, 2022**

**Toktogul District, Jalal-Abad Region, Kyrgyzstan**

Acting on a tip from the NGO ECO Tartip, environmental officers found the remains of a Himalayan ibex (*Capra sibirica*, Appendix III in Pakistan) caught during winter and removed the trap. The carcass was buried on site.

Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Technical Supervision, June 22, 2022.<sup>16</sup>



**PAKISTAN**

**Beginning of April 2022**

**Sindh Province, Pakistan**

The video of the poaching of 2 Indian gazelles (*Gazella bennettii*, Appendix III) by a certain Antesaruddin, who reportedly resides in Karachi, has gone viral on social networks.

Dawn, April 15, 2022.<sup>17</sup>

**SULTANATE OF OMAN**

**Beginning of June 2022**

**Dhofar Governorate, Sultanate of Oman**

Seizure of the carcasses of 2 mountain gazelles (*Gazella gazella*) and hunting weapons.

Times of Oman, June 15, 2022.<sup>18</sup>



**TURKIYE**

**Beginning of June 2022**

**Beytüşşebap District, Şırnak Province, Türkiye**

The man poached 2 wild goats (*Capra hircus aegagrus*, Appendix III in Pakistan) and posted the pictures on social networks. He was fined 503,270 liras or 30,700 US\$.

Haberler.com, June 13, 2022.<sup>19</sup>



**VIET NAM**

**June 14, 2022**

**My Hung, Cao Bang Province, Viet Nam. Border with China.**



Check of a car in the middle of the night. In the trunk are 201 saiga antelope horns (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II).

Natural Resources and Environment Newspaper, June 15, 2022.<sup>20</sup>

**EUROPE**

**RUSSIA**

**Mid-April 2022**

**Glazunovka, Orel Oblast, Russia**

Sentence of A.A. Barabanov to 2 years and one month in prison with one and a half years of probation for the attempted sale via the Internet on December 10, 2021 of 2 saiga antelope horns (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II). He allegedly inherited them from his father and failed to declare them to the authorities before October 31, 2013, when the saiga antelope was included in the "List of particularly precious wild fauna species and aquatic biological resources recorded in the Red Book of the Russian Federation".

Orel News, April 17, 2022; Glazunovsky District Court, April 27, 2022.<sup>21</sup>



**April 21, 2022**

**Kulikov, Volgograd Oblast, Russia**

Two farm workers responsible for preventing wildlife trespass in the fields became poachers. Having discovered a saiga antelope (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II) entangled in a fence, they decided to kill him and keep the carcass rather than release him. They were quickly unmasked. The ecological damage is estimated at 300,000 rubles or 3,480 US\$. The investigative committee of the Russian Federation, June 20, 2022.<sup>22</sup>

**June 14, 2022**

**Penza, Penza Oblast, Russia**

In October 2020, a 25-year-old man living in Bessonovka puts 42 saiga antelope horns (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II) for sale on the Internet. He acquired them in August. In April 2021, he is finally contacted by a buyer based in Transbaikalia, interested in 14 horns (2.5 kg) and who agrees to pay a deposit of 2,000 rubles and 50,000 rubles upon receipt of the package (686 US\$ in total or 275 US\$/kg). This transaction does not go unnoticed. The policemen come to Bessonovka and find the last 28 horns at his place.

He has just been sentenced to one year in prison with one year of probation and a fine of 50,000 rubles or 830 US\$.

The investigative committee of the Russian Federation, March 31 and June 14, 2022.<sup>23</sup>



**June 23, 2022**

**Penza, Penza Oblast, Russia**

The sentence of a 55-year-old man to a one-year and three-month suspended prison term for attempting to sell a saiga antelope horn (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II) on May 30, 2021 was upheld on appeal. Supposedly unaware that it was a protected species and in financial difficulties, he asked a low price for it (1000 rubles or 13 US\$) and believes that he was "pushed to the fault" by the undercover policemen who claimed to want to buy the horn from him. Moreover, the moderators of the online sales site did not warn him that he was posting an ad for a prohibited product. The court of appeal states that all mitigating circumstances were taken into account, including his health condition, his family situation, his status as a first-time offender and his donation to an animal protection association.

Penza-Press, June 23, 2022; PenzaInform, June 23, 2022; SMI58.RU, June 23, 2022.<sup>24</sup>





*Giraffa camelopardalis*, Annexe II

## AFRICA

### SOUTH AFRICA

**End of May 2022**

**Phalaborwa, Limpopo Province, South Africa**

Over the weekend, the volunteers went on a trap hunt, removing about 10 traps. In one of them, there was a dead giraffe. Phalaborwa Natural Heritage Foundation, May 31, 2022.<sup>1</sup>



### CAMEROON

**January-Beginning of May 2022**

**Waza National Park, Far North Region, Cameroon**

In Waza, the massacre of giraffes continues. This is the seventh one since the beginning of the year. Waza National Park, see "On the Trail" n°2 p.36, n°3 p.64, n°5 p.86, n°8 p.94, n°17 p.112, n°29 p.22 and p.83.

Global Earth Keeper, May 13, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

### KENYA

**April 20, 2022**

**Mara North Conservancy, Narok County, Kenya**

She had a spear stuck in her right side. Thanks to 9 rescuers, she was anaesthetized, laid down, treated, and awoken. The prognosis was favourable. No vital organs were hit by the throwing weapon. But fortunately, the alarm was raised in time by the guards.

SWT/KWS Mara Mobile Veterinary Unit, April 2022.<sup>3</sup>

**May 9, 10, and 23, 2022**

**Mara Triangle, Oloisukut Conservancy, Angama Mara, Narok County, Kenya**

- A spear in the neck. He is on the plain. On one side there is a ravine full of rocks and on the other the Mara River. He is emaciated and dehydrated. He has been here for 4 days. The anaesthesia and the intervention are delicate. He gets up alone and disappears into the vast ecosystem of the Mara Triangle. The prognosis is favourable.

- The arrow was poisoned. No vital organs were affected but it was not possible to save her. The guards confirm that in the area, bushmeat is also obtained by poisoning.



- The wound is large and purulent. She was sedated with 15 mg etorphine and 30 mg azaperone, tied up, put laid down, blindfolded, awakened by the antidote, maintained during wound cleansing, application of tetracycline and green clay, injection of ivermectin and multivitamins.

SWT/KWS Mara Mobile Veterinary Unit, May 2022.<sup>4</sup>

**June 7, 2022**

**Lemek Conservancy, Narok County, Kenya**

The giraffe had his 2 back legs encircled by a steel wire. He was suffering from an open wound on the right metacarpus. The metal ball was meticulously removed with a wire cutter and the wound was cleaned and sprayed with green clay. The prognosis is favourable. He has rejoined his family and is no longer at the mercy of predators.

SWT/KWS Mara Mobile Veterinary Unit, June 2022.<sup>5</sup>



**June 10, 2022**

**Siana Conservancy, Narok County, Kenya**

Treating a giraffe is no easy task. It took at least 6 strong men to hold him down blindfolded while the chief veterinarian cleaned and sanitised a 20-cm-deep hole in his right shoulder caused by a spear throw. When the operation was completed, he got up on his own and walked away at a slow but steady pace. Favourable prognosis, but he will be reviewed.

SWT/KWS Mara Mobile Veterinary Unit, June 2022.<sup>6</sup>

**June 17 and 19, 2022**

**Ishaqbini Hirola Conservancy, Garissa County, and Chyulu Hills National Park, Kajiado and Makueni Counties, Kenya**



- The male giraffe was cruelly injured by a nylon trap at the fetlock joint of the right hind leg. After anaesthesia and examination of the wound, the prognosis was very poor and he was finished off.

- Successful rescue of a male giraffe injured by a braided steel cable at the fetlock joint of the left hind leg.

SWT/KWS Tsavo Mobile Veterinary Unit, June 2022.<sup>7</sup>



**June 19, 2022**

**Amboseli National Park, Kajiado County, Kenya**



Rescue of a giraffe injured by a trap.  
Big Life Foundation, June 2022.<sup>8</sup>

**June 22, 2022**

**Amboseli National Park, Kajiado County, Kenya**

Discovery of the carcass of a giraffe killed by poachers. They did not have time to remove the meat.

Big Life Foundation, June 2022.<sup>9</sup>

**MALI**

**January-April 2022**

**Anderamboukane, Menaka Region, Mali**

Mali Actu interviews the National Directorate of Water and Forests about the disappearance of giraffes in Mali. Summary: The giraffe, "this animal with great strides," is confronted with the spread of agricultural land and human activities, the multiplication of roads and power lines, the fragmentation of its territories, the erosion of its genetic heritage and poaching." "But this year there are 3 giraffes that arrived in the commune of Anderbougane [Andéramboukane] from Niger. Among them, 2 were shot by terrorists," concluded Captain Aly Poudiougou, a Water and Forestry officer. Mali Actu, April 25, 2022.<sup>10</sup>

**NAMIBIA**

**June 15, 2022**

**Bwabwata National Park, Zambezi Region, Namibia**



Minister Pohamba Shifeta wants to show that things are taken in hand. He does not want to say too much about the recent measures that have been taken in Etosha. Priority is given to action, efficiency and nasty surprises for the poachers. However, he does give a detailed account of an intervention in the Bwabwata Park. "Park staff discovered a fresh carcass of a giraffe in a snare wire and hanging biltong. After some time, 2 male suspects approached the snared animal before fleeing the scene upon realising they were being ambushed. The official fired warning shots for suspects to stop but to no avail. In the process, one of the suspects was shot in the leg and apprehended, while the other suspect managed to flee to Botswana. The injured suspect was identified as a 40-year-old male Botswana national, and he is now receiving medical attention at a Rundu hospital." New Era, June 21, 2022.<sup>11</sup>

**UGANDA**

**March and April 2022**

**Murchison Falls National Park, Northern and Western Regions, Uganda**



The Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF) partnering with the Uganda Wildlife Foundation (UWA) has released in the last 2 months 3 Nubian giraffes (*Giraffa camelopardalis camelopardalis*) caught in traps. Giraffe Conservation Foundation, May 8, 2022.<sup>12</sup>



# ZEBRAS AND DONKEYS

## AFRICA

### KENYA

#### April 1, 10, 12, 13, 15, and 27, 2022 Oserengoni Conservancy, Lentolia Conservancy, Soysambu Conservancy et Naivasha, Nakuru County

Six zebras (genus *Equus*, *Equus grevyi*, Appendix I, found in Kenya) were found trapped by rope, metal, and nylon traps. They were caught around the neck, around the chest, around the left front leg, around the right hind leg, around the right front leg, and around the 2 hind legs. The zebras were anaesthetized and blindfolded, the deep wounds were cleaned, rinsed, disinfected, sprayed with fly spray, and the zebras, after the wake-up antidote, got up and walked away with a favourable prognosis without having to be more wary than usual of lions.

SWT/KWS Rift Valley Mobile Veterinary Unit, April 2022.<sup>1</sup>



#### April 9, 2022 Masai Mara National Reserve, Narok County, Kenya

A guide spotted a zebra (genus *Equus*, *Equus grevyi*, Appendix I, found in Kenya) next to the airstrip at Kikorok with an iron ring around his neck. The ring prevented him from grazing and he was trying desperately to get rid of it. He was in a herd of over 1,000 zebras and it took the veterinary team at least 20 minutes in this sea of stripes to spot him and even longer to isolate him. He walked for 5 minutes after the anaesthetic syringe was fired and he was laid down on his left flank by the team, released by cutting pliers, and the lesions were treated. The wire had 3 strands. According to the expertise of the rescuers, it had been injuring the zebra's neck for 3 weeks. The prognosis is favourable.

SWT/KWS Mara Mobile Veterinary Unit, April 2022.<sup>2</sup>



#### April 13, 2022 Amboseli National Park, Kajiado County, Kenya

Discovery of a zebra carcass (genus *Equus*, *Equus grevyi*, Appendix I, found in Kenya) with a spear wound.

Big Life Foundation, April 13, 2022.<sup>3</sup>



#### April 13, 2022 Tsavo-East National Park, Kenya

She was nursing her foal while grazing on the side of the expressway. She was spotted by the SWT/KWS "de-snaring" team. She was dragging a wire noose around her neck. The procedure went well. She straightened up 65 seconds after the wake-up antidote. Favourable prognosis.

SWT/KWS Tsavo Mobile Veterinary Unit, April 2022.<sup>4</sup>



#### April 13 and 17, 2022

#### Kimana Sanctuary, Kajiado County, Kenya

Rescue of 2 zebras (genus *Equus*, *Equus grevyi*, Appendix I, found in Kenya). They were dragging traps. The KWS vet team intervened and saved them from a slow, painful, and inevitable death. Both prognoses are favourable.

Big Life Foundation, April 25, 2022; SWT/KWS Amboseli Mobile Veterinary Unit, April 2022.<sup>5</sup>



#### May 2, 13, and 27, 2022

#### Amboseli National Park, Kajiado County, Kenya

Big Life learns that a zebra (genus *Equus*, *Equus grevyi*, Appendix I, found in Kenya) has been killed and the meat has been hidden as a KWS patrol approaches. Big Life found the hideout and set up an ambush but the suspects did not return. The rangers did not give up and recovered 9 poisoned arrows.

The day is busy. A leopard killed 2 goats, a hyena killed 3 goats, elephants crossed crops, and the carcass of a zebra killed by a throwing weapon and then butchered was discovered.

Big Life Foundation, May 2022.<sup>6</sup>



#### May 3, 4, 16, 23 and 24, 2022 Naivasha, Gilgil, Nakuru County, Kenya

- A zebra (genus *Equus*, *Equus grevyi*, Appendix I, found in Kenya) is freed from a trap around his neck. The wound was full of ticks. Prognosis is favourable.

- Community crops are frequented by zebras. Conflicts and trappings are increasing. To begin with, 3 zebras were anaesthetized, loaded into a pick-up truck, and driven 3 km inside the Kigio Wildlife Conservancy where they should have enough grass to keep them out of the crops.

- One zebra has his left front leg caught in a wire trap from thigh to hoof. Favourable prognosis.

- The Kigio Wildlife Conservancy is not a safe haven. A female drags a trap twisted around her chest and armpits but no vital organs are affected. She is pregnant. The operation must be carried out quickly. Favourable prognosis.

- The neck is slashed by the wire of a trap. Prognosis is guarded.

SWT/KWS Rift Valley Mobile Veterinary Unit, May 2022.<sup>7</sup>





**May 11, 2022**

**Mbokishi Conservancy, Narok County, Kenya**



The young zebra (genus *Equus*, *Equus grevyi*, Appendix I, found in Kenya) is doing poorly. He is isolated in the thicket. He had been off the rangers' radar for several days. He is dragging on his left hind leg the iron shackle of a trap from which he escaped. He walks with difficulty to reduce the friction of the steel on the wound. He is exposed to hyena attacks. The veterinary team succeeded in the operation. Prognosis is relatively good.

SWT/KWS Mara Mobile Veterinary Unit, May 2022.<sup>8</sup>

**May 14, 2022**

**Nashulai Maasai Conservancy, Narok County, Kenya**

The tendons in his left hind leg were hit by a throwing weapon. When the veterinary brigade arrived, he was lying in a salt lick area near Bush Top Camp. The prognosis is guarded. A check-up is required in 15 days.

SWT/KWS Mara Mobile Veterinary Unit, May 2022.<sup>9</sup>

**June 5, 2022**

**Amboseli National Park, Kajiado County, Kenya**

Discovery of the carcass of a zebra (genus *Equus*, *Equus grevyi*, Appendix I, found in Kenya) killed by an arrow.

Big Life Foundation, June 2022.<sup>10</sup>

**June 5, 27, and 28, 2022**

**Amboseli National Park, Kajiado County, Kenya**

- Arrest of 6 suspects in possession of 20 kg of zebra meat (genus *Equus*, *Equus grevyi*, Appendix I, found in Kenya).

- Arrest of 3 suspects in possession of 12 kg of zebra meat.

- Three suspects arrested with 48 kg of zebra meat. Big Life Foundation, June 2022.<sup>11</sup>

**June 6, 8, and 13, 2022**

**Balungi Farm, Laikipia County, Maralal, Samburu County, Kenya**



- Removal of a metal noose that was digging into the flesh of the neck. Favourable prognosis. The alert was issued at the right time, a few days later and it would have been too late.

- Another 2 zebras (genus *Equus*, *Equus grevyi*, Appendix I, found in Kenya) caught in the neck by a steel wire. Etorphine and azaperone to put them to sleep and then the wire cutter as precise as a scalpel to deliver them. Two minutes after the injection of the antidote to reverse anaesthesia, they got up without any difficulty. Favourable prognosis.

SWT/KWS Mount Kenya Veterinary Unit, June 2022.<sup>12</sup>

**June 13 and 27, 2022**

**Isaaten Conservancy and Lemek Conservancy, Narok County, Kenya**



- Wounded by a trap or a barbed wire fence, he was limping on his left front leg. He was going at snail's pace at the back of his pack. Favourable prognosis.

- The veterinary unit spotted a trio of zebras (genus *Equus*, *Equus grevyi*, Appendix I, found in Kenya), one male and 2 females, with an unusual gait. The male had a wire snare around his neck, one of the females was limping because of a metal wire tangled around her neck and a right hind leg. Operation successful: both woke up feeling great after anaesthesia and removal of the traps.



SWT/KWS Mara Mobile Veterinary Unit, June 2022.<sup>13</sup>

**June 22, 2022**

**Meru National Park, Meru County, Kenya**



In the process of being strangled by a wire noose, the male zebra (genus *Equus*, *Equus grevyi*, Appendix I, found in Kenya) was freed from it and treated under anaesthesia. Favourable prognosis.

SWT/KWS Meru Mobile Veterinary Unit, June 2022.<sup>14</sup>

## NIGERIA

**March and April 2022**

**Lagos, Lagos State, Nigeria**

In 8 weeks, Lagos customs seized among undeclared goods 40 cartons of Tramadol, 132 cartons of Sildenafil, 1,613 cartons of codeine syrup used as a psychotropic drug, 285 bales of second-hand clothes, and 1,030 donkey skins.

The Guardian (Nigeria), May 19, 2022.<sup>15</sup>

**June 2, 2022**

**Bahindi, Kebbi State, Nigeria. Border with Benin.**

Seizure around Dogon Rimi waterside of 2,820 donkey skins packed in big bags awaiting loading on a boat, probably to Benin. The value is estimated at 48.1 million naira or 116,240 US\$ and 41 US\$ per skin. Arrests were made at the scene. In an unexpected but not illogical declaration, Joseph Attah, the Command's Area Controller, pointed out that the trafficking of donkey skins was prohibited by CITES. It is true that the African wild asses (*Equus africanus*), who are the ancestors of African donkeys, are listed in Appendix I of the Convention. A senior official of the Ministry of Agriculture thanked the Kebbi customs for their involvement in the fight against this prohibited traffic.

PRNigeria, June 24, 2022; The Guardian (Nigeria), June 26, 2022.<sup>16</sup>

**January - June 15, 2022**

**Bauchi, Gombe, Borno, Yobe, Adamawa, Taraba, Plateau and Nasarawa States, Eastern Nigeria, border with Cameroon and Chad.**

The Controller of Customs Federal Operations Unit Zone D announced that since the beginning of 2022, bales of used clothing (54), bales of used shoes (69) and dried donkey skins (102) have been seized by his services, along with 7 vehicles used as means for smuggling attempts.

P.M. News, June 16, 2022; The Punch, June 17, 2022; TVC News, June 19, 2022.<sup>17</sup>

**January to June 2022**

**Ogun, Osun, Oyo, Ekiti and Lagos States, Nigeria**

Seizure by Zone A Customs of a 40-foot sea container loaded with Tramadol and other medicines containing narcotic drugs, nearly 4,000 used tyres, more than 1,000 bales of second-hand clothing, more than 5,000 pairs of second-foot shoes, 197 logs and 966 donkey skins.

Independent (Nigeria), July 28, 2022; New Telegraph, July 28, 2022.<sup>18</sup>

ASIA

CHINA

**April 2022**

**Jinshui District, Zhengzhou Prefecture, Henan Province, China**

Seizure of a piece of donkey skin in the incoming mail.

Chinese Customs, May 5, 2022.<sup>19</sup>

EUROPE

BELGIUM

**FAMILY AFFAIRS**

**June 1, 2022**

**Arendonk, Province of Antwerp, Flemish Region, Belgium**

The horse-riding club was used as a cover for trafficking in wild animals, birds, tapirs (genus *Tapirus*) and "zorses" (a donkey/zebra crossbreeding) (genus *Equus*) that the "horse enthusiast" and tainted horse meat seller was about to sell to a French circus. Six arrests.

7sur7, June 1 and 2, 2022; Gazet van Antwerpen, June 1 and 2, 2022.<sup>20</sup>

# NILGAIS AND BISONS

## ASIA

### BANGLADESH

**May 12, 2022**

**Bharnia Mandalpara, Thakurgaon District, Rangpur Division, Bangladesh**

They filmed the lynching and posted the video on Facebook. The nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*, Appendix III in Pakistan) had entered from India through the Jagdal border checkpoint. Chased for 6 km, he was caught, tied up, and killed by the villagers. Two members of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) witnessed the scene. The Daily Star, May 12, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

facebook

### PAKISTAN

**End of June 2022**

**District of Jhang, Province of Punjab, Pakistan**

They killed in the forest a nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*, Appendix III) who had been seen a few days before near 2-3 villages and they vanished into thin air or into the villages with the meat and skin of the powerful and peaceful herbivore, leaving only blood sprays on the ground behind them. Dawn, July 3, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

## EUROPE

### GERMANY

**June 21, 2022**

**Westerwald District, Rhineland-Palatinate State, Germany**

A lonely European bison (*Bison bonasus*) in poor health was killed by a hunter appointed by the authorities about 100 km from Frankfurt am Main in the 3,000-km<sup>2</sup> Westerwald medium mountain range. The necropsy revealed that the leg wound and the weakening of the animal had been caused by an old bullet wound.

Where did this bison come from? A natural migration from eastern Germany and the border with Poland is not conceivable. He could be a member of the herd of 25 animals that was reintroduced in 2013 in the Rothaar Mountains 70 km to the north.

NABU (Naturschutzbund Deutschland) questions the reasons behind this irrevocable option. Was it to get rid of an animal considered dangerous or was it to put an end to the suffering of an injured wild animal?

The wild bison who used to populate the forests of Europe were eradicated by hunting. The last specimens were killed in Poland between 1920 and 1930. Since 1952, attempts of reintroduction into the wild of individuals bred in captivity have been made in several European countries, from Germany to Russia, with limited success.

European bison measure 1.5 to 2 metres at the withers and weigh up to 600 kg for females and one tonne for males. They can live for up to 20 years in herds of up to 30 individuals led by a female.

Westerwald Kurier, June 28, 2022; Rhineland-Palatinate North Structural and Approval Directorate, July 12, 2022; Wildlife Comeback in Europe: Opportunities and challenges for species recovery. Final report to Rewilding Europe, 2022.<sup>3</sup>



European bison (*Bison bonasus*)

© runebljerre



# DEER, MUSK DEER, REINDEER, FALLOW DEER AND ROE DEER



Red deer fawn (*Cervus elaphus*). Photo Vilyspevak

## DEER: THE BIG ONE PAYS OFF

"The hunting rules were not merciful to deer in the old days. Everywhere there were beats on horseback with packs of hounds. Often the deer were hunted into large pens from which they could not escape and were attacked with spears, crossbows and muskets. Peasants had to build walls so that the master of the country would always have enough deer in his zoological garden to supply the bloody entertainment of his guests", recalls Grzimek in Volume VIII of the "Animal Life Encyclopedia". For its part, "On the Trail" recalls that at one time (between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries) deer hunting was also carried out with cheetahs (see "On the Trail" n°31 p. 64). Today, the harassment of the "Big One" of the beech and oak forests and grasslands has not changed, except that the guests have to pay and that a strong and well-founded economy of deer hunting has developed, based on the feeding, the confinement, the restriction of mobility, the monetisation of the antlers and meat, the arms race, the friendliness in cruelty and the need to control a vegan and supposedly invasive species. There is an astonishing continuity between the anti-elephant propaganda in southern Africa and the denigration of deer in the European Union and in France in particular. After the quasi-total eradication of wolves and lynx French and European hunters are acting and imposing themselves as natural predators of deer without having the wisdom of the wolf, who, in order to avoid unnecessary energy expenditure, attacks deer who are deficient, sick and less mobile. Hunters and poachers do the exact opposite. With their weapons, subterfuges and codes, they primarily target large antlered bucks, to the point that some pioneers and enlightened specialists are wondering whether the obsessive targeting of 6-to-12-year-old male deer with large antlers might not be a major risk of gradual disappearance of the red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) in a forest ecosystem that is constantly deteriorating.

The market for deer antlers is booming and diversifying in the United States of America and the European Union. In Salt Lake City, at the end of April 2022, the Utah Department of Natural Resources' auction of items seized from the hands, homes and trucks of poachers and traffickers was a great success. Artists, decorators, couples looking for an oddity for their sweet home, and specialist antler sellers paced up and down the car parks of a shooting centre turned into a fair to pick lots and look at the prices. Skulls with large antlers reached records high.



© Utah Division of Wildlife Resources



The antlered skull of a mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) was sold for 23,000 US\$. Richard Dorchuck, known as "Antlerman", has been in the business for about 30 years. He says prices have never been higher. The average price per kilo in Salt Lake City was 44.44 US\$. He used to have 2 outlets: selling to craftsmen to make fake tribal amulets or filling containers for the Asian market, where antlers have been used for centuries in invigorating and aphrodisiac medicines without having to go through any formalities other than trade and tax formalities, since in the United States of America and the European Union no deer species is listed in Appendix I or II of the CITES Convention. But informal deer antler collectors and registered wholesalers now have a new Eldorado with severed deer antlers sold as chew bones for domestic dogs. "Now, dog chews are where the money is at," says Dorchuck. At the seized items auction, he bought 30,000 US\$ worth of them, or 675 kg, to sell to Idaho-based Bone-A-Fide Antlers, which describes itself as an ethical leader in the gathering and processing of the antlers shed every year by deer. "The shedding process takes place every spring. We carefully find and collect the shed antlers on the ground which are then brought to our facility where they are inspected, cut and packaged for use." In reality, Bone-A-Fide Antlers uses beaters of poached deer antlers or shed antlers collected out of season and in prohibited areas by intrusive and self-interested collectors of the same stripe than looters of seaweed and shellfish on the coastline or pullers of tooth of sperm whale stranded on the shore.



The scourge of gathering antlers shed by male deer at the end of winter is also growing in the European Union. A gang of collectors and sellers of shed antlers was dismantled in Spain about 10 years ago and the Guardia Civil estimated at that time the profits in one and a half months of activity at 100,000 € (see "On the Trail" n°6 p.121). In France, deer antler processing workshops offer the same products as Bone-A-Fide Antlers and promise dogs of all sizes, from small doggies to mastiffs, endless pleasure and high-quality dental hygiene thanks to split or closed antler sections, possibly "flavoured with grilled chicken, smoked salmon or grilled beef". Masters have to pay between 6 and 30 € for chew packs. Some sellers claim to harvest antlers in Central Europe and confirm by these allegations that the traffic and trade are international. For dogs with fragile teeth and for cats, they also offer ground antler powder as a food supplement.



In the United States of America, some States such as Wyoming prohibit the gathering of shed antlers from January 1 to May 1. They consider that deer and does at the beginning of the year are in such a fragile state that harassment by collectors, escape from trespassers, disturbance of bucks growing their antlers and pregnant females constitute unacceptable risks to population recovery after the harsh winter and food shortage. Fines and even prison sentences are imposed on those who, individually or in conspiracy, nonetheless seek to recover antlers and deer skulls from clearings, thickets and the secrecy of the forests. In the European Union and in France, antler hunting is considered a treasure hunt or an Easter egg hunt only practiced by so-called enthusiasts, when in fact the vast majority of them are out to make a profit and sell them one day or another via the Internet or at garage sales. Antler theft in forests is a further endangerment of deer, the fifth punishment after hunting, including the cruellest forms, night poaching with spotlights, decapitation to sell trophies and road traffic collisions. The theft of antlers from forests is also an appropriation by negligence of a component of the forest food chain. Squirrels in the winter and spring and other small animals gnaw on them and strengthen their skeletons with the calcium and minerals they contain. All the benefits to forest communities of shed antlers are probably far from known and will probably one day be perceived by naturalists provided they are not plundered and removed from ecosystems.

"Les cervidés [Deer]", Le Monde animal en 13 volumes [Grzimek's Animal Life Encyclopedia], Volume XIII, pp. 143-229, edited by Grzimek B. and Fontaine M. Editions Stauffacher, 1972; "Selective harvest focused on sexual signal traits can lead to extinction under directional environmental change", Proceedings of the Royal Society B 284, Knell R.J. and Martinez-Ruiz C., 2017; Faunalytics, June 18, 2018; RTBF, March 10, 2021; FOX 10, April 2, 2022; FOX 13, April 12, 2022; Outdoor Life, April 15, 2022; The Times-Independent, April 21, 2022; The Salt Lake Tribune, April 30, 2022; L'Est Républicain, April 19, 2023; PIRSCH, March 1, 2023; Bone-A-Fide Antlers, accessed March 1, 2023; Cernunos, accessed March 1, 2023; Jardirect, accessed March 1, 2023.<sup>1</sup>



## AMERICA

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

#### Beginning of May 2022 Green River, State of Wyoming, United States of America

The genetic profile of the antlers and skull seized at Justin Chewning's and Steven Macy's matched the carcass of a bull elk poached in 2019. The 2 poachers had killed elk (*Cervus canadensis*) and a mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) out of season. Chewning's hunting and fishing licences were suspended for 15 years and he was fined 1,585 US\$ and ordered to pay damages of 7,000 US\$. Macy's licences were suspended for 2 years and he was fined 5,640 US\$, ordered to pay 1,500 US\$ in damages, and made to forfeit his .338 Browning. Wyoming Game Wardens Association, May 2022.<sup>2</sup>



#### May 2022 The Dalles, State of Oregon, United States of America

A warning was issued after a stuffed Roosevelt elk (*Cervus canadensis roosevelti*) was offered for sale without permission via Facebook. The advert has been removed.

Oregon State Police, May 2022.<sup>3</sup>



#### Beginning of June 2022 Lincoln County, State of West Virginia, United States of America

In West Virginia and other western States, collecting antlers shed from elk (*Cervus canadensis*) is becoming a ritual, and many people are participating. Elk and their habitats are suffering from this invasion. Regulatory restrictions have been put in place to minimize damage and to support the elk population restoration plan. These include a ban on having shed antlers and other elk parts in the home. A search of a resident's home resulted in the seizure of 5 elk antlers and an antlered skull. He faces fines of 1,000 to 5,000 US\$ or 30 to 100 days in jail or both.

West Virginia Natural Resources Police, June 6, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

## FAMILY AFFAIRS

June 6 and 13, 2022

### Keyser, State of West Virginia, United States of America



- June 6: Colton Broadwater, 24, was sentenced to 160 days of house arrest for poaching 11 male deer, fined 1,460 US\$ and ordered to pay 7,160 US\$ in court costs. He will have to pay 32 US\$ per day of house arrest and 75 US\$ for the cost of connecting his ankle monitor. Broadwater was allowed to serve his time at his mother's home in Keyser on the condition that no firearms or alcohol can be in the residence and that he meet with the county sheriff once a week.

- June 13: Dalton Dolly, a Mineral County (West Virginia) deputy sheriff, was sentenced to 30 days in home incarceration beginning June 21, with the requirement that he wear an electronic bracelet, be prohibited from possessing or using a firearm, possessing or consuming alcohol, and be required to pay 20 US\$ per day in home incarceration. He must also pay 1,360 US\$ in fines and court costs.

The case began on November 5, 2021 when West Virginia NRP (Natural Resources Police) officers received an anonymous tip that "Colton Broadwater had spotlighted and killed a large buck." The investigation resulted a month and a half later in the arrest of 8 people grouped together by friendship, family ties, romantic relationships, deer poaching and exhibition of the hunting trophies through the complacency of at least one local taxidermist. Colton Broadwater, his father Gregory Broadwater, Dalton Dolly, Robert Horner Sr. and son Robert "Beau" Horner, Christopher Biggs the father, Tyler Biggs the son, and his girlfriend Ivy Rodehaver, who lists herself on her LinkedIn profile as "a recreational advocate, with an eye for natural resources," are charged of poaching at least 27 male deer between mid-September and late December 2021 in Mineral, Grant and Hampshire counties in West Virginia, with forays into adjoining Maryland territory. It is likely that the gang's haul would be much heavier if the killings prior to mid-September could be documented. The trials of Tyler Biggs, another Mineral County sheriff's deputy, and the other defendants will follow.

Cumberland Times-News, February 4 and June 8 and 15, 2022.<sup>5</sup>



## FAMILY AFFAIRS

June 17, 2022

**Mosier, State of Oregon, United States of America**



- Sentence of Matthew Wilkinson, 38 years old, to 12 months of probation, 40 hours of community service, 5 years of suspension of hunting licence and 1,000 US\$ damages for poaching a male elk (*Cervus canadensis*) with big antlers and another male deer (genus *Odocoileus*).

- Sentence of Lionardo Munoz to 18 months of probation, 3 years of suspension of hunting licence, 15,000 US\$ in damages to the OSP (Oregon State Police) for butchering and packaging the elk carcass.

- Rachel Hallett, Wilkinson's wife, was sentenced to 12 months of probation, 3 years of hunting licence suspension and 40 hours of community service for poaching the bull deer.

The 3 companions live in Mosier and were each sentenced up to their responsibility in the poaching of the 2 deer. They were identified by a photo of the elk in a trailer that a hunter sent to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). As part of the Stop Poaching campaign, the hunter received 5 "hunter preference points", a system that will increase his chances of obtaining a hunting licence in his preferred hunting area.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, June 17, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

## FAMILY AFFAIRS

June 29, 2022

**Pratt, State of Kansas, United States of America**



After physical and digital searches in Cheyenne, Sherman, Wallace and Logan counties, and with the public providing valuable input, the 3-year investigation concluded that Tayton Weeter, Tracy Weeter and Sean Winter were involved in the poaching of a pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*, Appendix I in Mexico) and 25 deer, most of whom were mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) with long antlers.

Tayton Weeter received a 10-year hunting ban and 45,000 US\$ in fines and damages, Tracy Weeter received a 2-year hunting ban, 750 US\$ in fines and 1,668 US\$ in court costs, and Sean Winter received a 12-month hunting ban and 5,800 US\$ in fines and damages.

Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks, June 29, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

## ASIA

### INDIA

April 28, 2022

**Timarpur, North Delhi District, National Capital Territory of Delhi, India**

A 23-year-old woman was arrested with 3 kg of swamp deer or barasingha (*Rucervus duvaucelii*, Appendix I).

Chhoti aka Fatima was attempting to sell the antlers valued at 1.5 million rupees (19,778 US\$) from a man named Gopal Thakur from Aruna Nagar to Delhi. An investigation is underway. Better known as the "barasingha, the swamp deer is found throughout the Indian subcontinent.

The Indian Express, April 28, 2022; India Today, April 29, 2022.<sup>8</sup>

## FAMILY AFFAIRS

End of May 2022

**Jaipur, Jaipur District, State of Rajasthan, India**

The 2 brothers Ankit Singh and Arjun Singh were in possession of a pistol, 7 rounds of ammunition, 6 cell phones and 2 antlers of swamp deer (*Rucervus duvaucelii*, Appendix I). The 2 men, aged 26 and 28, are believed to be both wildlife traffickers and purse and cell phone snatchers. They are also reportedly drug addicts.

Patrika, May 26, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

## EUROPE

### SPAIN

April 2022

**Province of Zamora, Autonomous Community of Castile and León, Spain**



Seizure of a red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) trophy worth 11,000 € (12,240 US\$). The investigation had started at the end of 2021 with the discovery of the decapitated body of a male deer in a fenced meadow. The poachers had taken advantage of a full moon night. The deer



was the breeding male of a farm. The trophy was finally seized with other hunting trophies in a wine cellar. Two arrests. The resolution of this scandal is to the credit of the Guardia Civil and the Sepрона.

Europa Press, April 28, 2022.<sup>10</sup>

## Mid-June 2022

### Spain

In order to get a clearer picture of the market for trophies of fallow deer (*Dama dama*, Appendix I), red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) and European roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*), the Seprona has made the list and detailed analysis of the 2,132 entries in the taxidermy registers throughout the country. This is a first and has revealed that 74 taxidermists in 10 provinces were engaged in the stuffing of hunting trophies using backdated and falsified documents. Infomascota, June 19, 2022.<sup>11</sup>

## RUSSIA

### Beginning of April 2022

#### Tunkinsky District, Republic of Buryatia, Russia

Sentence to 3 years and 5 months in prison for a man who had set in February 2021 wire snares in Tunkinsky National Park. He had caught a Siberian musk deer (*Moschus moschiferus*, Appendix II) and 32 sables (*Martes zibellina*). He will have to pay 525,000 rubles or 6,000 US\$ for the ecological damage. Number One, April 7, 2022.<sup>12</sup>



### End of May 2022

#### Erzinsky District, Republic of Tyva, Russia

The man was in the forest. He was carrying a spool of wire and laying nooses in the trees with the intention, he said, of trapping Siberian musk deer (*Moschus moschiferus*, Appendix II). He had enough to set about 30 of these traps that could also catch and condemn to a slow and sure death one of the 25 snow leopards who live in the district park east of the Altai Republic, near the border with Mongolia.

AIS News Agency, May 25, 2022.<sup>13</sup>



## Beginning of June 2022

### Allaikhovsky District, Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), Russia



The 2 pirates were at work on a motorboat in the Indigirka River. Five reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*) were seized on board. The ecological damage is estimated at 450,000 rubles or 7,480 US\$. They were sentenced to 3 years in prison with 18 months of probation and to pay jointly and severally the ecological damages. Yakutia Daily, June 9, 2022.<sup>14</sup>

## June 23, 2022

### Lotta Border Crossing Point, Murmansk Oblast, Russia

Seizure in the car of a 25-year-old Russian subject of 54 reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*) bones purchased without invoice, packaging or documents of origin in Finland.

Virtual Customs, June 23, 2022.<sup>15</sup>

## June 28, 2022

### Kosh-Agachsky District, Republic of Altai, Russia



Wire nooses hang from the trees in Saylyugemsky National Park. A 26-year-old man was caught with his footprints in the snow trapping Siberian musk deer (*Moschus moschiferus*, Appendix II) (see "On the Trail" n°35 p.91). The poacher lives in the village of Dzhazator in the Altai mountain range on the borders of Kazakhstan and Mongolia. He was sentenced to 8 months of correctional labour with 10% of his salary withheld.

News of Gorny Altai, June 28, 2022.<sup>16</sup>



## AMERICA

### ARGENTINA

**April 29, 2022**

**Trelew, Province of Chubut, Argentina**

A van with 2 men and 400 kg of guanaco meat (*Lama guanicoe*, Appendix II) on board. The seizure was destroyed and one man was charged with wildlife law violations.

El Chubut, April 29, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

**May 9, 2022**

**Río Gallegos, Province of Santa Cruz, Argentina**

At the checkpoint, during the early hours of the day, police officers noticed a pick-up truck carrying large parcels in its cargo box. When the truck was searched, 22 guanaco meat quarters (*Lama guanicoe*, Appendix II) and greater rhea carcasses (*Rhea americana*, Appendix II) were found. Due to suspicious appearance, the seized meat is incinerated.

TiempoSur, May 9, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

**May 13, 2022**

**National Route 40, Province of Chubut, Argentina**

Seven hundred kilos of bagged guanaco meat (*Lama guanicoe*, Appendix II). Eight guanacos were killed. The Honda CRV also contained a Rossi rifle, model 608 calibre 308 Winchester. The driver, coming from El Pedregoso, was charged.

Diario Jornada, May 14, 2022.<sup>3</sup>



**Beginning of June 2022**

**Province of Río Negro, Argentina**

A first: the law protecting wildlife is over 30 years old, and a criminal conviction was finally brought down against the dirty cops who killed a guanaco (*Lama guanicoe*, Appendix II). Three policemen (2 active officers and a retired woman) were fined 80,000 US\$ each, a sentence that will set a precedent against the flourishing traffic in guanaco meat.

LMCipolletti.com, June 3, 2022.<sup>4</sup>







Campbell's mona monkeys (*Cercopithecus campbelli*). Photo Roland Godon

## WESTERN AFRICA

### GUINEA

#### Beginning of May 2022

##### Conakry, Conakry Region, Guinea

Children were keeping a baby chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*, Appendix I) less than one-year-old and not yet weaned, as a toy and pet. He was placed in a shelter.

Primate Project, May 11, 18, and 30, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

#### June 3, 2022

##### Conakry Region, Guinea

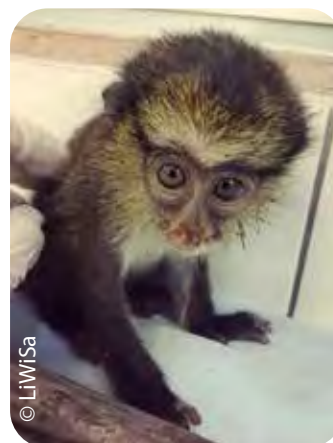
A female chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*, Appendix I), about 5 years old, was thrown to the side of the road by the poacher on two wheels when he saw men in uniform at the end of the road. She was in a bag, bound hand and foot. After a difficult start in the shelter, she has found her feet. She decided to live in a regime of partial liberty, next to the shelter, with regular visits to take fruit and gets it on with a semi-wild female who took a liking to her.

Primates Project, June 3 and 4, September 26 and October 11, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

## LIBERIA

#### Beginning of April 2022

##### Lofa County, Liberia



Rescue of a baby Campbell's mona monkey (*Cercopithecus campbelli*, Appendix II) weighing just 360 grams, sold as a pet by poachers who had just killed his mother.

Campbell's mona monkeys are arboreal forest monkeys. They live in small groups consisting of one male, several females, and their young. With their

ability to combine different calls to communicate, they are said to use the most complex animal syntax discovered to date.

Libassa Wildlife Sanctuary, April 7, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

## CENTRAL AFRICA

### CAMEROON

#### Beginning of April 2022

##### Bakossi National Park, South West Region, Cameroon

Seizure of a baby chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*, Appendix I), approximately 1.5 years old, from a farmer.

Limbe Wildlife Centre, April 25, 2022.<sup>4</sup>



"Bakossi" will not have the good fortune to grow up in the forest with his family.

#### April 4 and May 9, 2022

##### Douala, Littoral Region, Cameroon

Barry Dinga Langmia was sentenced to 2 months in prison and the equivalent of 2,150 US\$ in fines, court costs and damages. He was caught on April 4 in Douala in the act of transporting 2 gorilla skulls (*Gorilla* spp., Appendix I), a chimpanzee skull (*Pan troglodytes*, Appendix I) and 5 non-human primate skulls whose species were unidentified at the end of the investigation.

He was facing 2 years in prison, even 3. He sold insects and birds via the Internet but his great specialty remains skeletons. His customers are African, European and Asian. The operation is to the credit of an employee of the Liberec zoo in the Czech Republic (see "On the Trail" n°25 p.63 and n°32 p.76) who founded an NGO for the safeguard of wildlife, the environmental and urban police and the NGO LAGA.

Gorilla and chimpanzee skulls, see "On the Trail" n°5 p.52 and 53 and p.113, n°6 p.41, p.43, p.102 and p.103, n°7 p.36, p.37, p.38 and p.116, n°8 p.35, n°9 p.36, p.37, p.94 and p.101, n°10 p.31 and p.71, n°11 p.37, n°12 p.40, n°13 p.42, p.43 and p.101, n°14 p.46, n°15 p.110, n°18 p.47, n°22 p.123, n°27 p. 129 and n°29 p.94.

EAGLE, April 6, 2022; Liberecká Drbna, April 21, 2022; EAGLE Cameroon, May 2022.<sup>5</sup>



facebook

#### April 8, May 31 and July 4, 2022

##### Douala, Littoral Region, Cameroon

Tied to a chain among garbage, the mandrill (*Mandrillus sphinx*, Appendix I) had been held for several months by Numvi Christopher who was trying to resell him. He was arrested in a bar, betrayed by one of his mistresses. He was sentenced to 3 months in prison, fined 100,000 CFA francs (160 US\$) and ordered to pay 2 million CFA francs (3,200 US\$) in damages. EAGLE, April 8 and June 1, 2022; LAGA, May and July 2022.<sup>6</sup>



Having come to the appointment to deceive, the arrested trafficker realized that it was he who had been deceived.

#### April 29, 2022

##### Cameroon

A female De Brazza's monkey (*Cercopithecus neglectus*, Appendix II) was found chained to a post in the open air at the home of the poacher who had exterminated her family. She is now safe under the care of a veterinary team.

Ape Action Africa, April 29, 2022.<sup>7</sup>



#### May 16, 2022

##### Bafang, West Region, Cameroon

Sentencing in Court of First Instance of Divine Tantoh, Samuel Suh and Elvis Ndong Ngong to the equivalent of 820 US\$ in fines and legal costs each and to pay jointly and severally the equivalent of 640 US\$ for trafficking in drills (*Mandrillus leucophaeus*, Appendix I) (see "On the Trail" n°34 p.119). LAGA, May 2022.<sup>8</sup>





**May 17, 2022**

**Djoum, South Region, Cameroon**

Fifteen days in prison and the equivalent of 97 US\$ in fines and court costs. Leonard Ndongo Ndongo had been caught with a mistreated juvenile female mandrill (*Mandrillus sphinx*, Appendix I) for sale (see "On the Trail" n°33 p.130).

LAGA, May 2022.<sup>9</sup>



**GABON**

**June 27, 2022**

**Koumameyong, Ogooué-Ivindo Province, Gabon**

Arrest of Mrs. Florence Minkwe Misallanwele Nze alias Cado, 44 years old. She had been in possession for 3 weeks of a chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*, Appendix I) more or less 6 months old and a female moustached guenon (*Cercopithecus cephus*, Appendix II). Cado's motives and the origin of the monkeys are still under investigation. They were transferred to the CIRMF (Centre International de Recherches Médicales) in Franceville for quarantine before being released to the Lékédi National Park if they are not carriers of zoonoses. The operation is to the credit of the judicial police, the province's Water and Forestry Department, the DLCB (Anti-Poaching Department) and Conservation Justice. Conservation Justice, June and July 1, 2022; EAGLE, June and July 1, 2022; Afrik 21, July 6, 2022.<sup>10</sup>



**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

**April 2, 2022**

**Mont-Ngafula, Kinshasa Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo**

Arrival at the bonobo sanctuary (*Pan paniscus*, Appendix I) of an orphan whose abductor was arrested. The bonobo is suffering from foot injuries and dehydration.

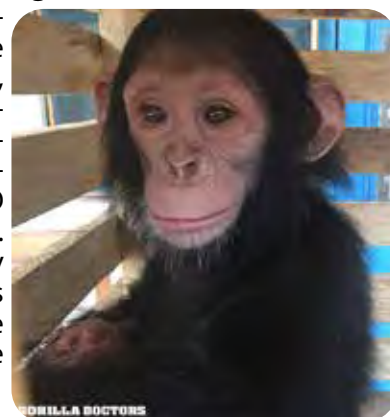
Friends of Bonobos, April 2 and 12, 2022.<sup>11</sup>



**Beginning of April 2022**

**Goma, North Kivu Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo**

Arrival of a juvenile chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*, Appendix I) rescued from trafficking on the premises of the NGO Gorilla Doctors. After a veterinary examination, he is scheduled to be transferred to the Lwiro sanctuary. Gorilla Doctors, April 8, 2022.<sup>12</sup>



**April 10, 2022**

**Lwiro Primate Rehabilitation Centre, Bukavu, South Kivu Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo**



They were inseparable since their arrival. They were one, even when introduced to the group of baby chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*, Appendix I) but death has separated them. Jeje is left alone. He has lost his best friend and possibly his brother. He will have to struggle alone with the family trauma and poor health common to orphans in the jungle. Lwiro Primates, April 11, 2022 and August 27, 2022.<sup>13</sup>

**April 25, 2022**

**Kinshasa, Kinshasa Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo**

Seizure in an "ecolodge" of a chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*, Appendix I) and an agile mangabey (*Cercocebus agilis*, Appendix II) aged more or less 2 years. They were transferred to the J.A.C.K. (Jeunes Animaux Confisqués au Katanga) shelter in Lubumbashi.

J.A.C.K. - Jeunes Animaux Confisqués au Katanga, May 6, 2022.<sup>14</sup>



## KENYA

June 8, 2022

## Nanyuki, Laikipia County, Kenya

The neck of the adult baboon (*Papio* spp., Appendix II) was encircled by a metal noose. He urgently needed to be freed before he was hung. During anaesthesia, veterinarians treated oral lesions that were still only superficial. The Old House Hotel raised the alarm at the right time. The prognosis was favourable.

SWT/KWS Mount Kenya Veterinary Unit, June 2022.<sup>18</sup>



## MADAGASCAR

## FAMILY AFFAIRS

May 31, 2022

## Maintialana, Sava Region, Madagascar

One survivor. Two poaching brothers, aged 30 and 29, were arrested at a roadblock in a protected natural area. They were carrying the bodies of 45 crowned lemurs (*Eulemur coronatus*, Appendix I) that they had poisoned by luring them with the alpha male of the troop previously captured. They intended to sell them to restaurant owners, who would buy each kill for 5 \$ (5.50 US\$). The poisoners are not from the region, as the local communities consider the consumption of lemurs taboo. The bodies were burned and the survivor was sent to rehabilitation.

Midi Madagasikara, June 1, 2022; Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, June 3, 2022; RFI, June 3, 2022; Fanamby, June 27, 2022.<sup>19</sup>



The only survivor of the massacre of 45 of his fellows.

May 10, 2022

## Lwiro Primates Rehabilitation Center, Bukavu, South Kivu Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Reception of an owl-faced monkey (*Cercopithecus hamlyni*, Appendix II) whose mother was eaten as bush meat in the rehabilitation center that serves as a surrogate mother and family for the young monkeys. Owl-faced monkeys are secretive, rare and very poorly known. There is no precise estimate of their population, but their density would be 5 to 7 individuals per km<sup>2</sup>. They live in some areas of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and possibly Uganda. They feed on leaves, especially bamboo, and fruits. Adult males do not exceed 10 kg. The coat, yellow at birth, darkens with time. They are threatened by habitat loss and poaching for bush meat.

Lwiro Primates, September 7 and 10, 2022.<sup>15</sup>



June 17, 2022

## Kinshasa, Kinshasa Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo

In the city center, in the back of a scrap metal truck, 2 mangabeys (*Cercocebus* spp. or *Lophocebus* spp., Appendix II) are chained. They are not there to play to the gallery. They serve as cheap guards to keep metal thieves away.

Adams Cassinga, June 17, 2022.<sup>16</sup>

## REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

## FAMILY AFFAIRS

June 27, September 13 and November 2022

## Dolisie, Department of Niari, Republic of the Congo

The couple owned a mandrill (*Mandrillus sphinx*, Appendix I) and held him mercilessly in an iron locker. The wife was apprehended at the scene and released. The female mandrill, aged about 5 years, was given emergency care by Jane Goodall Institute activists and should be taken for further examination at Tchimpounga Reserve.

The husband, Yamidzala Dally Olive, who was on the run at the time of the seizure, was arrested on September 13. He was sentenced on November 4 to a two-year suspended prison term, fined 500,000 CFA francs (760 US\$) and ordered to pay 500,000 CFA francs in damages.

PALF, June, September and November 2022.<sup>17</sup>



## MALAWI

**April 21, 2022**

### **Lilongwe, Central Region, Malawi**

She was going blind. A 5-year-old female baboon (*Papio* spp., Appendix II) was removed from her chains. She was very thin and suffered from cataracts, a sign of malnutrition due to her diet in captivity. She was rescued, but her health condition did not allow her to be released into the wild. She will instead spend the rest her days at the wildlife center.

Lilongwe Wildlife Trust, April 21 and 24, 2022.<sup>20</sup>

## ZAMBIA

**May 13, 2022**

### **Mpongwe, Copperbelt Province, Zambia**

He was fed only peanuts. A young vervet monkey (*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*, Appendix II) was reduced to a pet for a 5-year-old child. The grandparents wanted to get rid of the primate when he started biting. He has a broken tail and bad fur from his diet.

Zambia Primate Project, May 13 and 14, 2022.<sup>21</sup>



Another vervet monkey was found hidden under the jacket of an old man in a canoe on the Kafue River.

**May 27, 2022**

### **Lusaka, Lusaka Province, Zambia**

A vervet monkey (*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*, Appendix II) enslaved as a pet. The family wanted to get rid of the monkey who had grown into an adult and become aggressive due to his captivity. He was very dehydrated, had a lesion on his belly due to his bonds and a prominent bruise on his lower jaw, down to the gum. He was transferred to the Kafue National Park facility for quarantine and treatment. Zambia Primate Project, May 27 to 28, 2022.<sup>22</sup>

**June 21, 2022**

### **Luanshya, Copperbelt Province, Zambia**

Seizure at Lody Nyambi's of a young female vervet monkey (*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*, Appendix II), about 8 months old, whose mother and family had been snatched by the bushmeat business.

Zambia Primate Project, 23 June 2022.<sup>23</sup>

## SOUTHERN AFRICA

### SOUTH AFRICA

**April 26, 2022**

### **Letsitele, Limpopo Province, South Africa**

Hit by a car, the vervet monkey (*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*, Appendix II) was left for dead. Collected in the middle of the road by rescuers, he suffered from skull and tail fractures, bruises around the eye, and a pellet in the leg. Approximately 3 years old, he was placed in intensive care for 3.5 weeks. He was able to rejoin his congregation.

The Vervet Forest, April 26, 29 and May 20, 2022.<sup>24</sup>

**April 30 and May 20, 2022**

### **Cape Town, Western Cape Province, South Africa**

The Cape Town metropolis (population over 4.7 million) will abandon its 12-year chacma baboon (*Papio ursinus*, Appendix II) management program in July 2023. One hundred million rand, or 5.5 million US\$ in public funds, has been spent to drive the baboons out of the city and reduce their population.

The "Baboon Rangers" have several weapons that are considered non-lethal for repelling individual baboons as well as baboons in packs.

- Paintball markers. These are used in military combat simulations and are already being used in KwaZulu-Natal to keep baboons away from residential areas.

- Bear bangers are fired into the air and are used in the United States and Canada to scare away bears.

- Pepper balls break on impact and release an irritating powder. They are used in exceptional circumstances.

- Virtual fence with audio speakers that emit the sound of a predator, such as a lion or the cries of other predators.

"Baboon Rangers" are trained by a "qualified" instructor and have a certificate of competence. They wear luminous jackets with the HWS (Human Wildlife Solutions) logo and the inscription "Baboon Ranger".

Baboons are reportedly changing their diet and food quest. Omnivorous and opportunistic, they used to feed on flowers, roots, buds, birds, insects and small mammals in the scrubland of southern South Africa. =>

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**Beginning of April 2022**

**Jefferson County, State of Illinois, United States of America**

Illinois Department of Natural Resources officers are informed that a woman is holding a ring-tailed lemur (*Lemur catta*, Appendix I). When questioned, the woman showed them the lemur and admitted that she did not have a permit. He remains in her possession pending legal action.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources, April 15, 2022.<sup>27</sup>

**REPEATED OFFENCE**

**June 9, 2022**

**Tampa, State of Florida, United States of America**



After the Bear Whisperer (see page 76), this is the monkey whisperer. Jimmy Wayne Hammonds, 57, sold a cotton-headed tamarin (*Saguinus oedipus*, Appendix I) to California resident R&B and hip-hop star Chris Brown in late 2018 for 12,650 US\$. The possession of cotton-headed tamarins, as of any exotic animal, is prohibited in California. Hammonds and Brown agreed to deliver him to an acquaintance of Brown in Nevada where the keeping of exotic animals is allowed. The little monkey was then delivered to California by a live animal transport specialist.

Hammonds also sold 2 spider monkeys (*Ateles* spp., Appendix I or II) to rapper Swae Lee and capuchin monkeys (*Sapajus* spp., synonymous with *Cebus* spp., Appendix II) in Alabama, South Carolina, Wisconsin for 4,500 US\$ per specimen, plus the cost of shipping, done so by submitting falsified documents to authorities.

"In a number of States, it is illegal to buy, sell and own exotic pets." "The illegal wildlife trade jeopardizes the future for many species," says the US Fish and Wildlife spokesman.

Hammonds was fined 90,000 US\$, given 5 years of probation and 8 months of house arrest. He was previously convicted of similar offences in 2012. He is acting under the business name of "The Monkey Whisperer" as a breeder and seller of wildlife.

US Department of Justice, March 2 and June 9, 2022; Sarasota Herald-Tribune, March 3, 2022.<sup>28</sup>



The many opportunities offered by the proliferation of food waste dispersed by mankind encourage them to leave the "fynbos" and frequent suburbs, dumps, picnic areas and garbage cans, and even attempt forays into dining halls and kitchens.

The repressive means implemented by the Cape Town metropolis have not achieved their objectives and individuals have set up an anti-baboon militia. Although it is not in its vocation, since to our knowledge there is no traffic and smuggling of chacma baboons or their parts in the Western Cape, "On the Trail" has already reported cruelties, shootings and death traps not related to the initial mission and non lethal weapons of the "Baboon Rangers" (see "On the Trail" n°32 p.131, n°33 p.135 and n°35 p.97). On May 20, 2022, a young baboon was found dead, killed by an air rifle bullet in Monterey Drive, a Constantia suburb, in the Cape Town metropolis. According to the SPCA, 90% of baboons that are X-rayed for any health reason have at least one bullet lodged in their body.

"Dealing With baboons- Tools Used By Baboon Rangers Information Pamphlet," Human Wildlife Solutions, April 1, 2011; News24, April 30, 2022; Cape Town Etc, June 2, 2022; City of Cape Town.<sup>25</sup>

**Beginning of May 2022**

**Johannesburg, Gauteng Province, South Africa**

Nineteen vervet monkeys (*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*, Appendix II) were confiscated from a private property. Admitted to the wildlife hospital, one of the older females successfully took on the role of surrogate mother for the younger ones. They are expected to be released after a period of care and re-learning to live in the wild.

Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary Hospital, May 29, 2022.<sup>26</sup>

Reconstituting a troop is not always an easy task, because, just like us, not all monkeys get along with each other.





## LATIN AMERICA

### BRAZIL

#### REPEATED OFFENCE

June 29, 2022

São José do Rio Preto, State of São Paulo, Brazil

Found in a cage without food or water, 2 tufted capuchins (*Cebus apella*, synonymous with *Sapajus apella*, Appendix II) were seized. They had been caught in the forests of Araçatuba, bought on the internet and were going to be resold. The 2 hairdressers who transported them, the repeat offender L.V. (24 years old) and W.N.G. (30 years old), were fined 14,000 reais (2,700 US\$). The monkeys will be released.

Folha da Região, June 30, 2022.<sup>29</sup>



### COLOMBIA

April 14, 2022

San Francisco, Department of Antioquia, Colombia

A white-footed tamarin (*Saguinus leucopus*, Appendix I) was stoned to death and his family abducted to be sold as pets. An injured adult and a younger were rescued. The poacher was fined and charged with wildlife trafficking.

Infobae, April 16, 2022.<sup>30</sup>



The man killed one of the tamarins to kidnap the offspring and other members of the family and sell them.

April 27, 2022

Department of Nariño, Colombia

He stubbornly refused to give him his freedom. Ervino Edison Ruales Ramírez, who held a common squirrel monkey (*Saimiri sciureus*, Appendix II) in captivity, is brought to justice.

Infobae, June 13, 2022.<sup>31</sup>

## COSTA RICA

Mid-May 2022

Tucurrique, Province of Cartago, Costa Rica



A family kept a Central American squirrel monkey (*Saimiri oerstedii*, Appendix I) as a pet. The monkey was seized. Also seized from a nearby house were 14 birds, including red-lored amazons (*Amazona autumnalis*, Appendix II), black-faced solitaires (*Myadestes melanops*), yellow-faced grassquits (*Tiaris olivaceus*) and various seedeaters (*Sporophila corvina*), 4 trap cages and 5 empty cages. La Nación, May 12, 2022.<sup>32</sup>

### MEXICO

Mid-June 2022

Mexico, Mexico

Twelve dead in a shootout: 11 men and one spider monkey (*Ateles* spp., Appendix I or II). The monkey had been recruited by drug traffickers, with an unhealthy fascination for wild animals. Among other crimes, the survivors will also be charged with animal trafficking. The monkey was wearing a camouflage jacket and a "bulletproof vest".

The Guardian, June 17, 2022.<sup>33</sup>

## SOUTHEASTERN ASIA

### CAMBODIA

**May 18, 2022**

#### **Cardamom Protected Forest, Cambodia**

Seizure of a Bengal slow loris (*Nycticebus bengalensis*, Appendix I) stashed in a poacher's bag. He was released immediately.

Wildlife Alliance Cambodia, May 18, 2022.<sup>34</sup>



### INDONESIA

## ORANGUTANS

#### **REPEATED OFFENCE**

**April 27-28, 2022**

#### **Percut Sei Tuan, Deli Serdang Regency, North Sumatra Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia**

Five adolescents from Binjai aged between 17 and 20, Tomas Raider Chaniago, Arya Rivaldi, Haidar Yasir, Raihan and Adelina Boru Sembiring, were arrested. They were trying to sell a 4-month-old orangutan captured in the East Aceh regency for 23 million rupiah or 1,583 US\$ after offering him for sale on the Virgo app. The baby Sumatran orangutan (*Pongo abelii*) who was allegedly captured near Gunung Leuser Park by one of the sellers, was taken to the safety of a shelter in the Deli Serdang regency. Tomas Raider Chaniago, the ringleader of the gang, is said to have previous experience in wildlife trafficking.

Medan Pos Online, April 29, 2022; Tv One News, April 29, 2022; iNews Sumut, April 30, 2022; The Jakarta Post, April 30, 2022; IDN Times Sumut, May 7, 2022; Tribun-Medan, June 9, 2022.<sup>35</sup>

**May 24, 2022**

#### **Binjai, North Sumatra Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia**



Eddy Putra is sentenced to 8 months in prison and a fine of 100 million rupiah (6,900 US\$) or 2 more months in prison in case of non-payment.

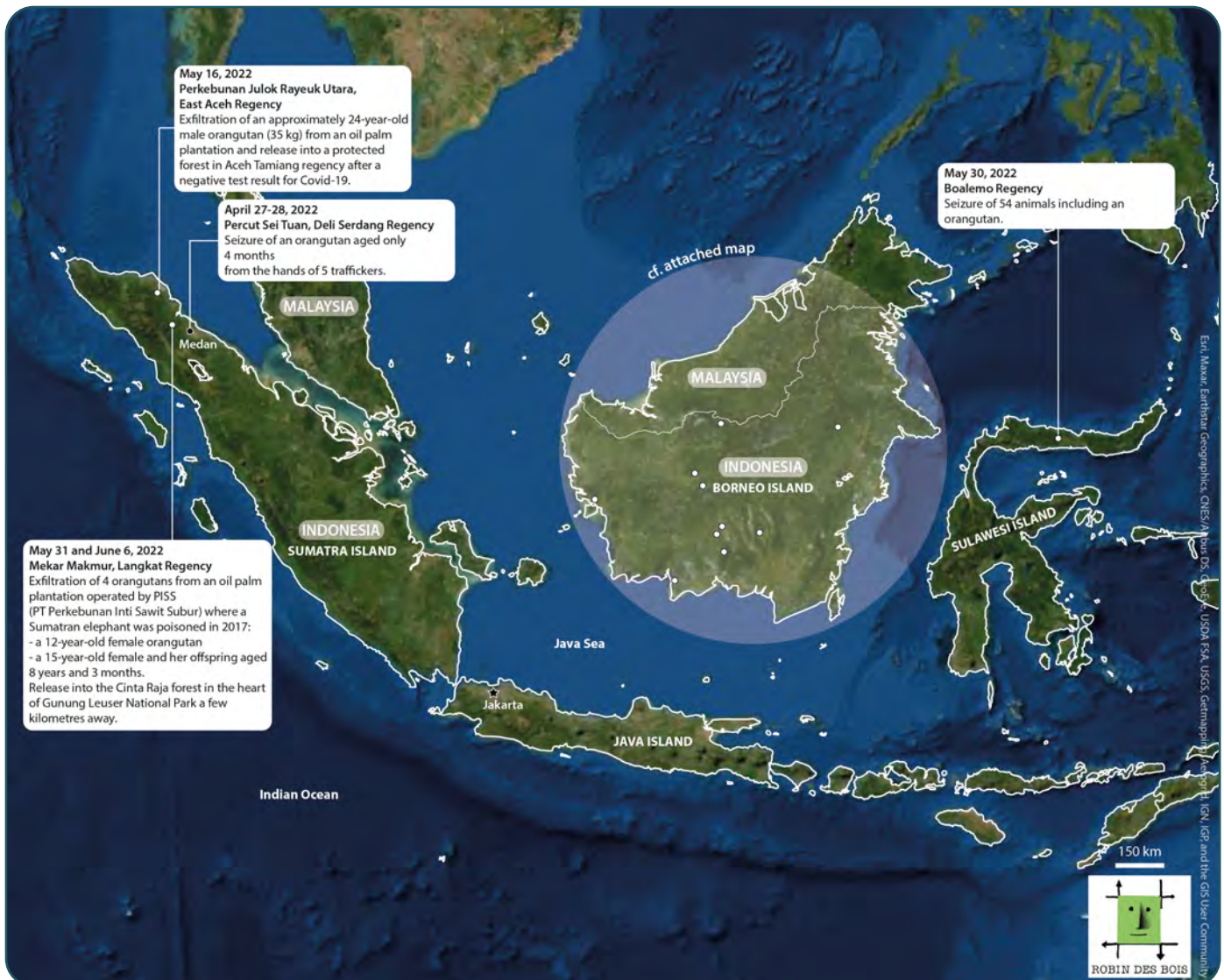
The story goes back to February 2022 with the seizure in Binjai of a 5-year-old orangutan. He was in the hands of Sonny Putra, Toris Panjaitan and Doddy Prawira Atmajaya who were responsible for bringing him to Riau (more than 700 km, 16 hours' drive) (see "On the Trail" n°35 p.100). They named Eddy Putra as the leader of the operation. The orangutan was to be sold to a foreigner for 50 million rupiah (3,470 US\$) after having been bought for 12 million rupiah (830 US\$) from a certain T. The police do not rule out that T. is Tomas Raider Chaniago, who was involved in the attempted sale of a baby orangutan in the regency of Deli Serdang, about 50 km from Binjai (see opposite). To exonerate himself, Eddy Putra stated during his trial that he acted under the orders of Irawan Shia, who has been in prison for 2 years in Riau for smuggling tiger parts.

IDN Times Sumut, May 17, 24, and 27, 2022.<sup>36</sup>





## Orangutans in Indonesia April 1 - June 30, 2022



Orangutan (*Pongo* spp., Appendix I)

### Map sources:

Aceh Province: Aceh Journal National Network, May 17, 2022 ; Tempo, May 19, 2022.

North Sumatra Province: Medan Pos Online, April 29, 2022 ; Tv One News, April 29, 2022 ; iNews Sumut, April 30, 2022 ; The Jakarta Post, April 30, 2022 ; IDN Times Sumut, May 7, 2022 ; Suara Sumut, June 2, 2022 ; Tribun-Medan, June 2, 2022 ; Tribun Jateng, June 3, 2022 ; IDN Times Sumut, June 7, 2022 ; Tribun-Medan, June 7, 2022 ; Tribun-Medan, June 9, 2022.

Central Kalimantan Province: Borneo News, May 16, 2022 ; Kompas, May 16, 2022 ; Okezone.com, May 16, 2022 ; TvOneNews, May 16, 2022 ; Antara News, May 18, 2022 ; Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation, May 18 and 30, 2022 ; Kompas, May 18, 2022 ; Tribun Kalteng, May 18, 2022 ; Berita Sampit, May 23, 2022 ; Borneo News, May 24, 2022 ; InfoPublik, June 6, 2022 ; Tribun Kalteng, June 9, 2022 ; Borneo News, June 22, 2022 ; Mata Kalteng, June 22, 2022 ; Kalteng Today, June 23, 2022 ; Borneo News, June 23 and 24, 2022 ; TvOneNews, June 24, 2022 ; Okezone.com, July 4, 2022.

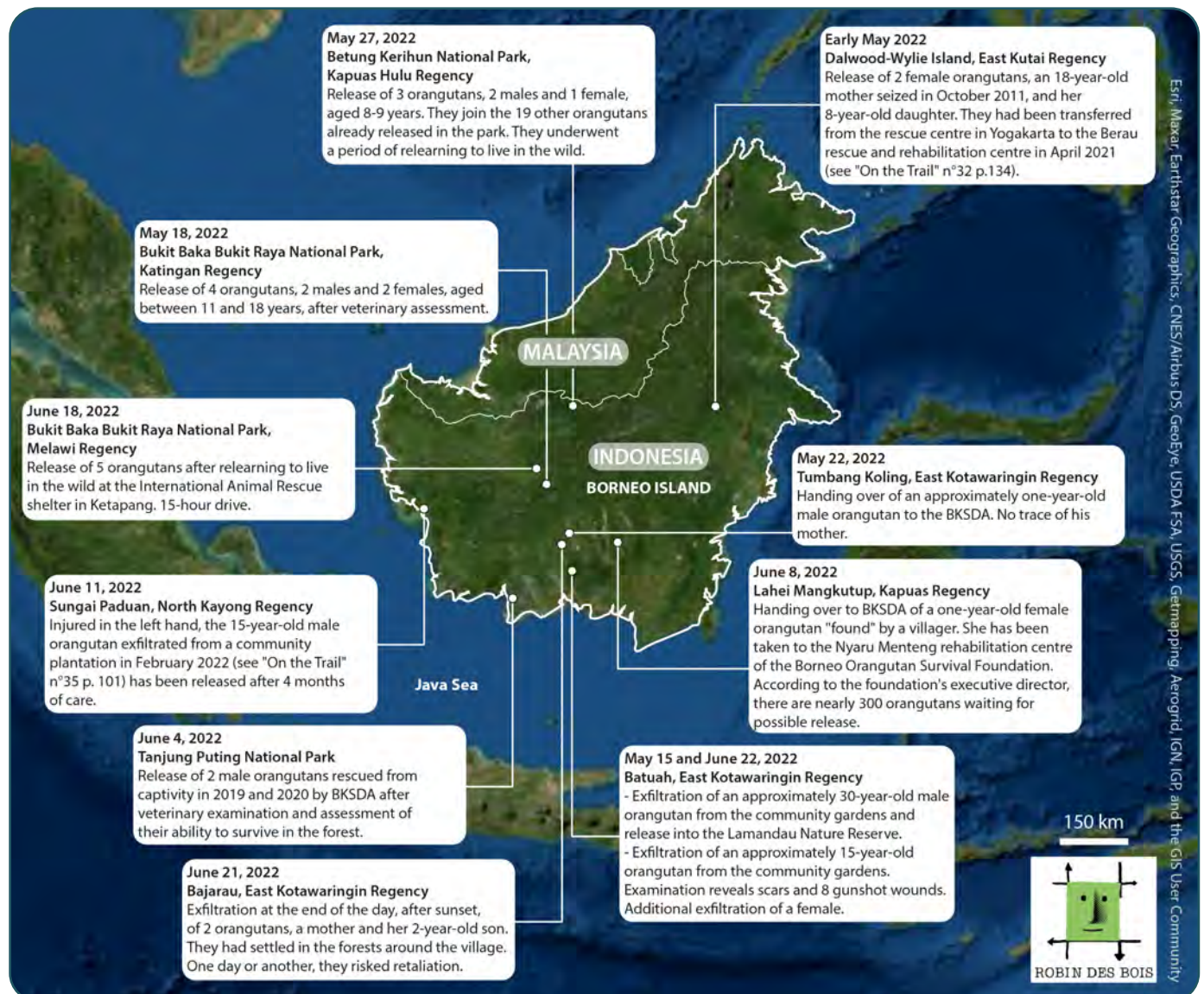
West Kalimantan Province: Tribun Pontianak, May 28, 2022 ; Republika, June 13, 2022 ; RuaiTV, June 13, 2022 ; InfoPublik, June 20, 2022 ; Ministry of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia, June 20, 2022 ; Antara News, June 21, 2022 ; Harian Terbit, June 21, 2022.

East Kalimantan Province: The Orangutan Project, May 10, 2022.

Gorontalo Province: Liputan6.com, May 31 and June 2, 2022 ; Republika, May 31, 2022 ; VOI, May 31, 2022 ; Tribun-Timur.com, June 1, 2022.



## Orangutans in Indonesia - Borneo April 1 - June 30, 2022



May 15, 2022  
Batuah, East Kotawaringin Regency, Central Kalimantan Province, Borneo Island





May 18, 2022

Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park, Katingan Regency, Central Kalimantan Province, Borneo Island



April 27-28, 2022

Percut Sei Tuan, Deli Serdang Regency, North Sumatra Province, Sumatra Island



May 16, 2022

Perkebunan Julok Rayeuk Utara, East Aceh Regency, Aceh Province, Sumatra Island



May 22, 2022

Tumbang Koling, East Kotawaringin Regency, Central Kalimantan Province, Borneo Island

## INDONESIA - EXCLUDING ORANGUTANS

### Beginning of April 2022

#### Siak Hulu, Kampar Regency, Riau Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia

Convergence of struggles: seizure of 2 agile gibbons (*Hylobates agilis*, Appendix I) as part of a wild bird trafficking investigation. They were transferred to the Nature Conservation Agency's animal rescue centre before being released into the wild.

FLIGHT - Protecting Indonesia's Birds, April 4, 2022.<sup>37</sup>

### April 9, 2022

#### Salareh Aia, Agam Regency, West Sumatra Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia

R.S., 50 years old, was arrested by officers of the BKSDA and the Agam criminal police. In his car in the parking lot of a shopping mall, he was about to sell 3 slow lorises (*Nycticebus coucang*, Appendix I) to a yet unidentified buyer reportedly living in Pekanbaru.

Langgam.id, April 11, 2022.<sup>38</sup>

### May 2022

#### Sampit, East Kotawaringin Regency, Central Kalimantan Province, Borneo Island, Indonesia

Kiki could not take care of her aunt's gibbon (*Hylobatidae*, Appendix I) anymore. Mrs. Nurita had bought him 7 or 8 years ago near Antang Kalang under unknown circumstances. We only know that today's adult was a small, fragile, hairless creature, and we suspect that he came from the dislocation of a familial association of gibbons by loggers or oil palm planters. But Kiki was now being bitten by an energetic, embittered gibbon weighing at least 5 kg. "He was throwing tantrums for no reason," said Ms. Nurita, who handed him over to the BKSDA in Sampit, thus avoiding prosecution for the illegal possession of a legally protected animal.

Borneo News, May 21, 2022.<sup>39</sup>

### June 6-19 2022

#### Depok City, West Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia



The Summer in Jungle talk show in a large shopping mall takes us back to the middle of the last century when in circuses and public squares, orangutans were disguised as bellboys or servants. "For lack of thrushes, we eat blackbirds" says a French proverb.

In Indonesia, for lack of orangutans, southern pig-tailed macaques (*Macaca nemestrina*, Appendix II) and long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*, Appendix II) are taken to ridicule themselves. Mothers, fathers and children are seen in public with live and disguised monkeys with impunity. According to the director of Pesona Square Mall, "the event was organized during school vacations with the aim of enhancing children's compassion towards animals." Last year, a fashion show of monkey models was canceled at the last moment in Karawang thanks to the anticipation of COP (Centre for Orangutan Protection) and animal activists on social networks.

COP, June 13, 2022; TribunJakarta.com, June 15, 2022; Gibbonnesia, June 20, 2022.<sup>40</sup>

## PHILIPPINES

### June 2022

#### Province of Pampanga, Philippines

Macaque babies are used as dolls and dressed like female babies. A man who was selling a "child" long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*, Appendix II) was arrested by the police. In childhood they are docile and cute. In adulthood they bite and do as they please.

Traffic, July 11, 2022.<sup>41</sup>

## THAILAND

### April 15, 2022

#### Khuan Run, Songkhla Province, Thailand



Prasert and Yap offered for sale via the Internet for 8,000 baht (240 US\$) a macaque (*Macaca* spp., Appendix I or II) capable of doing circus acts or fetching nuts from coconut trees.

Mgonline.com, April 16, 2022.<sup>42</sup>



**April 22, 2022**

**Khuan Sato, Satun Province, Thailand**

For 1,000 baht or 30 US\$, a 34-year-old man was selling a baby loris (*Nycticebus* spp., Appendix I) via the Internet. The city police set a trap for him and upon delivery in front of the hospital, the man was arrested and the loris rescued. Siamrath, April 22, 2022.<sup>43</sup>

**May 6, 2022**

**Kho Hong Sub-District, Hat Yai District, Songkhla Province, Thailand**



Ms. Natnicha (not her real name) was offering a macaque (*Macaca* spp., Appendix I or II) for sale for 3,500 baht (100 US\$) via Facebook in the group "Macaque Owner Lifestyle" with the slogan "Find a home for this little one. Following an agreement with a buyer who was actually a cyber investigator, she showed up with the monkey in a basket near the Kho Hong Golf Course. She was arrested for violating Sections 17 and 29 of the Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act. Channel 7HD, May 6, 2022; The Thaiger, May 6, 2022.<sup>44</sup>

**VIET NAM**

**April 2, 2022**

**Huế, Thaa Thien Hué Province, Viet Nam**

Handing over of 3 Northern pig-tailed macaques (*Macaca leonina*, Appendix II) and one stump-tailed macaque (*Macaca arctoides*, Appendix II) dropped off at the Buddhist temple by worshippers hoping to attract good fortune. ENV, April 2, 2022.<sup>45</sup>

**April 7, 2022**

**Hung Yen Province, Viet Nam**

After 3 years of servitude, a stump-tailed macaque (*Macaca arctoides*, Appendix II) was saved by a Buddhist monk. The captivity had made him lose his hair and because of his poor health he was doomed to death by his jailer. He was transferred to the centre for endangered primates in Cuc Phuong National Park. ENV, April 7, 2022.<sup>46</sup>

**April 9, 2022**

**Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam**

Handing over of a Northern pig-tailed macaque (*Macaca leonina*, Appendix II) held captive for 5 years. Transfer to Cu Chi shelter. ENV, April 9, 2022.<sup>47</sup>

**April 12, 2022**

**Da Nang Province, Viet Nam**

Release of a Northern pig-tailed macaque (*Macaca leonina*, Appendix II) and a long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*, Appendix II) kept in captivity in a private home. One of them was so depressed by his years of detention that he did not dare to leave his cage immediately. ENV, April 12, 2022.<sup>48</sup>

**April 24, 2022**

**Dong Nai Province, Viet Nam**

Seizure of a Northern pig-tailed macaque (*Macaca leonina*, Appendix II) at a cultural centre and transfer to Dong Nai Reserve. ENV, April 24, 2022.<sup>49</sup>

**April 27, 2022**

**Ba To District, Quang Ngai Province, Viet Nam**



They had killed 5 grey-shanked douc langurs (*Pygathrix cinerea*, Appendix I) in October of the year 2021 (see "On the Trail" n°34 p.130). Six years in prison for the 2 poachers. ENV, April 28, 2022.<sup>50</sup>

**May 5, 2022**

**Kinh Môn District, Hai Duong Province, Viet Nam**

On National Road 17B, the car BS 29A - 333.01 driven by Mr. Ngo Truong Thanh was stopped. He had Le Thi Nga as a passenger and the police are not yet sure whether the loris (*Nycticebus* spp., Appendix I) found in the vehicle belongs to one or both of them. Thanh Niên, July 25, 2022.<sup>51</sup>

**End of May 2022**

**Ben Tre Province, Viet Nam**

Seizure of 3 Northern pig-tailed macaques (*Macaca leonina*, Appendix II) and a long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*, Appendix II), as well as a masked palm civet (*Paguma larvata*, Appendix III in India) and 2 porcupines at a zoo that claims to practice "ecotourism." A private individual had reported them to ENV. For ecotourism, we'll have to pass! The facilities are basic and the cages are cramped. ENV, May 26, 2022.<sup>52</sup>

**End of May 2022**

**Dak Lak Province, Viet Nam**

Seizure of a 4.5 kg macaque (*Macaca* spp., Appendix I or II) with a rope tied around his neck at a petrol station. ENV, May 28, 2022.<sup>53</sup>

**Beginning of June 2022**  
**Ho Chi Minh City Municipality, Viet Nam**



Handing over of a Northern pig-tailed macaque (*Macaca leonina*, Appendix II) held by private individuals. After 10 years in captivity, he joined his fellow macaques at the Cu Chi shelter.  
 ENV, June 4, 2022.<sup>54</sup>

**End of June 2022**  
**Gia Lai Province, Viet Nam**

Seizure of a Northern pig-tailed macaque (*Macaca leonina*, Appendix II) reported in a café by an ENV supporter. He now lives in Kon Ka Kinh National Park.

ENV, June 26, 2022.<sup>55</sup>

**End of June 2022**  
**Quan Binh Province, Viet Nam**

He had posted an ad on Facebook offering to sell a Northern pig-tailed macaque (*Macaca leonina*, Appendix II). The ad was spotted by law enforcement who traced it back to the seller. He was caught in the middle of the transaction and he explained that he had captured the macaque in the wild.

ENV, July 1, 2022.<sup>56</sup>

facebook

## SOUTHERN ASIA

### INDIA

**Night of April 12 to 13, 2022**  
**Dillai, Karbi Anglong District, State of Assam, India**



Five primates, one adult and 4 juveniles, seized from a Maruti Eeco Van with registration number MN-01-AG-5829 traveling from Dimapur towards Guwahati. Initially identified as chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*, Appendix I), at least one of them is believed to be a siamang (*Symphalangus syndactylus*, Appendix I). Habibur Rahman, age 46, and Janab Khan, age 50, both residents of Sangaiyumpham village in Thoubal district of Manipur, attempted to flee. The monkeys and the vehicle were handed over to the forest department for further investigation. The previous year, a significant consignment of smuggled exotic wildlife, including a baby kangaroo, a pair of capuchin monkeys, 6 hyacinth macaws, and 3 Aldabra tortoises was seized in the region (see "On the Trail" n° 30 p. 171). Hindustan Times, April 14, 2022; The Times of India, April 14, 2022.<sup>57</sup>

**Night of April 27 to 28, 2022**  
**Singimari, Kamrup District, State of Assam, India**

On board a truck bound for Hyderabad, 6 cages contained mammals who had fallen victim to international trafficking: 5 primates - including a Northern white-cheeked gibbon (*Nomascus leucogenys*, Appendix I) from Southeast Asia and a tufted capuchin (*Cebus apella*, synonymous with *Sapajus apella*, Appendix II) from South America - and a wallaby (family Macropodidae). Rahul Bafna was arrested while the driver of the vehicle managed to escape.

East Mojo, April 28, 2022; The Meghalayan, April 28, 2022; The Times of India, April 29, 2022.<sup>58</sup>

**May 9, 2022**  
**Moynaguri, Jalpaiguri District, State of West Bengal, India**



Seizure under the back seats of a bus coming from Assam and heading to Siliguri (600 km from central Assam) of 4 monkeys including a red-shanked douc langur (*Pygathrix nemaeus*, Appendix I) who were allegedly imported from Indonesia via Myanmar and Nepal. The black-market value of the 4 monkeys is estimated at 11 million rupees or 143,510 US\$. TV9 Bangla, May 11, 2022; The Hindu, May 12, 2022.<sup>59</sup>

**June 26, 2022**  
**Patan, Unnao District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India**

Saddam Beg and Nadeem Khan held 20 grey langurs (*Semnopithecus entellus*, Appendix I) in cages. They admit to trading them "for a living" and selling them to a trafficker in Badaun for 8,000 to 10,000 rupees (95 to 119 US\$) per specimen. They "stored" the monkeys in a decrepit shed owned by Ram Asrey Verma.

In 2021, 14 grey langurs were seized in Badaun and in 2018, 14 grey langurs were seized from smugglers in Shahjahanpur.

Business Insider India, June 27, 2022; The Times of India, June 27, 2022.<sup>60</sup>

**June 28, 2022**  
**Durgapur, Amethi District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India**

Three intoxicated teenagers, Sangam, Radhe and Suraj, filmed themselves near a beer hall kicking a rhesus macaque (*Macaca mulatta*, Appendix II) to death. They were arrested after the lynching was broadcast on social media.

Hindustan Times, June 29, 2022.<sup>61</sup>

## WESTERN EUROPE

### GERMANY

**April 28, 2022**  
**Duisburg, North Rhine-Westphalia State, Germany**



On the night of July 26-27, 2015, 3 golden lion tamarins (*Leontopithecus rosalia*, Appendix I), a pair and their offspring, were stolen from their enclosure at Krefeld Zoo. The zoo estimated their value at the time to be 25,000-30,000 € (27,830-33,400 US\$).

A 69-year-old suspect was identified after a long investigation. At least 225 monkeys of different species passed through his hands. He was collecting stolen specimens and operating a clandestine breeding operation. To avoid detection, he removed the identification chips, without anaesthesia, and applied a piece of tape as a bandage. During a search of his premises in the summer of 2018, there were only 14 monkey carcasses left in a freezer. According to his statement, the live specimens had been sent to Poland several months earlier.

His trial began on April 7, 2022. On April 28, the court decided to suspend the hearings to an unspecified later date due to the health condition of the defendant. A 39-year-old alleged accomplice was fined 2,400 € (2,670 US\$) for the theft of a turtle from Krefeld Zoo in the summer of 2015. His involvement in the theft of the monkeys has not been established.

Rheinische Post, April 5 and 29, 2022; t-online, April 7, 2022; DeineTierwelt, May 2, 2022.<sup>62</sup>

**May 31, 2022**  
**Kaufungen, Hesse State, Germany**



Seizure by the veterinary services of a white-eared marmoset (*Callithrix jacchus*, Appendix II) held in a rabbit cage. Her owner was offering her for sale on the Internet for 1,700 € or 1,780 US\$. The alert was raised by the NGO PETA, whose investigator had presented herself as a potential buyer. The female pocket monkey was fed baby food, dried bananas and marshmallows. She was purchased in Poland and smuggled into Germany.

PETA, June 1, 2022; nh24, June 2, 2022.<sup>63</sup>



## FRANCE

May 3, 2022

Brignais, Department of Rhône, France



Report of an "unidentified animal" in a private garden in the suburbs of the city of Lyon. In the end, members of the SPA seized a black-tufted marmoset (*Callithrix penicillata*, Appendix II). He was later entrusted to a specialized shelter.

Le Progrès, May 5, 2022.<sup>64</sup>

## THE NETHERLANDS

May 19, 2022

Tilburg, Province of North Brabant, The Netherlands



Seizure of 2 pygmy marmosets (*Callithrix pygmaea*, Appendix II) in a private home. In the Netherlands, it is forbidden for individuals to have a monkey in their home, regardless of his species and stature.

Korvel - Sint Anna neighbourhood agents, May 19, 2022; Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority, May 20, 2022.<sup>65</sup>

## SOUTHERN EUROPE

### GREECE

June 25, 2022

Spata, Region of Attica, Greece

A male chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*, Appendix I) escaped from his enclosure and wandered into the parking lot of the Attica Zoo. After 60 minutes of procrastination, he was shot dead. Jean-Jacques Lesueur, director of the zoo and a French-born businessman, said to the press that there was no other solution. "We isolated the animal and monitored him for 15 minutes, we tried to put him back in the zoo, he wouldn't go back, he was very nervous. There was no way of leading him to a safe place. We weren't able to capture him." "He had extremely high levels of adrenaline so that it was not possible to sedate him as it could take around 20 minutes for the drugs to kick in." The chimpanzee was 27 years old. Despite the zoo's justifications, there are strong protests. In 2018, 2 jaguars who had escaped from their cage had suffered the same fate.

The Deputy Minister of the Environment has finally launched an investigation into the zoo, the origin of the chimpanzees, the anti-escape devices and the protocols for protecting the public. The Attica Zoo, between Athens and the international airport, opened in 2000. It is a member of the European Association of Zoos and Aquariums (EAZA).

Greek Reporter, June 26, 2022; Zoos.gr, June 26 and July 7, 2022; Kathimerini, June 28, 2022.<sup>66</sup>

# ARMADILLOS, TAPIRS, PACAS, CAPYBARAS, COATIS AND PECCARIES

## AMERICA

### BOLIVIA

**April 17, 2022**

**Puerto Pailas, Province of Andrés Ibáñez, Department of Santa Cruz, Bolivia**

The police were stationed there, precisely during the Easter vacations, to check as many buses as possible heading to La Paz from Chiquitania, the Pantanal and the neighbouring department of Beni. A total of 9 pacas (*Cuniculus paca*, Appendix III in Honduras), 25 kg of South American tapir meat (*Tapirus terrestris*, Appendix II), 4 kg of armadillo meat (family Dasypodidae) and one kilo of grey brocket meat (*Mazama gouazoubira*) were seized from public transport vehicles. No arrest but a reprimand to the transport companies.

La Región, April 18, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

### BRAZIL

**End of April 2022**

**Timbó, State of Santa Catarina, Brazil**

Bloodcurdling: three armadillos (family Dasypodidae) and 4 wild animals of unidentified species for a total weight of 16 kg seized in a freezer. The 48-year-old man told police that he "won" them. SCC10, April 27, 2022.<sup>2</sup>



**April 28, 2022**

**Pindamonhangaba and Guaratinguetá, State of São Paulo, Brazil**

The environmental police, acting on a tip, intervened in Guaratinguetá and Pindamonhangaba to seize meat of wild animals: armadillo (family Dasypodidae), capybara (*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*), rabbit and lizard. Fine of 1,500 reais each or 320 US\$.

G1 Vale do Paraíba e Região, April 29, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

**May 8, 2022**

**Cajati, State of São Paulo, Brazil**

Fined 9,000 reais (1,913 US\$), the 2 biking poachers were caught with a 5-kg South American coati (*Nasua nasua*, *Nasua nasua solitaria*, Appendix III in Uruguay), a 1.7-kg armadillo (family Dasypodidae) and a 1.9-kg opossum (genus *Didelphis*) that they had shot the night before.

G1 Santos, May 9, 2022.<sup>4</sup>



**June 18, 2022**

**Nova Cantu, State of Paraná, Brazil**

Five poachers aged between 25 and 46, a pack of 10 dogs, and bags full of collared peccary meat (*Pecari tajacu*, Appendix II) uncovered in a Ford/F1000 and a Fiat Uno.

Rádio Copas Verdes FM, June 20, 2022.<sup>5</sup>



Two .38 caliber revolvers, a .32 caliber rifle, two .22 caliber rifles and ammunition were seized, in addition to dogs and peccary meat.

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**OPERATION GAME THIEF**

**June 12-13, 2022**

**Oro Valley, State of Arizona, United States of America**

A reward of 1,500 US\$ is offered to anyone who can identify the person who shot a collared peccary (*Pecari tajacu*, Appendix II except the populations of the United States of America and Mexico) in the head with an arrow. The peccary was finished off. Arizona Game and Fish Department, June 15, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

### FRANCE (FRENCH GUIANA)

**Night of June 17 to June 18, 2022**

**Macouria, Territorial Collectivity of Guiana, France**

"Macéio" the 6-year-old male tapir (*Tapirus* spp., Appendix I or II) is nowhere to be found. The zoo staff is worried. Did the individuals who sneaked into the zoo, 4 or 5 according to the footprints they left, take "Macéio"? And above all, is he still alive? The tapir finally reappeared 48 hours later. He has only slight wounds but is very affected by the attack. He is frightened by all the noises unknown to him.

France-Guyane, June 21, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

## AMERICA

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

#### Beginning of April 2022 Morgan County, State of Illinois, United States of America



Charged with the capture of a North American river otter (*Lontra canadensis*, Appendix II) using a prohibited trap while the otter hunting season was closed.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources, April 15, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

#### End of April 2022 State of Michigan, United States of America

Seizure of a North American river otter (*Lontra canadensis*, Appendix II) from a taxidermist as part of a poaching investigation initiated by Ohio Fish and Game.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources, April 30, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

## ASIA

### INDIA

#### April 20, 2022 Kaprada, Valsad District, State of Gujarat, India



Obscurantism does not pay: the one-year-old smooth-coated otter (*Lutrogale perspicillata*, Appendix I) was supposed to bring them good fortune and wealth. She had been caught in the Dodhla River. Bapubhai Ozariya wanted to sell her for 2.5 million rupees (33,000 US\$) to Jyotindra Pandya, Chirayu Patel, Ashok Bariya, and Indrajeetsinh Vaghela, who wanted to exploit her in a black magic ritual. They were fined 10,000 rupees (130 US\$) each.

The Times of India, April 20, 2022; Ahmedabad Mirror, April 21, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

## THAILAND

#### April 18, 2022 Khuan Lang, Songkhla Province, Thailand



Peerapat Bilde, 22 years old, was offering small-clawed otters for sale on Facebook. Posing as an interested buyer for 2 specimens, a forest police officer arranged to meet him at a service station in Khuan Lang. Peerapat was arrested and the 2 small-clawed otters (*Aonyx cinerea*, Appendix I) were seized. He explains that he bought them for 500 baht each from villagers (15 US\$). He resold them on Facebook for 2,500 baht each (75 US\$).

Mgonline.com, April 18, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

## VIET NAM

#### Beginning of May 2022 Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam

Handing over of 2 juvenile small-clawed otters (*Aonyx cinerea*, Appendix I) that the man had offered for sale on the Internet. Spotted by ENV and about to be checked by the authorities, he opted to hand them over to avoid trouble with the law. The otters were transferred to the Cu Chi shelter.

ENV, May 12, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

#### Mid-May 2022 Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam

Handing over of 2 otters (*Lutrinae*, Appendix I or II) that a man aged 70 picked up in November 2021 when someone was about to get rid of them. They were taken to the Cu Chi shelter before eventual release.

ENV, May 18, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

## EUROPE

### RUSSIA

#### May 1, 2022 Republic of Mari El, Russia

At the request of the prosecutor, access to 4 websites offering to purchase sea otter (*Enhydra lutris*, Appendix II) furs is blocked.

KRWG Mari El, May 1, 2022.<sup>7</sup>





Caucasian squirrel (*Sciurus anomalus*). Photo shahrzadasa

## AFRICA

### UGANDA

**April 22, 2022**

**Hima, Western Region, Uganda**

With no less than 68 kg of hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*, Appendix II) teeth, the trafficker was arrested.

Adams Cassinga, May 13, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

## AMERICA

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**April 5, 2022**

**Washington Dulles International Airport, State of Virginia, United States of America**

Seizure from the luggage of a passenger coming from Ghana and returning home to Maryland of 1.6 kg of smoked bat meat. Bushmeat is prohibited from being imported into the United States for health reasons, in particular the risk of spreading the Ebola virus.

US Customs and Border Protection, April 14, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

## ASIA

### INDIA

**April 1 and 2, 2022**

**Milanpally, Jalpaiguri District, State of West Bengal, India**



Thousands of miles from Australia, 3 live kangaroos (family Macropodidae) and one dead were found along the busy Gajoldoba Canal road. Probably bred in captivity and destined to be smuggled to Nepal, the juveniles had been abandoned in view of a patrol. They were transported to Bengal Safari, the wildlife park in Siliguri. One of them did not survive.

The Times of India, April 3, 2022; Deccan Herald, April 22, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

**May 11, 2022**

**Rangia, Kamrup Rural District, State of Assam, India**

Seizure of 2 Indian crested porcupines (*Hystrix indica*) from the truck of 4 traffickers, registration number UP 21 BN 7208. Sakib Ala, Sourav Pasa, Mahammad Ali, and Mahammad Mahrum from Muradabad, Uttar Pradesh, wanted to sell them for 500,000 rupees (6,500 US\$). The men and animals were handed over to the North Kamrup forestry division.

The Sentinel, May 12, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

**Mid-June 2022**

**Dombivli, Thane District, State of Maharashtra, India**

Vitthal Joshi, a businessman, thought that keeping mongooses in his house would bring him health and money. He was denounced by his neighbours and forest department officers seized 4 Indian grey mongooses (*Herpestes edwardsii*, Appendix III in India and Pakistan) from his home.

The Free Press Journal, June 13, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

**June 22, 2022**

**Vadodara, Vadodara District, State of Gujarat, India**

Indian crested porcupine (*Hystrix indica*) quills were seized from Mayaram Rajbha and his wife. They were arrested along with the supplying poacher. Although protected by the Indian Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, porcupines continue to be victims of superstition and greed.

*Hystrix indica*, see "On the Trail" n°18 p. 119, n°20 p. 124, n°24 p. 88, n°29 p. 105, n°30 p. 16 to 18, p. 170, p. 173, n°31 p. 183, n°32 p. 147, n°33 p. 237, n°34 p. 135, p. 225, n°35 p. 112 and p. 183.

The Times of India, June 24, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

**IRAN**

**Beginning of April 2022**

**Sardasht, West Azerbaijan Province, Iran**



Seizure of 32 Caucasian squirrels (*Sciurus anomalus*). Old data compiled by IUCN note a dangerous decline of the species in Lebanon, Syria and point to an imminent extinction in Israel as early as 1993. In 2007, the species was not considered "seriously endangered".

The status of the population on the Lesbos Islands in Greece is uncertain. Caucasian squirrels live in deciduous and coniferous forests up to 2,000 metres above sea level. The main threats to the species are deforestation and hunting of adults. This worrying seizure reveals that juveniles are being caught for the pet market. The species is not protected by CITES. According to Saeed Shahand, co-head of the West Azerbaijan Province in Iran, Caucasian squirrels contribute to the natural regeneration and conservation of oak forests.

Newsweek, April 8, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

**EUROPE**

**GERMANY**

**End of June 2022**

**Nuremberg, Bavaria State, Germany**



Seizure of a male European hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) put up for sale for 20€ (21,5 US\$) on eBay by an individual who had caught him in a park. He is gradually getting used to life in the wild in family gardens. Bild, June 27, 2022.<sup>8</sup>

**ITALY**

**May 2-6, 2022**

**Polistena, Metropolitan City of Reggio Calabria, Region of Calabria, Italy**

Seizure of 47 carcasses of fat dormouse (*Glis glis*) during a search. One indictment.

Gazzetta del Sud, May 6, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

**May 21 and 24, 2022**

**Grosseto, Province of Grosseto, Region of Tuscany, Italy**

After a report of a crested porcupine (*Hystrix cristata*) being used as bait in a trap cage, police officers monitored the area and arrested the poacher 3 days later when he returned to the scene. The porcupine was released.

Il Giunco, May 24, 2022.<sup>10</sup>





**Mid-June 2022**

**Rivoli, Metropolitan City of Turin, Region of Piedmont, Italy**

It's not just in the United Kingdom that teenagers play football with European hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*). In Italy, they set their sights on a hedgehog and finished him off by hitting him with a metal bar and throwing him at people passing by. TorinoToday, June 25, 2022.<sup>11</sup>

## UNITED KINGDOM

**April 14, 2022**

**Aberdare, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough, Wales, United Kingdom**

A European hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) was burned alive in a park by the cruelty of idle children. A passerby tried to save the animal, but unfortunately he had to be put out of his misery. WalesOnline, April 16, 2022.<sup>12</sup>



The fire melted the spines of the hedgehog.

**June 20, 2022**

**Shenley, Hertfordshire County, England, United Kingdom**

Teenagers aged 12 to 13 years kick and throw stones at a female European hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*). They are chased away by 2 bystanders. At the hedgehog rescue center, the victim gives birth to 3 babies who will not survive. As for her, she is covered with wounds, half blind, unable to eat, and has been put down shortly after. Borehamwood Times, June 24, 2022; Metro, June 30, 2022.<sup>13</sup>



**June 28, 2022**

**Castleford, West Yorkshire County, England, United Kingdom**

Unknown persons have trapped a European hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) in a bulldog clip. A good Samaritan saw him at 2 a.m. and freed him. The animal was too injured to walk. A veterinarian amputated one of his legs. His prognosis is uncertain. "Having been a wildlife officer for the last ten years you think you have become immune to how cruel people can be, but I have just dealt with one that is beyond belief," says the officer in charge of the case.

West Yorkshire Police, June 29, 2022; ITV, July 1, 2022.<sup>14</sup>

## RUSSIA

**April 2022**

**Mongun-Tayginsky District, Tuva Oblast, Russia. Border with Mongolia.**



A 60-year-old man, visiting one of his shepherd friends, spots Tarbagan marmot (*Marmota sibirica*) burrows. He sets up 2 traps. The next day, a marmot has been caught. He kills him with a stone. He was arrested by policemen when he returned to the shepherds' camp.

Tuva-Online, July 8, 2022; Zapad24, July 8, 2022.<sup>15</sup>







Northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*). Photo Pixie Wee

## NORTHERN AFRICA

### MOROCCO

#### Beginning of April 2022

##### Ait Hadi, Marrakech-Safi region, Morocco

Karim A. was carrying 28 Psittaciformes (Appendix I or II) and 2 European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine) without certificate of origin. They were seized by the Royal Gendarmerie and an investigation is underway. Sawah News, April 8, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

#### June 15, 2022

##### Oujda, Oriental Region, Maroc

The 2,400 European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine) did not reach Algeria as the occupants of the house had planned. There were 40 of them per cage.

Goldfinches in Morocco, see "On the Trail" n°17 p.29, n°20 p.34, n°27 p.42, n°28 p.41, n°29 p.110, n°30 p.104, n°33 p.150 and n°34 p.138 and 139. H24Info, June 16, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

#### June 22, 2022

##### Rouadi, Tanger-Tetouan-Al Hoceima Region, Morocco

2,400 in Oujda, 50 in Rouadi. "In recent years, the phenomenon of hunting and smuggling of European goldfinches [*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine] has become widespread" according to the media Dalil-rif.com. Three people were arrested.

Dalil-rif.com, June 22, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

### TUNISIA

#### April 21, 2022

##### Ben Arous, Governorate of Ben Arous, Tunisia

Next to the fruit and vegetable stalls in the souk, a young short-toed eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*, Appendix II) was for sale for 100 dinars (34 US\$). The bird of prey was reported by Hichem Azafzaf, president of the Friends of Birds (FOB), an association that has set up a system to monitor poaching and trafficking in a country where there is a serious lack of means to address violations and strictly enforce the law on hunting and wildlife conservation. La Presse de Tunisie, April 25, 2022.<sup>4</sup>



**May 27, 2022**

### **Rouhia, Governorate of Siliana, Tunisia**

The eaglet saved from predators and thirst on June 19, 2019 by a forest ranger in the Kef region was named "Watan." Thanks to the efforts and investment of the associations Les Amis des Oiseaux and Moulins Mahjoub, it was released 3 years later. The golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*, Appendix II) adult, brown and golden, is a symbol of strength and freedom in ancient civilizations. The flags of Egypt, Mexico, and Kazakhstan bear its mark. In Tunisia, the golden eagle is a sedentary breeder in danger of extinction. The population was estimated at 40-50 couples in 1990. With a wingspan approaching 2 metres, they are a target of choice for shooters and fanatics. Let's hope that "Watan" resists the shock of freedom and finds a partner in the mountains.

Réalités, May 27, 2022; Kapitalis, May 31, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

## **WESTERN AFRICA**

### **GUINEA-BISSAU**

**May 2022**

#### **Guinea-Bissau**

New hard blow. 32 vultures have just been poisoned and most of them were decapitated. This vulture poisoning follows one another in Guinea Bissau: see "On the Trail" n°31 p.113, n°32 p.150 and n°35 p. 113. They are most often decapitated and the heads are sold for various uses related to superstition, black magic and charlatanism. A vulture mission funded by Raptors Memorandum of Understanding (Raptors MoU), BirdLife International and the Vulture Conservation Foundation and coordinated by ODZH (Organização para Defesa e Desenvolvimento das Zonas Húmidas) and IBAP (Instituto da Biodiversidade e das Áreas Protegidas) conducted 2 educational workshops where experts and 50 rangers, reserve managers and police officers, shared their knowledge and recommendations. The mission also visited the slaughterhouse in Bissau and had the opportunity to observe up close 200 hooded vultures (*Necrosyrtes monachus*, Appendix II) that are habituated to the site.



Vulture Conservation Foundation, May 30, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

## **NIGERIA**

**June 22, 2022**

#### **Kano, Kano State, Nigeria**

Customs seized 97 grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*, Appendix I) in the north of the country near the border with Niger. They were handed over to the Kano Zoo, which does not seem to be a haven of peace. They are expected to remain there during the investigation.

Daily Trust, June 22, 2022; Daily Nigerian, June 23, 2022; National Environmental Standards & Regulations Enforcement Agency, June 25, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

## **CENTRAL AFRICA**

### **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

**June 11, 2022**

#### **Kahuzi-Biega National Park, Sud-Kivu Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo**



Progressive release of 18 grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*, Appendix I). First 3 weeks in an aviary in the Kahuzi-Biega park, then an open house. They spent a year readjusting to the wild after being seized from the hands of grey parrot brokers. The species is gregarious and noisy, easy to catch in numbers and each specimen can sell for between 500 US\$ and 3,000 US\$ on the international pet market depending on age, sex and ability to mimic human speech.

Lwiro Primates, June 11, 2022.<sup>8</sup>

### **REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

**June 29, 2022**

#### **Brazzaville, Department of Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo**

Who wants a grey parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*, Appendix I) for Christmas or New Year's Eve? Arrested in December 2021 in Lifoula and Brazzaville (see "On the Trail" n°34 p.140), Ibanda and Kiwa Malela, who had a total of 17 parrots for sale, were sentenced to 2 years in prison, suspended, and fined one million CFA francs (1,640 US\$) and 2 million CFA francs in damages. After their arrest, they were provisionally released. PALF, May and June 2022.<sup>9</sup>





## EASTERN AFRICA

### KENYA

**June 30, 2022**

**Itthe Kahuno, Nyeri County, Kenya**

The operation was carried out successively by a hiker, by Karuri, a friend of the hiker and member of Nature Kenya, by the Peregrine Fund, the Kenya Bird of Prey Trust (KBoPT), the KWS and a volunteer pilot who transported the victim from Nyeri to Soysambu where the KBoPT caretakers took care of it. Initially in the Mount Kenya village, the crowned eagle (*Stephanoaetus coronatus*, Appendix II) was being mistreated and tied up in a goat's hut by a man named Ndiritu who claimed he wanted to get rid of it. "it had fallen out of its nest ... where it was holding a cat," he said, preparing his defence in case the KWS guys came to bother him.

Nation, July 14, 2022.<sup>10</sup>



### UGANDA

**April 16 and May 12, 2022**

**Kibaya, Western Region, Uganda. Border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo.**

A Congolese national was arrested with 2 wooden boxes containing 122 grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*, Appendix I). Three had died of suffocation. Bob Mbaya Kabongo (33), in tears, was sentenced to 7 years in prison. "Non-Ugandans have turned this country into a hub of illicit trade, which has led to increased crime related to wildlife in Uganda," said judge Kamasanyu. The imported parrots were handed over to the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Center (UWEC).

ChimpReports, April 21, 2022; Daily Monitor, April 21, 2022; Uganda Radio Network, May 12, 2022.<sup>11</sup>



## SOUTHERN AFRICA

### SOUTH AFRICA

**June 20, 2022**

**Roodepoort, Gauteng Province, South Africa**

The 2 robbers chose the wrong target. They offered to sell a barn owl (*Tyto alba*, Appendix II) to a police officer caught in a traffic jam and off duty. The owl was taken to the Johannesburg Veterinary Hospital. "It was incubating or warming the chicks, you can tell by a featherless area on the abdomen that aids in incubating eggs or keeping young chicks warm." The 2 men are expected to appear in the Roodepoort Magistrates' Court shortly.

Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary Hospital, June 22, 2022.<sup>12</sup>



## NORTHERN AMERICA

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**April 17, 2022**

**Fredonia, State of Wisconsin, United States of America**

A bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, Appendix II) is found on the banks of the Milwaukee River. It was dying. It has been put to death. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is seeking the public's help in identifying the killer.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, April 27, 2022.<sup>13</sup>

**Beginning of May 2022**

**Miami-Dade County, State of Florida, United States of America**

An exotic bird dealer is charged. He sold several specimens without a sales licence and is unable to provide proof of purchase for birds already in his possession.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, May 5, 2022.<sup>14</sup>

**End of May 2022**

**San Francisco, State of California, United States of America**

The San Francisco Zoo received 3 yellow-crowned amazons (*Amazona ochrocephala*, Appendix II) from Latin America, 2 males and 1 female, seized by customs. They were placed in the zoo by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. They will be introduced in the next 2 weeks in the South American tropical bird aviary.

San Francisco Zoo, June 14, 2022.<sup>15</sup>



**June 9, 2022**

**Salt Lake City, State of Utah, United States of America**

Sentence of Michael Earl Yellow, 56, to 3 years and 10 months in prison for dealing in feathers and other parts of bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, Appendix II) and golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*, Appendix II). Between August 2014 and August 2015, Yellow admitted to fatally shooting 10 of these raptors, but the total death toll is believed to be around 80 specimens. Yellow had a prior felony conviction and was prohibited from owning or using a firearm.

Environmental Crimes Monthly Bulletin, April and July 2022; US Department of Justice, June 9, 2022.<sup>16</sup>



**June 15, 2022**

**Boise, State of Idaho, United States of America**

Two young men, 20 and 23 years old, are sentenced to 2 years of probation, 15 hours of community service related to wildlife conservation, a two-year hunting ban and a two-year ban from possessing firearms, the permanent forfeit of their rifles, pistols, ammunition and flashlights. They were also ordered to pay 3,000 US\$ and 3,800 US\$ in damages to the Idaho Fish and Game Department for shooting a golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*, Appendix II) and 5 red-tailed hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*, Appendix II) in a protected area on April 10, 2021. One of the raptors found dying was put out of its misery.

US Department of Justice, June 15, 2022.<sup>17</sup>



**June 2022**

**Macomb County, State of Michigan, United States of America**

The guy claimed to have shot squirrels, but on the ground were nest remnants and 3 dead hawk (Accipitridae, Appendix I or II) chicks. Having just been informed by the lumberjacks working on his property that a tree could not be cut down because it housed an active nest, the guy went for his rifle and shot up there several times. His crime will be submitted to the county prosecutor.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources, June 25, 2022.<sup>18</sup>

**LATIN AMERICA**

**ARGENTINA**

**Beginning of April 2022**

**Veinticinco de Mayo, Province of La Pampa, Argentina**

Seized rheas (*Rhea* spp., Appendix I or II). The birds were handed over to the Sub-secretariat of the Environment for release.

El Diario de La Pampa, April 4, 2022.<sup>19</sup>

**Mid-April 2022**

**Chajarí, Province of Entre Ríos, Argentina**

Among the hundred or so birds seized, there were 27 yellow cardinals (*Gubernatrix cristata*, Appendix II). After genetic analysis to determine to which population each individual belongs, they should be released to their traditional habitats of Nandubay and Espinillares forests. This is not a guarantee of safety for them, as poachers still know where to find them. Reinforced protection measures are needed in the field.

Entre Rios Government, April 16, 2022.<sup>20</sup>



**End of May 2022**

**Province of Catamarca, Argentina**



When he saw the police officers, the motorcyclist abandoned a box on State Road 157 before fleeing. Inside was a juvenile barn owl (*Tyto alba*, Appendix II), which should be released.

Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, May 23, 2022.<sup>21</sup>

May 30, 2022  
Buenos Aires, Argentina



An illegal bird farm was discovered in a house in the Monte Castro neighbourhood with 24 specimens worth 450,000 US\$. Seven blue-fronted amazons (*Amazona aestiva*, Appendix II), 2 grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*, Appendix I), 4 blue-and-yellow macaws (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II), 2 red-and-green macaws (*Ara chloropterus*, Appendix II), 3 toucans (family Ramphastidae), 2 Patagonian conures (*Cyanoliseus patagonus*, Appendix II), 2 monk parakeets (*Myiopsitta monachus*, Appendix II) and a ringed teal (*Callonetta leucophrys*) were transferred to the Costanera Sur Ecological Reserve and the Temaikén Biopark. Two females were arrested and charged. Infobae, May 31, 2022.<sup>22</sup>

#### Mid-June 2022 Buenos Aires Province, Argentina

Seizure of a scarlet macaw (*Ara macao*, Appendix I) and a blue-and-yellow macaw (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II). El Eco, June 18, 2022.<sup>23</sup>

## BELIZE

#### Week of May 16, 2022 Payne's Creek National Park, Toledo District, Belize

TIDE (Toledo Institute for Development and Environment) is protesting against incursions, clearing and poaching in Payne's Creek National Park. Yellow-headed amazon (*Amazona oratrix*, Appendix I) chicks have just been stolen from their nests and they have virtually no hope of surviving, according to TIDE experts. Toledo Institute for Development and Environment, May 22, 2022.<sup>24</sup>

## BRAZIL

#### 2,044 birds seized in Brazil between April 1 and July 31, 2022 according to official and media sources

456 saffron finches (*Sicalis flaveola*)  
155 chestnut-bellied seed finches (*Oryzoborus angolensis*)  
150 great-billed seed finches (*Sporophila maximiliani*)  
98 double-collared seedeaters (*Sporophila caerulea*)  
71 ultramarine grosbeaks (*Cyanocornis brissonii*)  
60 red-cowled cardinals (*Paroaria dominicana*)  
58 chopi blackbirds (*Gnorimopsar chopi*)  
57 green winged saltators (*Saltator similis*)  
56 campo troupials (*Icterus jamaicensis*)  
47 rufous-collared sparrows (*Zonotrichia capensis*)  
45 red pileated finches (*Coryphospingus cucullatus*)  
45 cinnamon tanagers (*Schistochlamys ruficapillus*)  
45 white-necked thrushes (*Turdus albicollis*)  
44 ruddy-breasted seedeaters (*Sporophila minuta*)  
33 picazuro pigeons (*Patagioenas picazuro*)  
29 parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II)  
23 yellow-bellied seedeaters (*Sporophila nigricollis*)  
18 eared doves (*Zenaidura macroura*)  
17 Atlantic canaries (*Serinus canaria*)  
16 red-headed cardinals (genus *Paroaria*)  
14 blue-black grassquits (*Volatinia jacarina*)  
11 golden-capped conures (*Aratinga auricapillus*, Appendix II)  
9 rufous-bellied thrushes (*Turdus rufiventris*)  
8 bananaquits (*Coereba flaveola*)  
7 blue-fronted amazons (*Amazona aestiva*, App. II)  
7 white-throated seedeaters (*Sporophila albogularis*)  
7 burnished-buff tanagers (*Tangara cayana*)  
6 doves (genus *Columbina*)  
4 blue-and-yellow macaws (*Ara ararauna*, App. II)  
4 tanagers (genus *Thraupis*)  
3 peach-fronted conures (*Aratinga aurea*, App. II)  
3 sooty-capped bush tanagers (*Chlorospingus pileatus*)  
3 epaulet orioles (*Icterus cayanensis*)  
3 parrots (*Pionus* spp., Appendix II)  
3 black-throated grosbeaks (*Saltator fuliginosus*)  
3 hooded siskins (*Spinus magellanicus*)  
3 lined seedeaters (*Sporophila lineola*)  
3 ruby-crowned tanagers (*Tachyphonus coronatus*)  
3 thrushes (genus *Turdus*)  
2 lovebirds (*Agapornis* spp., Appendix I)  
2 caatinga parakeets (*Aratinga cactorum*, App. II)  
2 yellow-chevrons parakeets (*Brotogeris chiriri*, Appendix II)  
2 toucans (family Ramphastidae)  
2 greater rheas (*Rhea americana*, Appendix II)  
1 red-browed amazon (*Amazona rhodocorytha*, Appendix I)  
1 yellow-faced amazon (*Amazona xanthops*, Appendix II)  
1 slaty-breasted wood rail (*Aramides saracura*)  
1 white-eyed conure (*Aratinga leucophthalma*, Appendix II)  
1 blond-crested woodpecker (*Celeus flavescens*)  
1 scaled dove (*Columbina squammata*)  
1 white-bellied seedeater (*Sporophila leucoptera*)  
1 plumbeous seedeater (*Sporophila plumbea*)  
399 unidentified birds



## BRAZIL

**2,044 birds seized in Brazil between April 1 and July 31, 2022  
according to official and media sources**



Map sources, see page 238





Chestnut-bellied seed finch (*Sporophila angolensis*)



Approximately 330 birds, including chestnut-bellied seed finches (*Sporophila angolensis*) and great-billed seed finch (*Sporophila maximiliani*). Early April 2022. State of Minas Gerais.



A toucan (family Ramphastidae), 1 blue-and-yellow macaw (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II) and 1 red-browed amazon (*Amazona rhodocorytha*, Appendix I) and other parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II). May 27, 2022. Coronel Fabriciano, State of Minas Gerais.



Two blue-and-yellow macaws (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II). June 2, 2022. Paraíso do Tocantins, State of Tocantins.



73 wild animals, including 14 yellow-bellied seedeaters (*Sporophila nigricollis*), 9 ultramarine grosbeaks (*Cyanocompsa brissonii*), 8 red-headed cardinals (genus *Paroaria*), and 4 parakeets (Psittacidae, App. I or II). May 9, 2022. Salvador, State of Bahia.

## CHILE

**May 30, 2022**

### **Mostazal, Province of Cachapoal, Region of O'Higgins, Chile**

Five macaws (*Ara* spp., Appendix I or II), including 3 blue-and-yellow macaws (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II), seized from a property on Avenida el Rincón. The birds were placed in the custody of the Agriculture and Livestock Service (SAG), while the jailer was given a warning.

RedGol, May 30, 2022.<sup>25</sup>

## COSTA RICA

**May 11, 2022**

### **Tucurrique, Cartago Province, Costa Rica**

Seizure in 2 neighbouring houses of a Central American squirrel monkey (*Saimiri oerstedii*, Appendix I) and 14 birds including Finsch's parakeets (*Aratinga finschi*, Appendix II), black-faced solitaires (*Myadestes melanops*), yellow-faced grassquits (*Tiaris olivaceus*), and cinnamon-rumped seedeater (*Sporophila torqueola*).

Teletica, May 13, 2022.<sup>26</sup>



**Beginning of June 2022**

### **Orotina and San Mateo, Alajuela Province and Quebrada Ganado and Garabito, Puntarenas Province, Costa Rica**



Seizure of 12 birds, including a parrot (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II), 2 scarlet macaws (*Ara macao*, Appendix I) and an owl (Strigidae, Appendix I or II) with lesions on its left eye. They were handed over to a specialized shelter for possible release. The section of crimes against the environment was set up 2 months ago and already 54 wild animals have been seized.

La Nación, June 6, 2022.<sup>27</sup>

## ECUADOR

**June 9, 2022**

### **Joya de los Sachas, Province of Orellana, Ecuador**

With their flight feathers cut off, the 10 birds were pinned to the ground. One scarlet macaw (*Ara macao*, Appendix I), 4 southern mealy amazons (*Amazona farinosa*, Appendix II), 2 blue-headed parrots (*Pionus menstruus*, Appendix II), one yellow-crowned amazon (*Amazona ochrocephala*, Appendix II), one orange-winged amazon (*Amazona amazonica*, Appendix II) and one cobalt-winged parakeet (*Brotogeris cyanoptera*, Appendix II) were seized in the yard of a house. The feather cutter is in custody awaiting trial.

Ministry of the Environment, Water and Ecological Transition, June 9, 2022.<sup>28</sup>

## FRANCE (FRENCH GUIANA)

**End of May 2022**

### **Matoury, Territorial Collectivity of Guiana, France**

Feathers cut, inadequate food and habitat... A blue-and-yellow macaw (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II) was held in very poor conditions. The jailer said he picked it up on the road while it was still a chick.

French Biodiversity Agency, July 2022.<sup>29</sup>

**Beginning of June 2022**

### **Rémire-Montjoly, Territorial Collectivity of Guiana, France**



A "splendid" juvenile great black hawk (*Buteogallus urubitinga*, Appendix II) injured by a rifle shot will be able to fly again "when the bone is healed".

French Biodiversity Agency, July 2022.<sup>30</sup>



June 2022

**Saint-Laurent du Maroni, Territorial Collectivity of Guiana, France**

A scarlet macaw (*Ara macao*, Appendix I) and a blue-and-yellow macaw (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II) seized from a private garden were placed in a care center to regain strength. Initial progress was made. They were each in a cage but are now reunited. They had been bought in Suriname without any administrative formalities. The owner chose to get rid of them when he received a visit from the gendarmerie alerted by a passer-by.

French Biodiversity Agency, July 2022.<sup>31</sup>



**HONDURAS**

**Beginning of April 2022**

**Km 94 of the Canal Seco, Departments of La Paz or of Comayagua, Honduras**

He did not have his papers and was carrying 68 parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II) in a box. The trafficker will be the subject of legal proceedings. Channel 6 Honduras, April 6, 2022.<sup>32</sup>

**MEXICO**

**Mid-May 2022**

**State of Morelos, Mexico**

Thirty parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II) kept in very poor conditions were seized. The period from February to May is the season for poaching parakeet, parrot and macaw chicks.

Profepa, May 18, 2022; Sdponoticias, May 18, 2022.<sup>33</sup>

**PARAGUAY**

**Beginning of April 2022**

**Asunción, Paraguay**

Sentencing of the 4 sellers of 3 hyacinth macaws (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*, Appendix I) via the Internet to a global fine of 800 million guaranies or about 115,000 US\$ (see "On the Trail" n°34 p. 147).

Hoy, April 5, 2022.<sup>34</sup>



**SURINAME**

**May 12, 2022**

**Johan Adolf Pengel International Airport, Zanderij, Para District, Suriname**

Seizure from the luggage of K.R. aged 82 years of 3 chestnut-bellied seed finches (*Oryzoborus angolensis*).

Suriname Herald, May 14, 2022.<sup>35</sup>

**THE CARIBBEAN**

**UNITED KINGDOM (CAYMAN ISLANDS)**

**May 25, 2022**

**George Town, Grand Cayman Island, Cayman Islands British Overseas Territory, United Kingdom**



Alfred Garmon Dixon was sentenced to 2,000 KY\$ (2,440 US\$) and 200 hours of community service after stealing Cuban parrot (*Amazona leucocephala*, Appendix I) chicks from their nest. They died about ten days later. He wanted "out of ignorance of the law", according to his lawyer, "to provide a gift for his son".

Cayman Compass, May 26, 2022; Loop News, June 18, 2022.<sup>36</sup>

**Mid-June 2022**

**Cayman Islands British Overseas Territory, United Kingdom**



The emblem of the islands is desecrated again. A nest of Cuban parrots (*Amazona leucocephala*, Appendix I) has been vandalized. The chicks are dead and the parents are struggling to recover.

Cayman Islands Department of Environment, June 17, 2022.<sup>37</sup>

**TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

**April 13, 2022**

**Las Cuevas, San Juan-Laventille Region, Trinidad and Tobago**

Before they can fly away, macaw chicks (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II) are stolen from the nests. Like every nesting season, to facilitate the raid, planks that serve as ladders are nailed to the trunks of the trees.

Trinidad and Tobago Guardian, April 14, 2022.<sup>38</sup>



April 17, 2022

**Barataria, San Juan-Laventille Region, Trinidad and Tobago**



Officers were searching a house for weapons but instead found 250 birds, including chicks. Parrots and parakeets (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II), including blue-and-yellow macaws (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II), chestnut-bellied seed finches (*Oryzoborus angolensis*) and grey seedeaters (*Sporophila*

*intermedia*), locally called "picoplat". A capuchin (*Cebus* spp., synonymous with *Sapajus* spp., Appendix II) was also seized. All were taken to the Emperor Valley Zoo.

Trinidad and Tobago Guardian, April 18, 2022; Loop News, April 19, 2022.<sup>39</sup>

June 29, 2022

**Moruga, Princes Town Region, Trinidad and Tobago**



Seizure in a house of 13 yellow-crowned amazons (*Amazona ochrocephala*, Appendix II), 3 blue-and-yellow macaws (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II), one white-eyed conure (*Aratinga leucophthalma*, Appendix II) and one weeper capuchin (*Cebus olivaceus*, Appendix II). The occupant was heard by police, taken into custody and released on bail pending trial.

Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries, July 1, 2022.<sup>40</sup>

**CENTRAL ASIA**

**KAZAKHSTAN**

April 30, 2022

**Fyodorov District, Kostanay District, Kazakhstan**

In the fields as far as the eye can see, 2 individuals



were poaching common cranes (*Grus grus*, Appendix II). The 2 undeclared guns were confiscated. A criminal procedure is opened under Article 337 of the Criminal Code of the Republic.

Kostanay News, May 1, 2022; Our Kostanay, May 1, 2022.<sup>41</sup>

**EASTERN ASIA**

**MONGOLIA**

May 16, 2022

**Mongolia**



"Pelican beaks for sale." The classified ad on the Internet was quite surprising, especially since it is forbidden to hunt the Dalmatian pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*, Appendix I) in Mongolia. In fact, the seller had bought the beaks in Kazakhstan where 2 species live, the Dalmatian pelican and the great white pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*). The ad was withdrawn after the police investigation.

Mongolyn Medee, May 17, 2022.<sup>42</sup>

## SOUTHEASTERN ASIA

### CAMBODIA

**May 17, 2022**

**Peam Antung, Kampong Speu Province, Cambodia**

A police raid on a private home resulted in the seizure of a real menagerie: a parrot (*Psittacidae*, Appendix I or II), 5 green peafowls (*Pavo muticus*, Appendix II), 8 wreathed hornbills (*Rhyticeros undulatus*, Appendix II), 2 red-breasted parakeets (*Psittacula alexandri*, Appendix II), one rufous-winged buzzard (*Butastur liventer*, Appendix II), 4 changeable hawk-eagles (*Spizaetus cirrhatus*, Appendix II), one black-shouldered kite (*Elanus axillaris*, Appendix II) and 6 live mouse deer (family *Tragulidae*), all alive. Two concave-casqued hornbills (*Buceros bicornis*, Appendix I) were found dead. Chan Bunthou (27 years old) was arrested. The animals were taken to the zoo and wildlife rescue centre in Phnom Tamao.

The Phnom Penh Post, May 18, 2022.<sup>43</sup>

### INDONESIA

**April 7, 2022**

**Solok, West Sumatra Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia**

Anton Nofrizal was sentenced to 6 months in prison and fined the equivalent of 700 US\$ for attempting to smuggle 391 birds, blue-winged leafbirds (*Chloropsis cochinchinensis*), blue-masked leafbirds (*Chloropsis venusta*) and greater green leafbirds (*Chloropsis sonnerati*), to the island of Java (see "On the Trail" n°34 p.150).

FLIGHT - Protecting Indonesia's Birds, May 18, 2022.<sup>44</sup>

**Mid-May 2022**

**Siak, Siak Regency, Riau Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia**

Muhammad Wahyu Susanto is sentenced to one year's imprisonment and a fine of 50 million rupiah or 3,370 US\$ for attempting to smuggle greater green leafbirds (*Chloropsis sonnerati*), blue-masked leafbirds (*Chloropsis venusta*), lesser green leafbirds (*Chloropsis cyanopogon*), blue-winged leafbirds (*Chloropsis cochinchinensis*), Indonesian serins (*Chrysocorythus estherae*), long-tailed shrikes (*Lanius schach*), and black-headed bulbuls (*Pycnonotus atriceps*).

FLIGHT - Protecting Indonesia's Birds, May 20, 2022.<sup>45</sup>

**May 2022**

**Pekanbaru, Riau Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia**

The man who tried to sell 4 helmeted hornbills (*Rhinoplax vigil*, Appendix I) in Pekanbaru in September 2021 was sentenced to one year and 6 months in prison and fined 10 million rupiah or 690 US\$.

FLIGHT - Protecting Indonesia's Birds, June 3, 2022.<sup>46</sup>

**May 2022**

**Pekanbaru, Riau Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia**

Sentence of Arif Irawan to 8 months in prison and a fine of 5 million rupiah for attempting to sell 29 long-tailed parakeets (*Psittacula longicauda*, Appendix II) via Facebook.

FLIGHT - Protecting Indonesia's Birds, June 10, 2022.<sup>47</sup>

**June 13, 2022**

**Surabaya, East Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia**

Sentence of Clinton Sianturi to one year and 6 months in prison for attempting to disembark the container ship *Tanto Siap* with 100 dusky lorries (*Pseudeos fuscata*, Appendix II), 3 black-capped lorries (*Lorius lory*, Appendix II) and 55 crimson finches (*Neochmia phaeton*). It was February 16, 2022 at around 8:00 a.m. at Tanjung Perak port and the *Tanto Siap* was coming from the port of Timika, Papua Province.



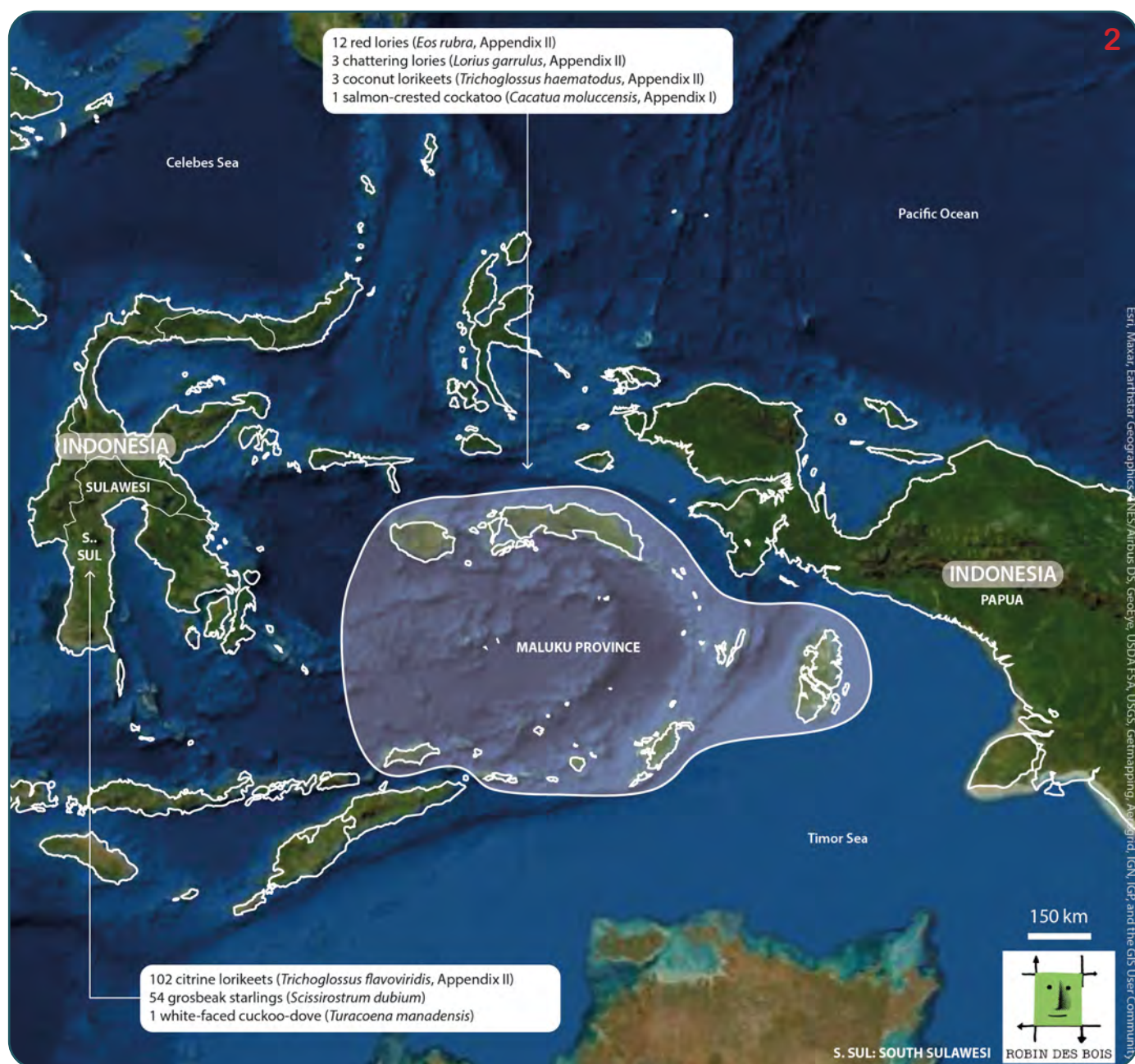
Liputan6.com, February 18, 2022; Kanalindonesia.com, May 19, 2022; FLIGHT - Protecting Indonesia's Birds, June 17, 2022.<sup>48</sup>



## 12,443 birds seized in Indonesia between April 1 and June 30, 2022 according to official and media sources







Map sources : iNews Maluku, April 2, 2022 ; FLIGHT – Protecting Indonesia's Birds, April 7, 18, 19 and 20, May 9, 14, 16, 25 and 28, June 6, 7, 14, 19, 23, 24 and 25, July 2 and 4 juillet ; SINDOnews, April 13, 2022 ; Environment and Forestry Instrument Standardization Agency, April 29, 2022 ; Mistar.id, June 6, 2022 ; Rilis.id, June 10, 2022 ; Bisnis Sumatra, June 17, 2022 ; Sumbarkita.id, June 17, 2022 ; BKSDA Kalimantan Selatan, June 18, 2022 ; Bandar Lampung Class I Agricultural Quarantine Hall, June 24, 2022.



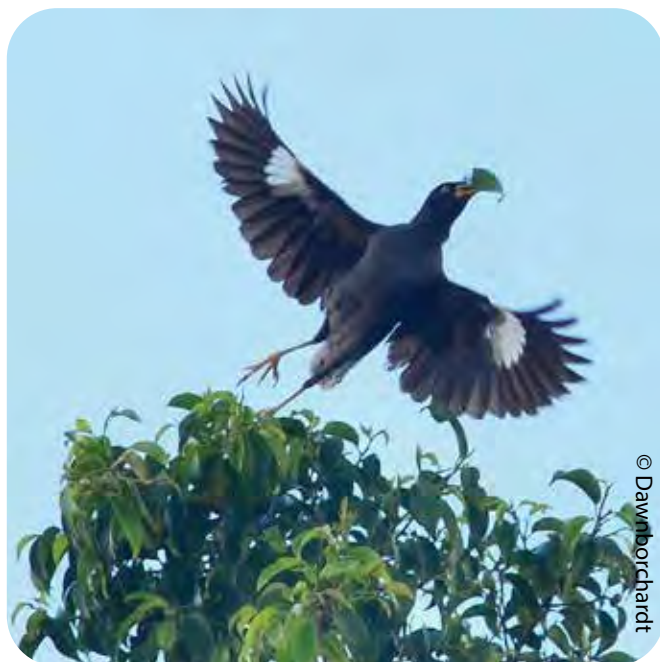
© Michael Hains

Brahminy kite (*Haliastur indus*)



© Dipika Bhupesh Kurade

Ashy drongo (*Dicrurus leucophaeus*)



© Dawnbordardt

Javan mynas (*Acridotheres javanicus*)



© Abinash Biswal

Cinereous tit (*Parus cinereus*)



## MALAYSIA

**April 19, 2022**

### **Off Tanjung Pengelih, State of Johor, Malaysia**

With all lights off, the vessel was bound for Singapore to smuggle 540 Oriental magpie-robins (*Copsychus saularis*), 120 white-rumped shamas (*Copsychus malabaricus*) and 14 fighting cocks during the night. The pilot was intercepted approximately 1.2 nautical miles from shore. The birds were turned over to the Pahang Department of Wildlife and National Parks. The Sun Daily, April 20, 2022.<sup>49</sup>

**April 20, 2022**

### **Setapak, State of Selangor, Malaysia**

Two men were arrested with 2 white-rumped shamas (*Copsychus malabaricus*) worth an estimated 160,000 ringgit (38,000 US\$) and 186 boxes of fireworks worth 650,000 ringgit (154,600 US\$). Free Malaysia Today, April 24, 2022.<sup>50</sup>

**May 29, 2022**

### **Kampung Jubakar, State of Kelantan, Malaysia. Border with Thailand.**

The vehicle stopped at a roadside checkpoint was carrying 32 baskets containing 541 white-rumped shamas (*Copsychus malabaricus*) with an estimated value of 571,500 ringgit (131,000 US\$ and 240 US\$ per specimen). The 28-year-old driver, from Perak, was about to cross the border but instead he ended up in jail.

The Sun Daily (with Bernama), May 30, 2022.<sup>51</sup>

**May 31, 2022**

### **Bukit Merah and Gerik, State of Perak, Malaysia**

Double blow to traffickers on the same day.

- A 44-year-old man was arrested with 72 white-rumped shamas (*Copsychus malabaricus*) and 47 cages worth 694,500 ringgit (160,000 US\$).
- Two others, Thais aged 33 and 37, with 4 birds, 3 firearms, 5 crossbows, 25 rifle cartridges and 300 grams of kratom leaves (*Mitragyna speciosa*), known for their euphoric properties, with a total value of 23,000 ringgit (5,270 US\$).

New Straits Times (with Bernama), June 3, 2022.<sup>52</sup>

## PHILIPPINES

**May 30, 2022**

### **Olongapo, Province of Zambales, Philippines**

Trapped by an undercover agent, Norgiel de Jesus (22 years old) tried to sell him 10 crested mynas (*Acridotheres cristatellus*) for 4,000 pesos (134 US\$). Inquirer.net, May 31, 2022.<sup>53</sup>

**June 1, 2022**

### **Macambol, Province of Davao oriental, Philippines**



Rescue by a retired policeman of a crested serpent eagle (*Spilornis cheela*, Appendix II) that was in the grip of a poacher. The young raptor was in bad condition but swallowed quite a bit of fish before being transferred to a shelter where the caretaker hopes to be able to release it back into the wild after some recovery.

Rappler, June 2, 2022.<sup>54</sup>

## THAILAND

**May 11, 2022**

### **Bana Sub-District, Mueang Pattani District, Pattani Province, Thailand**

Emergency rescue and seizure of 500 red-whiskered bulbuls (*Pycnonotus jocosus*) without anything to eat or drink in the middle of a heat wave. They did not have the strength to sing. They were then transferred to a bird sanctuary in Narathiwat province. Waehasen Waewwamae, 29, was arrested. Investigation is ongoing to understand the origin of the birds and the scope of the trafficking.

Mgonline.com, May 11, 2022.<sup>55</sup>

## VIET NAM

**April 8, 2022**

### **Ba Ria-Vung Tau Province, Viet Nam**



Seizure in a café of a sun conure (*Aratinga solstitialis*, Appendix II) and an Alexandrine parakeet (*Psittacula eupatria*, Appendix II). Not native to Viet Nam, they will unfortunately not be released.

ENV, April 8, 2022.<sup>56</sup>



**April 15, 2022**

**Quang Nam Province, Viet Nam**

Two hundred red-whiskered bulbuls (*Pycnonotus jocosus*) were seized in a house. The owners were forced by the federal police to release the birds into the wild, an operation intended to be exemplary for the entire neighbourhood known to be involved in trafficking.

ENV, April 15, 2022.<sup>57</sup>

**May 4, 2022**

**Hoa Thanh, Tay Ninh Province, Viet Nam**

Mrs. Trang, a pet bird vendor, was selling 19 hill mynas (*Gracula religiosa*, Appendix II) in a cage decorated with hearts at the back of her store. She had purchased them for 500,000 dong (22 US\$) each from an unknown person and had set her sights on selling them for a profit. The birds were handed over to the Tay Ninh forestry services for physical examination.

Thanh Niên, May 6, 2022.<sup>58</sup>

**End of May 2022**

**Quang Ngai Province, Viet Nam**



When the authorities intervened in the grocery store where a crested serpent eagle (*Spilornis cheela*, Appendix II) had been reported, they came up empty. The raptor had just been sold, but they were able to locate the buyer and seize the chick.

ENV, May 27, 2022.<sup>59</sup>

**Mid-June 2022**

**Da Nang Municipality, Viet Nam**

Handing over of a brown wood owl (*Strix leptogrammica*, Appendix II) that the man had purchased a month earlier in Nha Trang, Khanh Hoa province, which is 500 km away.

ENV, June 18, 2022.<sup>60</sup>

**SOUTHERN ASIA**

**INDIA**

**April 6, 2022**

**Bardhaman, Purba Bardhaman District, State of West Bengal, India**

194 rose-ringed parakeet chicks (*Psittacula krameri*) rescued from traffic by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) on the station platforms as Kashem Khan was getting off the Shaktipunj Express. The birds were probably caught in Bihar or Jharkhand. They were taken by the forest officials. A massive mortality in the coming days is feared. The survivors will be cared for and released.

Bardhaman.com, April 6, 2022; ABP Ananda, April 7, 2022.<sup>61</sup>

**April 14, 2022**

**Niralpur, Kamrup District, State of Assam, India**



Stray dogs have become increasingly aggressive over the past 15 years. They attack domestic animals, calves and poultry. The production and marketing of carbofuran is banned in India, but farmers continue to draw on existing stocks and buy it from abroad via the Internet. The rice sector is a major consumer. Carbofuran was used to get rid of a stray dog or a pack by spraying it on meat bait. Only one dog fell victim to the ambush, but 23 Himalayan griffons (*Gyps himalayensis*, Appendix II) were found dead and 12 were unable to fly.



They were transported to a clinic and the dead were burned on site to avoid a domino effect of poisoned animals. There would be 2,000 Himalayan griffons left in Assam (78,438 km<sup>2</sup>) whereas according to the Bombay Natural History Society there were 40 million in India (3,287,263 km<sup>2</sup>) in 1980.

Just Guwahati Things, April 15, 2022; The Meghalayan, April 16, 2022; The Times of India, April 17, 2022.<sup>62</sup>



**May 17, 2022**

**Pune, Pune District, State of Maharashtra, India**

Seizure on the terrace of a private home of 3 abused Alexandrine parakeets (*Psittacula eupatria*, Appendix II) and more than 120 abused budgerigars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*) of which Rahematulla Shaukatulla Khan was making a clandestine trade. He was arrested.

The Indian Express, May 18, 2022.<sup>63</sup>

**May 18, 2022**

**Guwahati, Kamrup Metropolitan District, State of Assam, India**

Compressed in plastic bags, the 8 parakeets (*Psittaciformes*, Appendix I or II except 4 species) were suffocating at the bottom of a box. A team from the WCCB (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) and the Forest Department rescued them and arrested their torturer.

WCCB, May 19, 2022.<sup>64</sup>

**May 24, 2022**

**Khetri, Kamrup Metropolitan District, State of Assam, India**

Barely just stolen from their nests and already on sale on the black market, some of the 10 rose-ringed parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*) chicks still had their juvenile plumage while others were shedding. The WCCB assisted by the Forest Department confiscated them from a trafficker.

WCCB, May 26, 2022.<sup>65</sup>

**May 28, 2022**

**Kalyani, Nadia District, State of West Bengal, India**

Seizure of 138 "exotic" birds from a young man, including toco toucans (*Ramphastos toco*, Appendix II) and macaws (*Psittacidae*, Appendix I or II) from South America and roseate cockatoos (*Eolophus roseicapilla*, Appendix II) from Australia. They had been imported via Bangladesh. Soumen Biswas is said to have been in the bird business for 6 years.

ABP Ananda, May 29, 2022; The Times of India, June 4, 2022.<sup>66</sup>

**May 29, 2022**

**Pilibhit Tiger Reserve, Pilibhit District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India**

The bird catcher dropped his motorcycle and threw a plastic bag when he saw a team of forestry officers on the side of the road. In the bag were 9 parakeets, including 4 Alexandrine parakeets (*Psittacula eupatria*, Appendix II). "We will identify him through the motorcycle number" and Singh, the divisional officer, adds that the birds will be released as soon as the court gives the green light. Mangalorean, May 30, 2022; The Times of India, May 30, 2022.<sup>67</sup>

**May 31, 2022**

**Katkut, Khargone District, State of Madhya Pradesh, India**

There were 2 cages on the roof of the bus and, in them over a hundred rose-ringed parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*). The cages were wrapped in blankets. From below, forestry officers heard the birds singing. The passengers were asked to get off. The bus, its driver and the birds were escorted to the forest officers' station.

Dainik Bhaskar, May 31, 2022; Newstime Express, June 1, 2022.<sup>68</sup>

**June 13, 2022**

**Bhandari, Wokha District, State of Nagaland, India**

An unexpected and sad event has cast a shadow on the "Hornbill Festival" which should be an opportunity across the State of Nagaland to pay tribute to the concave-casqued hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*, Appendix I), the iconic bird of the Indian subcontinent and Southeastern Asia. Two or 3 thugs literally tore apart a live hornbill in Bhandari. This "cruelty festival" was shared on social networks and it brought a wind of anger on Nagaland.

Trafficking and poaching in Nagaland, see "On the Trail" n°2 p.51, n°5 p.40, n°6 p.15 and p.94, n°8 p.31, n°9 p.34, n°13 p.93, n°15 p.84, n°20 p.73 and p.84, n°21 p.96, n°24 p.42, n°29 p.158, n°30 p.50 and n°33 p.72.

East Mojo, June 13, 2022; The Frontier Manipur, June 13, 2022; New Delhi Television, June 16, 2022.<sup>69</sup>

**OPERATION WILEP**

**June 30, 2022**

**Asansol, Paschim Bardhaman District, State of West Bengal, India**



250 rose-ringed parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*) had taken the Shipra Express between Allahabad and Asansol in the hands of Mohammad Hasnain and Mohammad Wasim. With their crates full of birds, they got off before the train stopped and were caught in their manoeuvre by the RPF (Railway protection Force).

Ei Samay, July 1, 2022; Railway Protection Force, July 1, 2022.<sup>70</sup>

## IRAN

### End of April 2022

#### Fereydunkenar, Mazandaran Province, Iran

The head of the environment of the Islamic Council announces the final closure of the bird market in Fereydunkenar following a court decision. "The illegal sale of all species of wild birds in this market has caused a significant increase in migratory bird poaching over the past decade." "With the increase in demand and consequent financial resources, this informal market has become a burden sometimes supported by influential people." The closure of the Fereydunkenar bird market had been called for years by environmental activists. The representative of the Islamic Council encouraged the provincial administration to strengthen the protection of wetlands and migratory birds by all means. Khabaronline, April 26, 2022.<sup>71</sup>

### Beginning of May 2022

#### Chalus, Mazandaran Province, Iran

The falcon order (*Falco* spp., Appendix I or II) can be satisfied. One of its members held prisoner by a criminal was released after a health and behavioural assessment. Young Journalists Club, May 7, 2022.<sup>72</sup>

### Beginning of June 2022

#### Tehran, Tehran Province, Iran

At the market, under the crates of chickens and roosters, there were 22 owls (*Strigiformes*, Appendix I or II) and falcons (*Falco* spp., Appendix I or II) banned from sale and which the man wanted to sell for 1.5 billion rials or 35,700 US\$. Iranian Students' News Agency, June 8, 2022.<sup>73</sup>

### June 2022

#### Chavar, Ilam Province, Iran

Seizure of a female kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*, Appendix II) whose value according to the police commander is 6 billion rials or 142,900 US\$. Rokna News, July 2, 2022.<sup>74</sup>

## PAKISTAN

### May 2022

#### Pirwadhai, Province of Punjab, Pakistan

- Seven poachers were selling black partridges (*Melanoperdix niger*) on Alam Khan Road and on social networks.  
- Another one was selling parrots (*Psittacidae*, Appendix I or II except 4 species) on Curry Road. All 8 traffickers are being prosecuted. The Express Tribune, May 31, 2022.<sup>75</sup>

### June 2022

#### Mansehra, Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan

Muhammad Khan had 14 Alexandrine parakeets (*Psittacula eupatria*, Appendix II) in his home. Under a search warrant, they were seized by the authorities and temporarily admitted to a pheasantry. UrduPoint, June 23, 2022.<sup>76</sup>

### Sunday June 12, 2022

#### Karachi, Province of Sindh, Pakistan

Seizure of 26 birds including 18 Alexandrine parakeet (*Psittacula eupatria*, Appendix II) chicks aged 2 to 3 months. They came from Bahawalpur, Punjab province, more than 800 km to the north. At this stage, it is almost impossible to know more about the species seized. The rose-ringed parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*), Alexandrine parakeets, blossom-headed parakeets (*Psittacula roseata*, Appendix II) and slaty-headed parakeets (*Psittacula himalayana*, Appendix II) are reported in Pakistan but are all in decline. They are extinct around Karachi and in Sindh province. Dawn, 14 June 2022.<sup>77</sup>

### June 15, 2022

#### Badulla, Uva Province, Sri Lanka



Seizure of 2.5 kg of hill swallow's (*Hirundo domicola*) nests. Two arrests. They are suspected of having stolen the nests from railway tunnels and were trying to sell them in tourist hotels on the basis of 400,000 rupees/kg or 1,120 US\$/kg. Knowing that a nest weighs between 3 and 14 grams, this seizure represents between 178 and 833 nests. Daily News, June 17, 2022.<sup>78</sup>



## WESTERN ASIA

### CYPRUS

**Mid-April 2022**

**Paralimni, Famagusta District, Cyprus**

Stopped in the middle of their migration by nets to end up on plates, in a dish known locally as "ambelopoulia", 4 Eurasian blackcaps (*Sylvia atricapilla*, Appendix III in Ukraine) and a sparrow (genus *Passer*) were rescued and released. 50 limesticks were seized. The trapper was fined 9,200 € (10,235 US\$).

Ambelopoulia, see "On the Trail" n°10 p. 27, n°16 p. 35, n°21 p. 39 and n°34 p. 158.

Committee Against Bird Slaughter, April 19, 2022.<sup>79</sup>



**Mid-April to beginning of May 2022**  
**Cyprus**

In just 3 weeks, 20 active trapping sites, 335 limesticks and 2 electronic decoys were seized and 9 poachers caught in the act. Only 21 Eurasian blackcaps (*Sylvia atricapilla*, Appendix III in Ukraine) were rescued from the traps and released.

Committee Against Bird Slaughter, May 6, 2022.<sup>80</sup>



**May 10, 2022**

**Paphos District, Cyprus**

They can now be counted on the fingers of one hand. Three griffon vultures (*Gyps fulvus*, Appendix II) were poisoned, one adult and 2 chicks. The island's tiny population of griffon vultures would be now down to 3 individuals. Financial Mirror, May 12, 2022; Vulture Conservation Foundation, May 16, 2022.<sup>81</sup>



The remains of "Ikaros" and the two chicks before the necropsy.

## GEORGIA

**Week of April 18, 2022**  
**City of Tbilisi, Georgia**

Emergency care by the NGO Sabuko and the veterinary clinic Vetex to a young lesser-spotted eagle (*Aquila pomarina*, Appendix II) victim of a shooting and 4 pellets. Sabuko deplores the fact that poaching is a social media sensation and calls on the authorities to be more vigilant and severe.

Sabuko, April 28, 2022.<sup>82</sup>



## KUWAIT

**May 25, 2022**

**Salmi Border Post, Al-Jahra Governorate, Kuwait. Border with Saudi Arabia.**



Seizure of 3 falcons (*Falco* spp., Appendix I or II) from a car.

Alanba, May 26, 2022.<sup>83</sup>

## LEBANON

**Beginning of April 2022**

**Khalde, Mount Lebanon Governorate, Lebanon**

More than a dozen did not survive. Thirty-four songbirds were seized including Eurasian siskins (*Carduelis spinus*, synonymous with *Spinus spinus*, Appendix III in Ukraine), common linnets (*Carduelis cannabina*, synonymous with *Linaria cannabina*, Appendix III in Ukraine), European greenfinches (*Chloris chloris*), chaffinches (*Fringilla coelebs*), Eurasian blackcaps (*Sylvia atricapilla*, Appendix III in Ukraine), Sardinian warblers (*Sylvia melanocephala*), common whitethroats (*Sylvia communis*), willow warblers (*Phylloscopus trochilus*) and common chiffchaffs (*Phylloscopus collybita*). The poachers brought to the station had with them all the equipment to capture the birds.

Committee Against Bird Slaughter, April 8, 2022.<sup>84</sup>

**April 24, 2022**

**Miriata, North Governorate, Lebanon**

Handing over of 2 Egyptian vultures (*Neophron percnopterus*, Appendix II) that had been in captivity on a farm for 2.5 years. The owners said they were unaware that it was illegal to hold vultures and spontaneously handed them over to the pro-bird activists of SPNL (Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon), MESHC (Middle East Sustainable Hunting Center) and CABS (Committee Against Bird Slaughter). After assessments of their health and their ability to survive in the wild, the 2 raptors will either be released or entrusted to the Egyptian Vulture New LIFE breeding program which is financed by the European Union. Committee Against Bird Slaughter, April 25, 2022.<sup>85</sup>

**May 3, 2022**

**Near Tripoli, North Governorate, Lebanon**

Traced by its GPS beacon, the juvenile short-toed eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*, Appendix II) flew from the Balaton Uplands National Park in Hungary on September 20, 2021. It reached its wintering grounds on the border of Nigeria and Niger in late October. In early April, it resumed its usual migration to the Middle East and in early May it was shot at and crashed near Tripoli. Michel Sawan, member of the Lebanese NGO for the protection of birds, found it dead. Qubit, May 23, 2022.<sup>86</sup>

**NORTHERN EUROPE**

**DENMARK**

**Beginning of May 2022**

**Maribo, Lolland Island, Zealand Region, Denmark**

The Danish Ornithological Association reports the death of a white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*, Appendix I) spared from bird flu, in good physical condition, with perfect plumage. Its last meal was a whitefish, a freshwater fish. It also had some straw in its stomach. The post-mortem examination confirms that it was shot by a poacher and died of internal bleeding.

Dansk Ornitologisk Forening / BirdLife Denmark, July 11, 2022.<sup>87</sup>

**NORWAY**

**May 11, 2022**

**Oslo, Eastern Norway Region, Norway**

Seizure of a stuffed coconut lorikeet (*Trichoglossus haematodus*, Appendix II) from the belongings of a private individual in the process of moving from Copenhagen by ferry. Norwegian Customs, September 22, 2022.<sup>88</sup>

**UNITED KINGDOM**

**May 18, 2022**

**Chigwell, Essex County, England, United Kingdom**

During a search to dismantle a dog fighting gang, 200 cannabis plants were uncovered. A European goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine) and 17 dogs were handed over to the RSPCA and a man was arrested for drug trafficking, unlawful possession of an offensive weapon, and cruelty to animals. Bishop's Stortford Independent, May 20, 2022.<sup>89</sup>

**May 25, 2022**

**Chesterfield, Derbyshire County, England, United Kingdom**

Much ado about nothing. "On the Trail" n°29 p. 127 told of the exploits of a peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I) egg thief during the Covid-19 lockdown. A trap camera had captured the thief doing his dirty work. But the suspect's lawyers pointed out procedural flaws in the investigation, especially during his arrest and the search of his home, and the court accepted their arguments. The suspect was found not guilty. Two days after this disappointment for the friends of raptors, Operation Owl was launched. It brings together the Durham and Northumberland law enforcement, the RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds), Natural England and the National Wildlife Crime Unit to combat the persecution of raptors (Accipitridae, Falconidae, Strigidae, or Tytonidae, Appendix I or II). "In the UK, birds of prey are a protected species and any criminal offences committed against these beautiful creatures are completely unacceptable." Raptor Persecution UK, May 25, 2022.<sup>90</sup>

**June 1, 2022**

**Swindon, Wiltshire County, England, United Kingdom**



Archie Watson, age 21, has been ordered to carry out 180 hours of unpaid work as part of a 12-month community order for being in possession of 5 dead common buzzards (*Buteo buteo*, Appendix II), 3 red kites (*Milvus milvus*, Appendix II), and a herring gull (*Larus argentatus*). The wild birds were discovered at the bottom of a well on a farm in Beckhampton, following an investigation by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). He was 19 years old at the time of the incident. He has always said that he picked up the corpses on the property where he worked. He allegedly threw them into the well designated by the press as the "tomb of the birds of prey" to avoid the spread of avian flu. He carried a loaded rifle in his Toyota Hilux. The Crown Prosecution Service, June 1, 2022; Wiltshire 999s, June 1, 2022; Wiltshire Police, June 1, 2022; South West Farmer, June 2, 2022; Swindon Advertiser, June 3, 2022.<sup>91</sup>



## 18 raptors poached and seized and stolen raptor eggs in the United Kingdom between April 1 and June 30, 2022, according to official and media sources



"Missing": bird with a GPS that stopped transmitting  
 Northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*, Annexe II)  
 Northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*, Appendix II)  
 Common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*, Appendix II)  
 Tawny owl (*Strix aluco*, Appendix II)

Eurasian sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*, Appendix II)  
 Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I)  
 Red kite (*Milvus milvus*, Appendix II)  
 Raptor, unidentified species (Falconiformes or Strigiformes, Appendix I or II)

Map sources : Raptor Persecution UK, April 29, May 8, 10, 28 and 30, June 13, 18 and 26, August 18 and 22 and December 14 and 15, 2022; Peak District Raptor Monitoring Group, May 10, 2022; Hunt Investigation Team, May 11, 2022; BBC, May 12 and June 22, 2022; Doncaster Free Press, May 27, 2022; St Helens Star, June 21, 2022; Daily Record, July 15, 2022.





Northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*, Annexe II)



Abandoned northern harrier nest  
Beginning of May 2022  
Upper Derwent Valley, Peak District National Park,  
South Yorkshire County, England, United Kingdom

**June 6, 2022**

**Ceiriog Valley, Wrexham County Borough, Wales, United Kingdom**

David Matthews, gamekeeper, was fined 219 £ (275 US\$) for possessing pesticides that were banned from being used and sold. On February 27, 2021, a red kite (*Milvus milvus*, Appendix II) was found dead and poisoned by the side of the access road to a private estate used as a pheasant hunting enclosure. During the investigation, sworn RSPB officers first discovered a pelleted common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*, Appendix II) inside the estate and later, in October, they came across an open barn where authorized and prohibited pesticides were stored. "This was the worst case of illegal pesticide storage we have ever seen. We encountered an unlocked barn containing 18 highly toxic products, including Cymag, which has been banned since 2004. Anyone could have entered the barn, with unthinkable consequences." On the ashes of a green waste fire they had also found a dead pheasant whose post-mortem examination revealed bendiocarb poisoning. The remains of another common buzzard were too decomposed to be analyzed. The proportionality of the amount of the fine to the seriousness of the crime is not evident.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, June 13, 2022.<sup>92</sup>



**June 10, 2022**

**Wellingborough and Northampton, Northamptonshire County, England, United Kingdom**

They were armed with 4 Lurcher hounds and a Harris's hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*, Appendix II) used in falconry to scare rabbits and hares into low flight from the fists of hunters and poachers. They were operating on private property and in violation of the Night Poaching Act of 1828 which prohibits night hunting. They were wearing dark, blood-stained camouflage and the dogs and hawk were covered in mud. The 3 men were each sentenced to fines of 463 £ (585 US\$). The hawk, equipment, and van were permanently confiscated. Northamptonshire Police, June 20, 2022.<sup>93</sup>



## SWEDEN

**April 19, 2022**

### **Växjö, Kronoberg County, Sweden**

A 17-year-old boy is suspected of shooting a Eurasian eagle owl (*Bubo bubo*, Appendix II) in August 2021. In photos discovered by investigators, he poses with the dead bird. He says he found it in that condition in the middle of the forest. He was acquitted for lack of convincing evidence but was fined 1,500 kroner (160 US\$) for pointing a gun at another teenager during an argument and pulling the trigger. The gun was not loaded, but the court ruled that there was endangerment to life.

Sveriges Radio, March 28 and April 19, 2022.<sup>94</sup>



**Beginning of May 2022**

### **Köpingsvik, Kalmar County, Sweden**

Raptor poaching is spreading. Two white-tailed eagles (*Haliaeetus albicilla*, Appendix I) have been poached in the county within a few days. According to the police, these violations of the hunting code and protected species regulations are unusual in Sweden.

Sveriges Radio, June 17, 2022.<sup>95</sup>

## WESTERN EUROPE

## GERMANY

**April 2022**

### **Fulda, Hesse State, Germany**

The man claimed to breed European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine), Eurasian bullfinches (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*, Appendix III in Ukraine), Eurasian siskins (*Carduelis spinus*, synonymous with *Spinus spinus*, Appendix III in Ukraine), serins (*Serinus serinus*, Appendix III in Ukraine), European greenfinches (*Chloris chloris*) and chaffinches (*Fringilla coelebs*). However, at the same time in his place, as dozens of birds, traps and eggs of raptors (Accipitriformes, Appendix I or II) were seized (see "On the Trail" n°34 p.162).

He was fined 1,000 € or 1,075 US\$. On the black market, the birds would have been sold 10 times more. He faced up 3 months in prison. The sentence is seen by CABS (Committee Against Bird Slaughter) as an incitement to poach hedgerow birds.

Committee Against Bird Slaughter, June 22, 2022; Fuldaer Zeitung, August 9, 2022.<sup>96</sup>



**April 7, 2022**

### **Irsingen, Bavaria State, Germany**

A red kite (*Milvus milvus*, Appendix II) died after being poisoned with pentobarbital, a substance used to terminate incurable animals in veterinary clinics or in human medicine as a sleeping pill. This is a first. Usually in Bavaria, falcons, goshawks, red kites, owls, and sometimes storks are poisoned with carbofuran baits that have been banned in the European Union for 15 years. Even at low doses, it causes immediate and usually fatal convulsions. Cats and other pets and children can fall victim to it.

Ansbach Plus, April 27, 2022.<sup>97</sup>



**April 22 and 23, 2022**

### **Meeder, Bavaria, Germany**

The Bavarian League for the Protection of Birds (Landesbund für Vogelschutz Bayern) announces that 6 marsh harriers (*Circus aeruginosus*, Appendix II), a red kite (*Milvus milvus*, Appendix II), and a carrion crow (*Corvus corone*) were poisoned over a span of a few weeks in the Coburg district. Post-mortems show that the poison responsible is parathion, commonly known in Germany as "mother-in-law poison." The poison was made famous in the 1950s after a case in which a woman poisoned 3 people: her husband, her father-in-law, and a friend. It has been banned since 2001 in the European Union. "Parathion is absorbed in a few seconds by the mucus membranes and causes death," says the LVB crime expert. Two dead hens with blue plumage, the colour code for parathion, were found nearby. The LVB and the GLUS foundation (Gregor Louisoder Umweltstiftung) are calling on all parents in the district not to let children touch dead animals and that all dogs be kept on leashes. Near the place where the marsh harriers were found, an unconscious beaver was found 2 years ago. The "mother-in-law poison" had been used but it was not concentrated enough and the beaver recovered. Rather than a mother-in-law, the LVB president suspects a fox-obsessed chicken farmer without being able to name him.

BR24, June 9, 2022; Fränkischer Tag, June 9, 2022; Tatort Natur, June 9, 2022.<sup>98</sup>





**April 27, 2022**

**Neppermin, Usedom Island, Mecklenburg–Western Pomerania State, and Prignitz District, Brandenburg State, Germany**



On private property, the people of the Komitee gegen den Vogelmord (Committee Against Bird Slaughter) found on the top platform of some scaffolding a live pigeon offered to a possible northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*, Appendix II) or another pigeon-eating raptor. The use of live bait is prohibited under all circumstances by federal hunting law. Close to the scene are the training lofts of a large homing pigeon show organizer. The conflict between breeders and goshawks is exacerbated by the commercial value of some racing pigeons.

(see "On the Trail" no12 p. 29, n°15 p. 31, n°17 p. 38, n°18 p. 36, n°28 p. 50, p. 53, n°29 p. 124, n°32 p. 189 and n°33 p. 183)

Committee Against Bird Slaughter, April 28 and May 5, 2022.<sup>99</sup>

**Beginning of May 2022**

**Prignitz District, Brandenburg State, Germany**



The folks at the Komitee gegen den Vogelmord who track down illegal shooting and clandestine, stealthy traps got their hands on a spectacular device, mounted on wheels, towable and mobile according to needs and opportunities. It was apparently intended to capture raptors (Accipitridae, Falconidae, Strigidae or Tytonidae, Appendix I or II) and corvids (family Corvidae). The pigeon fanciers' clique could be at work.

Committee Against Bird Slaughter, May 3, 2022.<sup>100</sup>

**Beginning of May 2022**

**Pleiskirchen, Bavaria State, Germany**



Carbofuran killed again in a cascade, first 2 red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), then a common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*, Appendix II).

Passauer Neue Presse, May 4, 2022; Tatort Natur, May 4, 2022.<sup>101</sup>



**May 9, 2022**

**Heinsberg District, North Rhine-Westphalia State, Germany**



Seizure in a small forest of the remains of a long-eared owl (*Asio otus*, Appendix II) next to a trap cage in which a live Eurasian magpie (*Pica pica*) was bait. Analysis of video footage taken by CABS activists shows that the ploy was picked up daily and the magpie was fed by 2 suspects whose faces are recognizable. According to the EDGAR file (Erfassungs- und Dokumentationsstelle Greifvogelverfolgung und Artenschutzkriminalität, Documentation of Raptor Tracking and Species Protection Violations), 79 cases of poaching have been recorded since 2005 in the district. Almost all investigations have been closed without follow-up. Committee Against Bird Slaughter, May 10, 2022.<sup>102</sup>

**Mid-May 2022**

**Between Papenburg and Rhede, Lower Saxony State, Germany**



A hidden camera by CABS proves that a

farmer in the nearby village of Rhede had set up a trap cage in a field and that a live crow (genus *Corvus*) was used as bait for birds of prey (Accipitridae, Falconidae, Strigidae or Tytonidae, Appendix I or II).

Committee Against Bird Slaughter, May 16, 2022.<sup>103</sup>



**May 19, 2022**

**Essen, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany**

Seizure by customs in a family garden and a private home of 41 European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine), one common linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*, synonymous with *Linaria cannabina*, Appendix III in Ukraine), 2 buntings (family Emberizidae), all alive, and 34 dead goldfinches.

German Customs, May 23, 2022.<sup>104</sup>

**End of June 2022**

**Between Meerbusch and Krefeld, North Rhine-Westphalia State, Germany**



About 40 wooden perches coated with birdlime were discovered in a wasteland overflowing with thistles, the favourite plant of European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine). A first in the Düsseldorf region. The birdlime plague is slowly making its way from southern into northern Europe.

Committee Against Bird Slaughter, July 6, 2022; Rheinische Post, July 7, 2022.<sup>105</sup>



## AUSTRIA

**May 5, 2022**

### Zurndorf, Burgenland State, Austria

"Artemisia," the most famous imperial eagle (*Aquila heliaca*, Appendix I) of Austria was a female. It flew over Austria, Greece, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, ... The rangers of the national park Neusiedler See-Seewinkel found it injured and unable to fly or walk in a hunting reserve where a marsh harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*, Appendix II) and a common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*, Appendix II) had been shot in the last few years. It was rushed to a raptor clinic but the only option was to finish it off. Its legs had been severed by a rifle bullet. "Johannes," its brother, fatally collided with a wind turbine on October 12, 2021 east of the Weinviertel, Lower Austria. Kurier, June 3, 2022.<sup>106</sup>



## FRANCE

### REPEATED OFFENCE

**April 13 and 19, 2022**

### Ponds of Commelles, Department of Oise, France



A man, already sentenced to 6 months in prison with a fine of 500 € in 2020 for the attempted theft of a swan in the domain of the Chantilly castle, is in custody. He was identified thanks to a camera trap placed near the nest. The pair of mute swans (*Cygnus olor*) that were incubating the eggs have also disappeared.

Trafficking of mute swans and their eggs, see "On the Trail" n°33 p. 176, p. 178 and n°34 p. 166. Le Parisien, April 19, 2022.<sup>107</sup>

**April 17, 2022**

### Department of Yvelines, France

Reduced to the rank of domestic animal, an ostrich (*Struthio camelus*, Appendix I in 12 countries) was seized. "Alice" was transferred to the zoo-refuge of La Tanière. It is living there with a fellow ostrich and among wallabies. La Tanière, April 22, 2022.<sup>108</sup>

**April 29, 2022**

### Chuzelles, Department of Isère, France

The elected official traps the trapper. Alerted by comings and goings, the deputy mayor's urban planning officer went on a stakeout to flush out a poacher who was trapping European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine) with birdlime. Two birds were dead and a third alive. The individual was fined 500 € (560 US\$).

Le Dauphiné Libéré, May 27, 2022.<sup>109</sup>



**May 3, 2022**

### Saint-Chamas, Department of Bouches-du-Rhône, France

A Bonelli's eagle (*Hieraetus fasciatus*, Appendix II) fitted with a GPS tag was found dead by poisoning in 2021. The discreet investigation of the French Biodiversity Agency agents leads after several months to the arrest of an individual and the seizure of an insecticide banned for sale for over 10 years.

French Biodiversity Agency, May 16, 2022.<sup>110</sup>



**June 20-27, 2022**

**Department of Marne, France**

- Eight northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*, Appendix II) chicks stolen from their marked nests in the middle of a harvested wheat field.

- Eleven Montagu's harrier (*Circus pygargus*, Appendix II) chicks have been stolen from 3 marked nests in the middle of a harvested wheat field.

Alain Balthazard, retired optician and wildlife photographer, kept a close eye on the 19 chicks. Their disappearance without trace, without feathers, without ransacking has nothing to do with the acts of vandalism or decapitations observed last year during the same season in the departments of Loir-et-Cher, Indre and Aube (see "On the Trail" n°33 p.176, 177 and 178). One or more clandestine breeders may be at work with the prospect of a profitable resale. Harriers might be used in low-flying falconry.

Alain Balthazard is more than dismayed. He is disheartened. "Harriers are magnificent birds. In fact, they are the allies of farmers. They feed on voles." Throughout France, the proliferation of voles that feed on seeds, grasses and bulbs is considered a calamity by the agricultural world.

Alain Balthazard, June 27, 2022; France 3 Grand Est, June 30, 2022.<sup>111</sup>

**June 22, 2022**

**Lion-sur-Mer, Department of Calvados, France**

They were put under house arrest by travellers. Three European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine), 13 Eurasian bullfinches (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*, Appendix III in Ukraine), 3 song thrushes (*Turdus philomelos*, Appendix III in Ukraine) and a wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) were found in cages on the land occupied by the travelers. The birds were released.

Gendarmerie of Calvados, June 27, 2022.<sup>112</sup>

## THE NETHERLANDS

**End of May 2022**

**Bakkeveen, Province of Friesland, The Netherlands**

A tree was felled in the woods. It was hosting a northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*, Appendix II) nest. Three chicks were lying on the ground or in the bushes. They were rescued with extreme difficulty and taken to the Ureterp bird refuge. In 5 to 6 weeks they will be released. Hendrik Koster, a local goshawk specialist, thinks that the tree, among thousands, was cut down in order to harm the raptors.

Omrop Fryslân, May 31, 2022.<sup>113</sup>



**Beginning of June 2022**

**Kloosterhaar, Province of Overijssel, The Netherlands**

Friends of the lesser spotted woodpecker (*Dryobates minor*) are furious. A dead tree has been sawed. It was housing in a cavity a mother and a litter. The lesser spotted woodpeckers are no bigger than house sparrows. The spokesman for the KNNV (Royal Dutch Society for Natural History) says that "species that are difficult to breed in captivity are particularly popular. They are the ones that bring in the most money." And he adds that the chances of survival of the chicks are almost non-existent.

Nederlandse Omroep Stichting, June 6, 2022.<sup>114</sup>



Lesser spotted woodpecker (*Dryobates minor*)

**Week of June 6, 2022**

**Blaricum, Province of North Holland, The Netherlands**

Theft of swans (genus *Cygnus*) in Blaricum. A photo of a suspect "showing excessive interest in swans' nests" near a car registered in an Eastern European country was taken by a neighbour. Reports are piling up. The young swans are allegedly targeted mostly to be sold as ornamental animals or gala dishes.

NH Nieuws, June 13, 2022.<sup>115</sup>

## SOUTHERN EUROPE

### SPAIN

**Mid-April 2022**

**Jaén, Province of Jaén, Autonomous Community of Andalusia, Spain**

A 67-year-old man was sentenced in first instance to pay 5,320 € (5,920 US\$) in fines and 9,008 € (10,020 US\$) in damages. He was also banned for 3.5 years from exercising any profession or trade related to animals and from hunting and fishing.

In July 2019, the poacher had trapped 12 Eurasian blackcaps (*Sylvia atricapilla*, Appendix III in Ukraine), 4 European robins (*Erithacus rubecula*, Appendix III in Ukraine), a black redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*) and a sardinian warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala*).

Cadena SER, April 16, 2022.<sup>116</sup>





## GREECE

**April 8-10, 2022**

### **Paiania, Attica Region, Greece**

The hunting fair offended the Panhellenic Federation of Animal Welfare and Environment. Hunters paraded through the streets, taverns, public gardens, and churches with falcons (Falconidae, Appendix I or II), northern goshawks (*Accipiter gentilis*, Appendix II), Eurasian eagle owls (*Bubo bubo*, Appendix II), and barn owls (*Tyto alba*, Appendix II) amidst the clatter of firecrackers and fireworks in defiance of national and European regulations. The permit that had been granted to the organizers was restricted to the exhibition of equipment and dogs. Despite the Federation's warnings, the police stood idly by, further proof, according to wildlife protectors, that elected officials and politicians are on the side of the hunters or are pro-hunting for reasons of electoral mathematics.

Panhellenic Animal Welfare and Environmental Federation, April 19, 2022.<sup>117</sup>

**Beginning of April 2022**

### **Island of Santorini, South Aegean Region, Greece**



A short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*, Appendix II) is found doing badly. Even off the Aegean Sea, between Greece and Turkey, nocturnal birds are punished. It was transferred to the care of the association Alkyoni.

Zoosos.gr, April 12, 2022.<sup>118</sup>

**June 12, 2022**

### **Perama, Region of Attica, Greece**

Seizure of 169 birds including European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine). They were caught in the wild to be sold at the Schisto market. They were handed over to the NGO Anima for release.

Zoosos.gr, June 12, 2022.<sup>119</sup>

## ITALY

**April 21, 2022**

### **Pesaro, Province of Pesaro and Urbino, Region of Marche, Italy**



Four poachers between 60 and 80 years old were combining their talents and their acoustic calls in 2 sheds about 100 metres apart. When they were caught in November 2019 by the carabinieri, they were turning on their sound system with chirps of plovers and starlings and they had just hidden 3 European golden plovers (*Pluvialis apricaria*) under boards at the foot of olive trees. They had to answer for cruelty to animals when officials saw 2 Eurasian skylarks (*Alauda arvensis*, Appendix III in Ukraine) tied to a 15 cm wire connected to a spring that made them jump and fall back to the ground.

The judge in Pesaro sentenced them to community service and to pay 150 € (165 US\$) to defenders of animals. On April 24, 3 of them brought evidence of the completion of their sentences. They worked for a while at the soup kitchen of Asur and San Paterniano di Fano and brought proof of payment of 150 € each to the animal protection association Ede Odv. Their convictions are overturned. For the fourth poacher, verifications remain to be made.

Corriere Adriatico, April 22, 2022.<sup>120</sup>

**April 28, 2022**

### **Trento, Autonomous Province of Trento, Region of Trentino-Alto Adige, Italy**



A.R. and D.R., both 70-year-old men who were poaching in conspiracy, were respectively sentenced to 6 months and 4 months and 20 days in prison and fined 1,400 € each. At their home, in Borgo Valsugana, in February 2020, after several weeks of shadowing, the forest rangers had seized ropes, bows, nets, trap cages in fruit trees, horsehair and steel ties, 17 European robins (*Erithacus rubecula*, Appendix III in Ukraine), 6 Eurasian siskins (*Carduelis spinus*, synonymous with *Spinus spinus*, Appendix III in Ukraine), Eurasian blue tits (*Cyanistes caeruleus*), coal tits (*Periparus ater*), Italian sparrows (*Passer italiae*), 3 chaffinches (*Fringilla coelebs*), a brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*), 3 European greenfinches (*Chloris chloris*), and 9 Eurasian collared doves (*Streptopelia decaocto*) alive or in the fridge, air rifles, a double-barreled Beretta rifle, 2 bayonets, and ammunition.

Il Dolomiti, April 29, 2022; L'Adige, April 29, 2022.<sup>121</sup>



## 345 birds poached or seized in Italy between April 1 and June 30, 2022, according to official and media sources



### Map sources:

Abruzzo: Arma dei Carabinieri, April 14, 2022.

Calabria: Arma dei Carabinieri, April 21, 2022; Corriere della Calabria, April 21 and June 15, 2022; MessinaToday, June 15, 2022.

Campania: Il Mattino, April 20, 2022; Arma dei Carabinieri, April 26, 2022; WWF, April 26, 2022; Committee Against Bird Slaughter, April 27, 2022; Edizione Caserta, May 11, 2022; CasertaNews, May 21, 2022; Agenzia Nazionale Stampa Associata, May 31, 2022; Lega Italiana Protezione Uccelli, June 26, 2022.

Emilia-Romagna: Chiamamicitta.it, May 11, 2022.

Lazio: Terzo Binario News, April 29, 2022.

Lombardy: Bresciaoggi, April 8, 2022; BresciaToday, April 9, 2022; Committee Against Bird Slaughter, April 14, 2022.

Apulia: Sòs Fauna Calimera, April 28, 2022.

Sicily: Arma dei Carabinieri, April 29, 2022; Blog Sicilia, April 29, 2022; MeridioNews, June 5, 2022; AgrigentoNotizie, May 17 and June 6, 2022; NewSicilia, May 27, 2022; MessinaToday, June 15 and 24, 2022; La Rivista della Natura, July 2, 2022.

Tuscany: Deutsche Wildtier Stiftung, May 9, 2022.

Trentino-Alto Adige: L'Adige, June 13, 2022.





Northern wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)



Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*)



April 25, 2022

Fiaiano, Island of Ischia, Metropolitan City of Naples, Region of Campania, Italy  
Wheatear (genus *Oenanthe*) and whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*)

### 345 birds poached or seized in Italy between April 1 and June 30, 2022

98 European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine)  
47 European robins (*Erithacus rubecula*, Appendix III in Ukraine)  
40 Eurasian collared doves (*Streptopelia decaocto*)  
23 hawfinches (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*)  
21 Eurasian siskins (*Carduelis spinus*, synonymous with *Spinus spinus*, Appendix III in Ukraine)  
20 wagtails (genus *Motacilla*)  
17 Eurasian blackcaps (*Sylvia atricapilla*, Appendix III in Ukraine)  
11 chaffinches (*Fringilla coelebs*)  
4 little owls (*Athene noctua*, Appendix II)  
3 song thrushes (*Turdus philomelos*, Appendix III in Ukraine)  
3 European greenfinches (*Chloris chloris*)  
2 Bonelli's eagles (*Hieraaetus fasciatus*, Appendix II)  
2 common buzzards (*Buteo buteo*, Appendix II)  
2 falcons (*Falco* spp., Appendix I or II)  
2 lesser kestrels (*Falco naumanni*, Appendix II)

2 Eurasian magpies (*Pica pica*)  
2 whinchats (*Saxicola rubetra*)  
2 wheatears (genus *Oenanthe*)  
1 booted eagle (*Hieraaetus pennatus*, Appendix II)  
1 orange-winged amazon (*Amazona amazonica*, Appendix II)  
1 blue-fronted amazon (*Amazona aestiva*, Appendix II)  
1 honey buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*, Appendix II)  
1 great grey owl (*Strix nebulosa*, Appendix II)  
1 monk parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*, Appendix II)  
1 Barbary falcon (*Falco peregrinoides*, Appendix I)  
1 Eurasian jay (*Garrulus glandarius*)  
1 hermit ibis (*Geronticus eremita*, Appendix I)  
1 Eurasian golden oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*, Appendix III in Ukraine)  
1 grey parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*, Appendix I)  
33 unidentified birds

**End of April 2022**

**Brescia, Province of Brescia, Region of Lombardy, Italy**

Antonio Rizzardini is an impertinent and incorrigible poacher, except by the Court of Cassation which confirmed the judgment of the Court of Appeal of Brescia sentencing him to 10 months in prison and to pay a fine of 400 € (450 US\$). Next to his altar of the "Madonna of the Good Poacher," he organizes masses on Mount Manos where the parish priest, his guests, admirers and the faithful feast on skewers of European robins (*Erithacus rubecula*, Appendix III in Ukraine). The Lega per l'Abolizione della Caccia demands in vain to the municipality of Capovalle the destruction the altar. Lega per l'Abolizione della Caccia, April 30, 2022.<sup>122</sup>



"Madonna of the Good Poacher"



**May 6, 2022**

**Euganean Hills Regional Park, Province of Padua, Region of Veneto, Italy**

About 100 birds including European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine), Eurasian siskins (*Carduelis spinus*, synonymous with *Spinus spinus*, Appendix III in Ukraine), common linnets (*Carduelis cannabina*, synonymous with *Linaria cannabina*, Appendix III in Ukraine), red crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra*, Appendix III in Ukraine), Eurasian bullfinches (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*, Appendix III in Ukraine), common blackbirds (*Turdus merula*, Appendix III in Ukraine), song thrushes (*Turdus philomelos*, Appendix III in Ukraine), bramblings (*Fringilla montifringilla*), and chaffinches (*Fringilla coelebs*) were seized by the Carabinieri of Venice in a pet shop in Mira (20 km from Venice) in December 2021. The birds have been released because, although they wore falsified rings of bred birds, they had in fact been captured in their natural environment. 40 birds were released in the Euganean Mountains Regional Park with a delay due to a heavy rain and 60 were released in the woods of Canale d'Agordo. Each species, according to its needs, has been released in a habitat selected by the carabinieri as the Eurasian bullfinches and red crossbills that have scattered in a mountain rich in conifers.

La Voce di Rovigo, May 6, 2022.<sup>123</sup>

**May 24, 2022**

**Region of Lombardy, Italy**

**THE TWEET TWEET IN LOCAL DISTRIBUTION**

Lombardy, 10 million inhabitants, capital Milan, is merciless for the winged gentry. Between 2002 and 2019, more than 38 million birds were officially registered on the tallies, not counting birds poached with prohibited means such as live decoys, nets and bows, in national parks and other protected areas. In order to get the shooters, the trappers, the restaurant owners, the farmers and the schemers into their pockets, the Italian region led by the Northern League has voted and published in its Official Gazette a law for the conservation of culinary traditions, in particular the Brescia brochette, a ritual delicacy weighing 70 to 80 grams made of pork meatballs (of Italian origin), chicken or duck (of Italian origin) and small passerines such as bramblings (*Fringilla montifringilla*) and European robins (*Erithacus rubecula*, Appendix III in Ukraine). The law also promotes "polenta e osei," a porridge of corn and small cooked birds. Each hunter or so-called hunter will be able to "give" up to 150 small birds from bushes and scrubland to restaurant owners and organizers of village festivals by filling out delivery slips that will, according to the terms of the law, guarantee the traceability and health of consumers. =>



The new Italian government led by Giorgia Meloni took office on October 22. It has not yet challenged the legality of this food law, which runs counter to all the efforts made by bird lovers and carabinieri to control poaching throughout Italy.

Kodami, May 25 and June 23, 2022; L'Eco di Bergamo, May 25, 2022; GardaPost, June 8, 2022; Corriere Brescia, July 16, 2022; Ente Nazionale per la Protezione degli Animali, July 16, 2022.<sup>124</sup>

## FAMILY AFFAIRS

### Beginning of June 2022

#### Varese, Province of Varese, Region of Lombardy, Italy

"Judge, it was a catacomb for the animals, a tragedy." The carabinieri who participated in the search of the dog farm has not minced his words, nor his emotions. The couple is accused of falsifying documents, usurpation of identity, illegal exercise of the profession of veterinarian, abuse of animals and not only dogs: a Eurasian siskin (*Carduelis spinus*, synonymous with *Spinus spinus*, Appendix III in Ukraine), a great spotted woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*), a coal tit (*Periparus ater*), a European crested tit (*Lophophanes cristatus*), and a salmon-crested cockatoo (*Cacatua moluccensis*, Appendix I) which was "adopted" by the Mornago police station. To be continued.

VareseNews, June 8, 2022.<sup>125</sup>

## MALTA

### April 3 and 5, 2022

#### Qormi, Southern Region, and Bidnija, Northern Region, Malta

Two marsh harriers (*Circus aeruginosus*, Appendix II) shot even though spring hunting is not open.

BirdLife Malta, April 5 and 7, 2022.<sup>126</sup>

### Week of April 4, 2022

#### Valletta, South Eastern Region, Malta

- A fine of 1,000 € (1,110 US\$) for shooting a Eurasian hoopoe (*Upupa epops*)

near Valletta airport at the beginning of the hunting season using a prohibited silencer and electronic bird caller. Withdrawal of the hunting licence.

- A fine of 1,500 € (1,670 US\$) for hunting in the bird sanctuary of Delimara where hunting is strictly forbidden. Withdrawal of the hunting licence for 2 years and confiscation of the gun.

Committee Against Bird Slaughter, April 9, 2022.<sup>127</sup>



### April 18, 2022

#### Għargħur, Northern Region, Malta

- A poacher of ortolan buntings (*Emberiza hortulana*) is caught in the act by a CABS team. He is arrested.

- A 14-year-old boy is caught by a CABS team with a hunting weapon in hand, waiting for a flock of birds.

Times of Malta, April 22, 2022.<sup>128</sup>



### April 18 and 22, 2022

#### Marsaxlokk, South Eastern Region, Malta

- It was a few hours after sunset. Shots rang out. The police stayed in the area all night to try to catch the troublemakers. In the early hours of the morning, they found 4 injured marsh harriers (*Circus aeruginosus*, Appendix II) and one dead in a field. The poachers had attacked a flock of about 30 individuals.

- Not far away, 5 more dead marsh harriers were found in 2 freshly harvested fields.

The CABS spokeswoman noted with concern: "There are many more unharvested wheat fields in Delimara and we don't know how many more dead harriers will pop up in the next days."

BirdLife Malta, April 19, 2022; Times of Malta, April 22, 2022.<sup>129</sup>

### April 20, 2022

#### San Lawrenz and Marsalforn, Gozo Region, Malta

- Dismantling of 2 mist nets and 4 trap cages placed in a garden to poach European turtle doves (*Streptopelia turtur*).

- Dismantling of 3 nets, seizure of 2 electronic decoy callers and seizure of 12 live common quails (*Coturnix coturnix*).

Committee Against Bird Slaughter, April 21, 2022.<sup>130</sup>



**April 28, 2022**

**Fort Chambray, Gozo Region and Qormi, Southern Region, Malta**

- In the afternoon, a tourist finds an osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*, Appendix II) lying on the ground after having been targeted by a poacher. To prevent the poacher from retrieving his "trophy", she stays with the bird until the specialised veterinary unit arrives. The bird cannot be saved.



- Later in the evening, local residents spot a red-footed falcon (*Falco tinnunculus*, Appendix II) with a serious gunshot wound in a playground. It dies. Between April 10 and 30, BirdLife Malta recorded 18 protected birds shot. The Police Environmental Protection Unit recorded 16 others. The poachers attacked marsh harriers (*Circus aeruginosus*, Appendix II), kestrels (*Falco tinnunculus*, Appendix II), Eurasian hobbies (*Falco subbuteo*, Appendix II), Eurasian golden orioles (*Oriolus oriolus*, Appendix III in Ukraine), nightjars (family Caprimulgidae) bee-eaters (family Meropidae), Eurasian hoopoes (*Upupa epops*), grey herons (*Ardea cinerea*), purple herons (*Ardea purpurea*), black-crowned night herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), common cuckoos (*Cuculus canorus*), woodchat shrikes (*Lanius senator*) and yellow-legged gulls (*Larus michahellis*).

BirdLife Malta, April 29 and May 7, 2022.<sup>131</sup>

**End of May 2022**

**Valletta, South Eastern Region, Malta**

Three poachers were fined between 1,000 and 1,500 € (1,050 and 1,570 US\$) for having caught common linnets (*Carduelis cannabina*, synonymous with *Linaria cannabina*, Appendix III in Ukraine) and other finches (family Fringillidae). Their hunting permits were also suspended for 2 years.

Committee Against Bird Slaughter, June 3, 2022.<sup>132</sup>



**REPEATED OFFENCE**

**End of June 2022**

**Malta**

Mario Ellul, 69 years old, taxidermist, is fined 6,000 € or 6,460 US\$ and his professional licence is suspended for 2 years. He had been arrested in August 2019 as part of an extensive investigation into a ring of poachers operating in parks and national reserves in Africa, particularly in Egypt, and in Europe. More than 700 stuffed or frozen birds had been seized: eagles and vultures (Accipitridae, Appendix I or II), falcons (Falconidae, Appendix I or II), flamingos (Phoenicopteridae, Appendix II), storks (family Ciconiidae), egrets (family Ardeidae), spoonbills (genus *Platalea*) and ibises (family Threskiornithidae). The ring is suspected of having misappropriating certificates issued in the years 1990-2000. More than 500,000 certificates were issued at that time and very few checks were carried out. BirdLife Malta appeals to Robert Abela, Prime Minister, to ensure that the lawfulness of collections of stuffed birds is verified as soon as possible.

Maltese poachers in Egypt, see "On the Trail" n°28 p. 41 and n°31 p. 141.

Times of Malta, August 23 and October 1, 2019 and July 2, 2022.<sup>133</sup>



**PORTUGAL**

**April 13, 2022**

**Idanha-a-Nova, District of Castelo Branco, Portugal**



A 42-year-old man was arrested. In his vehicle were 6 grey parrot chicks (*Psittacus erithacus*, Appendix I), 32 cockatiels (*Nymphicus hollandicus*) and 20 peach-faced lovebirds (*Agapornis roseicollis*). A notice of violation was sent to the national CITES authority. Reconquista, April 16, 2022.<sup>134</sup>



## SERBIA

**April 11 and 12, 2022**

**Idos, North Banat District, Serbia**

19 deaths by poisoning: one imperial eagle (*Aquila heliaca*, Appendix I), 6 marsh harriers (*Circus aeruginosus*, Appendix II), one golden jackal (*Canis aureus*, Appendix III in India), 7 rooks (*Corvus frugilegus*), 2 red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), one Eurasian jackdaw (*Coloeus monedula*), and one least weasel (*Mustela nivalis*).



It is the hecatomb in the fields of Idos, near Kikinda. The death toll would be even higher. It is the ploughing season and animals may have been put underground by the plowshares, that is what Milan Ružić, director of the Society for the Study and Protection of Birds of Serbia, fears. The first victims are undoubtedly the 2 foxes and then the scavengers, whether they are winged or terrestrial. As the crow flies, 4 km from the disaster area, the nature reserve of the Nature Reserve Meadows of Great Bustard is home to nesting eagles, which could also be among the collateral victims. Since the year 2000, 2,300 birds protected by Serbian, European, or international laws have been poisoned, including more than 100 white-tailed eagles (*Haliaeetus albicilla*, Appendix I). For 10 years, ornithologists have been asking the government to set up a working group on the serial poisoning of birds in particular to regulate the use of pesticides and to establish an arsenal of sanctions.

Energetski portal, April 12, 2022; Večernje novosti, April 13, 2022.<sup>135</sup>

**April 12, 2022**

**Gradinje, Pirot District, Serbia. Border with Bulgaria.**

Seizure in the trunk of a car coming from Bulgaria of 2 Molina's green-cheeked conures (*Pyrrhura molinae*, Appendix II) and 35 rose-ringed parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*). The driver was handed over to the police and the birds are being monitored by the veterinary administration at the zoo in Jagodina.

Customs Administration of the Republic of Serbia, April 12, 2022; Juzne Vesti, April 13, 2022.<sup>136</sup>

**April 19, 2022**

**Bački Petrovac, South Bačka District, Serbia**



Press release from the Society for the Protection and Study of Birds of Serbia:

"We apologize for the inconvenience. There is more bad news than good news coming from our Society in the last few days and we are sorry for that. There are treacherous and unenlightened people living in human communities and we apologize to the birds. We are tired of sending out calls and reports, calling and pressuring institutions to do their jobs as best they can....

Today we discovered new cases of mass bird poisoning at 2 locations near Bački Petrovac. A white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*, Appendix I), 6 common buzzards (*Buteo buteo*, Appendix II), 3 marsh harriers (*Circus aeruginosus*, Appendix II), and 4 ravens (genus *Corvus*) will no longer fly over the vast fields, and their resounding voices will no longer remind those who still have illusions that this world does not belong only to man and his greed.

When in a few years you wonder where the birds disappeared to and why the singing has stopped, remember that everything could and should have been different. The hardest part will be to explain to children how eagles once flew proudly in the skies above Serbia and why we could not save them from the curse."

Birdlife Serbia, April 19, 2022.<sup>137</sup>



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## EASTERN EUROPE

### BULGARIA

**April 26, 2022**

**Sliven, Sliven Province, Bulgaria**



It was in critical condition and survived after a long treatment at the wild animal rescue centre in Stara Zagora. It is back in the sky. There are 35 to 40 pairs of imperial eagles (*Aquila heliaca*, Appendix I) in Bulgaria.

bTV, April 26, 2022.<sup>138</sup>

### HUNGARY

**Mid-April 2022**

**Szabolcs, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County, Hungary**



They are not only shooting and poisoning birds, they are also trapping and a harrier (*Circus* spp., Appendix II) was a victim. Such a splintering fracture is caused by the iron of the trap. It was "lucky," the operation was successful. Bird Hospital Foundation, April 21, 2022.<sup>139</sup>

**May 4, 2022**

**Salgótarján, Nógrád County, Hungary**

Seizure of 18 European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine). "The man captured them by downloading their "songs" and placing sticks coated with birdlime over his phone. When the birds landed after hearing the song, they got stuck in the birdlime."

MagyarVadasz.hu, June 6 and July 7, 2022.<sup>140</sup>

**Mid-May 2022**

**Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County, Hungary**

**County,**



Poisoning of 2 imperial eagles (*Aquila heliaca*, Appendix I) and a white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*, Appendix I), as well as crows and ravens (genus *Corvus*).

It seems, however, that after the carnage of the summer of 2021 in Tura in the county of Pest (see "On the Trail" n°33 p.182), increased public awareness, including among hunters, has led to a reduction in the use of poisoned bait throughout the country. In December 2021, Parliament passed a bill that makes wildlife poisoning and bait preparation a criminal act.

The downside is that the perpetrators of the March 2021, April 2021 and August 2021 poisonings have not been found. Investigations are still ongoing. PannonEagle LIFE Project, August 29, 2022.<sup>141</sup>

**May 24, 2022**

**Szeged, Csongrád-Csanád County, Hungary**

Shots rang out in the upscale neighbourhood. A 75-year-old man had just freaked out and killed a common blackbird (*Turdus merula*, Appendix III in Ukraine) to protect fruits.

Delmagyar.hu, May 25, 2022.<sup>142</sup>

### POLAND

**Beginning of June 2022**

**Gmina Lubaczów, Subcarpathian Voivodeship, Poland**



Seizure from a clandestine taxidermist of a snowy owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*, Appendix II), a long-eared owl (*Asio otus*, Appendix II), a honey buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*, Appendix II), a red kite (*Milvus milvus*, Appendix II), other raptors (Accipitridae, Appendix I or II), owls (Strigidae, Appendix I or II), a European golden oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*, Appendix III in Ukraine), a Eurasian jay (*Garrulus glandarius*) and a black grouse (*Lyrurus tetrix*). Some of the birds were already stuffed, others were frozen and awaiting stuffing.

Polish Police, June 7, 2022.<sup>143</sup>

## ROMANIA

### FAMILY AFFAIRS

End of May 2022

Tutura, Iasi County, Romania

The retired couple shot a Eurasian sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*, Appendix II) and bragged about it on social networks. The wife holds the bird unfolded with a message like "if you keep playing with fire you must expect to get burnt". The victim would have stolen 4 chicks. It was a male. "At this time, females stay in the nest with the chicks and males hunt and retrieve." "We can deduce that the chicks are dead." "It takes 2 to take care of them," says one specialist. Stirile Kanal D, May 26, 2022; BZI.ro, May 27, 2022; Stirile PRO TV, May 27, 2022.<sup>144</sup>



facebook

## RUSSIA

April 13, 2022

Kaluga, Kaluga Oblast, Russia

At the request of the prosecutor, access to a website offering to buy a lesser kestrel (*Falco naumanni*, Appendix II) without any certificate has been blocked.

Kaluga 24, April 13, 2022.<sup>145</sup>

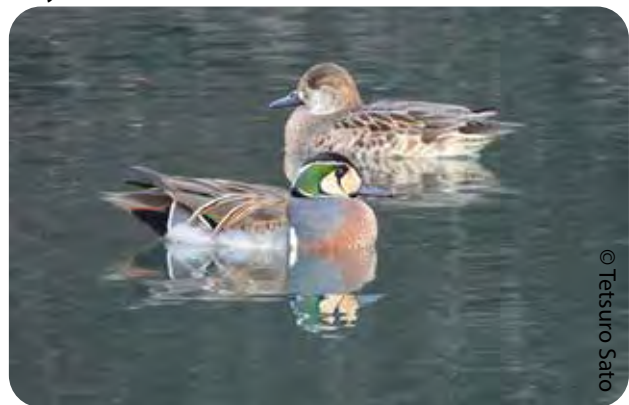
April 21-May 20, 2022

Republic of Sakha, Russia

During Internet monitoring, cyber investigators identified photographic evidence of poaching of at least 14 Baikal teals (*Anas formosa*, Appendix II). The suspects were identified.

The results of the field inspections were 6 Baikal teals killed in Churapchinsky District, 18 in Megino-Kangalassky District (see page 158), 4 in Amginsky District and one in Khangalassky District.

SakhaLife, May 25 and July 4, 2022; YakutiaMedia, May 30, 2022.<sup>146</sup>



## REPEATED OFFENCE

April 25, 2022

Ulan-Ude, Republic of Buryatia, Russia

Sentence of 4 men, 2 Russians of Syrian origin and 2 Buryats to suspended prison time of 3 years and 4 years. At the beginning of the winter in 2020 they had captured and helped to capture 4 gyr falcons (*Falco rusticolus*, Appendix I) using common pigeons as bait. They pleaded guilty and expressed their repentance. After a stay in a specialized institution the falcons were released. One of the men of Syrian origin had already captured a gyr falcon in autumn 2019 in Buryatia. A gyr falcon on the Russian market sells for up to 15,000 US\$ and in the Middle East 100,000 US\$. Moskovski Komsomolets Ulan-Ude, April 25, 2022; Number One, April 25, 2022.<sup>147</sup>



May 13, 2022

Federal City of Saint Petersburg, Russia



And we meet our short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*, Appendix II) again. Very far from the Aegean Sea, this one was in the hands of 2 animal trainers who proposed to people to pose for pictures in the Aleksandrovskiy park. It was exhausted, wings cut and a little depleted. It was transferred to a recovery centre for depressed birds.

Komsomolskaya Pravda, May 13, 2022; TV Channel St. Petersburg, May 13, 2022.<sup>148</sup>

May 24, 2022

Yakutsk, Sakha Republic, Russia

Sale on the farmers' market of 5 Baikal teals (*Anas formosa*, Appendix II). The ecological value of one bird is estimated at 25,000 rubles (350 US\$).

SakhaLife, May 24, 2022.<sup>149</sup>

May 24, 2022

Moscow Federal City, Russia

Animal trainers are doing their business in the tourist streets of Moscow by chatting up passers-by to pose for rubles with either a steppe eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*, Appendix II) or a barn owl (*Tyto alba*, Appendix II). The 2 birds were confiscated and put in security.

Vechernyaya Moskva, May 24, 2022; Sustainable Cities: Moscow, May 25, 2022.<sup>150</sup>



May 24, 2022

**Yakutsk, Republic of Sakha, Russia**

Sale on the "farmers' market" of 5 Baikal teals (*Anas formosa*, Appendix II), 4 males and one female. The ecological damage for each is estimated at 25,000 rubles or 350 US\$.  
SakhaLife, May 24, 2022.<sup>151</sup>

May 2022

**Megino-Kangalassky District, Republic of Sakha, Russia**

The poacher killed 17 Baikal teals (*Anas formosa*, Appendix II). The damage is estimated to be more than 440,000 rubles (6,125 US\$). He is liable to a fine of up to one million rubles (13,920 US\$).  
SakhaNews, July 7, 2022.<sup>152</sup>

June 23, 2022

**Vnukovo International Airport, Moscow Oblast, Russia**

Seizure of 15 male white-rumped shamas (*Copsychus malabaricus*), known for their melodious songs, from a Vietnamese passenger's sports bag upon disembarking from a flight from Nha Trang, Viet Nam. They were exhausted by the length of the trip and the temperature changes.  
Virtual Customs, June 23, 2022.<sup>153</sup>

June 24, 2022

**Moscow Federal City, Russia**



Seizure at the entrance to Gorky Park of a long-eared owl (*Asio otus*, Appendix II) and a tawny owl (*Strix aluco*, Appendix II) in the hands of a street photographer.

Since the beginning of 2022, 10 owls (Strigiformes, Appendix I or II), 2 eagles (*Aquila* spp., Appendix I or II), 3 primates and one python (Pythonidae, Appendix I or II) exploited by street photographers have been seized by the authorities (see "On the Trail" n°35 p.144 and this issue page 157). In bad health and accustomed to the human species, they can't be released in the wild. Citizens are called upon to report to the authorities the presence of animal trainers in the city streets.

Moscow Government Information Center, June 29, 2022.<sup>154</sup>

Mid-April 2022

**Náchod District, Hradec Králové Region, Czechia. Border with Poland.**

In his house, the prison guard had nocturnal birds, a Eurasian eagle owl (*Bubo bubo*, Appendix II), a little owl (*Athene noctua*, Appendix II), a tawny owl (*Strix aluco*, Appendix II), and a diurnal bird of prey, a common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*, Appendix II).  
Ekolist.cz, April 22, 2022; iDNES.cz, April 22, 2022.<sup>155</sup>

April 2022

**Chrastava, Liberec Region, Czechia**



The seizure at František Kresta's house of a collection of stuffed birds, which is said to be more than 100 years old and which he inherited from his grandfather, is causing controversy. Kresta claims to have been robbed by the Czech State and is still seeking legal redress.

iDNES.cz, April 25, 2022.<sup>156</sup>

June 18, 2022

**Capital City of Prague, Czechia**

A 20-year-old woman of foreign origin offered passers-by to pay for pictures with a barn owl (*Tyto alba*, Appendix II) trained to do some acrobatics. She is charged with animal abuse.

City Police of the capital city Prague, June 20, 2022.<sup>157</sup>





## UKRAINE

**May 23, 2022**

### **Boryspil, Kiev Oblast, Ukraine**

The NGO UAnimals doesn't give up. During the occupation of the country by Russian troops, it fought for a café and its owner to separate from an owl (*Strigiformes*, Appendix I or II except *Sceloglaux albifacies*) which had been exhibited and abused. For it, the world was reduced to hundreds of bars. It was necessary to call the police to have the owl taken to a specialized home in Chubynske. UAnimals, May 24, 2022.<sup>158</sup>

**June 3, 2022**

### **Yablunytsia, Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast, Ukraine**

Discovery in a clandestine zoo of an imperial eagle (*Aquila heliaca*, Appendix I) recently caught in the wild. Its presence was revealed by an anonymous informant. The owner agreed to hand over the raptor to the Carpathian District Protection Brigade. It was handed over to the bird shelter of the Halych National Park.

State Environmental Inspection of the Carpathian District, June 6, 2022; MICTO, June 6, 2022.<sup>159</sup>

**June 3 and October 4, 2022**

### **Karapchiv, Chernivtsi Oblast, Ukraine**

Arrest of an 18-year-old man. He had bought an Indian peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*, Appendix III in Pakistan) and was using it to show off to his friends. Under the influence of alcohol, he was filmed beating his pet to death as it became his punching bag.

He was sentenced to 5 years in prison with a 2-year probationary period. "Do not be indifferent to the suffering of animals! Witnesses of the bird's abuse could have prevented this crime and saved the peafowl from a painful and unjust death. Every life is important - don't forget it", emphasizes UAnimals. Ukrayinska Pravda, June 20, 2022; Chernivtsi Oblast Prosecutor's Office, October 4, 2022.<sup>160</sup>



## OCEANIA

### AUSTRALIA

**Beginning of June 2022**

### **Sunshine Coast, State of Queensland, Australia**



The buyer and seller of a red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii*, Appendix II) were fined 689 Australian dollars (495 US\$) and 2,067 Australian dollars (1,485 US\$). The transaction had been done by hand in spite of the regulations. Two other red-tailed black cockatoos were seized from the seller.

The 3 birds are now in the care of the RSPCA shelter in Wacol. If all goes well, they could be released back into a suitable natural habitat.

State of Queensland (Department of Environment and Science), June 3, 2022.<sup>161</sup>

**Beginning of June 2022**

### **Barmah, State of Victoria, Australia**



About a hundred little corellas (*Cacatua sanguinea*, Appendix II) and long-billed corellas (*Cacatua tenuirostris*, Appendix II), and the toll continues to rise, were found dead on the roofs, in the streets of the hamlet of Barmah (280 inhabitants), in puddles, in the river and in the surrounding bushes. Mass poisoning is suspected. The gizzards of the birds contain a greenish liquid which would be characteristic of a rodenticide consumption. Farmers and agricultural cooperatives are reportedly spreading poisoned grain near their silos to ward off pigeons considered to be grain raiders, and CITES Appendix II listed birds are also believed to be victims of these criminal acts. Any relevant information should be passed on to Crime Stoppers Victoria on 1800 333 000.



Poisoning of birds in Australia, see "On the Trail" n°21 p.43, n°26 p.47 and p.113, n°34 p.179 and n°35 p.146.

news.com.au, June 7, 2022; The New Daily, June 7, 2022.<sup>162</sup>

# VARIOUS REPTILE SPECIES

## AFRICA

### KENYA

**May 17, 2022**

**Amboseli National Park, Kajiado County, Kenya**

Seizure of a monitor lizard (*Varanus* spp., Appendix I or II) and a python (*Python* spp., Appendix II). One arrest.

Big Life Foundation, May 17, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

## AMERICA

### ECUADOR

**June 25, 2022**

**Galápagos Islands, Galápagos Province – off Puntilla de Santa Elena, Ecuador**



Returning from the Galapagos Islands, the tourist boat *Xavier III* is boarded some 50 km from continental Ecuador. On board, the coastguards seize 84 Galapagos giant tortoises (*Chelonoidis niger*, Appendix I) in boxes and 5 Galapagos land iguanas (*Conolophus subcristatus*, Appendix II) in bags. Francy Darío J. C., Robin Fernando O. C., Freddy Alfonso C. R., Federico Melinton D. D., Víctor Daniel L. C. and María Petrona S. Ch. have been remanded in custody. According to the prosecutor's office, a tortoise can be sold for between 3,000 and 5,000 US\$ depending on its size and an iguana for up to 20,000 US\$. After veterinary inspection and quarantine, the animals should be repatriated to their islands.

Galápagos Conservancy, June 26, 2022; State Prosecutor's Office, June 27, 2022.<sup>2</sup>



## PERU

**End of May 2022**

**District of La Victoria, Province of Lima, Department of Lima, Peru**

Seizure from street vendors' stalls of 4 heads, 23 patches of skin and 3 whole skins of anaconda (*Eunectes* spp, Appendix II), 2 heads and 3 skins of boa constrictor (*Boa constrictor*, Appendix I or II), one leg and one shell of yellow-footed tortoise (*Chelonoidis denticulatus*, Appendix II), 2 heads of spectacled caiman (*Caiman crocodilus*, Appendix II) and one skin of snake (family Colubridae). They had no documents to prove their legal origin. They promised miraculous cures to onlookers.

La República, May 29, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

## ASIA

### CAMBODIA

**May 3, 2022**

**Phnom Penh Autonomous Municipality, Cambodia**

Seizure of 6 Malayan snail-eating turtles (*Malayemys macrocephala*, Appendix II), 2 rat snakes (family Colubridae), and a dead Bengal monitor lizard (*Varanus bengalensis*, Appendix I). The turtles were transferred to the National Aquaculture Research and Development Institute while the snakes were released.

Wildlife Alliance Cambodia, May 3, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

### THAILAND

**May 12, 2022**

**Suvarnabhumi International Airport, Bangkok, Thailand**

Seizure of 636 animals in a parcel at the disembarkation of an EgyptAir flight, including 35 horned pit vipers (*Cerastes cerastes* and *Cerastes gasperettii*), chameleons, skinks (family Scincidae) and scorpions. The identities of the sender and recipient were not disclosed. All victims were transferred to veterinary services for a health examination and to complete the species inventory. Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, May 12, 2022; Bangkok Post, May 13, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

**End of June 2022**

**Suvarnabhumi International Airport, Bangkok, Thailand**

Seizure from the luggage of Nithya Raja, 38 years old, and Zakia Sulthana Ebrahim, 24 years old, of 50 lizards, 35 turtles, 20 snakes, 2 white porcupines and 2 armadillos (family Dasypodidae), all alive. The 2 women, Indian nationals, were about to board a Thai Airways flight to Chennai, India. Chiang Rai Times, June 28, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

**EUROPE**

**ITALY**

**May 24, 2022**

**Calenzano, Metropolitan City of Florence, Region of Tuscany, Italy**

Seizure of a tortoise shell (Testudinidae, Appendix I or II), a small stuffed crocodilian (Crocodylia, Appendix I or II) 15 cm long and 2 dried veiled chameleons (*Chamaeleo calyptratus*, Appendix II) from a 40-year-old man who explains that he bought them on eBay. He does not have any document attesting their legal origin. gonews.it, May 24, 2022; Piananotizie.it, May 24, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

**OCEANIA**

**AUSTRALIA**

**April 8, 2022**

**Australia**

"On the Trail" n°32 p.199 mentioned him when he was 26 years old. He was 30 years old in April 2022. In the meantime, he remained in prison in Australia because of about 20 parcels of reptiles and lizards caught in the Australian bush and sent by mail to Hong Kong. Chek Wei Javill Chin has been extradited to his home country of Malaysia upon his release from prison.

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, April 8, 2022.<sup>8</sup>

**April 26, 2022**

**Melbourne, State of Victoria, Australia**

Seizure of a python (Pythonidae, Appendix I or II) and a saurian from a known drug dealer. Investigators found cannabis, methamphetamines, explosives, a firearm and cash. The 27-year-old tenant was arrested. He faces 18 charges. The National Tribune, April 26, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

**May 23, 2022**

**Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia**

Lucas Cheyne and Nathan Chetcuti were fined 25,000 and 14,000 Australian dollars (17,600 US\$ and 9,900 US\$) for attempting in July 2021 to transport 77 reptiles caught in the Northern Territory by road to Gold Coast, Queensland. They claimed in court that they had no intention of selling the contraband in their Reptile Kingdom store. They claimed they wanted to "study" them and did not consider their action as "theft". They each faced a fine of 78,500 Australian dollars or 5 years in prison.

Northern Territory Government - Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security, May 12 and 23, 2022; NT Independent, May 24, 2022.<sup>10</sup>





# TORTOISES AND FRESHWATER TURTLES

## Most important seizures of the quarter:

2,047 meso-American sliders (*Trachemys venusta*)  
1,267 Indian softshell turtles (*Nilssonina gangetica*, Appendix I)



Gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*). Photo Tcluderay

## AFRICA

### SOUTH AFRICA

**Between May 23 and 26, 2022**  
**Namakwa and Pixely Ka-Seme**  
**Districts, Northern Cape Province,**  
**South Africa**



Roadblocks checked 686 vehicles. One tortoise (Testudinidae, Appendix I or II) was seized. The driver was fined 2,500 rand (156 US\$). SAPS, May 27, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

**June 2022**

**Johannesburg, Gauteng Province, South Africa**

Seizure of a male leopard tortoise (*Stigmochelys pardalis*, Appendix II) in a private home. Shut for several months in a tiny, dirty cage, it was completely dehydrated and undernourished and was not even strong enough to walk.

Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary Hospital, September 8, 2022.<sup>2</sup>



### FRANCE (REUNION)

**April 9, 2022**

**Saint-Leu, Department of Réunion, France**

A radiated tortoise (*Astrochelys radiata*, Appendix I) stolen from private individuals. They are offering a reward of 1,000 € (1,075 US\$) to anyone who returns it. Will an investigation be launched by the authorities to determine the lawfulness of its detention?

Linfo.re, June 3, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

### MADAGASCAR

**April 6, 2022**

**Beloha District, Androy Region, Madagascar**

Misery, impunity and corruption at the heart of the administration open the door to the trafficking of natural resources and the depletion of biodiversity. Seizure of 11 live turtles and 14 dead ones. Most of them are radiated tortoises (*Astrochelys radiata*, Appendix I). The survivors were handed over to the Turtle Survival Alliance. One man is arrested, 6 have fled.

The trees are also looted. They are going to Asia. At the end of March, 770 elephant tree or jahiby (*Operculicarya decaryi*, Appendix II), a species endemic to the dry forest, were seized in Ankilibe in the southwest of the big island. The elephant trees can reach 9 metres high. They are sought after as ornamental bonsai plants. =>

Their leaves are used locally for the recovery of women after childbirth. Madagascar-Tribune, April 11, 2022; Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, April 11, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

**April 13, 2022**

**Androhipano, Atsimo-Andrefana Region, Madagascar**

Seizure of 38 radiated tortoises (*Astrochelys radiata*, Appendix I) hidden in bushes. They were sent to the Turtle Survival Alliance center in Lavavolo, near Itampolo. A rescue that is a drop in the ocean: tortoise trafficking is rampant on the island. 2424.mg, April 15, 2022; La Gazette de la Grande Ile, April 17, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

**June 29, 2022**

**Fianarantsoa, Haute Matsiatra Region, Madagascar**



Seizure from a bush-taxi of 91 radiated tortoises (*Astrochelys radiata*, Appendix I) and spider tortoises (*Pyxis arachnoides*, Appendix I). Two women are questioned by the police. Madagascar-Tribune, July 4, 2022; Turtle Survival Alliance, July 6, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

## NIGERIA

**June 24 and 25, 2022**

**Ibeno and Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria**

Two diamondback terrapins (*Malaclemys terrapin*, Appendix II) are for sale on the roadside. Conservationist Enim Akwa bought them to hand them over to the Biodiversity Conservation Center.

Enwongo Cleopas-Akwa, June 25, 2022; Premium Times, July 6, 2022.<sup>7</sup>



## NORTHERN AMERICA

### CANADA

**April 6, 2022**

**Kelowna, Province of British Columbia, Canada**

Two people wanted to get rid of their "pet" by selling it on the Internet. The western painted turtle (*Chrysemys picta bellii*) was seized and handed over to the Wildlife Park in Kamloops. Conservation Officer Service, April 6, 2022.<sup>8</sup>



### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**Mid-April 2022**

**State of Virginia, United States of America**

Seizure from private sellers and retailers of dozens of turtles: Mississippi map turtles (*Graptemys pseudogeographica*, Appendix III in the United States of America), red-eared sliders (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) and eastern painted turtles (*Chrysemys picta picta*). The native turtles were sent to zoological facilities, the invasive turtles such as the red-eared sliders were killed. These turtles, which can be purchased for nothing, are considered "disposable pets" and are often dumped into natural environments. Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, April 19, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

**April 20, 2022**

**Miami, State of Florida, United States of America**

Presented as "captive bred", they were in fact caught in the wild. About 3,500 striped mud-turtles (*Kinosternon baurii*) were fraudulently sold to domestic and international customers. Michael Van Nostrand (55) was sentenced to 7 months in prison, 3 years of probation and a fine of 100,000 US\$. His company Strictly Reptiles Inc was sentenced to 5 years of probation and a fine of 150,000 US\$.

US Department of Justice, April 20, 2022.<sup>10</sup>



**May 9, 2022**

**Atlanta, State of Georgia, United States of America**

Nathan Horton, age 37, has accumulated more than 150,000 US\$ with his prolific trafficking of stripe-necked musk turtles (*Sternotherus minor peltifer*), loggerhead musk turtles (*Sternotherus minor*), common musk turtles (*Sternotherus odoratus*), and eastern mud turtles (*Kinosternon subrubrum*) (see "On the Trail" n°31 p.149). He was sentenced to one year and one day in prison, followed by 3 years of supervised release, a fine of 10,000 US\$, and 200 hours of community service. US Department of Justice, May 10, 2022; Environmental Crimes Monthly Bulletin, June 2022.<sup>11</sup>



**Beginning of May 2022**

**Madison County, State of Florida, United States of America**

A man was arrested for hitting a snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*, Appendix III in the United States of America) with a large branch on the side of the road. He wanted to kill it. It was handed over to a wildlife rehabilitation center. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, May 12, 2022.<sup>12</sup>

**Beginning of May 2022**

**Chippewa County, State of Michigan, United States of America**

Seizure of the remains of a snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*, Appendix III in the United States of America) in the hands of 2 fishermen. They had been seen while laying eggs and reported to the Report All Poaching hotline. Michigan Department of Natural Resources, May 14, 2022.<sup>13</sup>

**Mid-May 2022**

**Center Hill, State of Florida, United States of America**

Seizure of a gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*, Appendix II) during the search of a home. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, May 19, 2022.<sup>14</sup>

**May 25, 2022**

**Wilmington, State of North Carolina, United States of America**

Sentence of Jesse James Freeman (48) to 18 months in prison, 3 years of probation and a fine of 25,000 US\$. He had hired poachers from January 2017 to September 2018 and illegally shipped 722 Eastern box turtles (*Terrapene carolina carolina*, Appendix II), 122 spotted turtles (*Clemmys guttata*, Appendix II), and 3 wood turtles (*Glyptemys insculpta*, Appendix II) to Asia. Freeman's income from this smuggling is estimated at 121,000 US\$ while the value of the turtles caught in the United States is estimated at 1.5 million US\$ on the Asian market. US Department of Justice, May 25, 2022; Environmental Crimes Monthly Bulletin, June 2022.<sup>15</sup>



**End of May 2022**

**Okeechobee County, State of Florida, United States of America**

They had cut the fence to gain access with their all-terrain vehicle to the enclosure of the gopher tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*, Appendix II). The poachers were caught red-handed. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, May 26, 2022.<sup>16</sup>

**Mid-June 2022**

**Flagler County, State of Florida, United States of America**

An employee of a towing company discovers 4 gopher tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*, Appendix II) in a vehicle that was seized for non-payment. They were recovered by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officers. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, June 16, 2022.<sup>17</sup>

**Mid-June 2022**

**Marion County, State of Florida, United States of America**

Seizure of 4 gopher tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*, Appendix II) from a home, kept in a cooler. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, June 23, 2022.<sup>18</sup>

**June 2022**

**State of Michigan, United States of America**

Arrest of a turtle egg poacher who has been operating in the region for 3 years. Dozens of eggs in incubators, hatchlings and several endangered species of turtles were seized at his home. Ten species of turtles are present in Michigan: Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*, Appendix II), Eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina carolina*, Appendix II), spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*, Appendix II), wood turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*, Appendix II), Northern map turtle (*Graptemys geographica*, Appendix III in the United States of America), snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*, Appendix III in the United States of America), spiny softshell turtle (*Apalone spinifera*, Appendix III in the United States of America), common musk turtle (*Sternotherus odoratus*), painted turtle (*Chrysemys picta*), and red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*). Michigan Department of Natural Resources, June 25, 2022.<sup>19</sup>

**End of June 2022**

**Cass County, State of Illinois, United States of America**

Seizure of an ornate box turtle (*Terrapene ornata*, Appendix II) being sold on the Internet. It has been released. Illinois Department of Natural Resources, June 30, 2022.<sup>20</sup>



## ARGENTINA

Mid-May 2022

**El Impenetrable National Park, Province of Chaco, Argentina**

Thanks to the cooperation between Fundación Rewilding Argentina, the National Parks Administration of the Chaco Province, the Urutaú Refuge in the city of Filadelfia, Paraguay, and the Paraguayan Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, 40 red-footed tortoises (*Chelonoidis carbonarius*, Appendix II) are being transferred to El Impenetrable National Park. This rewilding will restore the ecological role of the "yabotis". They disperse the seeds they eat and contribute to the renewal of the forest. They weigh more than 20 kg, measure 60 cm long, have a life expectancy of about 50 years. Before being released, they have been quarantined in Corrientes and fed with native plants and fruits.

Infobae, May 21, 2022.<sup>21</sup>

## BRAZIL

June 8, 2022

**Ribeirópolis, State of Sergipe, Brazil**

Seizure from a private home of 28 tortoises (*Chelonoidis carbonarius* or *Chelonoidis denticulatus*, Appendix II) locally known as jabutis. Three parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II) were also captive in the house but since they are over 15 years old and can no longer be released, they were left in the care of their "owners."

Infonet, June 9, 2022.<sup>22</sup>

## COLOMBIA

Mid-April 2022

**Department of Quindío, Colombia**

In Colombia, it is said that "If you didn't eat turtle meat, you didn't celebrate Holy Week." In application of the saying, a trafficker on a bus coming from the department of Cesar to Valle del Cauca in the south transported 2,047 juvenile Colombian sliders (*Trachemys venusta*). After a veterinary examination, the "tortugas hicoteas" -will be released where they were caught in the natural environments along the Atlantic coast.

Newsweek, April 15, 2022.<sup>23</sup>



© CorpoQuindíoCRO/Zenger

Beginning of April 2022

**Puerto Francisco de Orellana (El Coca), Orellana Province, Ecuador**

Seizure of 21 South American river turtles (*Podocnemis expansa*, Appendix II), 29 yellow-headed sidenecks (*Podocnemis unifilis*, Appendix II), 7 yellow-footed tortoises (*Chelonoidis denticulatus*, Appendix II), 2 eggs and 2 shells in a 3rd floor apartment. The turtles were wading in a tub on the terrace.

NTN24, April 6, 2022.<sup>24</sup>

## FRANCE (FRENCH GUIANA)

End of June 2022

**Caaco, Territorial Collectivity of Guiana, France**

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The association Dégrad Tortue Guyane and the departmental service of the OFB in French Guiana continue the release operation of yellow-headed sidenecks (*Podocnemis unifilis*, Appendix II) seized in 2018 as eggs. 51 specimens have already been released in April 2021 (see "On the Trail" n°32 p. 203). This time, more than 200 specimens will get to the La Comté River.

French Biodiversity Agency, July 2022.<sup>25</sup>

## MEXICO

Beginning of June 2022

**Mexico City, Mexico**

Seizure from a courier company of juvenile Galapagos giant tortoises (*Chelonoidis niger*, Appendix I) in a cardboard box. They were spotted by the four-legged brigade. No information on the exact number, origin and destination. Concerning the breeding of Galapagos giant tortoises, see "On the Trail" n°22 p.21, n°25 p.25 and n°33 p.189.

Infobae, June 5, 2022.<sup>26</sup>



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## ASIA

### CHINA

**April 7, 2022**

**Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China**

Seizure of 8 freshwater turtles: 4 big-headed turtles (*Platysternon megacephalum*, Appendix I), one Annam leaf turtle (*Mauremys annamensis*, Appendix I), and 3 Chinese three-striped box turtles (*Cuora trifasciata*, Appendix II).

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, April 8, 2022.<sup>27</sup>

**May 17, 2022**

**Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China**

Ten turtles did not survive, 21 were still alive. Six big-headed turtles (*Platysternon megacephalum*, Appendix I), 9 Chinese three-striped box turtles (*Cuora trifasciata*, Appendix II), 3 Beale's eyed turtles (*Sacalia bealei*, Appendix II), 2 yellow-margined box turtles (*Cuora flavomarginata*, Appendix II), and one wattle-necked softshell turtle (*Palea steindachneri*, Appendix II) were seized, along with capture equipment. Two men were arrested and the investigation is still ongoing.

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, May 19, 2022.<sup>28</sup>

**May 2022**

**Gongbei Border Post, Zhuhai Prefecture, Guangdong Province, China. Border with Macau.**

Seizure of 5 Horsfield's tortoises (*Testudo horsfieldii*, Appendix II) from the luggage of an incoming passenger. They were concealed in a plastic box.

Chinese Customs, May 23, 2022.<sup>29</sup>



### INDIA

**April 4, 2022**

**Dasnagar, Howrah District, State of West Bengal, India**

Seizure by WCCB assisted by the District Forest Department of 6 Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix I) from an aquarium store. Dasnagar, a western suburb of Kolkata, is home to an exotic fish market with dozens of stores.

WCCB, April 5, 2022.<sup>30</sup>

## OPERATION WILEP

**April 6, 2022**

**Howrah, Howrah District, State of West Bengal, India**



Seizure of 45 live turtles, many of them Indian flapshell turtles (*Lissemys punctata*, Appendix II), at the railway station and arrest of a trafficker by the Railway Protection Force (RPF).

Railway Protection Force, April 7, 2022; Indian Railways, April 10, 2022.<sup>31</sup>

**April 7, 2022**

**Gazole, Malda District, State of West Bengal, India**

Seizure of 19 live Indian softshell turtles (*Nilssonia gangetica*, Appendix I) from a street vendor. Bipul Biswas bought them in Uttar Pradesh and after butchering them, sold them in a market. Jyotipriya Mallick, West Bengal's forest Minister, tells Telegraph India that a special task force is being mobilized in the northern part of the State to combat the resurgence of trafficking in native and exotic animals. Earlier this month, 4 kangaroos, one of whom was reduced to a carcass, were seized in the suburb of Siliguri, 35 km from the border with Nepal.

Siliguri 24x7news, April 8, 2022; The Telegraph India, April 9, 2022.<sup>32</sup>

**April 9, 2022**

**Malkangiri District, State of Odisha, India**

The patrol had a lucky hand when it blocked a "Tata Magic car" coming from Andhra Pradesh. There were 139 or 140 live Indian flapshell turtle (*Lissemys punctata*, Appendix II) in the trailer, depending on the source. The driver was arrested. Traffickers of turtles protected under the 1972 Act are not eligible for bail. Rashmi Ranjan Swain, the forest officer in charge of the operation, recalls that "turtles are in great demand as they are used for manufacturing rare medicines for the treatment of infertility diseases. People kill turtles for their supposed aphrodisiac properties, for livestock feed, to make leather from their skins, to make potions from their blood, and to use them as fishing bait." Swain recalls that in November 2021 in the district, 40 trionyx from India had been seized under similar circumstances.

Odisha TV, April 9, 2022; Gaon Connection, April 11, 2022.<sup>33</sup>



**May 4, 2022**

**Kasimpur, Amethi District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India**

Arrest of 3 individuals by the WCCB and police at the railway station. The traffickers were holding 8.5 kg of dried calipea, the fatty, cartilaginous material covering the lower shell, an essential ingredient in "turtle soups."

WCCB, May 6, 2022.<sup>34</sup>

**May 29, 2022**

**Charghat, North 24 Parganas District, State of West Bengal, India**



Seizure of 527 Indian softshell turtles (*Nilssonia gangetica*, Appendix I), 439 live and 88 dead, some with their shells torn off, from Bangladesh with a black-market value of 350,000 rupees (4,570 US\$ or 8.50 US\$ each). Swapan Banik and Sukumar Roy were loading them into a truck. They were stacked in burlap bags on their way to Kolkata.

The Telegraph India, May 30 and June 1, 2022; WCCB, May 30, 2022.<sup>35</sup>

**June 2, 2022**

**Chintoor Mandal, Alluri Sitharama Raju District, State of Andhra Pradesh, India**



The roadside check is unquestionable. In the trailer, 648 Indian softshell turtles (*Nilssonia gangetica*, Appendix I) in 36 jute bags. Arrest of the driver, Shakar Rai. He was coming from Ravulapalem mandal, 166 km away, and was heading towards the State of Odisha, 550 km away. An investigation is underway to trace the network back.

The Hindu, June 3, 2022.<sup>36</sup>

**June 5, 2022**

**Goltala, Kolkata District, State of West Bengal, India**

The Indian peacock softshell turtle (*Nilssonia hurum*, Appendix I) had a close call. The news of its discovery by 4 fishermen who were cleaning a body of water quickly made the rounds in the village. Some men arrived armed to the teeth with knives and bamboo, demanding that the fishermen hand over the turtle whose meat they wanted to share. One of the fishermen managed to alert the authorities. A team of foresters arrived on the spot. The Indian peacock softshell turtle, a male of about 30 kg, was taken to the Wild Animal Rescue and Transit Facility Centre in Bidhannagar. After a week of observation, it is expected to be released.

The Telegraph India, June 6, 2022.<sup>37</sup>

**June 6, 2022**

**Sarguli, Nabarangapur District, State of Odisha, India**

"Acting on a tip-off we conducted a raid at Sarguli village and arrested 2 persons Rohidas Banik and Parmanand Bauli and seized 52 turtles [Indian softshell turtles (*Nilssonia gangetica*, Appendix I)] from their possession." There was an additional seizure of a motorcycle, a scale and 2 cell phones.

Ommcom News, June 6, 2022; Kalinga TV, June 7, 2022.<sup>38</sup>

**June 8, 2022**

**Howrah, Howrah District, State of West Bengal, India**

The Railway Protection Force reports the discovery of 23 turtles (probably Indian flapshell turtles, *Lissemys punctata*, Appendix II) at the freight station. They were handed over to the urban special forces. What happened next? Their fate is not mentioned. Railway Protection Force Eastern Railway, June 9, 2022.<sup>39</sup>

**June 12, 2022**

**Naihati, North 24 Parganas District, State of West Bengal, India**

Arrest of 2 women at Naihati railway station. They had boarded a train in Uttar Pradesh heading to the station of Sealdah in Kolkata. The stench coming out of their 2 bags led to an altercation with the bothered passengers. The Railway Protection Force arrived to the rescue. Inside the bags were 103 turtles, 3 of which were already dead. The 2 women explained that they had collected the turtles in Uttar Pradesh and were heading to Bangladesh to make money from them.

Millennium Post, June 12, 2022.<sup>40</sup>

**June 21, 2022**

**Jogendranagar, North 24 Parganas District, State of West Bengal, India**

Seizure of 20 live Indian softshell turtles (*Nilssonia gangetica*, Appendix I) and 8 Indian peacock softshell turtles (*Nilssonia hurum*, Appendix I) by the Forest Department from a house.

WCCB, June 23, 2022.<sup>41</sup>



**June 23, 2022**

**Ulloor, Thiruvananthapuram District, State of Kerala, India**

Praveen alias Saji discovers an Indian flapshell turtle (*Lissemys punctata*, Appendix II) in a field near his home. He picked it up and took it home with the intention of cooking and eating it. Forest officials got wind of the scheme and came to Saji's house to arrest him and seize the turtle, which was then entrusted to the zoo for at least 2 months.

The Hindu, June 25, 2022.<sup>42</sup>

**MALAYSIA**

**June 22, 2022**

**Miri, State of Sarawak, Malaysia**

Attempted smuggling of 7 African spurred tortoises (*Centrochelys sulcata*, Appendix II) foiled.

The Borneo Post, June 23, 2022.<sup>43</sup>

**NEPAL**

**June 12, 2022**

**Koteshwor, Kathmandu District, Bagmati Province, Nepal**

Raj Deula, 25, and Rahul Deula, 20, were arrested in a café. They had 10 turtles with them. The police also seized 3 mobile phones and a moped. "They wanted to sell them to individuals or in hotels to be used as decoration in aquariums" according to the inspector Nirmal Paneru in charge of the investigation.

The Himalayan Times, June 13, 2022; The Rising Nepal, June 15, 2022.<sup>44</sup>

**June 13, 2022**

**Inaruwa, Parsa District, Madhesh Province, Nepal. Border with India.**

Anandalal Temani, a Nepalese subject, was arrested in Inaruwa near a border post with the Indian State of Bihar with 113 live turtles. They were transferred to a specialized shelter in Parsa National Park. Smuggling from India to Nepal is relatively common. As of May 2021, 55 Indian flapshell turtles (*Lissemys punctata*, Appendix II), 6 Indian narrow-headed softshell turtles (*Chitra indica*, Appendix II) and one Indian softshell turtle (*Nilssonia gangetica*, Appendix I) had been seized in Uttar Pradesh from traffickers on their way to Nepal (see "On the Trail" n°33 p.192). Parsa District Forest Division official Farman Miya says, "Turtles are smuggled from India in large numbers as their demand has increased in Nepal since families and hotels seek them for decoration or to keep them as pets." "Turtle organs are also used for medicinal and cuisine purposes."

The Rising Nepal, June 15, 2022.<sup>45</sup>

**THAILAND**

**April 21, 2022**

**Suvarnabhumi International Airport, Bangkok, Thailand**



Seizure of 34 turtles including Burmese starred tortoises (*Geochelone platynota*, Appendix I), leopard tortoises (*Stigmochelys pardalis*, Appendix II), and African spurred tortoises (*Centrochelys sulcata*, Appendix II) originating from sub-Saharan Africa, in 7 packages bound for the Philippines.

Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, April 22, 2022.<sup>46</sup>

**VIET NAM**

**April 4, 2022**

**Hanoi Municipality, Viet Nam**

Seizure of 2 Chinese stripe-necked turtles (*Mauremys sinensi*, Appendix III in China) being sold in front of a pagoda. Transfer to the city zoo.

ENV, April 8, 2022.<sup>47</sup>

**April 13, 2022**

**Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam**

Seizure of a giant Asian pond turtle (*Heosemys grandis*, Appendix II) being sold on the roadside. The seller, who was there for 3 days, was fined 400,000 dong (17.50 US\$) for illegal occupation of the place. The turtle was given to the Cu Chi shelter.

ENV, April 13, 2022.<sup>48</sup>



### **April 13, 2022**

#### **Hue, Thua Thien Hue Province, Viet Nam**

Mrs. V.T.H.S. living in Thuan Loc district said she found "by chance" a bag containing 5 Indochinese box turtles (*Cuora bourreti*, Appendix I), 5 kg, 5 Southeast Asian leaf turtles (*Cyclemys oldhami*, Appendix II), 5 kg, 2 Chinese stripe-necked turtles (*Mauremys sinensis*, Appendix III in China), 2 kg, and 2 eggs, and gave it to the foresters of Thua Thien Hue.

Toquoc Online, April 14, 2022.<sup>49</sup>

### **April 30, 2022**

#### **Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam**

Another giant Asian pond turtle (*Heosemys grandis*, Appendix II) confiscated from a street vendor.

ENV, April 30, 2022.<sup>50</sup>

### **End of April 2022**

#### **Kon Tum Province, Viet Nam**

Seizure of 6 privately held big-headed turtles (*Platysternon megacephalum*, Appendix I) released in Chu Mom Ray National Park.

ENV, May 3, 2022.<sup>51</sup>

### **Beginning of May 2022**

#### **Ba Ria Vung Tau Province, Viet Nam**

Seizure and release of a yellow-headed temple turtle (*Heosemys annandalii*, Appendix II) reported by an ENV supporter in a monastery compound.

ENV, May 6, 2022.<sup>52</sup>

### **Mid-May 2022**

#### **Lang Son, Lang Son Province, Viet Nam**

Seizure of a keel-backed turtle (*Cuora mouhotii*, Appendix II) from a street vendor. The authorities took 3 tries to arrest him despite repeated reports from an informant.

ENV, May 15, 2022.<sup>53</sup>

### **End of May 2022**

#### **Ba Ria-Vung Tau Province, Viet Nam**

Seizure in a pagoda of a rice field of a Mekong snail-eating turtle (*Malayemys subtrijuga*, Appendix II) and another unidentified turtle. They had been deposited there by worshippers. ENV reminds people not to deposit wild animals in temples or churches. "It's not lucky for you, and it's certainly not lucky for the turtles."

ENV, May 30, 2022.<sup>54</sup>

### **Beginning of June 2022**

#### **Binh Duong Province, Viet Nam**

Seizure in a pagoda of 4 South Asian box turtles (*Cuora amboinensis*, Appendix II), 3 yellow-headed temple turtles (*Heosemys annandalii*, Appendix II), 3 Mekong snail-eating turtles (*Malayemys subtrijuga*, Appendix II), 2 giant Asian pond turtles (*Heosemys grandis*, Appendix II), a yellow-headed tortoise (*Indotestudo elongata*, Appendix II), a black marsh turtle (*Siebenrockiella crassicollis*, Appendix II), and a Chinese stripe-necked turtle (*Mauremys sinensis*, Appendix III in China). Last year already, the authorities came to collect 44 turtles donated by devotees.

ENV, 17 juin 2022.<sup>55</sup>

## **EUROPE**

### **BULGARIA**

### **Mid-June 2022**

#### **Harmanli, Haskovo Province, Bulgaria**

Seizure by environmental inspectors at a private home of 4 Hermann's tortoises (*Testudo hermanni*, Appendix II), 2 males and 2 females, and 2 Greek tortoises (*Testudo graeca*, Appendix II), one male and one female, all dead, and 8 female Hermann's tortoises and 2 Greek tortoises alive which were released.

Ministry of Environment and Water, June 20, 2022.<sup>56</sup>

### **SPAIN**

### **May 11, 2022**

#### **Alicante-Elche International Airport, Province of Alicante, Valencian Community, Spain**

The 67-year-old man was about to fly to Denmark. He was carrying one invasive red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*), 2 yellow-bellied sliders (*Trachemys scripta scripta*) and 6 Mediterranean turtles (*Mauremys leprosa*) live and tied up in plastic boxes as well as 37 red swamp crawfish (*Procambarus clarkii*).

Mediterranean turtles live only in freshwater wetlands in Northern Africa, Spain, Portugal and exceptionally in France. They measure at adulthood between 12 and 25 cm long depending on their environment, larger in large bodies of water, smaller in streams. The color of the carapace also varies between red, green and brown. Their population is declining due to the destruction of their habitats and pollution, but also due to poaching for the pet market and food consumption.

Noticias CV, May 28, 2022.<sup>57</sup>

## ITALY

**April 6, 2022**

### **Catania, Metropolitan City of Catania, Region of Sicily, Italy**

In the overloaded Toyota Yaris the 2 men were carrying a rototiller, a lawn mower, an irrigation pump, an antique scale, and 30 Hermann's tortoises (*Testudo hermanni*, Appendix II), "juveniles" and adults.

Nuovo Sud.it, April 6, 2022.<sup>58</sup>

**April 12, 2022**

### **Olbia, Province of Sassari, Autonomous Region of Sardinia, Italy**



Two tortoises (*Testudo* spp., Appendix II) were abandoned in the toilets of the Olbia ferry terminal. At the last moment, the tourists, small occasional traffickers, chickened out. Sardinia also suffers from the plundering of its natural resources, pebbles, sand, and sea urchins. The customs in the ports and the airports have allowed to avoid kg by kg and specimen by specimen the exportation of sand, stones, live animals, so many souvenirs that, related to the millions of tourists that visit Sardinia every year, are counted in tens of tonnes of minerals and in thousands of animals, in particular Hermann's tortoises (*Testudo hermanni*, Appendix II) and Greek tortoises (*Testudo graeca*, Appendix II). Olbiapuntoit, April 13, 2022.<sup>59</sup>

**April 2022**

### **Ornago, Province of Monza and Brianza, Region of Lombardy, Italy**

The well-informed police invited themselves to the home of a man in his fifties and seized 14 Hermann's tortoises (*Testudo hermanni*, Appendix II) in 14 boxes, without any certificate of origin and in poor health. There was a fifteenth box with the required microchip.

MonzaToday, May 6, 2022.<sup>60</sup>

**May 16, 2022**

### **Metropolitan City of Naples, Region of Campania, Italy**

Seven Hermann's tortoises (*Testudo hermanni*, Appendix II) were for sale online. The seller hoped to make 500 € (525 US\$ or 75 US\$ per animal). The sworn animal guards of the Agriambiente association pretended to be interested. They saw them and seized them.

Kodami, May 16, 2022.<sup>61</sup>

**June 7, 2022**

### **Metropolitan City of Rome Capital, Region of Lazio, Italy**

Seizure of 3 Hermann's tortoises (*Testudo hermanni*, Appendix II) in a private home in the Castelli Romani, a group of villages built around the ancient Alban volcano south of Rome and very popular with tourists. Their "owner" kept them in a small enclosure in his garden.

RomaToday, June 7, 2022.<sup>62</sup>

## RUSSIA

**Mid-April 2022**

### **Ural Federal District, Russia**



Seizure of a European pond turtle (*Emys orbicularis*, Appendix III in Ukraine).

Federal Service for Supervision of Natural Resources, April 18, 2022.<sup>63</sup>





King cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*). Photo Aary

## AFRICA

### SOUTH AFRICA

#### Beginning of April 2022

##### Phalaborwa, Limpopo Province, South Africa

Attacked with a shovel, an adult female Southern African python (*Python natalensis*, Appendix II) was severely injured. Anaesthetized, intubated, operated on, sutured, treated and tube-fed, it recovered sufficiently to be released into the wild. Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary Hospital, April 13, 2022.<sup>1</sup>



Snakes do not have a functional diaphragm and must be manually ventilated during anaesthesia.

## EGYPT

#### June 9, 2022

##### Caire International Airport, Cairo Governorate, Egypt

Seizure of 71 juvenile boas (Boidae, Appendix I or II) slipped between clothes in a passenger's luggage on a flight from Indonesia. X-rays detected suspicious movements. Al-Ahram, June 9, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

## UGANDA

#### April 5, 2022

##### Buhwangu, Central Region, Uganda

The largest African python, the African rock python (*Python sebae*, Appendix II), had swallowed a bushbuck (*Tragelaphus scriptus*). Probably injured by a horn from its prey, it was unable to move, but was rescued by UWA officers before the farmers killed it. The snake will be treated as far as possible before being released. New Vision, April 6, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

## NORTHERN AMERICA

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**Beginning of June 2022**

**Amador County, State of California, United States of America**

The trafficker had been breeding and selling rattlesnakes via social networks or at fairs for about 10 years. At his place, about 60 snakes were seized: 40 western diamond-backed rattlesnakes (*Crotalus atrox*), 12 speckled rattlesnakes (*Crotalus mitchellii*) and 7 prairie rattlesnakes (*Crotalus viridis*). There were 2 options for the snakes, to be sold as pets or laboratory animals for scientific studies or venom production to make antidotes.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife, June 2, 2022; CBS News, June 2, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

## LATIN AMERICA

### COLOMBIA

**May 11, 2022**

**Santiago de Cali, Department of Valle del Cauca, Colombia**

The employees of a delivery company spotted something abnormal in a package that had left Buenaventura and was bound for the city of Une Cundinamarca, 700 km away. The environmental police and the DAGMA (Departamento Administrativo de Gestión del Medio Ambiente) intervened and seized a boa (*Boa* spp., Appendix I or II).

Mayor's Office of Santiago de Cali, May 11, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

## ASIA

### CHINA

**May 2022**

**Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, China**

Seizure from a Shenzhen warehouse among inflatable rafts, cosmetic boxes and decorative items of 210 erhus with a sound box covered with python skin (Pythonidae, Appendix I or II).

Chinese Customs, May 28, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

**June 2022**

**Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, China**

Seizure of an erhu with a sound box made of python skin (Pythonidae, Appendix I or II). It was found in a batch of goods to be exported.

Chinese Customs, July 6, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

## INDIA

**Beginning of April 2022**

**Perambadi, Kodagu District, State of Karnataka, India**

They were selling a brown sand boa (*Eryx johnii*, Appendix II). Both 20 years old, Puneeth Kumar of Arasikere and Chandan Kumar alias Darshan of Belur were arrested on the Karnataka-Kerala National Highway, produced in court and remanded in custody for 15 days.

Star of Mysore, April 7, 2022.<sup>8</sup>

**April 28, 2022**

**Karanja, Mayurbhanj District, State of Odisha, India**

For better... and for worse. A snake charmer led the boozy wedding procession. The dancer and 4 musicians were locked up and the Indian cobra (*Naja naja*, Appendix II) released.

The Times of India, April 29, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

**May 9, 2022**

**Wadegaon, Nagpur District, State of Maharashtra, India**



The unaware thought they were dealing with a king cobra. The duo actually killed an oriental rat snake (*Ptyas mucosus*, Appendix II) while plowing a field with a tractor. They then posted a photo of the dead reptile on WhatsApp, which went viral on social networks, unmasking the two.

The Times of India, May 10, 2022.<sup>10</sup>

**June 19, 2022**

**Mangeli, Sindhudurg District, State of Maharashtra, India**

The king cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*, Appendix II) was stoned to death. The 2.4-metre-long snake was lying on the banks of a stream. It was identified and examined by Chitranand Pednekar, a snake rescuer and member of SARRP-India (Spreading Awareness on Reptiles and Rehabilitation Programme). It was cremated by the forest guards. The lynching took place near the Mangeli waterfalls, a tourist hotspot, near the hills that are home to an abundance of biodiversity especially during the monsoon season. The main characteristics of the king cobra are described by the Times of India:

- It is the world's longest venomous snake and can easily grow more than 4-4.5 metres in length.
  - They prefer to eat other snakes, even venomous ones like vipers and kraits, while they also shown cannibalism by eating their own species.
  - They possess potent neurotoxic and cytotoxin venoms; however, they avoid human contact and slink away.
  - This is the only species which builds its own nest for its eggs by using dry leaves from the forest ground. The females zealously guard the nest for as long as 90 days, till the time of hatching.
  - They are found in core forests of Karnataka, Goa and parts of Sindhudurg in Maharashtra.
- =>

## EUROPE

### GERMANY

**June 26, 2022**

#### **Sehlde, Lower Saxony State, Germany**

The woman who was bitten by a rattlesnake (genus *Crotalus*) that she was raising and housing in her home with 114 other snakes is in a life-threatening condition.

88 of the snakes are of a venomous species and some of them insufficiently barricaded could escape and spread panic and death in the village. The breeder did not have the necessary permits and skills. Among the captives were a boa constrictor (*Boa constrictor*, Appendix I or II), Burmese pythons (*Python molurus* or *Python bivittatus*, Appendix I or II), carpet pythons (*Morelia spilota*, Appendix II), reticulated pythons (*Python reticulatus*, Appendix II), royal pythons (*Python regius*, Appendix II) and a Cape cobra (*Naja nivea*). All 115 snakes were transferred to the Schladden farm. The transfer was carried out in the presence of firemen and veterinarians. According to a local newspaper, the flurry of snakes in the house was an open secret. It is not impossible that the woman now in danger of death was trading them, as she was bitten while trying to "show" the rattlesnake. The mayor of Sehlde, 900 inhabitants, claims to have never heard of this snake woman.

Salzgitter Police, June 26, 2022; t-online, June 27, 2022; Braunschweiger Zeitung, July 7, 2022.<sup>14</sup>

### BELGIUM

**May 25, 2022**

#### **Koksijde, Province of West Flanders, Flemish Region, Belgium**

Abandonment in an apartment of a royal python (*Python regius*, Appendix II) and a blind dachshund. The snake was handed over to SOS Reptiel, the dog to the shelter in Koksijde.

VRT, May 26, 2022; Local Police, May 30, 2022.<sup>15</sup>

### FRANCE

**May 11, 2022**

#### **Evry-Courcouronnes, Department of Essonne, France**

He was walking with a boa (Boidae, Appendix I or II) on his shoulders near the station. The young man was unable to prove that he was the owner of the reptile. The snake was seized and placed in a zoo in Seine-et-Marne.

Le Parisien, May 11, 2022.<sup>16</sup>

-Destruction of forests by human activities is currently the main threat to king cobras.

A few years ago, a wildlife explorer who was documenting king cobras at Karnataka-Goa border had shared a 'deadly' life experience while filming a king cobra nest. He recalled: "Whenever the female king cobra would go a little further away from its nest, our camera team would go near it in order to check and video-record the eggs inside this nest. Somehow, perhaps by wild instinct, the female realised that we were meddling with its nest, and our crew started to hear an angry hissing sound which filled the entire forest, like some stereophonic effect. Like lightning, it raised its hood high and charged at us to issue a warning to stay away from its nest. It put the fear of death in all of us (although it was only a warning and not an actual attack)." The Times of India, June 26, 2022.<sup>11</sup>

### SINGAPORE

**April 7 and June 1, 2022**

#### **Tuas Checkpoint, Singapore. Border with Malaysia.**

Two reticulated pythons (*Python reticulatus*, Appendix II), 4.8-m and 3.8-m-long, smuggled in a polystyrene box inside a truck from Malaysia were seized. The driver, Pulenthiran Palaniappan, who was to be paid 300 S\$ (220 US\$) for delivering the snakes along with cement, was fined 5,000 S\$ (3,660 US\$). The pythons suffered from a curvature of the spine, an inflamed mouth and a swollen eye, irreversible health problems. They had to be finished off.

Channel News Asia, June 1, 2022; Immigration & Checkpoints Authority, April 9, 2022; The Star, April 9, 2022.<sup>12</sup>



### VIET NAM

**April 1, 2022**

#### **Ham Thuan Nam District, Binh Thuan Province, Viet Nam**

Seizure of approximately 20 bottles of snake wine, including 13 bottles of monocled cobra (*Naja kaouthia*, Appendix II) wine.

ENV, April 11, 2022.<sup>13</sup>

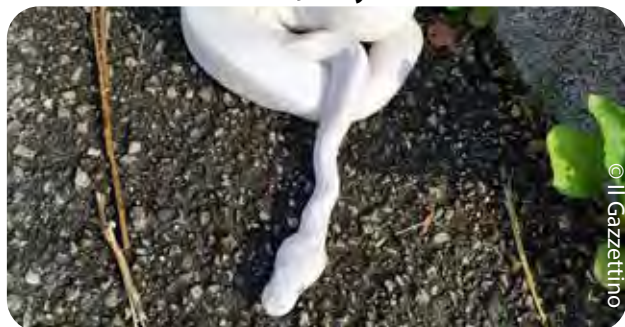




## ITALY

June 21, 2022

**Marsure, Inter-municipal Territorial Union of Livenza-Cansiglio-Cavallo, Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia, Italy**



Discovery at 8 a.m. on the side of a street of a white and blue-eyed royal python (*Python regius*, Appendix II) escaped from a breeding or deliberately set aside. The journalist of Il Gazzettino, who is not very sensitive to animal abuse and to the risks for the human species of trafficking in constrictor snakes, speaks of a quiet, shy and peaceful pet. Il Gazzettino, June 22, 2022.<sup>17</sup>

## UNITED KINGDOM

June 29 and 30 and August 22, 2022  
**Scarborough, North Yorkshire County, England, United Kingdom**

Three royal pythons (*Python regius*, Appendix II) were thrown in a public trash bin in the Falsgrave area. There may be an increase in the abandonment of exotic "domestic" animals due to rising electricity bills. The investigators traced back to Samuel Thomas Newton. He eventually confessed and was fined 623 £ (755 US\$) and ordered to pay court costs

BBC, July 1, 2022; North Yorkshire Police, July 1 and August 22, 2022.<sup>18</sup>



## OCEANIA

### AUSTRALIA

Beginning of May 2022

**Seymour, State of Victoria, Australia**

The agents expected to find a carpet python (*Morelia spilota*, Appendix II) from Australia and Indonesia at a private home. It was in fact a 2-metre-long boa constrictor (*Boa constrictor*, Appendix I or II) from America.

Naracoorte Herald, May 11, 2022.<sup>19</sup>

May 25, 2022

**Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, Australia**

Cash, methylamphetamine, cannabis, a homemade stun gun...and a 3-metre jungle jaguar carpet python (*Morelia spilota cheynei*, Appendix II) are seized from the suburban home whose owner was arrested and charged.

9News, May 26, 2022.<sup>20</sup>

May 31, 2022

**Melbourne, State of Victoria, Australia**

"Stewy the Snake Catcher" is asked by the civil and administrative court of the State to take it down a peg or two and to stop posting videos of his alleged exploits on social networks. Stewy the Snake Catcher had a great knack for publicity and proved it even on the licence plate of his truck.



He regularly published and republished a selection of his best interventions such as the extraction of a tiger snake (*Notechis scutatus*) curled up in a beer can and the capture of a brown tree snake (*Boiga irregularis*) in a wine cellar.

The DELWP (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning) did not appreciate this exhibitionism, which they felt could lead to people handling stray snakes for publicity rather than returning them to their natural habitat. The DELWP also criticized Stewart Gatt alias Stewy for employing as a subcontractor a man named Anthony James who did not have a licence to catch reptiles but who had solid experience in wildlife trafficking. He had previously been sentenced to 12 months of community corrections order. The DELWP had therefore decided not to renew the "wildlife controller" licence of which Mr. Gatt was the beneficiary in August 2021. The administrative court considered that the non-renewal of the permit was unjustified in view of Stewy's expertise, his services to the community, particularly in the western part of Melbourne, and his commitment not to hire any subcontractor whose capacities and background would be questionable. Except in the case of a new twist, his licence will be renewed but Gatt will have to remain discreet. He is forbidden under any pretext to post videos or other testimonies of his interventions on the Internet. The Age, June 6, 2022.<sup>21</sup>

# MONITOR LIZARDS, GECKOS, CHAMELEONS, IGUANAS...

## AFRICA

### SOUTH AFRICA

**April 29, 2022**

**Johannesburg, Gauteng Province, South Africa**

A flap-necked chameleon (*Chamaeleo dilepis*, Appendix II) confiscated from a street vendor. It was in poor condition, had a sunken left eye, was emaciated and extremely dehydrated, so much so that it had to be tube-fed.

Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary Hospital, April 29, 2022.<sup>1</sup>



## NORTHERN AMERICA

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**Beginning of May 2022**

**Broward County, State of Florida, United States of America**

A pet store owner is indicted for the unlicensed sale of common iguanas (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II) and ornate monitor lizards (*Varanus ornatus*, Appendix II).

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, May 5, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

## LATIN AMERICA

### COLOMBIA

**April 7, 2022**

**Cali, Department of Valle del Cauca, Colombia**

18 exotic lizards, bearded dragons (genus *Pogona*), geckos (suborder Gekkota), chameleons (family Chamaeleonidae) arrived by who knows what channel were seized in the Primitivo Crespo neighbourhood and handed over to the Hogar de Paso center. The veterinarian Carolina Sastre says that animals from elsewhere are possible invaders carrying zoonoses and predators of local species like the giant African snail that has invaded the city. Mayor's Office of Santiago de Cali, April 7, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

## ASIA

### INDIA

**April 2 and 4, 2022**

**Hativ, Maral and Bamnoli, Ratnagiri District, State of Maharashtra, India**

Twice against nature: poachers and zoophilous. One of the 4 accused had taken pictures of himself while raping a Bengal monitor lizard (*Varanus bengalensis*, Appendix I). In his phone, pictures of animals poached in Chandoli National Park, including an Indian hare (*Lepus nigricollis*), a pangolin (*Manis* spp., Appendix I), an Indian spotted chevrotain (*Moschiola meminna*), an Indian crested porcupine (*Hystrix indica*). One pistol, 2 motorcycles and one battery were seized. Sandeep Tukaram Pawar, Mangesh Kamtekar, Akshay Kamtekar and Ramesh Ghag were taken into custody.

Hindustan Times, April 14, 2022; The Times of India, April 14, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

**April 13, 2022**

**Alipurduar, Alipurduar District, State of West Bengal, India**

Fifty-two days after killing a Bengal monitor lizard (*Varanus bengalensis*, Appendix I), Birsing Munda was sentenced to 3 years in prison. "This is a very good sign that trials of such cases are getting over in a period of less than two months. Such judgments will surely demotivate people with similar intentions. Killing of wild animals for aphrodisiac is a common practice and this needs to be stopped," said Animesh Bose, honorary wildlife warden.

The Times of India, April 14, 2022.<sup>5</sup>





**May 9, 2022**  
**Chelur, Chikballapur District, State of Karnataka, India**



Seven caged Bengal monitors lizards (*Varanus bengalensis*, Appendix I) were seized from a hotel. The owner S. Ismail Zabiulla and his 2 associates, Rizwan Basha and Bawajan P., were charged and remanded in custody. The traffickers had bought them from tribesmen in Srinivasapura. They were about to make a big profit. The monitor lizards were sent to the Bannerghatta rescue center. The Hindu, May 10, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

**May 11, 2022**  
**Kumthe, Satara District, State of Maharashtra, India**

They were about to eat it. Bhimrao Bansode, a resident of Aradgaon village, and Amar Ashok Tarade, a resident of Malawdi village, were arrested red-handed with the remains of a Bengal monitor lizard (*Varanus bengalensis*, Appendix I). They had killed the monitor with a dog, a stick and a plow. They were sent to detention. The Times of India, May 12, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

**May 29, 2022**  
**Shantipur, Lakhimpur Kheri District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India**

A raid on Nomal Bora's house led to the discovery of a tokay gecko (*Gekko gecko*, Appendix II) hidden in a plastic basket. This border area between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh has become an area of illicit activities ranging from drug trafficking to wildlife trafficking. Northeast Now, May 30, 2022.<sup>8</sup>

## INDONESIA

**April 26, 2022**  
**Pontianak, West Kalimantan Province, Borneo Island, Indonesia**

The smuggling of 10 Borneo earless monitors (*Lanthanotus borneensis*, Appendix II) was thwarted. They were in a package containing "pastries" from Pontianak to Medan by plane. The species is endemic to the island of Borneo. iNews Kalbar, April 27, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

## PAKISTAN

**June 16, 2022**  
**Tehsil of Havelian, Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan**

They were on their way to China, where their consumption is believed to fight cancer, AIDS and other diseases. Fifteen leopard geckos (*Eublepharis macularius*) in a bucket were seized from a Suzuki van. Amjad Hussain Shah and Assad Mahmood, residents of Abbottabad and Haripur, confessed to the trafficking. UrduPoint, June 21, 2022; The News International, June 22, 2022.<sup>10</sup>

## VIET NAM

**April 7, 2022**  
**Phan Rang - Thap Cham, Ninh Thuan Province, Viet Nam**

City police seize 2 clouded monitors (*Varanus nebulosus*, Appendix I) being sold on Facebook. ENV, April 17, 2022.<sup>11</sup>



**REPEATED OFFENCE**  
**Beginning of May 2022**  
**Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam**



Seizure of 5 iguanas (*Iguana* spp., Appendix II) from a merchant well known to law enforcement. Fine of 7.5 million dong (326 US\$). He had already been fined 1.25 million dong last year for promoting exotic wildlife. ENV, May 7, 2022.<sup>12</sup>

**End of June 2022**  
**Ha Tinh Province, Viet Nam**

Seizure of a clouded monitor (*Varanus nebulosus*, Appendix I) in a restaurant. The chef defends himself. A local captured it and gave it to him to be used as an attraction, he did not plan to cook it! ENV, June 28, 2022.<sup>13</sup>



# ALLIGATORS, CROCODILES AND CAIMANS



Nile crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*). Photo Sitszasadam

## AFRICA

### SOUTH AFRICA

**April 9, 2022**

**KwaJobe, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa**

The remains of a Nile crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*, Appendix II) shot 5 days earlier in the Budlwini area of Hluhluwe, bones of various animals, a firearm, and ammunition were seized from Sphamandla Mhlongo, age 32. He was released on bail for 500 rand (35 US\$) pending trial. SAPS, April 12, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

### KENYA

**May 7, 2022**

**Rarieda, Siaya County, Kenya**

The powerful reptile was terrorizing fishermen. A crocodile (Crocodylidae, Appendix I or II) is said to have killed at least 5 people and injured several others. It was trapped by KWS officers, then killed and butchered by locals who fought to recover its body parts, including its genitals. Nation, May 7, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

## MALI

**May 12, 2022**

**Morila, Bougouni Region, Mali**

Four headless rotting corpses of crocodiles (Crocodylidae, Appendix I or II) were found in the marigot "Diarratou." The remains showed evidence of poaching.

Bamada, May 13, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

## NORTHERN AMERICA

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**April 8, 2022**

**Naples, State of Florida, United States of America**

Michael Marolla, age 31, known to law enforcement, was arrested in a black GMC Sierra pick-up truck near Golden Gate Boulevard with weapons, drugs, and a baby American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II). The pick-up contained a firearm concealed in the glove compartment, another hidden under a seat, methamphetamine syringes... and the reptile in a plastic bin. Collier County Sheriff's Office, April 8, 2022.<sup>4</sup>



© Collier County Sheriff's Office

### **Beginning of April 2022**

#### **Volusia County, State of Florida, United States of America**

The juvenile American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II) was reduced to a pet in a residential neighbourhood. It was caged in the backyard. The jailer was charged with keeping Class II wildlife without a licence.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, April 14, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

### **Beginning of April 2022**

#### **Chicago, State of Illinois, United States of America**

An arrest for the illegal possession of a crocodilian (Crocodylia, Appendix I or II). The owner had no credentials for this "special use herptile" (a reptile or amphibian used in educational programs and for which a permit is required).

Illinois Department of Natural Resources, April 15, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

### **April 10, 2022**

#### **Pierre Part, State of Louisiana, United States of America**

A bullet in the head. The body of an American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II) was found at the Gator Corner Truck Stop. Video surveillance from the truck stop identified the 4 Texans responsible. Boyd Bumbera, age 23, Jesus Fajardo, age 35, Baron Vargas, age 27, and Manuel Gomez, age 33, had killed the reptile after the hunting season closed.

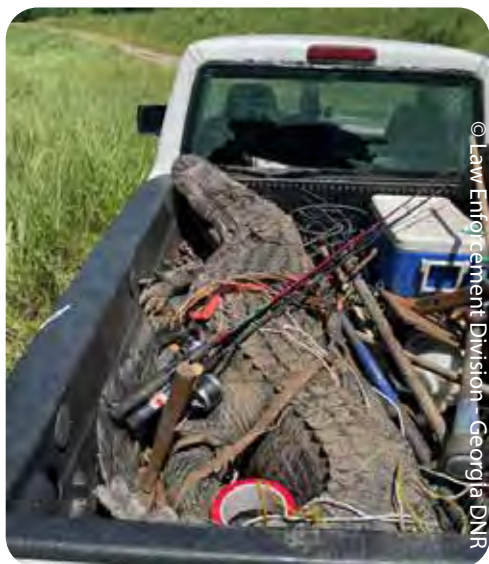
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, April 11, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

### **April 30, 2022**

#### **Richmond County, State of Georgia, United States of America**

They broke the rear window while loading the 10-foot American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II) into their truck. It had been shot near the entrance to Lock and Dam Park. Two men were charged with poaching.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division, May 3, 2022.<sup>8</sup>



### **May 3, 2022**

#### **Ventura, State of California, United States of America**



The Oxnard police had found what they were looking for at Askar's house, heroin and cocaine, but they had to call in the services of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to muzzle an American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II) paddling in a tub from which it could escape (see "On the Trail" n°32 p.220). The man has just been sentenced to 60 days in jail and one year of probation.

Ventura County District Attorney's Office, May 3, 2022; The Charlotte Observer, May 4, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

### **REPEATED OFFENCE**

#### **May 16, 2022**

#### **Denham Springs, State of Louisiana, United States of America**

He presented himself as a "30-year-plus professional taxidermist and big-game guide" whose work can be found in "trophy rooms and museums around the world." Without a licence and out of season, David A. Cavaretta, age 59, had been trapping American alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II) and other animals considered harmful by his employer, a chemical plant in Iberville Parish, for months. He was charged with 400 counts. A repeat offender, he was incarcerated in the Iberville Parish Jail.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, May 27, 2022; The Advocate, May 27, 2022.<sup>10</sup>

### **Beginning of June 2022**

#### **Collier County, State of Florida, United States of America**

- The carcass of an American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II) shot near the DeSoto neighbourhood is found by an investigator at a resident's home. It was confiscated. Blood samples are also taken.

- A dead American alligator is discovered during a traffic stop. A suspect is identified.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, June 9, 2022.<sup>11</sup>

### **Mid-June 2022**

#### **Baker County, State of Florida, United States of America**

The man who reported to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission told them that he had killed the 1.2-metre-long American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II) to allow children to swim in the pond. He then disposed of the carcass in a wooded area.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, June 16, 2022.<sup>12</sup>

## BELIZE

## End of June 2022

## Amberris Caye, Belize District, Belize

Beaten to death, almost decapitated, the American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*, Appendix I) was laying in Caye Ambergris. "Love them or hate them, crocodiles are a keystone species vital to the balance of a healthy ecosystem, and are a protected species here in Belize," says the American Crocodile Education Sanctuary (ACES).

Breaking Belize News, July 5, 2022.<sup>17</sup>

## CHILE

## May 17, 2022

## Rancagua, Cachapoal Province, O'Higgins Region, Chile

The Bridec (Brigada Investigadora de Delitos Económicos) went to the Plaza Los Héroes where something abnormal was happening. A man was selling a crocodile (*Crocodylia*, Appendix I or II) or a monitor lizard head and a foot as a key ring, 2 notorious violations of the Chilean Hunting Law. The evidence is in the hands of the experts to identify the species and the man in the hands of the police to determine their origin.

Meganoticias, May 18, 2022.<sup>18</sup>

## MEXICO

## Beginning of April 2022

## Ecatepec de Morelos, State of Mexico, Mexico

A Morelet's crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletii*, Appendix II) is roaming around. Someone finds it in his garden and calls the municipal police and the fire department. A neighbour wakes up and claims ownership. He is suspected of wildlife trafficking. In any case, he bought it illegally. The species is protected and its trade is prohibited on the national market. The Morelet's crocodile is used as a pet and as a decorative object in the patios of upscale neighbourhoods. The specimen is being examined by veterinarians. It will then be returned to a swamp or placed in a zoo.

California18, April 7, 2022.<sup>19</sup>

## Mid-June 2022

## Volusia County, State of Florida, United States of America

Control operation near the docks. A freshly shot American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II) is lying in the middle of a boat. The occupants are arrested, the carcass and 2 firearms are confiscated.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, June 16, 2022.<sup>13</sup>

## FAMILY AFFAIRS

## June 23, 2022

## Big Laurel, State of Kentucky, United States of America

Cameron Cornett, 23, had purchased an alligator (*Alligator* spp., Appendix II) in Citrus County, Florida and transported it to his home in Kentucky to put in his garden. Soon, the reptile escaped and was seen here and there. The hunt for the invasive species was beginning to cause a buzz around Big Laurel. Cornett became concerned about the judicial consequences and asked someone in his family to track down the alligator near Greasy Creek where it was reported and kill it. When the cops arrived on the scene, they found only traces of blood and after a chase, they discovered the body of the 1.37-metre long alligator in the back of a pick-up truck.

LEX 18, July 6, 2022; FOX 19 NOW, July 7, 2022; Harlan Enterprise, July 12, 2022.<sup>14</sup>

## End of June 2022

## Osceola County, State of Florida, United States of America

In the night, the light of the spotlight and the 3 gunshots did not go unnoticed. Three suspects were intercepted. They claim to be hunting wild boar, but they lose all credibility when the agents discover an American alligator tail (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II). The rest of the carcass was found on the edge of a nearby pond.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, June 30, 2022.<sup>15</sup>

## End of June 2022

## Volusia County, State of Florida, United States of America

Late in the evening, the officer on duty pulls over a suspicious vehicle in the wildlife management area. The driver admits that he came in an attempt to quietly dispose of the carcass of an American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II) that he had killed in his yard.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, June 30, 2022.<sup>16</sup>



## SURINAME

**April 9, 2022**

### **Paramaribo, Paramaribo District, Suriname**

The cages are emptying in the zoo of Paramaribo. At night, people come in and kill for cruelty or to trade with the meat. This trend has increased since the lockdown and the shortage Covid-19. On Friday night, 2 caimans (*Caiman* spp. or *Paleosuchus* spp, Appendix I or II) were killed. The path of the thieves is littered with bloodstains.

The zoo of Paramaribo does not buy animals. It collects survivors of trafficking, donations from individuals, seizures by customs or the police. "How do you want me to secure 11 hectares, I'm not going to call the army. "We have fallen very low," laments the director.

Suriname Herald, April 12, 2022.<sup>20</sup>

## ASIA

### INDIA

**June 27, 2022**

### **Baluria, Kendrapara District, State of Odisha, India**

In the rivers of Bhitarkanika live at least 1,500 estuarine crocodiles (*Crocodylus porosus*, Appendix I). They are frowned upon by illegal fishermen. The body of a 3.35-metre long female crocodile was found near the Kani River. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> unnatural death of an estuarine crocodile in 22 months. Bhitarkanika National Park covers 145 km<sup>2</sup>. It is surrounded by the Bhitarkanika sanctuary which covers 670 km<sup>2</sup>. It is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest mangrove ecosystem in India. It is mainly known for its population of estuarine crocodiles, but it is also home to pythons, monitor lizards, 215 species of birds and many mammals.

Orissa Post, June 28, 2022.<sup>21</sup>

## EUROPE

### FRANCE

**June 7, 2022**

### **Le Boulou, Department of Pyrénées-Orientales, France**

Four American alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II) in a van registered in Spain and driven by 2 Germans were found by customs officers at the toll booth of Le Boulou from Spain to France. The alligators were seized and transferred to the Crocodile Farm adjacent to the Pierrelatte nuclear power plant on the banks of the Rhône River.

20 Minutes, June 9, 2022; France Bleu Roussillon, June 9, 2022; L'Indépendant, June 9, 2022.<sup>22</sup>

## UKRAINE

**May 21, 2022**

### **Khmelnitskyi, Khmelnytskyi Oblast, Ukraine**



During the war, the friends of animals in Ukraine do not disarm. This Saturday, there was an open day at the crocodile farm. Visitors could touch a small reptile (*Crocodylia*, Appendix I or II) and be photographed with them. With the support of UAnimals, 2 local NGOs organized a "picket line" to alert visitors to the cruelty to animals. The police intervened to interrupt the crocodile farm's promotional day.

UAnimals, May 22 and 23, 2022.<sup>23</sup>

# AMPHIBIANS

## AMERICA

### BRAZIL

June 1, 2022

Miranda, State of Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil



Seizure in a car on BR-060 of 10 axolotls (*Ambystoma mexicanum*, Appendix II). In the wild, they live only in the lake of Xochimilco, 20 km from Mexico City. Axolotl, see "On the Trail" n°5 p.32, n°13 p.105, n°18 p.116, n°19 p.129, n°20 p.120, n°24 p.87, n°26 p.34, n°29 p.114 and n°35 p.178. O Pantaneiro, June 2, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

## ASIA

### CHINA

June 3, 2022

Mianyang Prefecture, Sichuan Province, China

Seizure of a Chinese giant salamander (*Andrias davidianus*, Appendix I) caught in the Fu River. The poacher says he wanted to release it in his brother's fish pond.

Chinese giant salamander, see "On the Trail" n°8 p.19, n°10 p.77, n°12 p.108, n°16 p.102, n°20 p.122, n°21 p.26 and p.116, n°34 p.214 and n°35 p.170. Jintai.com, August 24, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

# INSECTS, ARACHNIDS AND ANNELIDS

## AMERICA

### COSTA RICA AND PANAMA

#### OPERATION BICHOS

June 10, 2022

#### Costa Rica and Panama

- Costa Rica. Arrest of a businesswoman. Seizure of 1,800 objects; key rings, pens, necklaces, trinkets and bracelets decorated with butterflies, beetles and other insects.

- Panama. Seizure in a shopping mall of 34 trinkets decorated with insects made in Costa Rica, and some with seahorse (*Hippocampus* spp., Appendix II) inlays.

The operation was launched following the seizure in 2020 in stores in Panama of 470 items with parts of endangered species imported from Costa Rica. Office of the Attorney General of the Nation - Public Ministry of Panama, June 14, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

June 22, 2022

Medford, State of Oregon, United States of America



Darren Dennis Drake faced up to one year in prison and a fine of 100,000 US\$ and he was sentenced to a fine of 5,000 US\$, 250 hours of community service and 2 years of probation for importing dozens of live scorpions from Germany and exporting them between September 2017 and March 2018. One of the packages intercepted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service was specified as containing "chocolates." He was also receiving or shipping by parcel posts hundreds of live scorpions from and to Michigan and Texas in violation of federal mail traffic regulations.

The Oregonian, March 14, 2022; US Department of Justice, March 14 and June 22, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

## ASIA

### CHINA

#### Beginning of April 2022

##### Jiangmen, Jiangmen Prefecture, Guangdong Province, China

Six live beetles of the species *Dorcus hopei hopei* seized in a package from abroad, 3 males and 3 females.

Chinese Customs, April 18, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

#### April 12, 2022

##### Shushan District, Hefei Prefecture, Anhui Province, China

Luzhou Customs intercepted a package from abroad containing 13 beetles including *Chalcosoma chiron*. Chinese Customs, April 12, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

#### April 21, 2022

##### Hefei, Hefei Prefecture, Anhui Province, China

Eighteen dead beetles found in a package from abroad. They are mainly specimens of *Odontolabis cuvera*.

Chinese Customs, April 24, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

#### April 2022

##### Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, China

Seizure in a package from abroad of 4 *Serrognathus titanus yasuoikai* alive and in the warm in 4 plastic boxes filled with wood chips.

Chinese Customs, April 28, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

#### May 2022

##### Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, China



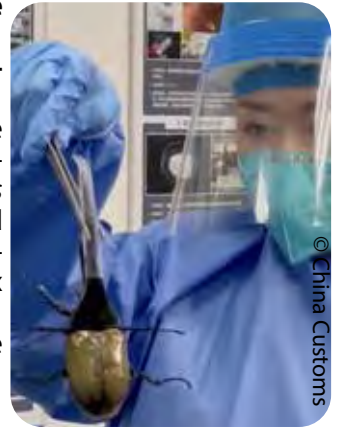
Seizure of 2 Malaysian earthtiger tarantulas (*Omothymus schioedtei*) that arrived in a package declared to contain "daily necessities." They were concealed in a plastic box with a red lid held with black tape.

Chinese Customs, May 25, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

#### Beginning of June 2022

##### Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, China

Seizure in a package from abroad of 3 Hercules beetles (*Dynastes hercules*), one male and 2 females, each traveling in their plastic box filled with wood chips. Chinese Customs, June 11, 2022.<sup>8</sup>



#### June 2022

##### Dalian, Liaoning Province, China

Seizure of a Hercules beetle (*Dynastes hercules*) in a package from abroad declared to contain "plastic toys." It is about 15 cm long. Chinese Customs, June 28, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

### PAKISTAN

#### June 2022

##### Hazara Division, Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan

Three young people are fined the equivalent of 600 US\$. Under the influence of social networks that promise fabulous gains with wildlife trafficking, they had bought in the district of Battagram adult tarantulas with urticating setae of the family Theraphosidae. *Selenocosmia* is believed to be the only genus found in Pakistan.

UrduPoint, June 20, 2022. Sanjay Molur and Manju Siliwal, "Checklist of spiders (Arachnida: Araneae) of South Asia including the 2006 update of Indian spider checklist," *Zoos' Print Journal*, January 24, 2007.<sup>10</sup>

### PHILIPPINES

#### June 7, 2022

##### Ninoy-Aquino International Airport, Manila, National Capital Region, Philippines

Seizure of 198 tarantulas including some *Pamphobeteus* from Ecuador and some *Birupes simoroxigorum* from the Philippines in a parcel from Pasay to Italy.

Philippine News Agency, June 13, 2022; The Manila Times, June 13, 2022.<sup>11</sup>





## EUROPE

### FRANCE

**April 13, 2022**

**Toulouse, Department of Haute-Garonne, France**



The man described in the local press as the "Pablo Escobar of butterflies" was only given a 3-month suspended prison sentence and a fine of 500 € (560 US\$). He was catching Apollo butterflies (*Parnassius apollo*, Appendix II), marsh fritillaries (*Euphydryas aurinia*), Spanish moon moths (*Graellsia isabellae*) and predatory bush crickets (*Saga pedo*) in the Alps and Pyrenees. At his home, 74 preserved specimens of 11 protected species were seized. Spanish moon moths sell for 150 € per specimen. The French Biodiversity Agency investigation proved that in 3 years he had sold 917 butterflies via the Internet in 11 different countries.

The Occitania region is home to many butterfly and beetle trackers. On September 1, 2020, a man was fined 1,000 € (see "On the Trail" n°30 p.150). 10,000 insects, including butterflies, had been found in his home. Previously, in February 2019, 221 insects, including Apollo butterflies and Spanish moon moths, had been seized during the Satanas operation (see "On the Trail" n°21 p.33). Actu Toulouse, April 22, 2022.<sup>12</sup>



Apollo butterfly (*Parnassius apollo*). Photo Нина Штейнбрэннер

Events concerning among others elephants, rhinos, felines, bears or pangolins and their by-products are indicated by these pictograms:



Cases concerning exclusively pangolins, elephants and felines, see page 17; elephants and felines, see page 41; elephants, rhinos, hippos, sperm whales and walruses (ivories), see page 43.

## NORTHERN AFRICA

### EGYPT

**May to November 2022**

#### **Saint Catherine Protectorate, South Sinai Governorate, Egypt**

A peninsula of 61,000 km<sup>2</sup> located in Egypt, Sinai is bounded to the north by the Mediterranean Sea, to the west by the Suez Canal and Gulf, to the south by the Red Sea and to the east by the Gulf of Aqaba and the border with Israel. The northern part is a sandy plain, the central part consists of sedimentary plateaus, and the southern part, administratively part of the South Sinai Governorate, is where the highest reliefs are located, in particular Mount Sinai (2,285 metres above sea level). Mount Catherine (2,640 metres above sea level) is located here.

The Sinai was twice occupied by Israel, between 1956 and 1957 and between 1967 and 1982. Since then, it has once again become an integral part of Egypt.

Sinai is an important place for the 3 "religions of the Book". It is where the Jews are said to have fled during the Exodus from Egypt, when they followed Moses to escape the slavery imposed by the Pharaohs. It was on Mount Sinai, or "Jebel Musa", that Moses met God in a burning bush and received the Tables of the Law, including the Ten Commandments. At the top of Mount Sinai there is a mosque still in use and, at 1,500 metres above sea level, there is the Orthodox monastery of Saint Catherine, also called the Monastery of the Transfiguration, founded in the 6<sup>th</sup> century.

Fifteen centuries later, the Sinai will experience a new Transfiguration. As part of its "Great Transfiguration Project", the Egyptian government has planned the construction of 5 hotels, a conference centre, a museum, eco-lodges, dozens of buildings and several highways to attract modern tourists and facilitate their stay, all this, of course, while "preserving local nature" and "maximising the area's archaeological, environmental and religious value". As a good start in maximising this value, in December 2021 the bulldozers razed the cemetery and houses of the Bedouins of the Jebeliya tribe, who have lived there since the founding of the monastery of Saint Catherine and are the descendants of its original guards. The Bedouins spent the entire night picking the remains of their dead relatives.



And never mind that the area has been protected since 1992, never mind that the monastery of Saint Catherine has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1992. The monks who lived in silence will have to be satisfied with the development of spiritual tourism that the government praises, and the fauna that lived in a preserved and little frequented environment will have to count itself lucky to attract ecotourists. The government does not mention the effects of all these constructions and the increase in visits on the fauna used to the calm of the desert. The discreet Sinai leopards (*Panthera pardus jarvisi*, Appendix I), who are almost extinct, the caracals (*Caracal caracal*, Appendix II) and the Nubian ibex (*Capra nubiana*) will have to find new refuges and watch out when crossing the roads. But will the critically endangered Sinai baton blue butterflies (*Pseudophilotes sinaicus*), which live only in the Saint Catherine Protectorate, be able to cross the roads fast enough?



South Sinai Governorate, see "On the Trail" n°35 p.191.  
Arab News, May 1, 2022; i, May 28, 2022; Middle East Eye, November 4, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

## WESTERN AFRICA

### BURKINA FASO

#### FAMILY AFFAIRS

April 8, 2022

**Bobo-Dioulasso, Houet Province, Burkina Faso**



Four traffickers, including 3 brothers, were arrested with a tusk, a tail, 4 ribs and 8 pieces of elephant skin, as well as 19 carved ivory objects. Additionally, a hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*, Appendix II) skull and teeth, 8 crocodile (Crocodylidae, Appendix I or II) skins and a common warthog (*Phacochoerus africanus*) skull and 3 teeth. Despite this sordid inventory, the trial resulted in suspended sentences of little dissuasive effect.

EAGLE, April 10, 2022; Conservation Justice, April 2022; EAGLE, April 2022.<sup>2</sup>

### NIGER

May 30, 2022

**Termit and Tin-Toumma National Nature Reserve, Zinder Region, Niger**

Two poachers were arrested in the largest protected area in Africa with 4 dorcas gazelles (*Gazella dorcas*, Appendix III in Algeria and Tunisia) and a bustard (Otididae, Appendix I or II). Three motorcycles were also seized.

aNiamey, June 1, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

### SENEGAL

June 9, 2022

**Ziguinchor, Ziguinchor Region, Senegal**



They were selling wild animals' skins, among them a lion skin (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) and a leopard skin (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) (see "On the Trail" n°26 p.102). Mamady Balde and Sadio Biaye were sentenced on appeal to 6 months in prison and fined 500,000 CFA francs (820 US\$).

EAGLE Senegal, November and December 2021 and March and June 2022.<sup>4</sup>



### TOGO

#### REPEATED OFFENCE

May 19, 2022

**Lome, Maritime Region, Togo**



Seizure of 2 lion skins and 30 claws (*Panthera leo*, Appendix II), 5 leopard skins (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I), 3 serval skins (*Leptailurus serval*, Appendix II) and 16 hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*, Appendix II) teeth. Big cat skins come from Western and Central Africa. Togo remains a wildlife trafficking hub. Repeat offender Lucien Yekpon and Marc Dako, both Beninese nationals, were jailed. EAGLE, May 2022; EAGLE Togo, May 2022.<sup>5</sup>

## CENTRAL AFRICA

### CAMEROON

April 3, 2022

**Dja Faunal Reserve, East and South Regions, Cameroon**

According to the testimony of an expert from Prague Zoo involved in the training of ecoguards, a live African dwarf crocodile (*Osteolaemus tetraspis*, Appendix I) and carcasses of De Brazza's monkey (*Cercopithecus neglectus*, Appendix II), duiker (subfamily Cephalophinae) and bongo (*Tragelaphus eurycerus*) were seized from 2 minibuses heading to Yaoundé and its markets. The entry of the ecoguards into the 2 public transport vehicles generated both understanding and tension. Most of the holders agreed to part with the bushmeat and 2 women who had tried to escape were briefly questioned by the Somalomo authorities. The crocodile was released into the Dja River and the bushmeat was auctioned in the evening in the public place, with the proceeds going to the Treasury.

Prague Zoo, April 9, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

May 25, 2022

**Goma, North Kivu Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo. Border with Rwanda.**

At the home of a trafficker, 20 eastern black-and-white colobuses (*Colobus guereza*, Appendix II), 15 black-crowned cranes (*Balearica pavonina*, Appendix I), and 15 African marabou storks (*Leptoptilos crumeniferus*) were seized.

PALF, May 2022; World Parrot Trust, May 27, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

### REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

April 1, 2022

**Dolisie, Department of Niari, Republic of the Congo**



Balenda and Manguila, whose dreadful exploits in September 2021 were described in "On the Trail" n°33 p.219, were sentenced in first instance to 5 years in prison and ordered to pay a fine of 5 million CFA francs (8,480 US\$) and 3 million CFA francs (5,090 US\$) in damages. In prison, they will not eat elephant or chimpanzee meat (*Pan troglodytes*, Appendix I).

First Media, April 6, 2022.<sup>8</sup>





## EASTERN AFRICA

### KENYA

**May 4, 2022**

**Amboseli National Park, Kajiado County, Kenya**

Logbook

- Rangers responded to motorbike accident, injured taken to hospital for treatment.
  - Big Life intel helped recover 52kg ivory, suspect escaped.
  - Carcasses of 3 elands (*Taurotragus oryx*), 2 giraffes (*Giraffa camelopardalis*, Appendix II), one hartebeest (*Alcelaphus buselaphus*) and one buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*) caught in traps set by bushmeat poachers.
  - Elephants crossed crop-protection fence and exited on their own, fence damage repaired.
  - Elephants crossed crop-protection fence, rangers pushed them back to conservancy.
  - Elephants on the wrong side of national park fence, near community, rangers pushed them back.
  - Gazelle carcass found, cause of death unknown.
  - Rangers prevented elephants before crossing crop-protection fence.
  - Elephants raided one farm, rangers pushed them away to reduce damage.
  - Lions killed 3 cows and one goat in 3 incidents.
- Big Life Foundation, May 4, 2022.<sup>9</sup>



**May 21, 28 and 30, 2022**

**Amboseli National Park, Kajiado County, Kenya**

LOGBOOK

A thousand and one things to do and report.

The Big Life Foundation rangers in Amboseli National Park are not twiddling their thumbs.

**May 21, 2022**

- Big Life intel helped recover 2 tusks taken from an elephant carcass suspected poached outside Big Life's operating area.
- Big Life intel helped arrest suspect with 2 kg bushmeat, one pitsaw, and 9 snares.
- Elephants entered crop-protection fence and exited on their own, fence damage repaired.
- Rangers continued search for human remains and were charged by a buffalo, no one injured.
- Rangers found lost woman in the bush, her family called to come collect her.
- Rangers prevented elephants before crop-raiding.
- Jackal killed one goat.
- Hyena killed one goat.
- Lion killed 1 cow.



**May 28, 2022**

- Big Life intel helped arrest suspect with 8 kg ivory.
- Elephant reported inside private fenced farm, rangers responded and pushed him out.
- Elephants reported near community area in 2 incidents, rangers pushed them away.
- Elephants crossed crop-protection fence and exited on their own in 2 incidents, fence damage repaired.
- Rangers prevented elephants before crossing crop-protection fence.
- Community members reported people damaged national park fence with intention to graze cattle inside the park.
- Hyena killed 3 goats and one cow in 3 incidents.
- Lion killed one goat.

**May 30, 2022**

- Big Life intel helped arrest 2 suspects with 5 kg ivory.
  - Injured eland reported, rangers confirm, suspected caused from predators.
  - Giraffe reported stuck in mud near river, rangers responded but he had died.
  - Lost children and goats reported, rangers to follow up.
  - Elephants crossed crop-protection fence, damage repaired.
  - Elephants near community area, rangers pushed them away.
  - Hyena killed 4 goats and one cow in 5 incidents.
  - Jackal killed one goat.
- Big Life Foundation, May 21, 28, and 30, 2022.<sup>10</sup>

### TANZANIA

**June 3 and 4, 2022**

**Tanzania**

On Friday June 3, under the authority of the new President Samia Suluhu Hassan, Tanzania temporarily lifted the ban on the export of live wildlife that was adopted by her predecessor John Magufuli's government 6 years ago. Brokers and other registered holders of wildlife will be able to export them from June 6 until December 5.

On Saturday June 4, the Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism announced that the ban on the export of live animals was still in place pending subsequent consultations.

VOA Afrique, June 4, 2022; The Citizen, June 5, 2022; Mercury, June 6, 2022.<sup>11</sup>

**June 6 to 14, 2022**

**Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Arusha Region, Tanzania**

On November 12, 2017, the Minister of Natural Resources had decided not to renew the hunting concession in Loliondo Reserve (Ngorongoro) granted to Otterlo Business Corporation (OBC). The company, run by a member of the United Arab Emirates royal family, was accused of corruption (see "On the Trail" n°19 p.121).

Five years later, the Tanzanian government has reviewed its position. The Maasai chiefs were informed in January that an area of 1,500 km<sup>2</sup> was to be leased to OBC in the controlled area of Loliondo (4,000 km<sup>2</sup>). On June 3, John Mongella, Regional Commissioner of Arusha, announced: "Out of love to the citizens, [the government] decided to retain 1,500 km<sup>2</sup> for conservation and 2,500 km<sup>2</sup> will be given to the villages." Conservation means here safaris and trophy hunts reserved for the United Arab Emirates royal family and sport hunters from Europe and the United States of America.

On June 6, Parmwaari Merika, a spokesperson for a Maasai village opposed to the project, was arrested at his home and 700 members of the anti-riot field unit settled in around Ololosokwan village without explanation.

On June 8, the soldiers informed the villagers that they would start demarcating the future game reserve.

Protests and violent clashes ensued. Between June 9 and 14, 31 Maasai were shot and wounded, one was shot dead, one soldier was killed, and 19 people were arrested, including 9 village spokespersons or councillors. 700 people fled to Kenya to seek shelter and emergency aid.

The project threatens 70,000 Maasai villagers with eviction from their ancestral lands. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> eviction in Loliondo in 13 years, following those in 2009, 2013 and 2017. The government refers to this as "voluntary relocation".

On September 30, the East African Court of Justice rejected the appeal filed by the Maasai community, which accused the Tanzanian government of illegally evicting inhabitants in 2017, due to lack of evidence. Obviously, elephants, rhinos, lions, leopards and buffaloes will soon be targeted again by sport hunters who will be happy to participate in the "conservation" economy and support local communities.

Inside Climate News, June 10, 2022; Survival International, June 10, 2022; eTurboNews, June 12, 2022; EnviroNews Nigeria, June 14, 2022; Mongabay, June 14, 2022; AP, June 23, 2022; Pan African Lawyers Union, October 3, 2022; Human Rights Watch, February 3, 2023.<sup>12</sup>

**ZIMBABWE**

**April 29, 2022**

**Mwenezi, Masvingo Province, Zimbabwe**

For sale: a live pangolin 5,000 US\$ and 4 lion teeth (*Panthera leo*, Appendix II) 200 US\$ each plus a python skin (Pythonidae, Appendix I or II). Traffickers Ireane Machingura, Trust Singari, Moment Ncube and Edson Gara were taken into custody.

Center for Innovation and Technology, May 19, 2022.<sup>13</sup>



**May 7, 2022**

**Beitbridge, Matabeleland South Province, Zimbabwe**

An adult, Freeman Moyo, and a teenager were setting traps in the Sentinel Limpopo Eco Safaris area (320 km<sup>2</sup>), 50 in all, and they caught 24 impalas (*Aepyceros melampus*). As a result of the investigation, dried lion (*Panthera leo*, Appendix II) and zebra (genus *Equus*) meat was seized from the luggage compartment of a Green Horse Bus heading to Gwanda. Sentinel Limpopo Eco Safaris is located within the Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conversation Area and is an important "eco-tourism" site in Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe Republic Police, May 9, 2022.<sup>14</sup>



**SOUTHERN AFRICA**

**SOUTH AFRICA**

**June 28, 2022**

**Mokopane, Limpopo Province, South Africa**

A famous trophy hunter known for his triumphant and provocative poses next to zebras, elephants, giraffes and lions he had just killed was ambushed. Two men who were following him shot him in cold blood at close range. Naude had just parked on the side of the road 5 km from Mokopane due to a mechanical problem. He was on his way to a hunting trip. Police arrived at the scene and seized 2 firearms, clothes, mineral water and whisky inside his car. The motives of the murderer are unknown at this time. Riaan Naude was 55 years old. He was an active member of Pro Hunt Africa, a group of experienced hunters and hunting guides, whose ambition is to turn the dreams of hobby and wealthy hunters from all over the world into reality. While some consider Naude's violent death a tragedy, others say justice has been done.

World Animal News, June 30, 2022; American Post, July 1, 2022; Supporting Wildlife, July 1, 2022; The Independent, July 4, 2022.<sup>15</sup>



CANADA

OPERATION COMODO

May 19, 2022

Gaspé Peninsula, Province of Québec, Canada

Arrest of a gang of close to 90 individuals suspected of being involved in the smuggling to Montreal and Ontario of American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) gall bladders, moose (*Alces alces*), white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and other big game animal meat and more than 1,000 striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*). The vigilance of the public made it possible to complete this investigation. It is important to remember that all reports of wildlife crime should be directed to the SOS Poaching - Wildlife Emergency Hotline at 1-800-463-2191 where anonymity is respected.

Striped bass is a fish found in the Northwest Atlantic, particularly in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence. They measure an average of 60 to 100 cm in length and reproduce from April to May in fresh or brackish water. They are threatened by the degradation of their habitat and by poaching, sport fishing and commercial fishing. In 2011, in Canada, the Species at Risk Act allowed the implementation of a recovery program for the St. Lawrence Estuary population. Each year, angling catches of striped bass are regulated in the estuary by the Government of Quebec and by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans of Canada.

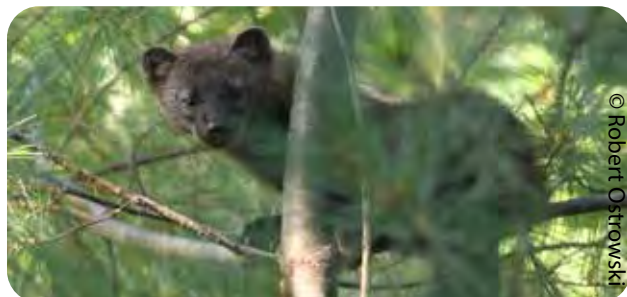
Le Journal de Québec, May 19, 2022; Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs, May 19, 2022.<sup>16</sup>

June 28, 2022

Province of Manitoba, Canada

An international fur trafficker was fined 3,700 Canadian dollars (2,920 US\$), ordered to pay 7,000 Canadian dollars (5,520 US\$) in damages and had his hunting licence suspended for 2 years. He was illegally purchasing fisher (*Pekania pennanti*) and American pine marten (*Martes americana*) furs in Manitoba and exporting them to the United States. The individual is also involved in poaching caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*) and moose (*Alces alces*) and is suspected of poaching wolves (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II). The searches also resulted in the seizure of an Arctic wolf (*Canis lupus arctos*, Appendix II) pelt and caribou antlers.

Manitoba Government, August 5, 2022.<sup>17</sup>



Fisher (*Pekania pennanti*)

End of April 2022

Marion County, State of Illinois, United States of America



The hunter had been reported for killing a wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) outside of authorized hunting hours. But in his house, there was more than turkeys: officers discovered barred owl (*Strix varia*, Appendix II) wings and bobcat (*Lynx rufus*, Appendix II) bodies. The suspect claims he found the dead owl while shed hunting and picked up dead bobcats hit by cars.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources, April 30, 2022.<sup>18</sup>

May 6, 2022

State of New York, United States of America



Jose A. Der pleads guilty. He manufactured and sold boots, shoes and other items for horsemen made from elephant, python (Pythonidae, Appendix I or II), monitor lizard (*Varanus* spp., Appendix I or II), alligator (*Alligator* spp., Appendix I or II), crocodile (Crocodylidae, Appendix I or II) and ostrich (genus *Struthio*) skin. Between 2015 and 2020, he shipped 48 pairs of boots to Canada worth 130,000 US\$ without worrying about regulatory constraints.

Environmental Crimes Monthly Bulletin, June 2022.<sup>19</sup>

Mid-May and May 23, 2022

Price and Fillmore, State of Utah, United States of America



Indictment of Wade Cox Lemon, a 61-year-old hunting guide, for baiting an American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) during a hunting party on May 18, 2018, where one of the clients was Donald Trump Jr. The video recording of the end of the hunt is in the hands of the authorities. It shows the bear surrounded by a pack of dogs just before Donald Trump Jr. shot him. On Instagram, Donald Trump Jr. wrote on May 20, 2018: "Great weekend in Utah with some good friends in the outdoors".

On January 24, 2021, Wade Lemon, with the help of his dogs, had made a puma (*Puma concolor*, Appendix II) take refuge into a tree and then called his client to shoot the prey so he could brag about killing a puma.

Raw Story, May 22, 2022; KSL-TV, May 23, 2022; Outdoor Life, May 23, 2022; The Salt Lake Tribune, May 28, 2022.<sup>20</sup>



**May 31, 2022**

**Dillon, State of Montana, United States of America**

Yan "Bo" Fong is sentenced to 100 days in prison and 25,000 US\$ in fines. Owner of several restaurants, he had purchased gall bladders and paws of bear (*Ursidae*, Appendix I or II) and carcasses of puma (*Puma concolor*, Appendix II), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*, Appendix II), elk (*Cervus canadensis*) and mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) (see "On the Trail" n°34 p.214).

In the Bamboo Garden restaurant in Pocatello, he offered bear and puma meat to Chinese excursionists and their guides. Other trials for similar offences await him in California and Idaho, with, in addition, underground trafficking in ivory and stuffed animals.

Independent Record, May 31, 2022; 103.5 KISS FM – KSASF, June 2, 2022.<sup>21</sup>



**June 2022**

**Nelson and Spencer Townships and Cedar Springs, State of Michigan, United States of America**

To relieve frustration, Edward Trout, 29, likes to drive around under the influence of alcohol and/or marijuana, listening to music and occasionally shooting deer (family *Cervidae*) out of his window. Since January, 8 reports had been made to the Department of Natural Resources hotline and 13 deer had been found dead, left whole. Trout did not appear at his trial on June 3 but continued to relieve his frustration, this time on snapping turtles (*Chelydra serpentina*, Appendix III in the United States of America), which he attacks with a spear. He killed at least 3 this way. He claims he wanted to protect his children from turtle bites. Pending trial, his hunting and fishing licences have been suspended and his weapon, bow and homemade arrows seized.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources, June 24 and 25, 2022.<sup>22</sup>

**June 13, 2022**

**Cambridge, State of Massachusetts, United States of America**

Rescue by the police, the Cambridge Animal Commission and the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MSPCA-Angell) of 4 white-nosed coatis (*Nasua nasua*), 3 parrots (*Psittaciformes*, Appendix I or II except for 4 species), 3 lovebirds (*Agapornis* spp., Appendix II, except *Agapornis roseicollis*) and 2 chinchillas (family *Chinchillidae*) sequestered in a moving van. The animals will be offered for rehoming, except for the coatis, who are prohibited from being kept in Massachusetts. They are likely to end their lives in a zoo.

WHDH, June 16, 2022.<sup>23</sup>



**June 23, 2022**

**Buffalo, State of New York, United States of America. Border with Canada.**

Vanessa Rondeau was sentenced to time served, one year of probation and 41,364 US\$ in fines and damages. After the Monkey Whisperer (see page 107) and the Bear Whisperer (see page 76), here comes the Skull Whisperer. In her cabinet of curiosities in Montreal, Canada, she sold skulls of everything from mice to humans, including bear (*Ursus maritimus* or *Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) and hedgehog (family *Erinaceidae*).

US Department of Justice, June 23, 2022.<sup>24</sup>



**LATIN AMERICA**

**ARGENTINA**

**April 1, 2022**

**Argentina**

The Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development has banned the export and inter-provincial transfer of hunting trophies. Since the beginning of the year, this ban had applied only to puma (*Puma concolor*, Appendix II) trophies.

Ambito, April 1, 2022.<sup>25</sup>



## Mid-May 2022

### Córdoba, Province of Córdoba, Argentina

The search of an individual's home in the Jardín area took place after an anonymous complaint. The environmental patrol found 14 royal pythons (*Python regius*, Appendix II), 2 reticulated pythons (*Python reticulatus*, Appendix II), another python (Pythonidae, Appendix I or II), 4 Central bearded dragons (*Pogona vitticeps*), a gecko, 5 exotic frogs, 2 tarantulas and a golden-billed saltator (*Saltator aurantiostris*). The reptiles are entrusted to the Center of Applied Zoology of the University of Córdoba while the golden-billed saltator needs to undergo a health assessment before release. A24, May 12, 2022.<sup>26</sup>

## End of May 2022

### Buenos Aires, Argentina

The store had been noticed during an investigation on social networks. The Brigada de Control Ambiental did not come for nothing. Seizure of clothes made from skins and fur from fox, monkey (Primates, Appendix I or II), mink, leopard (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I), cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*, Appendix I) and ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*, Appendix I), bags and boots made from skins of crocodile (Crocodylidae, Appendix I or II), yacaré caiman (*Caiman crocodilus yacare*, Appendix II) and python (Pythonidae, Appendix I or II). The officers also seized skins of jaguar (*Panthera onca*, Appendix I). Página/12, May 30, 2022.<sup>27</sup>



## BOLIVIA

## June 23, 2022

### Province of Guarayos, Department of Santa Cruz, Bolivia

Search at Misael N.V.'s home. He is suspected of having killed 3 policemen 3 days ago. In his ranch "La Bendita", the authorities seized about 100 animals among which 3 pumas (*Puma concolor*, Appendix II), 3 blue-throated macaws (*Ara glaucogularis*, Appendix I), 2 blue-fronted amazons (*Amazona aestiva*, Appendix II), a spider monkey (*Ateles* spp., Appendix I or II) and a paca (*Cuniculus paca*, Appendix III in Honduras). The pumas are entrusted to the reserve of Ambue Ari. Too accustomed to humans, they will not be released. Misael N.V. is the son-in-law of a Bolivian drug lord, Jesús Einar Lima Lobo Dorado, directly linked to Brazilian and Colombian cartels and extradited to Brazil last year. La Vanguardia (with EFE), June 24, 2022.<sup>28</sup>



## BRAZIL

## April 13, 2022

### Gurinhata, State of Minas Gerais, Brazil

Seizure of 3 tortoises (*Chelonoidis carbonarius* or *Chelonoidis denticulatus*, Appendix II), 2 black-bellied sliders (*Trachemys dorbigni*), a parrot (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II), 4 firearms and dozens of ammunitions. Regionalzão, April 13, 2022.<sup>29</sup>

## April 19, 2022

### Blumenau, State of Santa Catarina, Brazil



Military police seize from a man suspected of selling wildlife on WhatsApp 2 pythons (Pythonidae, Appendix I or II), a boa constrictor (*Boa constrictor*, Appendix II), 5 salamanders (order Caudata), and fish of the genera *Lepisosteus*, *Polypterus* and *Protopterus*.

CNN Brasil, April 20, 2022; Jornal de Pomerode, April 20, 2022.<sup>30</sup>

## OPERATION TIRADENTES

## April 22, 2022

### Eldorado, State of São Paulo, Brazil



The environmental military police seized from the poacher's home 8 firearms, 67 cartridges, 2 parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II), one parrot (*Pionus* spp, Appendix I or II), 6 doves (genus *Columbina*), 4 tanagers (genus *Thraupis*), 3 ruby-crowned tanagers (*Tachyphonus coronatus*), 3 thrushes (genus *Turdus*), a slaty-breasted wood rail (*Aramides saracura*), a blond-crested woodpecker (*Celeus flavescens*), all dead, 3.032 kg of capybara meat (*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*) 358 grams of big-eared opossum meat (*Didelphis aurita*), 2.4 kg of muscovy duck meat (*Cairina moschata*), 3.5 kg of armadillo meat (family Dasypodidae), a South American tapir skull (*Tapirus terrestris*, Appendix II) and a collared peccary skull (*Pecari tajacu*, Appendix II). Fine of 15,645 reais or 3,300 US\$. G1 Santos, April 25, 2022.<sup>31</sup>

**April 25, 2022**

**Três Coroas, State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil**



Seizure of a margay skin (*Leopardus wiedii*, Appendix I), an armadillo (family Dasypodidae) and a toucan (family Ramphastidae), both frozen, firearms, searchlights and ammunition. Arrest of a man. Rádio Taquara, April 25, 2022.<sup>32</sup>

**May 1, 2022**

**Iguape, State of São Paulo, Brazil**



Arrest of 4 men who were transporting in the trunk of their car a cooler containing a dead paca (*Cuniculus paca*, Appendix III in Honduras) weighing 6 kg and 4.5 kg of broad-nosed caiman (*Caiman latirostris*, Appendix II) meat. Fine of 22,000 reais or 4,680 US\$. G1 Santos, May 3, 2022.<sup>33</sup>

**May 25, 2022**

**Brasília, Federal District, Brazil**



The dead cow was sprayed with carbofuran. Her body killed 2 jaguars (*Panthera onca*, Appendix I), 14 urubus (family Cathartidae), a crested caracara (*Caracara plancus*, Appendix II), a crab-eating fox (*Cerdocyon thous*, Appendix II) and thousands of flies. The use of carbofuran has been banned in Brazil since 2017. It is reportedly easily accessible in Paraguay and Brazilian farmers are said to keep old stocks. The mass grave was discovered in June 2021 near Corumbá in Mato Grosso do Sul by naturalists from Reprocon (Reprodução Para Conservação) and it was only a year later that the Ibama (Instituto brasileiro do meio ambiente e dos recursos naturais renováveis), whose budgets and influence have been reduced by the Bolsonaro administration, revealed the identity of the poison. O Globo, June 21, 2021; ((o))eco, May 25, 2022; Conexão Planeta, June 1, 2022.<sup>34</sup>

**OPERATION ARCA ESPECIAL**

**May 27, 2022**

**Porto Alegre, Nova Santa Rita, São Leopoldo, Novo Hamburgo, Canoas, Guaíba, Alvorada, Osório, Santo Antônio da Patrulha, Santa Vitória do Palmar, Teutônia and Caxias do Sul, State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil**

Thirty search warrants were issued in the investigation of a criminal group selling firearms on social networks. Seven arrests and seizure of 13 firearms, 16,000 reais (3,200 US\$) in cash and an armadillo armour shell (family Dasypodidae). Some of the arrested people are suspected of cruelty to wild animals. The police discovered compromising videos such as one of a capybara being eaten alive by dogs. GZH, May 27, 2022.<sup>35</sup>

**June 3, 2022**

**Joinville, State of Santa Catarina, Brazil**



© Polícia Militar de Santa Catarina

Seizure of 13 primates (Primates, Appendix I or II) including one marmoset (Callitrichidae, Appendix I or II) and one capuchin (*Cebus* spp., synonymous with *Sapajus* spp, Appendix II), 11 freshwater turtles (family Chelidae), 13 birds including a parrot (Psittacidae Appendix I or II), 6 squirrels (family Sciuridae), 5 iguanas (family Iguanidae), 3 snakes, 2 saurians and 2 hamsters in a woman's apartment. Rádio Araguaia, June 5, 2022; Santa Catarina Military Police, June 7, 2022.<sup>36</sup>

**June 14, 2022**

**Andradina, State of São Paulo, Brazil**



Seizure of a parrot (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II), 17 Atlantic canaries (*Serinus canaria*), 4 black-bellied sliders (*Trachemys dorsalis*) and tortoises (*Chelonoidis carbonarius* or *Chelonoidis denticulatus*, Appendix II). Three arrests and a fine of 16,590 US\$. G1 Rio Preto e Araçatuba, June 15, 2022.<sup>37</sup>



© PMA

**June 16, 2022**

**Manaus, State of the Amazonas, Brazil**

Arrest of a 44-year-old woman at the market of Colônia Santo Antônio. She was offering to sell 99 kg of meat from arapaima (*Arapaima gigas*, Appendix I), South American tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*, Appendix II) and paca (*Cuniculus paca*, Appendix III in Honduras). Em Tempo, June 17, 2022.<sup>38</sup>



## COLOMBIA

**April 2022**

**Medellín, Department of Antioquia, Popayán, Department of Cauca, Magangué, Department of Bolivar, Cali, Department of Valle del Cauca, Mosquera, Department of Cundinamarca and Bogotá, Colombia**



We had heard about the Medellin cocaine cartel. Now, we also hear about the Medellin wildlife cartel. Thanks to the cooperation between Dipro (Dirección de Protección y Servicios Especiales), the national police and the US Fish and Wildlife, 21 people were arrested in Medellin, Bogotá, Cali, Popayán and Magangué. With the complicity of local transporters and zoo employees, ocelots and other animals were being transported anonymously in boxes and backpacks to supply a kind of secret, cryptic society of out-of-the ordinary pet fans. The Medellin wildlife cartel was promoting an aphrodisiac potion made from hedgehog organs to its followers. 1,000 live animals were seized, including boas, tarantulas and geckos. In Medellin, the cartel was known to insiders as "Libertad" and in Bogota as "Naturales". Both networks were brought down around Holy Week when supply and demand were booming.

El Herald, April 11, 2022; Infobae, April 12, 2022; Radio Nacional de Colombia, April 12, 2022; Noticias Caracol, April 19, 2022.<sup>39</sup>

**April 22, 2022**

**La Conejera Wetland, Bogotá, Colombia**

Release of 4 tropical-screech owls (*Otus choliba*, Appendix II), 2 striped owls (*Pseudoscops clamator*, Appendix II), 3 barn owls (*Tyto alba*, Appendix II), 8 eared doves (*Zenaida auriculata*), 2 rufous-collared sparrows (*Zonotrichia capensis*), 3 tropical kingbirds (*Tyrannus melancholicus*), 3 tropical mockingbirds (*Mimus gilvus*), 5 frogs (*Dendropsophus labialis*), and 3 opossums (family Didelphidae) seized in Bogotá. "Bogotá, as the capital of Colombia, has the characteristic of being the epicentre of the entry and exit of people and, therefore, has become the compulsory route for wildlife traffickers. Among the most traded animals are reptiles, mammals and birds," say the city authorities.

Infobae, April 24, 2022.<sup>40</sup>



Tropical kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)

**End of May 2022**

**Cartagena, Department of Bolivar, Colombia**

Seizure at the traditional market of Bazurto of 14 pieces of handcrafts made of queen conch (*Strombus gigas*, Appendix II) and hawksbill turtle shell (*Eretmochelys imbricata*, Appendix I), 56 birds of different species and 5 reptiles.

Alerta Caribe, May 31, 2022.<sup>41</sup>

## MEXICO

**Beginning of April 2022**

**State of Quintana Roo, Mexico**

You will no longer be able to have your picture taken with an exotic animal on the beaches or streets of Quintana Roo. The State Congress of Quintana Roo has unanimously decided to prohibit the exploitation of wild animals on public streets. Anyone caught offering a tourist to touch, hug or take a picture of an exotic animal will be fined between 9,622 and 19,244 pesos (480 to 970 US\$). Infobae, April 7, 2022.<sup>42</sup>

**April 8 and May 2, 2022**

**States of México, Jalisco and Chiapas and Mexico City, Mexico**

Searches were carried out in the States of Mexico, Jalisco, Chiapas and Mexico City as part of an investigation into a criminal organization specializing in the trafficking of protected wildlife species. Several arrests were made, including Aldo "L", Jaime "C" and Jessica "L", suspected of being the heads of the network, and documents, a computer central unit, microchips, cell phones, a USB key and cash, all of which are potential evidence of the trafficking, were seized.

El Chamuco y los Hijos del Averno, May 2, 2022; Fiscalía General de la República, May 2, 2022.<sup>43</sup>

## Mid-June 2022

### Emiliano Zapata, State of Veracruz, Mexico

An anonymous caller reports a car carrying animals on the highway. It was intercepted by the municipal police. Inside the car, there were a 30-year-old man and a 24-year-old woman, 2 children, a barn owl (*Tyto alba*, Appendix II), a falcon chick (Falconidae, Appendix I or II) and 2 sea turtles (Appendix I). Diario de Xalapa, June 15, 2022.<sup>44</sup>

## PERU

### Beginning of May 2022

#### Juliaca, Province of San Román, Department of Puno, Peru

Seizure of 3 stuffed armadillos (family Dasypodidae), feathers of Darwin's rhea (*Pterocnemia pennata*, Appendix II) and various amphibians from the stalls of the Feria de Alasitas.

HBA noticias, May 4, 2022.<sup>45</sup>

## SURINAME

### Mid-April 2022

#### Paramaribo, Paramaribo District, Suriname

Marcel D., a butcher in Paramaribo, posted an ad on Facebook offering game meat. Officers of the Lands Bosbeheer (Department of the National Forestry) raided his store and seized meat of red howler (*Alouatta seniculus*, Appendix II), white-lipped peccary (*Tayassu pecari*, Appendix II), collared peccary (*Pecari tajacu*, Appendix II) and armadillo (family Dasypodidae). The whole should be destroyed. Fine of 50,000 Surinamese dollars (2,400 US\$) for the butcher. Waterkant, April 23, 2022.<sup>46</sup>



## CENTRAL ASIA

### KAZAKHSTAN

### End of June 2022

#### Akshoky, Oblys of East Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan

Arrest in the village. The man was going out in the cold with a smoothbore gun to attack European mink (*Mustela lutreola*) and Altai argalis (or wild sheep, *Ovis ammon*, Appendix II). The ecological value of his victims is estimated at 13 million tenge or 30,850 US\$. European minks are considered critically endangered due to rapid habitat loss, overexploitation in the 20<sup>th</sup> century for their fur, and competition with American minks introduced into Europe and Asia.

Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, June 30, 2022.<sup>47</sup>

## SOUTHEASTERN ASIA

### INDONESIA

### April 23 and 25, 2022

#### Ronga-Ronga and Singah Mulo, Bener Meriah Regency, Aceh Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia

S., 40 years old, T.H.I., 31 years old, both civil servants, and N.I., 40 years old, were arrested in 2 stages. The policemen of Bener Meriah regency had been informed about the sale and purchase of wildlife in the area. At S.'s house, they seized 1.5 kg of pangolin scales (*Manis* spp., Appendix I). At Singah Mulo, they caught T.H.I. and N.I. with a tiger skin (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I) and a stuffed Malayan sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*, Appendix I). T.H.I.'s defence is simple. Neither the skin nor the stuffed Malayan sun bear belongs to him. His parents, who have been living with him for some time, brought them. S. is more talkative. She explains that the plan was to sell them in Medan. They hoped to get 10 million rupiah from the Malayan sun bear (700 US\$), 30 million rupiah from the tiger skin (2,090 US\$) and 5 million rupiah from the pangolin scales (350 US\$ or 233 US\$/kg). Harianrakyataceh.com, April 26, 2022; Kumparan, April 26, 2022.<sup>48</sup>



### May 30, 2022

#### Boalemo Regency, Gorontalo Province, Sulawesi Island, Indonesia

The van was travelling from Makassar (South Sulawesi province) to Manado (North Sulawesi province), a trip of 1,750 km. It was stopped at a roadside checkpoint in Boalemo, 450 km



from Manado. On board in crates and boxes were a baby orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*, Appendix I), 6 other monkeys including a Bornean white-bearded gibbon (*Hylobates albibarbis*, Appendix I), siamangs (*Symphalangus syndactylus*, Appendix I) and langurs (*Trachypithecus* spp, Appendix I or II), 3 monitor lizards including a rough-necked monitor (*Varanus rudicollis*, Appendix II) and a quince monitor (*Varanus melinus*, Appendix II), 37 turtles and tortoises including spiny turtles (*Heosemys spinosa*, Appendix II) and Asian giant tortoises (*Manouria emys*, Appendix II). The driver W.F. aka Yu and I.B. aka Him live in Makassar.

According to the initial findings of the investigation, most of the animals were imported to Sulawesi island from Borneo island via the port of Makassar to be smuggled across the Sulawesi Sea (or Celebes Sea) to the Philippines via the port of Manado.

Liputan6.com, May 31 and June 2, 2022; Republika, May 31, 2022; VOI, May 31, 2022; Tribun-Timur.com, June 1, 2022.<sup>49</sup>

**June 17, 2022**

**Padang Panjang, West Sumatra Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia**

Seizure at W., 74 years old, of an assortment of stuffed animals: a leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*, Appendix II), an Asian golden cat (*Catopuma temminckii*, Appendix I), 2 clouded leopards (*Neofelis nebulosa*, Appendix I), a siamang (*Symphalangus syndactylus*, Appendix I), 2 mitred leaf monkeys (*Presbytis melalophos*, Appendix II), a rhinoceros hornbill (*Buceros rhinoceros*, Appendix II), an Oriental pied hornbill (*Anthracoceros albirostris*, Appendix II), a wreathed hornbill (*Rhyticeros undulatus*, Appendix II), a black kite (*Milvus migrans*, Appendix II), a Southern serow (*Capricornis sumatraensis*, Appendix I), a Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*, Appendix I), a grizzled tree-kangaroo (*Dendrolagus inustus*, Appendix II), a binturong (*Arctictis binturong*, Appendix III in India), a Japanese flying squirrel (*Iomys horsfieldi*) and an Indo-Pacific horseshoe crab (*Tachypleus gigas*). The BKSDA also seized one patch of Asian golden cat skin, one patch of clouded leopard skin, 46 patches of Sumatran tiger skin (*Panthera tigris sumatrae*, Appendix I) and bones, 5 heads, 3 skulls and 1 pair of antlers of sambar deer (*Rusa unicolor*), 2 heads of Indian muntjac (*Muntiacus muntjak*), a siamang skin, a nautilus (*Nautilus pompilius*, Appendix II) and 2 triton's trumpet shells (*Charonia tritonis*). Officers now want to identify the suppliers of W.

Bisnis Sumatra, June 17, 2022; Sumbarkita.id, June 17, 2022.<sup>50</sup>



**MALAYSIA**

**April 20, 2022**

**Miri, State of Sarawak, Malaysia**

Four craftsmen were processing "parts" of poaching into hats, decorative objects, handbags, carpets. 511 green peafowl feathers (*Pavo muticus*, Appendix II), 148 bear claws (Ursidae, Appendix I or II), 17 deer antlers, 14 eagle talons (Accipitridae, Appendix I or II) and a feline skin were seized.

The Borneo Post, April 22, 2022.<sup>51</sup>

**April 23, 2022**

**Ulu Sungai Melatai, State of Sarawak, Malaysia. Border with Indonesia.**

The months-long investigation pays off, concluding with the arrest of 9 foreign nationals and the seizure of cash, agarwood, helmets and feathers of rhinoceros hornbill (*Buceros rhinoceros*, Appendix II) and scales of Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*, Appendix I), with a total estimated value of 54,000 ringgit (12,700 US\$).

The Borneo Post, April 25, 2022.<sup>52</sup>



**April 27, 2022**

**Kota Kinabalu, State of Sabah, Malaysia**

"On the Trail" n°30 (p. 168) recounted his indictment. Chung En Kin has just been sentenced to one year in prison and fines totalling 206,000 ringgit (49,000 US\$) or, in case of non-payment, an additional 7 months in prison for the possession of 36.10 kg of banteng (*Bos javanicus*) meat, 5 large flying foxes (*Petropus vampyrus*, Appendix II) and 4.8 kg of meat, 4 legs and an antler of sambar deer (*Rusa unicolor*). Bantengs have been fully protected since 1997, which is why the sentence was so harsh. The Sabah Wildlife Department had pleaded for this. The application for a stay of execution was granted pending an appeal to the High Court.

New Straits Times, May 20, 2022.<sup>53</sup>



**THAILAND**

**April 23, 2022**

**Hat Yai, Songkhla Province, Thailand**

Arrest of Pantip, a young woman of 30 years old, who had set an appointment with a buyer in front of the bank. On social networks, she offers "wildlife". In her bags, the police find 2 Bengal monitor lizards (*Varanus bengalensis*, Appendix I) and 25 squirrels, all dead. Her asking price was 100 baht or 3 US\$ for a squirrel and 250 baht or 7.5 US\$ for a kilo of monitor lizard. She says she bought them in the district of Singhanakhon, about 40 kilometres away. Siamrath, April 23, 2022.<sup>54</sup>

**Beginning of May 2022**

**Than Prasat Sub-district, Nakhon Ratchasima Province, Thailand**

Seizure from Kiang, aged 67, of 2 tiger cubs (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I) about 3 months old, 6 concave-casqued hornbills (*Buceros bicornis*, Appendix I) and 2 wreathed hornbills (*Rhyticeros undulatus*, Appendix II). He said he bought them in Bangkok, 150,000 baht for each of the tiger cubs, 6,000 baht for each of the concave-casqued hornbills and 8,000 baht for each of the wreathed hornbills, and expected to resell them 400,000 baht or 11,600 US\$ per tiger cub and 20,000 baht or 580 US\$ per hornbill. The animals were entrusted to the Phu Khiao Wildlife Husbandry Research Station. They look healthy.

Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, May 13, 2022; Chiang Rai Times, May 16, 2022.<sup>55</sup>





## May 2022 Thailand



National parks and wildlife departments look glum. To care for 188 tigers (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I) and lions (*Panthera leo*, Appendix II), 27 leopards (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I), 8 Asian golden cats (*Catopuma temminckii*, Appendix I), 222 Malayan sun bears (*Helarctos malayanus*, Appendix I) and Asian black bears (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I), 2,600 monkeys, gibbons (Hylobatidae, Appendix I) and langurs (*Trachypithecus* spp., Appendix I or II), 194 lorises (*Nycticebus* spp, Appendix I), 87 otters (Lutrinae, Appendix I or II), 507 birds of prey and 22,170 other wild animals seized by the police and customs, abandoned by unscrupulous people or handed over to the authorities to avoid trouble with neighbours or the law, they had an annual budget of 80 million baht or 2.3 million US\$, but in 2022 they only have 30 million baht or 870.000 US\$. Bangkok Post, May 26, 2022.<sup>56</sup>

## June 14, 2022

### Hin Lat Sub-District, Wat Bot District, Phitsanulok Province, Thailand



Seizure of a Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*, Appendix I), a Bengal monitor lizard (*Varanus bengalensis*, Appendix I), a grey-bellied squirrel (*Callosciurus caniceps*) and a wild bird, and arrest of the 3 men who were trying to go unnoticed on their agricultural machinery. Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, June 15, 2022.<sup>57</sup>

## June 29, 2022

### Bangkok, Thailand



Teo Boon Ching has been arrested once again in Thailand. He had already been arrested in March 2015 (see "On the Trail" n°8 p. 81). He was suspected of smuggling African elephant tusks into the country and had since been released. Teo Boon Ching again denies any involvement in ivory trafficking. He is in Thailand, he says, for a cannabis oil business. According to the Natural Resources and Environmental Crime Division, "Boon did not have an exact place of residence. Hewasalways travelling from one country to another, especially in Africa, and was therefore difficult to trace." Despite the denials of Boon, who says that he used to go to Africa on holiday, police say he is to be extradited to the United States of America where he is allegedly wanted on wildlife trafficking and money laundering charges. The Thaiger, June 30, 2022.<sup>58</sup>

## VIET NAM

## May 6, 2022

### Bo Trach District, Quang Binh Province, Viet Nam. Border with Laos.



Mai Thanh Hùng is sentenced to 4 months in prison. He was arrested in 2021 in possession of 700 grams of pangolin scales (*Manis pentadactyla*, Appendix I), 31.4 kg of Chinese serow bones (*Capricornis milneedwardsii*, Appendix I), 700 grams of red-shanked douc langur bones (*Pygathrix nemaeus*, Appendix I) and 9 kg of macaque bones (*Macaca* spp., Appendix I or II). He explains that he bought them from 3 individuals at the border with Laos to make medicine. Tap chi Lao – Viet, May 7, 2022; ENV, May 9, 2022.<sup>59</sup>

## May 16, 2022

### Hai Duong Province, Viet Nam



The province's police reveal that on March 25, 2022 they arrested a man, Vu Van Vi, in a café in Thanh Mien district. He was carrying a box containing 2 Malayan sun bear claws (*Helarctos malayanus*, Appendix I), 2 tiger claws (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I) and a big cat fang (*Panthera* spp., Appendix I or II). He was to meet a buyer who had shown interest on social networks. They had agreed on a price: 28.2 million dong (1,230 US\$). Lao Dong, May 16, 2022.<sup>60</sup>



## May 2022

### Ho Chi Minh City Port, Viet Nam



Seizure of 86 kg of alleged pangolin scales, 573 kg of dried seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp., Appendix II) and 38 kg of bones of tiger (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I) and leopard (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) in a container addressed to KLT Import-Export Trading Service Co and declared as containing 13 tonnes of "shells for handicraft". Thuong hieu & Cong luan, May 27, 202; Tap Chi Dien Tu Ky Thuat Chong Hang Gia Va Gian Lan Thuong Mai, July 30, 2022.<sup>61</sup>



## June 10, 2022

### Ban Giang Border Post, Huong Vinh, Ha Tinh Province, Viet Nam. Border with Laos.



Seizure of a 5-kg Assam macaque (*Macaca assamensis*, Appendix II) wounded in the left leg and a 1-kg Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*, Appendix I) that a man abandoned in a bag when he saw the border guards. The animals were entrusted to Vu Quang National Park before being released. Bao Tin tuc – TTXVN, June 11, 2022.<sup>62</sup>

June 23, 2022

**Hoang Lien National Park, Lao Cai and Lai Chau Provinces, Vietn Nam**



Release of 3 pygmy slow lorises (*Nycticebus pygmaeus*, Appendix I), 2 leopard cats (*Prionailurus bengalensis*, Appendix II), 5 big-headed turtles (*Platysternon megacephalum*, Appendix I), 4 Asiatic rock pythons (*Python molurus*, Appendix II) and 6 masked palm civets (*Paguma larvata*, Appendix III in India) that have been handed over, seized or rescued and are considered by specialists to have had sufficient time for rewilding. Natural Resources and Environment Newspaper, June 23, 2022.<sup>63</sup>

**SOUTHERN ASIA**

**AFGHANISTAN**

**Beginning of June 2022**

**Wakhan National Park, Badakhshan Province, Afghanistan. Border with Tajikistan.**

The Taliban are said to stock up meat by poaching Marco Polo argalis (*Ovis polii*, Appendix II), wild goats (*Capra hircus aegagrus*, Appendix III in Pakistan) and Bokharan red deer (*Cervus elaphus bactrianus*, Appendix II). The park extends on both sides of the border between Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

In Tajikistan, a hunting permit for Marco Polo's argali is granted for 55,000 somoni or 4,480 US\$.

ASIA-Plus, June 13, 2022.<sup>64</sup>

**INDIA**

**April 19, 2022**

**Titigaon, Ganjam District, State of Odisha, India**



In Balaram Sahu's home, 2 skins, 5 teeth, a claw and bones of leopard (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I), a skin and 2 antlers of spotted deer (*Axis axis*), 38 quills of Indian crested porcupine (*Hystrix indica*), 7 teeth of wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), a scale of pangolin (*Manis* spp., Appendix I), and a hoof of Indian chevrotain (*Moschiola indica*) were seized. The poacher who had been operating for 5 years was arrested and brought to the court.

The New Indian Express, April 22, 2022.<sup>65</sup>

May 9, 2022

**Khankawn, Champhai District, State of Mizoram, India**



The unfortunate ones were probably smuggled from Myanmar. Seizure of 5 monitor lizards (*Varanus* spp., Appendix I or II), 2 Burmese pythons (*Python bivittatus*, Appendix II), 4 white cockatoos (*Cacatua alba*, Appendix II), 3 kangaroo rats (genus *Dipodomys*), a meerkat (*Suricata suricatta*) and 8 guinea pigs (*Cavia porcellus*). They were handed over to Aizawl Zoological Park. Mizoram Police, May 2022.<sup>66</sup>

**May 15 and 16, 2022**

**Chennai International Airport, State of Tamil Nadu, India**



In the luggage of 2 passengers coming from Bangkok were a tamarin (*Callitrichidae*, Appendix I or II) and an albino porcupine (family *Erethizontidae* or *Hystriidae*) and 9 leucistic sugar gliders (*Petaurus breviceps*). The animals were returned to Thailand and the traffickers were put in jail.

Asian News International, May 17, 2022; The Hindu, May 17, 2022.<sup>67</sup>

## TURKIYE

May 25, 2022

**Zokhawthar, Champhai District, State of Mizoram, India. Border with Myanmar.**

Gospel Chanchintha and his 4 accomplices were arrested while attempting to cross the Tiau River with cages containing hundreds of animals from 4 continents: a leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*, Appendix I), 11 snakes, mainly pythons (*Pythonidae*, Appendix I or II), 4 tortoises, including one leopard tortoise (*Stigmochelys pardalis*, Appendix II), 4 sloths (*Bradypus* spp, Appendix I or II), 4 pottos (*Perodicticus potto*, Appendix II), 2 beavers (genus *Castor*) and 442 lizards.

The Meghalayan, May 25, 2022; Hindustan Times, May 26, 2022; The Hindu, May 27, 2022.<sup>68</sup>



June 20, 2022

**Nagpur, Nagpur District, State of Maharashtra, India**

Seizure of 18 dried Bengal monitor lizard (*Varanus bengalensis*, Appendix I) hemipenes, 11 sea fans (order *Alcyonacea*) and 4 Saharan sand skinks (*Scincus scincus*) in Mayur Madhusudan Gupta's shop. Saharan sand skinks are small lizards of about 10 centimetres endemic to northern Sahara and some Middle East countries. They live buried in sand at about 1 to 3 cm below the surface and only come out to eat insects, do their business or reproduce. This burrowing technique allows them to avoid heat stress.

The Times of India, June 22, 2022.<sup>69</sup>

## IRAN

Beginning of April 2022

**Kerman, Kerman Province, Iran**

Seizure of a stuffed leopard (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) and 2 hunting trophies of wild goats (genus *Ovis*) in the hiding place of a hunter whose illegal activities drew the attention of local residents. Eight firearms and a large quantity of ammunition were also confiscated. He was arrested. Two species of wild goats are found in Iran: the urial (*Ovis vignei*, Appendix I) and the Cyprus mouflon (*Ovis gmelini*, Appendix I in Cyprus).

Iranian Students' News Agency, April 10, 2022.<sup>70</sup>



Beginning of April 2022

**Silivri District, Istanbul Province, Türkiye**

Seizure of a white Bengal tiger cub (*Panthera tigris tigris*, Appendix I) not yet weaned and a rhesus macaque (*Macaca mulatta*, Appendix II) from a foreign national. The feline and the monkey have reportedly been sent to the zoo of Gaziantep. "On the Trail" will try to give you updates after the dramatic earthquake of February 2023. Daily Sabah, April 13, 2022; Hürriyet Daily News, April 15, 2022.<sup>71</sup>

June 2022

**Türkiye**

Law enforcement officials carried out raids in 14 provinces and arrested 62 individuals, including 2 veterinarians, as part of their investigation into the illegal sale of exotic animals in the country. Seizure of 16 macaques (*Macaca* spp., Appendix I or II), 52 Psittaciformes (Appendix I or II except 4 species), one cinereous vulture

(*Aegypius monachus*, Appendix II), one long-legged buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*, Appendix II), 4 peafowls (*Pavo* spp., Appendix II or Appendix III in Pakistan), 55 Himalaya goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis caniceps*, Appendix III in Ukraine), 25 red-fronted serins (*Serinus pusillus*), 84 desert finches (*Rhodospiza obsoleta*), 7 boas (*Boidae*, Appendix I or II), 24 leopard geckos (*Eublepharis macularius*), 4 iguanas (*Iguana* spp, Appendix II), 10 bearded dragons (genus *Pogona*), 2 salamanders (order *Caudata*), one sugar glider (*Petaurus breviceps*), 4 Sphynx cats and 18 pups.

Incubating eggs were also found. The modus operandi was well thought out. A bus driver and accomplices were responsible for bringing the animals into Türkiye, and then building workers and office employees took over and brought the animals into the cities. The network sold monkeys for between 20,000 and 50,000 liras (1,220 to 3,050 US\$), a cinereous vulture (*Aegypius monachus*, Appendix II) for 18,408 liras (1,123 US\$) and a boa constrictor for 14,160 liras (865 US\$).

Gazete Duvar, June 21, 2022.<sup>72</sup>





## NORTHERN EUROPE

### NORWAY

**June 7, 2021 to June 3, 2022**

#### Norway

Between June 7, 2021 and June 3, 2022, Rovdata, a data provider about predators in Norway, recorded the killing of 88 lynx (*Lynx lynx*, Appendix II), 37 grey wolves (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II), and 12 bears (*Ursus* spp., Appendix II) under legal circumstances (hunting or "neutralization" by authorities). Seven individuals of these species were also killed by poachers. In addition, at the end of winter 2021, 2 white-tailed eagles (*Haliaeetus albicilla*, Appendix I) were found poisoned and a golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*, Appendix II) was found shot dead on Senja Island.

According to experts, every year lynx, wolves, bears, white-tailed eagles and golden eagles are poached. It is difficult to assess the extent of poaching, but it is likely to be intense. Despite being protected since the 1970s, large predators are still targeted by poisoned bait, traps, and gunshots. Arrests and convictions are extremely rare and not a strong deterrent. In the northern region of the country, out of 28 poaching cases in 10 years, there have been only 2 convictions.

Nationen, June 28, 2022; NRK, July 11, 2022.<sup>73</sup>



© Statens naturoppsyn

**June 14 and 16, 2022**

#### Hamar and Østerdalen District, Eastern Norway Region, Norway

The NGOs Noah and Aktivt Rovdyrvern, which specialize in the preservation of large carnivores in Norway, are raising concern on the situation of grey wolves (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II), brown bears (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II), lynx (*Lynx lynx*, Appendix II) and wolverines (*Gulo gulo*). According to Aktivt Rovdyrvern, necropsies prove that half of the dead animals had been targeted by poachers at least once in their lives. In addition to the pressure imposed by this illegal hunting, large predators are also victims of very permissive legal "protection" measures. Noah reports the "legal" killing by the authorities of 2 wolves within 2 days in the Østlandet region, whose only fault was that they had been spotted. "If a wolf, bear or lynx is seen wandering around and caught on camera, all it takes is a phone call to the county authorities and permission to shoot him is given verbally on the spot, before he has even had a chance to get near a reindeer or sheep." "Damages are awarded as a precautionary measure."

NOAH, June 17, 2022; Dagsavisen, June 21, 2022.<sup>74</sup>



## WESTERN EUROPE

### GERMANY

**June 14, 2022**

#### Gundersheim, Rhineland-Palatinate State, Germany

Seizure of a short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*, Appendix II), a kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*, Appendix II), 2 common quails (*Coturnix coturnix*), a European hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) and a juvenile raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) in Thomas Klingsporn's self-proclaimed "shelter" in the forest. The owl was seriously injured, the hawk died a few hours later. The authorities had already issued him a warning not to take in any more wild animals.

He used to work for a security company. After the first Covid-19 lockdown, he decided to turn to the wild. But he has no certification in wildlife care and rehabilitation. "It's heaven here!" he exclaims. The animals he houses can't say the same: cages too small and dirty, lack of care... Klingsporn remains steadfast in his position and claims that he is the victim of a smear campaign by local associations.

Wormser Zeitung, July 12, 2022.<sup>75</sup>

## FRANCE

**April 20, 2022**

**Saint-Léger-en-Bray, Department of Oise, France**

Following complaints of mistreatment from the NGO One Voice, 2 parrots (Psittaciformes, Appendix I or II except for 4 species), a python (Pythonidae, Appendix I or II), 4 tortoises (probably African spurred tortoises *Centrochelys sulcata*, Appendix II), a porcupine (family Hystricidae or Erethizontidae), 2 muntjacs (genus *Muntiacus*) and a swan (genus *Cygnus*) are seized from the animal park of Kid Bauer, a circus professional. "Several animals are seized but no situation of proven abuse has been found" said the prosecutor of Beauvais. The lions and tigers have not been seized. The investigation is ongoing.

France 3 Hauts-de-France, April 21, 2022; Le Parisien, April 22, 2022.<sup>76</sup>

**May 17 and 19, 2022**

**Marseille, Department of Bouches-du-Rhône, France**

A man was arrested at the flea market with 6 European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine) - including two hybrids obtained by crossing with the canary - in a cage hidden by a sheet as well as 35 Greek tortoises (*Testudo graeca*, Appendix II) crammed into a box. In court, the trafficker stated that he sold the tortoises for 50 to 300 € (52-315 US\$) and the goldfinches for 60 to 100 € (63-105 US\$), which in the eyes of specialists seems to be a considerable underestimate. He was sentenced by summary trial to 6 months in prison, a 5-year ban on selling animals, and the 8,500 € (8910 US\$) seized during his arrest were kept by the public treasury. Sud Ouest (with AFP), May 20, 2022.<sup>77</sup>



## THE NETHERLANDS

**April 19, 2022**

**'s-Hertogenbosch, Province of North Brabant, The Netherlands**

Sentence of the auction house Hoeff Veilingen-Taxaties, in Hekellaan, to a fine of 5,000 € (5,560 US\$), half of which suspended, with a 2-year probationary period, for having offered for sale in 2020, while lacking certificates, black coral (Antipatharia, Appendix II) and stuffed protected animals, including a Nile crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*, Appendix I or II), a spectacled caiman (*Caiman crocodilus*, Appendix I or II) and tortoises or turtles.

Brabants Dagblad, April 19, 2022.<sup>78</sup>



## SOUTHERN EUROPE

### SPAIN

#### OPERATION VALCITES

**April 6, 2022**

**Bétera,**

**Valencian**

**Community, Spain**

An investigation that began in November 2021 resulted in the seizure of 1,090 stuffed animals from a 600-m<sup>2</sup> warehouse, another

150-m<sup>2</sup> warehouse,

and a two-storey house. The species

of more than 600 of them have yet to

be determined but investigators have

already identified 405 CITES-listed

specimens (or parts of specimens), in-

cluding scimitar-horned onyx

(*Oryx dammah*, Appendix I), an extinct

species in the wild, addax (*Addax nasomaculatus*,

Appendix I), black and white rhinoceroses, tigers

(*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I), 3 cheetahs (*Acinonyx*

*jubatus*, Appendix I) and 3 cheetah skins, 8 leop-

ards (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) and 11 leopard

skins, snow leopards (*Panthera uncia*, Appendix I),

lions (*Panthera leo*, Appendix I or II), lynx (*Lynx* spp.

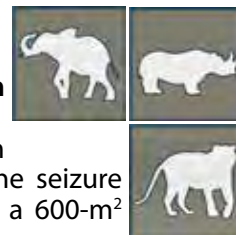
, Appendix I or II), polar bears (*Ursus maritimus*, Ap-

pendix II), crocodiles (Crocodylidae, Appendix I or II),

a couch and 20 chairs made of crocodile skin, el-

ephants in hunting trophies or stuffed, stools made

of elephant foot and 198 tusks.



The value of the collection is estimated at 29 million euros or more than 32 million US\$. This is the largest seizure of protected animals ever made in Spain and possibly in the world.

The future species identifications will be done on the spot because it is too complex to move and store all the animals and objects elsewhere. They should then be given to one or more museums.

The owner has been indicted for violating the Wild Animal and Plant Protection Act and for smuggling. He cannot provide any supporting documentation for this "legacy". The operation is credited to the Guardia Civil and Europol.

Europa Press, April 10, 2022; Guardia Civil, April 10, 2022; Valencia Plaza, April 10, 2022.<sup>79</sup>

**April 2022**

**Chartered Community of Navarre, Spain**

Seizure of a stuffed loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*, Appendix I), a hawksbill turtle shell (*Eretmochelys imbricata*, Appendix I) and a boa constrictor skin (*Boa constrictor*, Appendix I or II) without any accompanying document in a warehouse storing antique items for sale on the Internet. Their owner was charged.

20 Minutos, April 21, 2022.<sup>80</sup>

**ITALY**

**April 21, 2022**

**Molochio, Metropolitan City of Reggio Calabria, Region of Calabria, Italy**

Arrest of 16 poachers aged between 25 and 68 years. At their home, the carabinieri found the frozen carcasses of 90 fat dormice (*Glis glis*) and 7 chaffinches (*Fringilla coelebs*), 67 guns, 4 bird nets and 6 dormouse traps.

Arma dei Carabinieri, April 21, 2022; Corriere della Calabria, April 21, 2022.<sup>81</sup>



**EASTERN EUROPE**

**HUNGARY**

**FAMILY AFFAIRS**

**May 24, 2022**

**Dunakeszi, Pest County, Hungary**

Indictment for animal cruelty of a man and woman who bought and kept for breeding purposes more than 100 animals including a cockatoo (Cacatuidae, Appendix I or II), a little owl (*Athene noctua*, Appendix II), a South American coati (*Nasua nasua*, Appendix III in Uruguay), meerkats (*Suricata suricatta*), and numerous domestic or "pet" animals. The animals, seized in October 2019, were kept in such poor conditions that they were mostly sick or injured.

The Prosecution Service of Hungary, May 24, 2022.<sup>82</sup>

**RUSSIA**

**Mid-April 2022**

**Otradnaya, Krasnodar Krai, Russia**

Seizure of a lion (*Panthera leo*, Appendix I or II), a brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) and a kite (*Milvus* spp., Appendix II) in bad shape and illegally held by a private individual. They were transferred to a zoo.

Krasnodarskie Izvestia, April 15, 2022; Live Kuban, April 15, 2022.<sup>83</sup>



**April 27, 2022**

**Federal City of Saint Petersburg, Russia**

Indictment of a company supplying animals for "cultural" events or entertainment. Among a hundred animals it held 6 American flamingos (*Phoenicopterus ruber*, Appendix II), 3 Indian crested porcupines (*Hystrix indica*) and 3 purple swamphens (*Porphyrio porphyrio*). These animals, listed in the Red Book, had veterinary certificates and identity papers, but the company did not have the required licence to keep them in captivity.

Forpost, April 27, 2022.<sup>84</sup>

**REPEATED OFFENCE**

**Mid-May 2022**

**Sargatskoye, Omsk Oblast, Russia**

The director of a travelling zoo was fined. The amount is not reported. He was displaying an Asian black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I), a leopard (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I), a lioness (*Panthera leo*, Appendix I or II), a lynx (*Lynx* spp., Appendix I or II) and grey wolves (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II), and had already been convicted of similar offences. The inhabitants reported the situation to the authorities.

Moskovski Komsomolets Omsk, May 17, 2022.<sup>85</sup>



**June 14, 2022**

**Moscow Federal City, Russia**

Seizure from 8 packages bound for the United States and France of 12 stuffed animals including: white-tailed eagles (*Haliaeetus albicilla*, Appendix I), griffon vultures (*Gyps fulvus*, Appendix II), spotted eagles (*Aquila clanga*, Appendix II), Eurasian eagle owls (*Bubo bubo*, Appendix II), great grey owls (*Strix nebulosa*, Appendix II), a glossy ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), and 2 harbor seal (*Phoca vitulina*) heads. Virtual Customs, June 14, 2022; AI Krasnaya Vesna, June 14, 2022.<sup>86</sup>

**REPEATED OFFENCE**

**Mid-June 2022**

**Fatezh, Kursk Oblast, Russia**

The sentence of the shelter "Milena" to a fine of 650,000 rubles (10,810 US\$) is upheld on appeal after 3 months of waiting. The authorities accused the owner of housing without any supporting documents an Asian black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I), a lion (*Panthera leo*, Appendix I or II), 3 grey wolves (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II), a red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), 3 raccoon dogs (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*), 2 camels (genus *Camelus*) and 4 deer (family Cervidae). He defends himself by saying that he only took in abandoned animals. The situation had been brought to light during a surprise inspection after rumors of animal deaths. The shelter was already known to the courts for illegal possession of wild animals.

46TV, March 9 and June 20, 2022.<sup>87</sup>





## CZECHIA

**Beginning of April 2022**

**Cheb District, Karlovy Vary Region, Czechia**



Indictment of 4 men aged 30, 32, 52 and 56 years for poaching and illegal transport of protected species. The leader of the gang, an "enthusiast", organized small group hunting parties in the Cheb district and in the neighbouring Tashov district between late 2020 and April 2022. On this occasion, he lent weapons to his guests, who did

not have a firearms licence, nor a hunting licence. Afterwards, they would hand over the killed animals to a taxidermist who would make trophies out of them. At their homes, police seized dozens of hunting trophies, including grey wolves (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II), a northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*, Appendix II), Eurasian beavers (*Castor fiber*), deer (family Cervidae), fallow deer (*Dama dama*) and wild boars (*Sus scrofa*). In the house of the ringleader there was also in a freezer a brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) killed abroad.

Police of the Czech Republic, April 12, 2022.<sup>88</sup>

## VARIOUS MARINE SPECIES

### AFRICA

#### MADAGASCAR

**June 7, 2022**

**Madagascar**

Seizure of 4.3 kg of black coral (*Antipatharia*, Appendix II) and 110 kg of seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp., Appendix II).

Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), June 2022.<sup>1</sup>

### AMERICA

#### COLOMBIA

**April 10-17, 2022**

**Cartagena de Indias, Department of Bolivar, Colombia**

During Holy Week, environmental inspectors checked about 50 stores, craftsperson shops and street vendors. They got their hands on 167 items made from hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*, Appendix I) shells, black coral (*Antipatharia*, Appendix II) and shark, and "only" 3 birds, they noted with astonishment.

Cartagena Public Environmental Establishment, April 18, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

### ASIA

#### CHINA

**April 2022**

**Wuhan Tianhe International Airport, Hubei Province, China**

Seizure in the luggage of a passenger from abroad of black coral (*Antipatharia*, Appendix II), 2 giant clam shells (*Tridacnidae*, Appendix II), and a Triton's trumpet shell (*Charonia tritonis*). Total weight: 4,000 grams.

Chinese Customs, April 24, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

**May 2022**

**Wuhan Tianhe International Airport, Hubei Province, China**

Seizure of 8 giant clam shell bracelets (*Tridacna* spp., Appendix II), 41 dried seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp., Appendix II) and 9 pieces of jewelry made of presumed red coral (genus *Corallium*) from the suitcase of a passenger from abroad.

Chinese Customs, May 31, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

**May 30, 2022**

**Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China**

In the waters just off the Black Point Power Station, a peaceful river trade vessel heads for mainland China. The customs officials are not lulled by it. A quick search reveals that the ballast tank is a veritable treasure trove.



It contains the latest electronics, cosmetics, cigars and luxury foodstuffs such as swim bladders, dried seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp., Appendix II), dried sea cucumbers, dried shark fins and bird's nests. The value of the goods is 50 million Hong Kong dollars or 6.37 million US\$. Six arrests.

Hong Kong Customs, May 31, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

## EUROPE

### ITALY

#### Beginning of June 2022

##### **Fiumicino, Metropolitan City of Rome Capital, Region of Lazio, Italy**

After detecting no less than 250 illegal shipments of aquatic animals and intercepting 17,000 giant clams (*Tridacna* spp, Appendix II), tropical fish, anemones, crustaceans, mollusks and sea sponges, and 246 corals (class Anthozoa) protected by CITES and taken from reefs in Australia, the Guardia di Finanza of Fiumicino succeeded in tracing the trail of a network that supplied breeders, sellers and aquarium specialists throughout Italy. Simultaneous controls in 8 regions led to the indictment of 50 companies.

Ambient&Ambienti, June 8, 2022; Kodami, June 8, 2022.<sup>6</sup>



### ROMANIA

#### May 1-15, 2022

##### **Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, Tulcea County, Romania**

10 nets, each more than 500 m long, were seized during anti-poaching missions coordinated between the reserve services, the border police and the National Agency for Fishing and Aquaculture. The agents had the unpleasant surprise of finding a dead dolphin while lifting the nets. Two species frequent the waters of the Black Sea: the common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*, Appendix II) and the bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*, Appendix II). Five live starry sturgeons (*Acipenser stellatus*, Appendix II) could be released. To the north, the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve extends into Ukraine.

Radio Constanta, May 17, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

## OCEANIA

### AUSTRALIA

#### June 26, 2022

##### **Batemans Marine Park, State of New South Wales, Australia**

Late in the evening, the fishery guards caught 2 divers who had spent their Sunday combing a highly protected section north of the park. They were in possession of 36 blacklip abalones (*Haliotis rubra*), 20 of which were undersized, 8 green rock lobsters (*Sagmariasus verreauxi*), 3 of which were undersized, 10 red sea urchins (*Mesocentrotus franciscanus*), 35 triton's trumpet shells (genus *Charonia*) and cart-rut shells (*Dicathais orbita*). All the animals were put back in the water. As for the 2 men, they had to say goodbye to their diving equipment and will probably end up in court soon. In New South Wales, recreational fishermen are only allowed to catch 2 abalones per day, and in the northern section of Batemans Park, abalone fishing is completely forbidden. Batemans Park, created in 2006, covers 850 km<sup>2</sup> and is known for its numerous rocky reefs.

The South Coast News, July 1, 2022.<sup>8</sup>

#### June 30, 2022

##### **Beaumaris, State of Victoria, Australia**

A phone call to the 13FISH hotline led to the arrest of a diver in the marine sanctuary of Ricketts Point. With his speargun, he had not come there for the pure pleasure of admiring the fauna and the underwater landscape praised by the tourist agencies of Victoria. No sooner had he set foot out of the water than the fisheries officers got hold of him. He had on him 2 abalones, a sea cucumber, 15 snappers (*Pagrus auratus*) and 3 sand crabs (genus *Emerita*). Except for the snappers, all the animals were still alive and were released.

Victorian Fisheries Authority, July 21, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

### NEW ZEALAND

#### Beginning of June 2022

##### **New Zealand**

A tourist had found a "natural" ornament for his aquarium fish in Fiji: fragments of stony coral (Scleractinia, Appendix II). He failed to declare them to customs officials, but X-raying his suitcase was revealing. He was fined 600 NZ\$ or 390 US\$ and left empty-handed. Department of Conservation, July 4, 2022.<sup>10</sup>



## AMERICA

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**April 22, 2022****Anchorage, State of Alaska, United States of America**

Jerome Anthony Stringfield, Albert B. Correia, and Allen William Ockey are charged with trafficking corals between the Philippines and the United States of America. Between July 2017 and August 2018, they paid a Filipino diver who collected the corals and shipped them to Alaska in ordinary packages accompanied by false statements. They were then sold at retail via the Internet. More than 3,000 coral fragments were trafficked. Seven buyers or dealers from South Dakota, South Carolina, and Rhode Island are also being prosecuted.

US Department of Justice, April 22, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

## ASIA

## CHINA

**May 17, 2022****Suzhou, Suzhou Prefecture, Jiangsu Province, China**

Seizure of 2 red coral bracelets (genus *Corallium*) in a package from abroad. Total weight: 38.5 grams. Chinese Customs, May 18, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

**June 2022****Wuhan, Hubei Province, China**

Seizure in a package declared to contain "ancient accessories" of a red coral necklace (genus *Corallium*): 42.7 grams.

Chinese Customs, June 28, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

## INDIA

**April 5, 2022****Pune International Airport, Pune District, State of Maharashtra, India**

466 live corals of the genera *Acropora* (185 species in Appendix II), *Goniopora* (26 species in Appendix II), *Scolymia* (5 species in Appendix II), and the species hammer coral (*Euphyllia ancora*, Appendix II), black torch coral (*Euphyllia glabrescens*, App. II), elegant coral (*Catalaphyllia jardinei*, App. II), and acan coral (*Acanthastrea lordhowensis*, App. II), all in Appendix II, were seized from the luggage of 2 passengers coming from Dubai. 100 corals were in glass jars, 366 in plastic bags. 80 specimens were entrusted to the Taraporewala Aquarium, a well-known tourist attraction in Mumbai which has been closed since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. Built in 1951 and named after a Parsi philanthropist, the aquarium is threatened by dilapidation and the construction of a coastal road. In India, corals enjoy the same legal protection as tigers, leopards, elephants, and pangolins.

Hindustan Times, April 8 and 9, 2022; The Times of India, April 9, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

**May 1, 2 and 5, 2022****Kolkata, State of West Bengal, India****OK CORAL IN KOLKATA**

Sunday May 1. Presenting themselves as aquarium repairmen specializing in pH (hydrogen potential), the secret agents in charge of wildlife protection contacted a coral fan in his thirties, a professional photographer in New Town, metropolis of Kolkata, and then entered his home with a search warrant. They discovered in his aquariums live corals from the Lakshadweep archipelago and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands with a black market value of more than 100,000 rupees (1,300 US\$). They are used in jewelry, interior decoration, traditional medicine, and black magic. Another aquarist in Kasba, also in the metropolis of Kolkata, suffered the same fate.

"The collection of corals, be it dead or alive, is completely banned under Indian laws. They can neither be exported nor imported. However, there is an illegal black market for these types of corals, especially across Southeast Asia. The 2 men were arrested as they knew what they were buying was illegal. They had no purchase bills and couldn't provide any documents that could lead us to believe that they had bought the corals accidentally," said the officer.

Monday May 2. It was Pintu Halder's turn to be visited by the WCCB in his aquarium store (in Chiriamore) where reef-building corals were discovered and photographed like so many exhibits, sold from 1,500 to 5,000 rupees each (19.50 to 65 US\$) and with an overall value of several hundred thousand rupees. "The corals come from the archipelagos and are smuggled all over India" says the head of the mission. Halder falls under sections 9, 39, 40, 44, 48, 49A of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972. "We have also seized a database of customers and suppliers. We are trying to nab more such illegal traders and hobbyists," said an officer of WCCB.

Tuesday, May 5. The coral brigade arrived at a store for aquarists in Gholabai whose address and references were in the database entered 3 days before and discovered a large cache of live and dead corals, a real artificial reef in the Greater Kolkata. The 2 employees are ordered to bring the boss as soon as possible. After 3 hours, he had still not come. On the other hand, a gathering of several dozens of sympathizers had formed in front of the store. The coral and aquarium lobby had mobilized and made itself available. It is under the protection of the police that the coral brigade was able to leave the place and join its quarters.

Friday May 6. The owner who is on the run publishes a kind of manifesto on YouTube claiming that his activities are legal.

The Times of India, 3, 4, and 7 May 2022; TV9 Bangla, May 6, 2022.<sup>5</sup>



## EUROPE

### GERMANY

**April 19, 2022**  
**Karlsruhe/Baden-Baden Airport, Baden-Württemberg State, Germany**



Seizure of 2 stony corals (Scleractinia, Appendix II) from the luggage of a passenger coming from Türkiye and claiming that the invertebrates were fake and made of synthetic material. The expertise of the Federal Office for Nature Protection proved that they were authentic even if one of the 2 was painted red.  
German Customs, April 21, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

**Beginning of June 2022**  
**Munich Franz Josef Strauß International Airport, Bavaria State, Germany**  
More than 7 kg of corals were detected by X-ray on various occasions in the luggage of tourists returning from Thailand and Curacao. The largest seizure was 5 kg, and the largest coral fragment was 15 cm wide by 15 cm high.  
German Customs, June 17, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

### BULGARIA

**May 6, 2022**  
**Sofia International Airport, Sofia City Province, Bulgaria**  
The passenger arriving from the Dominican Republic via Frankfurt in Germany was carrying 24 fragments of stony coral (Scleractinia, Appendix II) with a total weight of 2.5 kg.  
National Customs Agency, May 19, 2022.<sup>8</sup>

### POLAND

**Beginning of May 2022**  
**Lublin, Lublin Voivodeship, Poland**



Customs seized 28 fossilized corals of CITES-protected species in a postal package from the United States of America.  
National Revenue Administration, May 4, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

### RUSSIA

**April 13, 2022**  
**Koltsovo International Airport, Sverdlovsk Oblast, Russia**  
A resident of Yekaterinburg returns from the Dominican Republic with stony corals (Scleractinia, Appendix II) allegedly picked up on the beaches. This argument is made by tourists returning from the Caribbean and Maldives area as if it were part of the basic advice given by beach souvenir dealers at the time of purchase.  
Virtual Customs, April 13, 2022; European-Asian News, April 13, 2022.<sup>10</sup>

## CRUSTACEANS

## EUROPE

### RUSSIA

**June 7, 2022**  
**Altai Krai, Russia**  
A shipment of brine shrimp (genus *Artemia*) from a company in Altai to China arouses the suspicion of customs officials. The contract for international trade is in order, but there is something strange. And for good reason: there is actually one tonne of brine shrimp more than what is stated on the paper, which is one million rubles (16,630 US\$) undeclared.

Brine shrimp are used to feed farmed fish, but also to test the toxicity of chemical products or to elaborate medicines (see "On the Trail" n°32 p.259).  
Virtual Customs, June 7, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

# GIANT CLAMS, GOOSENECK BARNACLES, QUEEN CONCHES...

## AMERICA

### BAHAMAS

**June 14, 2022**

**West End, District of West Grand Bahama, Bahamas**

Boarding of 3 vessels whose crews were suspected of searching for queen conches (*Strombus gigas*, Appendix II) using air compressors. The use of this equipment is only authorized during the lobster fishing season between August and March, subject to a special permit and only beyond a depth of 18 metres.

The Nassau Guardian, June 21, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**May 16, 2022**

**Honolulu, State of Hawaii, United States of America**

The 45-kg giant clam (*Tridacna* spp., Appendix II) valued at 7,000 US\$ was stolen from the UH Manoa campus and returned the next day. Its study is part of the marine biology program.

Hawaii News Now, May 20, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

### UNITED KINGDOM (CAYMAN ISLANDS)

#### REPEATED OFFENCE

**Mid-June 2022**

**Governors Harbour, Grand Cayman Island, Cayman Islands British Overseas Territory, United Kingdom**

Fish, crustaceans and 194 queen conches (*Strombus gigas*, Appendix II) were seized from a boat. The smugglers did not have time to throw them overboard. The boat and 3 harpoon guns were also seized. The 3 repeat offenders were arrested.

Loop News, June 17, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

## ASIA

### CHINA

**Beginning of June 2022**

**Pingxiang, Chongzuo Prefecture, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China. Border with Viet Nam.**

Seizure in a box declared to contain handicrafts and wooden statues of 449 spoons made of giant clam (*Tridacnidae*, Appendix II) and giant green turban (*Turbo marmoratus*) shells. Chinese Customs, June 9, 2022.<sup>4</sup>



**June 2022**

**Fuzhou Changle International Airport, Fujian Province, China**



Seizure in the luggage of a passenger from abroad of 2 horned helmets (*Cassis cornuta*), 2.02 kg. Chinese Customs, July 1, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

**End of June 2022**

**Friendship Pass Border Post, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China. Border with Viet Nam.**

Seizure of 992 items of handcraft made from giant clams (*Tridacnidae*, Appendix II) and giant green turban (*Turbo marmoratus*) shells in a shipment declared to contain "rosewood handcraft furniture." Chinese Customs, July 6, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

### PHILIPPINES

**Beginning of June 2022**

**Daanbantayan, Province of Cebu, Philippines**

Carla Czarina Cañazares Camacho was trafficking in giant clams (*Tridacna gigas*, Appendix II). She sold them for 12,000 pesos/kg (230 US\$/kg). 133 specimens weighing 3 tonnes and with an estimated value of 36 million pesos (688,000 US\$) were seized from a fishing boat. She was arrested with 11 accomplices.

SunStar, June 12, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

## EUROPE

### CROATIA

**June 22, 2022**

**Poreč, Istria County, Croatia**

A witness filmed tourists taking a noble pen shell (*Pinna nobilis*) out of the water to take a picture of it. Aware that it is a protected species, he immediately notified the police. When the agents arrived, there was nobody anymore.

There are only about twenty live noble pen shells left in Croatian waters. It is forbidden to take them out of the water, to kill them or to disturb them in any way.

24sata, June 22, 2022; Glas Istre, June 22, 2022.<sup>8</sup>

### SPAIN

**REPEATED OFFENCE**

**April 5, 2022**

**Vigo, Province of Pontevedra, Autonomous Community of Galicia, Spain**



Sentence of R.R., resident of Baiona, to a fine of 1,440 € (1,600 US\$) and to pay 22,000 € (24,480 US\$) for ecological damages to the Baiona Fishermen's Association for having, between April 2018 and January 2020, poached without deterrence nearly 463 kg of gooseneck barnacles (*Pollicipes pollicipes*), despite having been apprehended about 50 times. His equipment was confiscated and he is prohibited from engaging in any occupation related to fishing or marine resources for 4 years. He was also accused of damaging the seabed by using scrapers to pull barnacles out. He is still undergoing a second trial for his involvement in a poaching ring.

La Voz de Galicia, April 5, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

**REPEATED OFFENCE**

**Beginning of May 2022**

**Matxitxako Cape and Mundaka, Province of Biscay, Autonomous Community of the Basque Country, Spain**

The barnacle season is only open during the months of March, August, September and December, but some start early.

- A man was arrested in possession of 10 kg of gooseneck barnacles (*Pollicipes pollicipes*). Aggravating circumstance, he had already been convicted for similar offences and his fishing licence had been revoked.

- A bag containing 3.5 kg of gooseneck barnacles was found on a boat at the dock.

- A person was caught in possession of 300 grams of gooseneck barnacles and 3 kg of periwinkles.

Deia, May 10, 2022.<sup>10</sup>

## FRANCE

**May 31, 2022**

**Pluguffan, Department of Finistère, France**

At 3:00 a.m., the very slow speed of the vehicle and the iodine smell emanating from it sharpened the gendarmes' nose: the Spanish motorist was arrested with 158 kg of gooseneck barnacles (*Pollicipes pollicipes*) or about 3,160 individuals. The barnacles sell for up to 200 €/kg at retail in Spain. Fishing equipment, a motorboat and a kayak were seized. The forty-year-old is summoned to court.

Côte Quimper, June 1, 2022.<sup>11</sup>

## POLAND

**Mid-June 2022**

**Medyka Border Post, Subcarpathian Voivodeship, Poland. Border with Ukraine.**

Seizure of 4 queen conches (*Strombus gigas*, Appendix II) measuring 20-27 cm long from a Ukrainian citizen on a bus entering Poland.

National Revenue Administration, June 17, 2022; TVN24, June 18, 2022.<sup>12</sup>

**June 2022**

**Warsaw Chopin International Airport, Masovian Voivodeship, Poland**

Seizure of a nautilus shell (*Nautilus pompilius*, Appendix II) from the luggage of a tourist returning from Tanzania.

National Revenue Administration, June 30, 2022.<sup>13</sup>

## PORTUGAL

**May 30, 2022**

**Baleal, District of Leiria, Portugal**

Arrest of a 63-year-old man in possession of 38 kg of gooseneck barnacles (*Pollicipes pollicipes*). Not only did he not have a permit, but he had exceeded the maximum quota allowed for one day. The gooseneck barnacles were donated to charitable organizations.

Região de Leiria, June 1, 2022.<sup>14</sup>

## OCEANIA

### NEW ZEALAND

**End of May 2022**

**New Zealand**

A tourist returning from a trip to the Cook Islands intended to display 6 small giant clam (*Tridacna maxima*, Appendix II) shells "picked up from the beach" in his bathroom as a souvenir. He "forgot" to declare them when he arrived and must now pay a fine of 600 NZ\$ or 390 US\$.

Department of Conservation, July 4, 2022.<sup>15</sup>





*Haliotis spp.*

## AFRICA

### SOUTH AFRICA

**April 5, 2022**

#### **Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa**

Ahmed Mondavi had been wanted since July 2021. He had attempted to sell smuggled abalone to an undercover police officer and managed to escape. He was arrested on Tuesday in a shopping center in front of Livingstone Hospital thanks to a tip-off to the police. He may not be locked up for long. Eyewitness News, April 7, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

**April 17, 2022**

#### **Cape Point, Western Cape Province, South Africa**



The base camp of the poachers and traffickers was located in the national park. It was found by a SAPS helicopter overflight. Fins, wetsuits and other diving equipment, as well as large quantities of fresh abalone were seized. Two suspects were arrested after a foot chase with support from ground teams, including the canine unit.

SANParks - Table Mountain National Park, April 15 and 17, 2022; Independent Online, April 19, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

**April 20, 2022**

#### **Buffeljagsbaai, Western Cape Province, South Africa**

Arrest of 5 divers. Seizure of diving equipment with a value of 7,930 US\$, 2 rubber ducks with a value of 23,450 US\$, and 25 abalones.

Overstrand Municipality, April 20, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

**April 20, 2022**

#### **Port Alfred, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa**

Thanks to the unerring nose of Adze, a Belgian shepherd, diving equipment, shucking tools, and abalone worth 3,449 US\$ were found in impenetrable thickets.

SAPS, April 20, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

**April 22, 2022**

#### **Port Alfred, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa**

Another Adze hit.

The eventful chase ended with the poachers' Ford bakkie running off the road. Two of the 3 runaways fleeing from the bushes and hiding in the thorns were caught and held down by Adze. 477 abalones worth 11,193 US\$ and weighing 90 kg (124 US\$/kg), the bakkie, and 6 wetsuits with diving tanks were seized.

SAPS, April 24, 2022.<sup>5</sup>



**May 6, 2022**

#### **Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa**

The contacts had been going on for 2 months. Two gang leaders had approached a ranger from Addo Elephant National Park and asked for information about the sea conditions around Bird Island, the sea extension of Addo Elephant National Park, in exchange for some money. They also wanted to know the responsiveness of the nautical patrols in case of suspected abalone poaching around the Bird Island. At the beginning of May, a 20,000-rand (1,250 US\$) reward was offered to the ranger to look the other way during a first abalone collection and it was on Friday, May 6, at the time of the payment of a second 10,000-rand (626 US\$) reward that Raymond Mark Taylor and Roland Hudson were arrested by the DPCI (Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation). On Monday, May 9, Taylor was released on 150,000-rand (9,390 US\$) bail and Hudson on 20,000-rand (1,250 US\$) bail. The investigation is continuing and more arrests are expected.

SANParks, May 11, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

**May 9, 2022**

**Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa**

Arrest by the Hawks of 7 suspects ages 27 and 47 who were going back and forth between the beach and the sea at night. Seizure of 2 Colt bakkies (vehicles) and 2 rubber ducks, 18 scuba tanks, and abalone shucking tools. SAPS, May 11, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

**June 1, 2022**

**Port Nolloth, Northern Cape Province**

Port Nolloth Abalone Farm fined 50,000 rand (3,230 US\$) of which 30,000 rand (1,940 US\$) is suspended or, in the event of non-payment, 3 years in prison for the directors of which 18 months is suspended for the seizure during the search in July 2016 of 880 illegally obtained abalones, valued at 315,500 rand (over 21,000 US\$).

Port Nolloth Sea Farms, founded by 2 former diamond miners in early 1998, passed from hand to hand and was renamed Port Nolloth Abalone Farm when it was bought by a Chinese national and a Malayan national. In January 2018, a new police operation resulted in the arrest of the Chinese owner, Jianliang Li, and the manager, Hendrick Reynders, who were drying poached abalone. The farm has since been closed.

Mail & Guardian, October 1, 1999; Oxpeckers, March 8, 2019; Vrye Weekblad, June 7, 2019; SAPS, June 2, 2022.<sup>8</sup>

**June 8, 2022**

**Cape Town, Western Cape Province, South Africa**

Acting on a tip, the police officers watch for a blue Toyota Elios early in the morning. It finally appeared at the intersection of Kommetjie Road and Ou Kaapse Weg. Faced with the roadblock, the driver and passengers jumped out of the car and ran away. A 24-year-old suspect is caught. In the car, there are 459 abalones. SAPS, June 9, 2022.<sup>9</sup>



**Mid-June 2022**

**Komani, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa**



Joint operation between the K9 dog squad, the Mlungisi anti-crime squad, the intelligence services and the public order police. A 32-year-old man was arrested for transporting abalone valued at 184,950 rand (11,960 US\$) in the boot of his car. He was coming from East London, 200 km away. News24, June 15, 2022.<sup>10</sup>

**ASIA**

**CHINA**

**June 27, 2022**

**Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China**

Early in the morning, a speedboat with 5 people on board approaches Tung Chung with all lights off. On the jetty, a vehicle is waiting for it, and hidden a little further, the customs officers are on the lookout. The driver doesn't waste a moment and starts to load his cargo onto the boat. But he is not fast enough. The customs officers rush to the 6 men who have just enough time to get back on the speedboat and to start off in a hurry towards mainland China. They leave behind 16 boxes containing 272 kg of luxury food products, including fresh abalone.

Tung Chung, see "On the Trail" n°27 p.20 and n°34 p.219.

Hong Kong Customs, June 27, 2022.<sup>11</sup>

# SEA CUCUMBERS AND SEA URCHINS



*Isostichopus fuscus* Photo Billy Bensted-Smith

*Holothuria fuscogilva*, *Holothuria nobilis* and *Holothuria whitmaei* (teatfish): Appendix II.  
*Isostichopus fuscus*: Appendix III in Ecuador.

## AFRICA

### MADAGASCAR

**May 1, 2022**

**Nosy Tanikely, Diana Region, Madagascar**

Seizure of 704 sea cucumbers on a fishing boat. The 7 poachers were remanded in custody.

Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), May 2022.<sup>1</sup>

### MOROCCO

**June 15, 2022**

**El Argoub, Dakhla-Oued Ed-Dahab Region, Morocco**

Destruction by incineration at the intermunicipal landfill of products seized by the authorities for 3 months. Among tobacco, drugs, psychotropic medicines and pesticides, there were 845 kg of sea cucumbers.

Le Site Info, June 15, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

### MAURITANIA

**May 30, 2022**

**Mauritania**

The Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy issues a circular banning sea cucumber fishing. "Test" fishing campaigns in 2017 and 2019 proved that it was too damaging to sea cucumber populations.

Al Akhbar, June 1, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

## AMERICA

### BRAZIL

**May 30, 2022**

**Angra dos Reis, State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**

In the luggage compartment of a bus from Angra dos Reis to São Paulo (370 km away), the Polícia Federal found 5 large polystyrene boxes containing a total of 300 kg of sea cucumbers without accompanying documents. A permit is required to fish, transport and sell any species of sea cucumber. One woman was arrested and released after she committed to appear in court.

Agência Brasil, May 31, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**April 27, 2022**

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

Seizure of a package from Hong Kong with 13 kg of sea cucumbers declared as "dried food". In 2021, Los Angeles Customs recorded a 73% increase in the trafficking of exotic animal parts over the previous year.

US Customs and Border Protection, May 18, 2022.<sup>5</sup>



## MEXICO

**Beginning of June 2022**

**Querétaro International Airport, State of Querétaro, Mexico**



Seizure of a large but unspecified quantity of sea cucumbers in a package, probably *Isostichopus fuscus* (Appendix III in Ecuador). The agents, accompanied by sniffer dogs, were searching the premises of a delivery company inside the airport. Infobae, June 5, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

## ASIA

### INDIA

**April 3, 2022**

**Rameswaram, Ramanathapuram District, State of Tamil Nadu, India**

Two poachers were arrested near the beach with 13 barrels and buckets full of sea cucumbers. The trafficking is international: the sea cucumber is smuggled from Tamil Nadu to Sri Lanka in fishing boats.

Asian News International, April 3, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

**April 12, 2022**

**Kunjarvalasai Area, Ramanathapuram District, State of Tamil Nadu, India**



According to the WCCB there is about 500 kg and for the coast guard 700 kg, but the teams pose in front of the same seizure discovered in the bushes and packed in bags having contained cement. The whole thing was handed over to the Forest Department.

Indian Coast Guard, April 12, 2022; WCCB, April 13, 2022.<sup>8</sup>

**April 20, 2022**

**Ernakulam, Ernakulam District, State of Kerala, India**

They were trying to sell 14 kg of dried sea cucumbers packed in plastic covers to a Delhi resident for 250 US\$/kg. Abdul Rahman and Nabeel, both 20 years old and from the Lakshadweep archipelago, were arrested and the goods seized.

The Hindu, April 20, 2022; Mathrubhumi, April 21, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

**May 17, 2022**

**Off Rameswaram, Ramanathapuram District, State of Tamil Nadu, India**

Approximately 700 kg of sea cucumbers intercepted by the Coast Guard's hydrofoil in a boat en route to "a foreign country" according to the Indian Navy, evidently Sri Lanka.

Defence PRO Chennai, May 17, 2022; Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), May 2022.<sup>10</sup>

**May 31, 2022**

**Palangulam, Ramanathapuram District, State of Tamil Nadu, India**

One of the 2 cars fled with 4 poachers on board. In the other vehicle, 3 canvas bags containing 75 kg of processed sea cucumbers. The driver, Palani from Anjukottai, was arrested. The seized sea cucumbers were about to be smuggled into Sri Lanka by sea. DT Next, June 1, 2022.<sup>11</sup>

**Night of June 4 to 5, 2022**

**Rameswaram, Ramanathapuram District, State of Tamil Nadu, India**

A night raid on a farm resulted in the seizure of approximately 600 kg of sea cucumbers. Stacked in jute bags and plastic baskets, they were being processed.

DT Next, June 6, 2022.<sup>12</sup>

**June 23, 2022**

**Vedalai, Ramanathapuram District, State of Tamil Nadu, India**



Seizure of 650 kg of sea cucumbers. The smuggler J. Mohammed Ali Jinnah is on the run. The coast guards say they prevented a transshipment out at sea.

The Hindu, June 23, 2022; The Print, June 23, 2022.<sup>13</sup>

## INDONESIA

**April 27, 2022**

### **Merauke Regency, South Papua Province, New Guinea Island, Indonesia**

"Illegal or non-compliant products": in addition to alcohol, tobacco, methamphetamine and marijuana, the customs offices proceeded to destroy 131 kg of sea cucumbers.

The Jakarta Post, May 11, 2022.<sup>14</sup>

## MALAYSIA

**April 9, 2022**

### **Off State of Sarawak, Malaysia**



The captain unsuccessfully offered them a bribe of 5,300 ringgit (1,260 US\$) to make them turn a blind eye. After a nearly 10-hour chase, the Bintulu coast guard boarded a fishing boat in the South China Sea 90 nautical miles off the coast. The 6 Vietnamese crew members, aged 28 to 37, had just started poaching sea cucumbers. Only 3 kg were found on board, but the 2 tonnes of salt intended to preserve their future catch betrayed their ambition. The fishing gear and boat, worth an estimated 500,000 ringgit (119,000 US\$), were seized.

The Borneo Post, April 11, 2022.<sup>15</sup>

**May 19, 2022**

### **Off Lankayan Island, State of Sabah, Malaysia**

Two boats were boarded. The official MOF (Marine Operation Force) statement mentions an overall value of the sea cucumber cargo of 2,873,000 ringgit (660,000 US\$) and states that 11 Vietnamese fishermen were arrested including a 10-year-old boy.

The Borneo Post, May 20, 2022.<sup>16</sup>

## THAILAND

**April 27, 2022**

### **Off Songkhla Province, Thailand**

They had left Ca Mau 4 days earlier and had been dredging for sea cucumbers. Nine Vietnamese poachers aboard 2 fishing boats were arrested about 80 miles off the coast.

Pattaya Mail, April 29, 2022.<sup>17</sup>

**June 10, 2022**

### **Off Songkhla Province, Thailand**

They had spent 5 days combing the Thai waters before being arrested. Sixteen Vietnamese poachers on 2 boats were caught offshore dredging for sea cucumbers. 18 Vietnamese fishing boats have been boarded and 86 crew members arrested since the beginning of the year.

Bangkok Post, June 11, 2022.<sup>18</sup>

## EUROPE

### CROATIA

**May 26, 2022**

### **Svinca, Split-Dalmatia County, Croatia**

At 2 p.m., the police stopped a refrigerated truck registered in Italy. The 2 Italians, aged 42 and 52, on board could do nothing to prevent the agents from discovering 1,817 kg of sea cucumbers in the trailer. They were arrested. Their cargo was handed over for destruction to an authorized company.

Sea cucumber fishing is prohibited in Croatia, but this does not prevent continued smuggling to Italy, Greece, Türkiye and Asia.

Hrvatska radiotelevizija (HRT), 27 May 2022; Morski HR, May 27, 2022.<sup>19</sup>

### ITALY

**April 5, 2022**

### **Alghero, Province of Sassari, Autonomous Region of Sardinia, Italy**

A car parked at Punta del Dentul starts when forest officers come near it. On its trail, the agents find 2 bags full of purple sea urchins (*Paracentrotus lividus*), then 2 others, then 3 others, that is to say 2,270 sea urchins in all. The driver of the car and an accomplice on foot are arrested. The sea urchins are released into the water. As a reminder, at the end of October 2021, Sardinia banned sea urchin fishing for 3 years (see "On the Trail" n°34 p.245).

SassariNotizie.com, April 6, 2022.<sup>20</sup>

**June 4, 2022**

### **Bari, Metropolitan City of Bari, Region of Apulia, Italy**

The police discovered 7 boxes containing a total of 1,100 sea urchins in the water at the San Nicola dock. There is no one else around. All ends well for the sea urchins, which regained their freedom.

L'Occhio, June 4, 2022.<sup>21</sup>

June 22, 2022

**Plemmirio Nature Reserve, Free Municipal Consortium of Syracuse, Region of Sicily, Italy**

The Coast Guard interrupted 2 divers who had come by boat from Syracuse to catch sea urchins. The suspects managed to get rid of their catch but, faced with the video recordings of witnesses, they had difficulties to pretend that they were there for recreational diving. Their equipment was seized and they were escorted back to the port of Syracuse. A bag of sea urchins found a little later floating was emptied into the sea.

GloboChannel.com, 22 juin 2022.<sup>22</sup>

## RUSSIA

April 25, 2022

**Reyd Pallada Bay, Primorsky Krai, Russia. Border with China.**

A joint operation by the border guards and inspectors of the Far East Marine Reserve put an end to the activities of a group of poachers of Japanese sea cucumbers (*Apostichopus japonicus*). When they saw the patrol, the fishermen abandoned the divers in the open water. It was a wasted effort, they were caught. The divers were then "picked up" by law enforcement, accomplices were arrested in the nearby bays, and a land base was dismantled in the Krabbe peninsula. A total of 3 boats were at work. News VL, April 25, 2022; Vostok Media, April 25, 2022.<sup>23</sup>

Beginning of May 2022

**Slavyanka, Primorsky Krai, Russia**

A 21-year-old man was sentenced to 5 years in a strict regime penal colony for dragging an FSB agent who was trying to arrest him for 30 metres at high speed while the agent's sleeve was stuck in the door of his Land Cruiser. The court did not dwell on the fact that he was carrying buckets of sea cucumbers freshly caught in Severnaya Bay.

VL News, May 4, 2022; VladNews, May 5, 2022.<sup>24</sup>

May 26, 2022

**Slavyanka, Primorsky Krai, Russia**

The head of a company was indicted for the attempted fraudulent export of 500 kg of frozen Japanese sea cucumbers (*Apostichopus japonicus*) valued at 3.5 million rubles (44,440 US\$ or 90 US\$/kg) in October 2020. Pending trial, assets worth one million rubles (13,920 US\$) have been confiscated from him.

AmurPRESS, May 26, 2022; Vostok Media, May 26, 2022.<sup>25</sup>



# SEAHORSES

*Hippocampus* spp. , Appendix II

## EUROPE

### GERMANY

June 16, 2022

**Leipzig/Halle International Airport, Saxony State, Germany**

Seizure of 844 dried seahorses, 5 kg in all, in a parcel from Senegal to Laos. All thanks to a dog's nose.

German Customs, June 20, 2022.<sup>1</sup>



On the Trail n°36. Robin des Bois

## POLAND

May 12, 2022

**Korczowa, Subcarpathian Voivodeship, Poland. Border with Ukraine.**

Seizure in a car entering Poland of 5 bottles each containing 100 pills made from Japanese seahorse (*Hippocampus mohnikei*) and ginseng (*Panax ginseng*, Appendix II) extracts of the brand Golden Seahorse produced by the Indonesian pharmaceutical group Ilong specialized in traditional medicine. To be taken in case of fatigue, depression, overwork or sexual problems.

National Revenue Administration, May 12, 2022; Gazeta Wyborcza, May 12, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

Seahorses, see also pages 181, 195 and 201.



# MARINE OR FRESHWATER FISH



Dusky sharks (*Carcharhinus obscurus*). Photo itaig95

## WESTERN AFRICA

### GUINEA

#### OPERATION TRIGGER VIII

June 15 and July 6, 2022

Bogolon, Boké Region, Guinea

The truck was heading to Accra, Ghana, with nearly 40 tonnes of fins of blackchin guitarfish smooth (*Glaucostegus cemiculus*, Appendix II), butterfly ray (*Gymnura micrura*), and common guitarfish (*Rhinobatos rhinobatos*). A team of agents of the National Brigade for the Fight against Wildlife Crime, agents of the Environmental Gendarmerie and police officers from the Boffa police station seized the cargo and arrested Samuel Kouman (or Kumah), a driver of Ghanaian nationality. According to the preliminary investigation, the owner of the shipment, businessman Samuel Annan, also a Ghanaian national, had obtained a fraudulent export permit issued by Mamadou Bano Diallo, Director General of the National Office for the Sanitary Control of Fishery and Aquaculture Products (ONSPA), certificates of origin and sanitary certificates of convenience issued by Fatoumata Conte, an ONSPA inspector, and finally an unnumbered fishery products inspection form issued by Koivogui Doupo, an ONSPA inspector. Legal proceedings were initiated against the traffickers for the illegal capture, transport and export of aquatic animal species partially protected by law and against their institutional facilitators for complicity.



The court handed down its judgment on July 6. Businessman Samuel Annan was sentenced to 2 years in prison and a fine of 50 million Guinean francs (5,800 US\$). Mamadou Bano Diallo and Fatoumata Conte of ONSPA were given two-year suspended sentences and fined 30 million Guinean francs (3,475 US\$) each. Truck driver Samuel Kouman, two ONSPA inspectors, Koivogui Doupo and Abdallah Fousseni, were sentenced to six months in prison and fined 10 million Guinean francs (1,160 US\$) each. Frédérick Bowie Nyarko, the truck loader, was sentenced in absentia to 2 years in prison and a fine of 30 million Guinean francs (3,475 US\$). The court also ordered the destruction by incineration of the seized goods. The prosecutor's office appealed the judgment, without giving a reason.



As the newspaper Vision Guinée reminds us, since 2013 the CITES Convention has recommended the Guinean State to suspend trade for all species listed in the Appendices (see below). No guitarfish could be legally exported.

This seizure was included in the results of Operation Trigger VIII, coordinated by Interpol and aimed at combating the circulation of illicit firearms in Central and West Africa. Trigger VIII resulted in the seizure of 480 weapons, 6,000 firearm parts and components, ammunition, explosives, gold, narcotics, fake drugs, cash and endangered species. "Organized criminal groups take advantage of the convergence of different forms of criminality and use the same routes for a number of illicit activities" Interpol stresses once again.

Interpol, June 30, 2022; VisionGuinee.Info, July 4, 2022; Africa Guinea, July 8, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

## RECOMMENDATIONS TO SUSPEND TRADE IN SPECIMENS OF CITES-LISTED SPECIES

The CITES Convention is the only environmental convention to have a sanction mechanism, namely the suspension of trade that excludes a country from the legal international market of species listed in the Appendices. This is one of the reasons for the effectiveness of this Convention and for the attachment that NGOs fighting against wild fauna and flora crime, such as Robin des Bois, have for it.

Recommendations to suspend trade in specimens of CITES species are decided by the Conference of the Parties and the Standing Committee against countries that do not respect the Convention (inadequate legislation and means to fight against trafficking, missing annual reports...). 31 countries are currently subject to these recommendations, including 22 African countries.

These recommendations may be limited to one or a few species or may, in the worst cases, apply to all CITES species, i.e. 36,000 species of wild fauna and flora.

Eight countries, including Guinea, are subject to a recommendation for all CITES species. In practice, imports to or exports from Guinea of species listed in the Appendices are blocked until further notice.

The oldest suspensions have been in force since 1995. They apply to the Solomon Islands for Queen Victoria's birdwing (*Ornithoptera victoriae*, Appendix II), common birdwing (*Ornithoptera priamus*, Appendix II)

vasa parrot (*Coracopsis vasa*, Appendix II), Labord's chameleon (*Furcifer labordi*, Appendix II), and the geckos *Phelsuma borai*, *P. gouldi*, *P. hoeschi*, and *P. ravenala* (Appendix II). The most recent ones, dated June 2022, apply to Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, and Mali, and cover transactions in African barwood (*Pterocarpus erinaceus*, Appendix II), also known as Kosso African rosewood or Senegalese rosewood.

The trade suspension recommendations are all available on the website

<https://cites.org/eng/resources/ref/suspend.php>

### NORTHERN AMERICA

#### CANADA

**May 30, 2022**

**Halifax Stanfield International Airport, Province of Nova Scotia, Canada**

Seizure of 18 kg of live glass eels with an estimated value of 40,000 Canadian dollars (69,910 US\$ or 3,880 US\$/kg).

American eels (*Anguilla rostrata*), or elvers, are caught in the rivers of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and then shipped by air to Asia where they are raised to the adult eel stage. Each spring, the rush leads to streamside conflicts between native Mi'kmaq and non-native fishermen.

CBC/Radio-Canada, June 8, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

#### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**Beginning of April 2022**

**Pope County, State of Illinois, United States of America**



The poachers were arrested in the middle of the night at a marina. They were fishing for sturgeon (Acipenseridae, Appendix I or II) on the Ohio River and selling the eggs to the caviar industry. The main defendant was sentenced to one year and one day in prison and damages of 10,000 US\$. There are 3 species of sturgeon in Illinois: the lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*, Appendix II), the pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*, Appendix II) and the shovelnose sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus platyrhynchus*, Appendix II).

Illinois Department of Natural Resources, April 15, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

**April 12, 2022**

**Paducah, State of Kentucky, United States of America**



Daniel Allen of Brookport was sentenced to 12 months and one day in prison, 2 years of supervised release and 10,000 US\$ in damages. The poacher admitted to fishing along the Ohio River for shovelnose sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus platyrhynchus*, Appendix II) between November 2018 and April 2019, out of season and using illegally sized mesh nets, then selling the eggs to a caviar distributor in Tennessee.

US Department of Justice, April 12, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

**April 13, 2022**

**San Antonio, State of Texas, United States of America**



The seafood restaurant was also a hub for shark fin trafficking. Seizure of 381 fins in stock and 13.25 kg of fins in a freezer.

Texas Game Wardens, April 19, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

**April 14, 2022**

**Cincinnati, State of Ohio, United States of America**



Joseph Schigur was sentenced to serve 5 years of probation, including 6 months of home confinement, and perform 200 hours of community service, a fine of 5,500 US\$ and to compensate the Ohio Department of Natural Resources in the amount of 64,465 US\$. He is also prohibited from engaging in any commercial fishing activity and he must surrender any commercial fishing licence in his possession. This professional fisherman, son-in-law of a notorious trafficker nicknamed the "Caviar King", had poached about a hundred paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*, Appendix II) in the Ohio River in order to sell their flesh and eggs (see. "On the Trail" n°33 p.261). His helper, Gary Nale, was sentenced in February 2021 to 3 years of probation and a fine of 2,500 US\$. US Fish and Wildlife Service, December 3, 2018; Indianapolis Star, April 22, 2022; Environmental Crimes Monthly Bulletin, May 2022.<sup>6</sup>



The paddlefish, nicknamed "live trawl", feeds by filtering small crustaceans and other animals suspended in the water. They can measure up to 1.83 metres and weigh up to 46 kg. © Adotfisch

**April 2022**

**St Helens, State of Oregon, United States of America**

They wanted the officer to believe that they had released their catch. In reality, the 2 men were using the Gilbert River as a holding tank for the one-metre white sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*, Appendix II) they had caught. The fish was still alive and was able to be released. The poachers are being prosecuted.

Oregon State Police, April 2022.<sup>7</sup>

**April 29, 2022**

**Newark, State of New Jersey, United States of America**

American Eel Depot Corporation (AED) based in Totowa, New Jersey, is the largest importer and distributor of eel meat in the United States. AED was smuggling European eels (*Anguilla anguilla*, Appendix II) to a farm in mainland China. Glass eels that survived capture in European Union estuaries and rivers and multiple intermodal transfers were fattened for one to 2 years.

When they reached adulthood, they were killed, gutted, processed, packaged and exported as sushi meat to AED in New Jersey as American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*). The farming in mainland China was under the control of AED. In the indictment, it is referred to as "Company 1."

In the course of November 2013, Yi Rui Huang aka Ricky builds a relationship with "A" in the Netherlands on behalf of AED. "A" offers him to buy juvenile eels better known as elvers. It is clear that "A" is breaking the law because since 2010, in view of the collapse of *Anguilla anguilla* populations, it is forbidden to export them outside the European Union, intra-European exchanges being reserved for repopulation operations. It appears from the indictment that AED's management is also aware of the legal protection of the European species. Exchanges between various AED collaborators and affiliates in the United States and Asia show that precautions are being considered both financially and logistically to thwart the vigilance of the US Fish and Wildlife Service and customs in other countries. Ricky, on behalf of AED, buys 25 kg of European glass eels for 57,500 US\$, i.e. 2,300 US\$/kg, from "A", who is responsible for shipping the batch to Thailand by air under the name of "live crabs". The recipient is a company controlled by AED, entirely dedicated to the transfer and distribution of sea products. On departure from the Netherlands, 25 kg of live glass eels are equivalent to 83,330 individuals based on a weight of about 0.3 grams per specimen.

In March 2015, Ricky builds a relationship with "B" in Ukraine. "B" offers Ricky to buy glass eels of European origin even though the species *Anguilla anguilla* is rare in waters under Ukrainian jurisdiction. In December 2015, "B" sends Guo Tuan Zhou aka Jason, co-director of AED, an invoice for 32,000 US\$ payable by transfer to a bank in Kiev. "B" has just delivered 32 kg of glass eels to a Hong Kong seafood company owned by AED and operated by Hong Lee aka John.

Chao Jin Shi aka Kevin travels to Ukraine to meet "B" in Kiev. Kevin is the main buyer of eels at AED. Transfers totalling 140,000 US\$ are made by AED to "B" who also has a bank account in Canada. Deliveries of glass eels between Ukraine and Company 1 were made via Thailand and Hong Kong with the complicity of companies run by AED or affiliated.

In 2015, 2016, and 2017, AED imported 8 sea containers from Company 1 into mainland China under the name of American eels. They contained only or mostly European eel meat.

The charges against AED and 8 of its managers in the United States, Hong Kong and Fujian Province in mainland China where Company 1 is based are focused on the 6 containers that were seized by customs. But the indictment notes that AED between March 2013 and July 2017 received 138 containers of eel meat with an aggregate market value of 160 million US\$ from Company 1.

US Department of Justice, April 29, 2022.<sup>8</sup>



**May 3-5 2022**

**Ponte Vedra, State of Florida, United States of America**



Killed, gutted, stored in a freezer and then hung in the courtyard of a high school. This macabre staging was reportedly organized by 5 students. The sandbar shark (*Carcharhinus plumbeus*) was discovered around 8 a.m. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is investigating. FOX 35 Orlando, May 5, 2022; KAKE, May 6, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

**Beginning of May 2022**

**Cheboygan, State of Michigan, United States of America**

Five suspects were caught in a closed fishing area during a lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*, Appendix II) poaching prevention operation. Five citations, one arrest.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources, May 14, 2022.<sup>10</sup>

**End of May 2022**

**Lee County, State of Florida, United States of America**

An undersized greater amberjack (*Seriola dumerili*) in one fishing vessel. Shark fillets in another. The fishermen were issued misdemeanors charges.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, June 2, 2022.<sup>11</sup>

**June 4, 2022**

**Astoria, Oregon State, United States of America**

This is the last day of the white sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*, Appendix II) fishing season. A fisherman eager to take one home told officers that his catch was 1.14 metres when it was only 1.09 metres. As fishing for specimens measuring less than 1.12 metres is prohibited, the fish was confiscated and given to a charity.

Oregon State Police, June 2022.<sup>12</sup>

**June 14, 2022**

**Nassau County, State of New York, United States of America**

Seizure of a thresher shark (*Alopias* spp., Appendix II) by the Environmental Police Marine Patrol. The case was forwarded for possible federal prosecution. Citations were also issued for fishing an undersized summer flounder (*Paralichthys dentatus*) and an out-of-season black sea bass (*Centropristis striata*). Department of Environmental Conservation, June 22, 2022.<sup>13</sup>

**Mid-June 2022**

**Wildwood, State of New Jersey, United States of America**

Two vessels not registered with the national marine fisheries service were inspected on their return from a fishing trip. On board, undersized yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) were seized.

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, June 20, 2022.<sup>14</sup>

## **REPEATED OFFENCE**

**June 16, 2022**

**Miami, State of Florida, United States of America**

Elite Sky International, based in Marathon, Florida, is suspected by the Miami court of having shipped 2,570 kg of shark fins to China under false denominations via the Miami or Fort Lauderdale airports. Elite, along with other seafood distributors, had recruited influencers to oppose the Shark Finning Prohibition Act in 2000.

Elite purchased fins of several species of sharks from a licenced professional fisherman in Florida and exported them to China as "frozen fish" and "live Florida spiny lobster, product of USA".

In addition, Elite, in order to compensate for insufficient landings of crustaceans in Florida fishing ports, bought some from Belize and Nicaragua. Between November 2018 and October 2019, Elite was able to meet the demand in China by shipping by plane 28,600 kg of lobsters, most of which had been caught abroad under the designation of origin "product of USA".

For the same reasons, an investigation is apparently opened against Aifa Seafood, based in Florida City and run by Jiu Chen, a woman of Chinese origin.

United States District Court Southern District of Florida, June 16, 2022; AP, August 2, 2022.<sup>15</sup>

## End of June 2022

### Brevard County, State of Florida, United States of America

The officer on patrol notices 2 fishermen who appear to be specifically targeting sharks. Inside their cooler, there are parts of a blacktip shark (*Carcharhinus limbatus*) with its fins cut off. The 2 individuals who had not taken an accredited shark fishing course were arrested.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, June 30, 2022.<sup>16</sup>

## June 2022

### The Dalles, State of Oregon, United States of America

A Fish and Wildlife Service officer is called to assist a police officer in the seizure of a vehicle. The owner, invited to remove his belongings, took out a white sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*, Appendix II) measuring nearly 2.4 metres wrapped in a tarp. He had caught it in a net and intended to sell it.

Oregon State Police, June 2022.<sup>17</sup>

## LATIN AMERICA

### ARGENTINA

## Mid-June 2022

### Bella Vista and Barranqueras, Province of Chaco, Argentina

Seizure of 40 streaked prochilods (*Prochilodus lineatus*) and 13 sorubims (genus *Pseudoplatystoma*) in operations against illegal fishing in the Paraná River.

Diario El Litoral, June 18, 2022.<sup>18</sup>

### BRAZIL

## May 16, 2022

### Matinhos, State of Paraná, Brazil

The 2 fishermen had published photos of their catch on social networks. Three large sharks, including a dusky shark (*Carcharhinus obscurus*, also called sand shark), an endangered species protected by national laws, were among the victims. The Ibama imposed a fine of 16,000 reais (3,135 US\$).

Correio do Litoral, May 21, 2022.<sup>19</sup>



## June 24, 2022

### Coari, State of Amazonas, Brazil



Seizure of more than 6 tonnes of arapaima (*Arapaima gigas*, Appendix II) on board the *Monte Moria*. The value of the cargo is estimated at 170,000 reais (33,300 US\$). The 5 sailors, aged between 19 and 25 years, were taken to the police station and charged with environmental offences.

Portal do Holanda, June 24, 2022.<sup>20</sup>

## COLOMBIA

## Beginning of April 2022

### Bahía Solano, Department of Chocó, Colombia

- Towing of a suspicious fishing vessel to the Coast Guard station and seizure on board of 15 shark fins and 7 specimens with a total weight of about 200 kg.

- Routine inspection of a coastal fishing vessel and seizure on board of 30 sharks without fins or heads with a total weight of about 700 kg.

Blu Radio, April 13, 2022.<sup>21</sup>

## FRANCE (FRENCH GUIANA)

## June 10-24 2022

### Territorial Collectivity of Guiana, France

During lightning raids, a patrol boat boarded 3 "tapouille" boats from Suriname, Brazil and Guyana. More than 32 tonnes of fish and nearly 200 kg of swim bladders of acoupa weakfish (*Cynoscion acoupa*), worth more than 275,000 € (296,000 US\$) were seized. The boats were destroyed by mechanical means.

Prefect of the French Guiana Region, July 4, 2022.<sup>22</sup>

## Mid-June 2022

### Amana Nature Reserve, Territorial Collectivity of Guiana, France. Border with Suriname.

The control of 5 fishermen's "tapouille" boats from Suriname led to the seizure of 7 tonnes of fish and 6 kg of swim bladders of acoupa weakfish (*Cynoscion acoupa*) which were destroyed.

French Biodiversity Agency, July 2022.<sup>23</sup>

## MEXICO

**June 27, 2022**  
**Mexico City, Mexico**



National Guard inspectors discovered nearly 800 kg of sharks in a truck parked at the Abastos market, Mexico City's main wholesale market. The cargo was seized along with the vehicle. Shark and ray fishing have been banned since May 1 in all the Pacific coastal States, spanning from the border of the United States in the north to Guatemala in the south, and on the Atlantic side in the Gulf of Mexico States.

Plumas Atómicas, June 28, 2022.<sup>24</sup>

## CENTRAL ASIA

### KAZAKHSTAN

**May 22, 2022**  
**Shieli District, Kyzylorda Region, Kazakhstan**

Seizure from the trunk of a Lada Niva of a battery, electric wires, a small inflatable boat and a bag full of fish.

Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, May 23, 2022.<sup>25</sup>



## EASTERN ASIA

### CHINA

**Beginning of April 2020**  
**Beijing Autonomous Municipality, China**

Seizure in a package from abroad of 4 medaka fry (*Oryzias latipes*).

Medaka, see "On the Trail" n°32 p. 284  
Chinese Customs, April 15, 2022.<sup>26</sup>

**June 20, 2022**  
**Changsha, Changsha Prefecture, Hunan Province, China**

Seizure of 6 live fish, probably ornamental fish, in a package declared to contain "cosmetic products." The medakas know the route to China well.  
Chinese Customs, June 23, 2022.<sup>27</sup>

## SOUTHEASTERN ASIA

### INDONESIA

**April 9, 2022**  
**Balikukup Island, Berau Regency, East Kalimantan Province, Borneo Island, Indonesia**

Boarding of a fishing boat and seizure on board of 19 bottles of ammonium nitrate, 33 detonators, 2 matches and a tender. The 3 fishermen and the boat were handed over to local authorities.  
Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), April 2022.<sup>28</sup>



**April 27, 2022**  
**Kasa Island, West Seram Regency, Molucca Province, Molucca Archipelago, Indonesia**

Three fishermen were apprehended with 4 bottles of homemade explosives.  
Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), April 2022.<sup>29</sup>



**May 18, 2022**  
**State Fisheries Management Area 716, Sulawesi Sea, Indonesia**

After a 15-minute chase, the Maritime Affairs patrol boat (PSDKP) managed to catch up with the 3 Malayan fishermen who were blast fishing. Detonators were seized.  
iNews Kalteng (with Antara), May 21, 2022.<sup>30</sup>



### MALAYSIA

**June 11, 2022**  
**Off Kota Belud, State of Sabah, Malaysia**

Blast fishing from 2 boats. Their loot that valued at 16,661 US\$ as well as explosives were seized.  
Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), June 9-15, 2022.<sup>31</sup>



### PHILIPPINES

**June 7, 2022**  
**Off the coast of Samar province, Philippines**

Blast fishing turned into a tragedy. One death and 2 injured.  
Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), June 9-15, 2022.<sup>32</sup>





## SOUTHERN ASIA

### BANGLADESH

**April 5, 2022**

**Barguna District, Barisal Division, Bangladesh**



Seizure of 160 kg of juvenile sharks and 40 juvenile Bleeker's whiprays (*Himantura bleekeri*), locally called "shapla pata", on board the trawler *FB Al Mehedi*. The 9 fishermen were arrested and fined 5,000 taka (58 US\$) each. Their catch was buried.

Bleeker's whiprays are in steep decline in Bangladesh due to overfishing. Ten years ago, fishermen could catch up to 1,000 in a week; now they are struggling to catch 5.

Dhaka Tribune, April 5, 2022; Sherman, C.S., Akhilesh, K.V., Ali, M., Bin Ali, A., Bineesh, K.K., Derrick, D., Dharmadi, Fahmi, Fernando, D., Haque, A.B., Jabado, R.W., Khan, M., Maung, A., Seyha, L., Tanay, D., Utzurum, J.A.T., Vo, V.Q. & Yuneni, R.R. 2020. *Pateobatis bleekeri*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2020: e.T104208524A175220678. <https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2020-3.RLTS.T104208524A175220678.en>.<sup>33</sup>

**April 11, 2022**

**Chattogram (Chittagong), Chattogram District, Chattogram Division, Bangladesh**



The Business Standard investigation confirms that in Bangladesh, the 46 species of sharks and 58 species of rays that frequent the Bay of Bengal are protected only on paper. The marketing channels for "accidentally" caught fish are well established and known to the authorities. The sharks are sold by reputed fishmongers for 200 to 1,000 taka/kg (2.3 to 11.6 US\$/kg). "We have been trading sharks here for years. Neither the police nor any other agency has ever raided this market," a wholesaler told reporters in front of his frozen stock. The high commercial value parts such as fins, cartilage, gills, skin and vertebrae are destined for the international black market via Myanmar.

The Business Standard, April 19, 2022.<sup>34</sup>

## INDIA

**June 5, 2022**

**Orang National Park, Darrang and Sonitpur Districts, State of Assam, India**

Mazit Ali and 4 accomplices were trying to catch a rare *Channa barca*, a Barca snakehead. Only Ali was arrested. The *Channa barca* is endemic to the upper Brahmaputra river basin in northeastern India and Bangladesh. They are known locally as "Pipli Cheng". They sell in the local market for up to 10,000 rupees (129 US\$). Though, in the international ornamental fish market, a "breeding pair of adult *Channa barca*" sells for 5,000 US\$.

Northeast Now, June 5, 2022.<sup>35</sup>



*Channa barca* in captivity

## IRAN

**May 11, 2022**

**Kish Island, Hormozgan Province, Iran**



Seizure of a cargo of 2,355 shark fins on board a boat. Six arrests. 28 species of sharks frequent the Persian Gulf, including bull-sharks (*Carcharhinus leucas*) and sandbar sharks (*Carcharhinus plumbeus*). Mizan Online News Agency, May 11, 2022.<sup>36</sup>

**May 15, 2022**  
**Chabahar, Sistan and Baluchestan Province, Iran**



The investigation began 600 km away from the sea in the centre of the country, in Zahedan. Shark meat was being offered for sale in the markets in the form of fillets and fraudulently designated as tuna. The first cargo seizures (5 to 96 sharks) were carried out in refrigerated vehicles and in fishmongers' shops. The investigation led to the shipping port, Chabahar, and to the 2 cold stores where 8,000 sharks and more than 8,000 shark fins were seized. The number of fins is provisional as they were numerous and the counting was tedious. The marketing channels are cruelly common: sale of the meat on the national markets and export of the fins to Asian countries. The Director General of Environmental Protection of the province of Sistan and Baluchestan emphasizes the key role of sharks in ecosystems and says that 70 species of sharks are found in Iranian waters. Among the victims of trafficking are great white sharks (*Carcharodon carcharias*, Appendix II). The sharks are protected by national and international laws and the case is being referred to the courts. Environmental experts have set the fine at 800 billion rials or 19 million US\$. The authorities did not give any information about the number, identity and role of the accused. Ghadiri News Agency, May 15, 2022; Salam News, May 18, 2022.<sup>37</sup>

## PAKISTAN

**April 26, 2022**  
**Karachi, Province of Sindh, Pakistan**

It ended up in a poultry feed factory. A 6.1-m-long whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*, Appendix II) was brought ashore and sold by local fishermen, who claimed to have found it dead at sea after a collision with a boat. Before 1970, the capture of the world's largest shark was still allowed. Local fishermen coated the hulls of their boats with whale shark oil. The News International, April 29, 2022.<sup>38</sup>

## SRI LANKA

**April 23 and May 1, 2022, Trincomalee, Eastern Province, Sri Lanka**  
**April 26 and May 5, 2022, Off Nayar Lagoon and Jaffna, Northern Province, Sri Lanka**



The Navy conducted a series of anti-blast poaching operations. 29 water gel explosive sticks, 17 detonators and 10 fuses were seized in 4 separate operations. Some of the devices were already placed at the bottom of the sea. A dozen fishermen were arrested, the youngest being 17 years old. Sri Lanka Navy, April 24 and 27, 2022, May 6, 2022.<sup>39</sup>

**May 3, 2022**  
**Negombo Harbour, Western Province, Sri Lanka**  
 Back after several days of fishing, a trawler was checked by the coast guard with 100 fins (8 kg) and 170 kg of dried shark meat on board. The catch was seized and the 6 fishermen heard. Sri Lanka Coast Guard, May 5, 2022.<sup>40</sup>





## WESTERN ASIA

### GEORGIA

June 2022

**Rioni River, Tkibuli, Imerethia Region, Ambrolauri, Racha-Lachkumia Region and Lower Svanetia, Georgia**

More than 3.9 km of illegally set nets and creels without buoyage, as well as hundreds of buoys with large hooks targeting sturgeon (*Acipenser* spp., Appendix I or II), were removed from river waters by environmental patrols.

Department of Environmental Supervision, June 1, 2022.<sup>41</sup>



June 2022

**Chiatura, Region of Imereti, Telavi, Sagarejo and Kvareli, Region of Kakheti, Martvili, Region of Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti, Adigeni, Region of Samtskhe-Javakheti, Khashuri, Region of Shida Kartli, and Mtskheta, Region of Mtskheta-Mtianeti, Georgia**



21 poaching cases were reported by lake and river patrols, including 7 by electric fishing.

Department of Environmental Supervision, June 28, 2022.<sup>42</sup>

## EUROPE

### OPERATION LAKE VI

**November 2021-June 2022**

24 countries participated in the sixth Lake Operation to combat poaching and smuggling of glass eels (*Anguilla anguilla*, Appendix II) coordinated by Europol, the European Fisheries Control Agency, the European Anti-Fraud Office and the European Commission. 49 people were arrested in Europe and 1,255 kg of glass eels with an estimated value of 1.9 million Euros (2 million US\$ or 1,630 US\$/kg) were seized. Unsurprisingly, smuggling through "tourist" suitcases to Asia resumed along with the post-Covid-19 air traffic. In France, the Lake Operation allowed the seizure of 200 kg of glass eels on February 19 and 54 kg on March 3 (see "On the Trail" n°35 p. 205). Lake claims a 50% decrease in eel trafficking since 2016, the arrest of 500 traffickers and the total seizure of 18 tonnes of eels.

French Customs, June 24, 2022; Europol, June 24, 2022.<sup>43</sup>

## WESTERN EUROPE

### FRANCE

#### FAMILY AFFAIRS / REPEATED OFFENCE

**April 7, 2022**

**Dax, Department of Landes, France**

The 4 poachers had been caught with 150 grams of glass eels (*Anguilla anguilla*, Appendix II), i.e. about 500 glass eels, in their buckets in February 2020 on the banks of the Adour, near the Dax wastewater treatment plant. One of them managed to flee when the agents of the French Office of Biodiversity approached, though not his son and 2 other poachers who were caught red-handed. They all pleaded personal consumption. "They are amateur poachers who played of misfortune" argued one of the lawyers. Not fooled, the judge considered that the runaway father had indeed participated in the fishing but she considered that she lacked material element to condemn him. His son and another poacher were fined 500 € (560 US\$) each and the third, a repeat offender, was fined 1,000 € (1,110 US\$).

Sud Ouest, April 8, 2022.<sup>44</sup>





## THE NETHERLANDS

**April 11, 2022**

**International Amsterdam Airport Schiphol, Province of North Holland, The Netherlands**

Three Malaysians, 2 men and a woman, were arrested in possession of 105 kg of European glass eels (*Anguilla anguilla*, Appendix II) distributed in water bags packed in 8 identical suitcases, which attracted the attention of the customs officers. The smugglers were in transit between Portugal and Malaysia. They were arrested and remanded in custody. The glass eels, many of which would have survived this first trip before the big jump to Asia, were quickly released back into the wild. Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority, April 14, 2022; NU.nl, April 16, 2022.<sup>45</sup>



## SOUTHERN EUROPE

### ITALY

**May 14, 2022**

**Pescara, Province of Pescara, Abruzzo Region, Italy**

The quartet, coming from Campania, was fishing for eels (*Anguilla anguilla*, Appendix II). Inspected shortly after midnight, the poachers had all the necessary prohibited equipment and had already caught 10 eels which were returned to the river. The authorities emphasize the lack of sanitary control of the poaching products and their danger for the health of the consumers. AbruzzoLive, May 16, 2022; IlPescara, May 16, 2022.<sup>46</sup>

**May 21-22, 2022**

**Cepagatti, Province of Pescara, Region of Abruzzo, Italy**

Another quartet of poachers who came from Campania for predation tourism. At night, the agents of the environmental Guardia Civile first observed them from afar, the terrain and the darkness being unfavourable for a quick intervention. Around 10 p.m., the 4 men returned to their Fiat Doblo with flashlights, put their illegal gear in the trunk and drove away. The anti-poaching team was waiting for them at the end of the road. In addition to the car and the fishing gear, including umbrellas that are used to catch eels as soon as they come out of the water (they cannot go up the banks to escape), 6 eels (*Anguilla anguilla*, Appendix II) were seized and released. The 4 men were sentenced to administrative fines of 9,000€ (9,440 US\$). IlPescara, May 23, 2022.<sup>47</sup>



**Mid-June 2022**

**Vibo Valentia, Province of Vibo Valentia, Region of Calabria, Italy**



The fishing vessel was targeted by the authorities. The inspection carried out at the dockside revealed the presence on board of swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*), bullet tuna (*Auxis rochei*) and a drift-net of prohibited use. The seized fish were donated to a charity and the captain and the owner of the vessel were fined 266€ (2,870 US\$). Il Lametino, June 16, 2022.<sup>48</sup>

**Mid-June 2022**

**Between Cremona and Isola Pescaroli, Province of Cremona, Region of Lombardy, Italy**

The Po River is at its lowest level because of the drought. Poachers take advantage of this to set their nets at night, where the river is deepest and where the fish take refuge. Alberto Magagnato, founder of Gruppo Siluro Italia and Catfishing Italia, is not only content with sounding the alarm. He also patiently waits for the poachers to leave so that he can lift their nets and free the fish, which includes sturgeon (Acipenseridae, Appendix I or II). La Provincia di Cremona, June 21, 2022.<sup>49</sup>

**End of June 2022**

**Borgo Ticino, Province of Novara, Region of Piedmont, Italy**



The gang of 6 Romanians and 2 Italians plundered every inch of the Ticino River, at a rate of one tonne of fish per week. There was nothing miraculous about the catch. They used electric charges to stun all aquatic life, especially carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) and catfish (genus *Silurus*). Their booty was then transported to a farm and prepared for shipment to Romania. The investigators got their hands on the hidden accounting. The gang's turnover is estimated at more than 200,000 €/year (210,000 US\$).

Rai News 24, July 1, 2022.<sup>50</sup>



## MONTENEGRO

**April 6, 2022**

### Lake Skadar, Montenegro

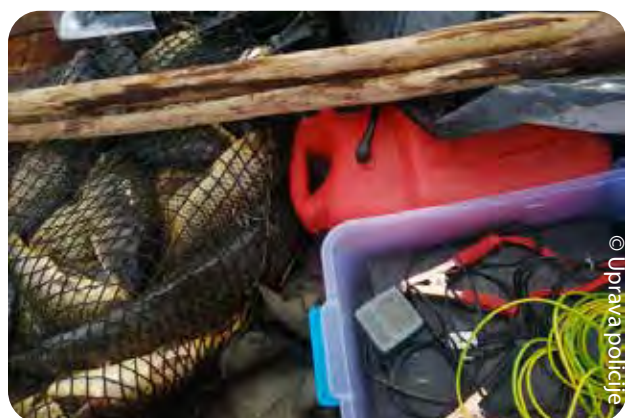
A nautical police unit apprehended 5 poachers equipped with a generator, a power converter, a battery, an outboard motor, 3 probes and 9 fishing nets, and seized 240 kg of carp (*Cyprinus carpio*). The inaction of the agents of Lake Skadar National Park is pointed out. The poachers felt at home there, until now. Four of them were charged and 2 fines of 340 € (380 US\$) were imposed. Vijesti, April 7, 2022.<sup>51</sup>



**April 10, 2022**

### Municipality of Tuzi, Montenegro

Two days later, 2 new arrests. They too were poaching carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) from Lake Skadar through electric fishing. 50 kg of fish, an electric converter, 2 batteries and various instruments were seized and the 2 men were charged. Vijesti, April 11, 2022.<sup>52</sup>



## EASTERN EUROPE

### MOLDOVA

**Beginning of May 2022**

### Talmaz, Stefan Voda District, Moldova

The agents of the Directorate for the Control of Fishing and Hunting Resources have issued 15 official reports and imposed a fine of 37,000 Moldovan leu (1,965 US\$) on 15 poachers for fishing out of season and using forbidden gear such as electric rods. In particular, the poachers targeted pontic shad (*Alosa immaculata*). UNIMEDIA, May 10, 2022.<sup>53</sup>



**May 27, 2022**

### Manta Lake, Cahul District, Moldova. Border with Romania.

At 2 a.m., the border guards were watching from afar the actions of 2 young men fishing on the lake. They waited for their return on the banks to carry out the inspection and to seize dozens of fish and the electric fishing accessories present on board.

Border Police, May 25, 2022.<sup>54</sup>



**June 8, 2022**

### Vertiujeni, Floresti District, Moldova

Seizure around midnight of inflatable boats, electric rods, batteries, wiring and electric amplifiers. Eleven reports were drawn up and a fine of 33,900 Moldovan leu (1,785 US\$) was imposed. The environmental damage is estimated at 135 US\$.

Telegraph Moldova, June 9, 2022.<sup>55</sup>





## POLAND

**Mid-April 2022**

**Brodnica County, Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship, Poland**

The police officer and fisheries warden was off duty, but are we ever off when we love our work? He reported to his colleagues the presence of a poacher setting an eel bow-net (*Anguilla anguilla*, Appendix II) on Lake Głowińskie. The offender spent the night at the station.

Agropolska.pl, April 19, 2022.<sup>56</sup>

## ROMANIA

**April 10-16, 2022**

**Brăila, Călărași, Constanța, Galați, Ialomița and Tulcea Counties, Romania**

The operations against illegal fishing took place on the Danube, its delta and in the Black Sea. 58 fines were imposed for a total amount of 17,400 Romanian lei (3,910 US\$). 2,123 kg of fish including Russian sturgeon (*Acipenser gueldenstaedtii*, Appendix II), 36.7 kg of eggs, 3 boats, 3 motors, 3 tanks, 151 fishing gears and one car were seized. The sturgeons still alive were released.

Romanian Police, April 17, 2022; Danube Sturgeon, April 19, 2022; EU Reporter, May 3, 2022.<sup>57</sup>



**May 6 and 8, 2022**

**Isaccea, Tulcea County, and Borcea, Calarasi County, Romania**

- Seizure of a 1-kg sterlet sturgeon (*Acipenser ruthenus*, Appendix II) in a boat. It was still alive and was returned to the water.

- Seizure of a starry sturgeon (*Acipenser stellatus*, Appendix II) of 4 kg and 106 cm in the hands of 2 poaching fishermen. Returned to the water.

Since 2006, all sturgeon fishing is prohibited in Romanian waters.

Constanta IUZ, May 9, 2022; stiripesurse.ro, May 9, 2022.<sup>58</sup>

**Beginning of May 2022**

**Giurgeni-Vadu Oii Bridge, Constanta County, Romania**

The 2 anti-poaching teams have travelled night and day along hundreds of km of waterways. The result: 9,000 metres of lines and 2,500 metres of illegal nets were found. On the Danube, 5 sterlet sturgeons (*Acipenser ruthenus*, Appendix II) and one starry sturgeon (*Acipenser stellatus*, Appendix II) were released. The total value of the seized fish and equipment is estimated at 15,500 Romanian lei (3,280 US\$).

National Environmental Guard, May 12, 2022.<sup>59</sup>

**May 25, 2022**

**Borcea, Ialomita County, Romania**

The 2 partners in crime had travelled 20 and 30 km to come and poach in the waters of the Danube. Spotted by the police, they could not hide the 1.35-m-long and 15-kg starry sturgeon (*Acipenser stellatus*, Appendix II) they had in their boat. The fish was returned to the water. The boat, its motor and the fishing equipment were seized.

Romanian Police, May 26, 2022.<sup>60</sup>

**June 2, 2022**

**Pitesti, Arges County, Romania**

In August 2020, Albert Gheorghe was caught in the middle of a transaction to sell 40 jars of sturgeon caviar (*Acipenseridae*, Appendix I or II). The 22.6 kg seized were estimated at the time at 50,000 € (59,000 US\$, i.e. 2,600 US\$/kg). He admitted the facts and asked to be judged in a simplified procedure. In the first instance, he was sentenced to a one-year suspended prison term, 2 years of probation and 60 days of community service, as well as to pay 90,500 lei (about 20,000 US\$) to the National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture. Albert thought he would get away with community service, so he appealed. The Court of Appeal has just partially confirmed his conviction. Albert will not have to pay any damages to the Fisheries Agency. The other sentences are confirmed and as a bonus he is banned from fishing for 2 years.

Curierul Zilei, June 2, 2022.<sup>61</sup>





## RUSSIA



April 20, 2022. Between Karalat and Kamyzyak,  
Astrakhan Oblast, Russia



May 30, 2022  
Zhigulyovsk, Samara Oblast, Russia



April 13, 2022  
Tchernigovsky District, Primorsky Krai,  
Russia



April 29, 2022  
Volodarsky District,  
Astrakhan Oblast, Russia



May 16, 2022  
Aktau, Mangystau Region,  
Kazakhstan



June 8, 2022. Khabarovsk, Khabarovsk Krai, Russia.  
Border with China



April 27, 2022  
Ikryanoye, Astrakhan Oblast, Russia



May 23, 2022  
Between Nikolayevsk-on-Amur and Selikhino, Khabarovsk Krai, Russia



April 30, 2022  
Caspian Sea



2,639 sturgeons and 6,773.85 kg of sturgeons seized or poached and 979.7 kg of caviar seized in Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan and in Russia between April 1 and June 30, 2022, according to official and media sources



Sturgeon, unidentified species (*Acipenseridae*, Appendix I or II)  
 Beluga (*Huso huso*, Appendix II)  
 Amur sturgeon (*Acipenser schrenckii*, Appendix II)  
 Starry sturgeon (*Acipenser stellatus*, Appendix II)  
 Siberian sturgeon (*Acipenser baerii*, Appendix II)

Russian sturgeon (*Acipenser gueldenstaedtii*, Appendix II)  
 Sterlet sturgeon (*Acipenser ruthenus*, Appendix II)  
 Huso sturgeon (*Huso dauricus*, Appendix II)  
 The litres of caviar have been converted into kilos on the basis of 1.08 kilos for 1 litre.  
 Map sources: see page 238

## March-April and end of April 2022 Okha, Sakhalin Oblast, Russia

The 2 men teamed up to poach *Huso sturgeon* (*Huso dauricus*, Appendix II) in the Tataric Strait, gut them on the shore, transport them to their village a few dozen km away, prepare them in sections and sell them. Their freezer was full. The investigation showed that they had operated in this way at least between July 2020 and June 2021. The damage is estimated at 2.1 million rubles (24,300 US\$). The case was referred to the court.

ASTV.RU, April 26 and 29, 2022; Moskovski Komsomolets Sakhalin, April 26, 2022; Citysakh.Ru, April 29, 2022.<sup>62</sup>

## April 1, 2022

### Zhigansky District, Republic of Sakha, Russia

The prosecutor has just validated the indictment of 2 poachers caught in the summer of 2021 on the Lena River while fishing for Siberian sturgeon (*Acipenser baerii*, Appendix II). Six specimens, a boat and a Yamaha 40 motor were seized. The environmental damage is estimated at 900,000 rubles or 10,430 US\$. Both men plead guilty.

SakhaLife, April 1, 2022; Yakutsk-Sakha Information Agency, April 13, 2022.<sup>63</sup>

## Beginning of April 2022

### Yenotayevsky District, Astrakhan Oblast, Russia



The poacher is believed to have acted during the fall of 2021. A search of his home resulted in the seizure of 97 sterlet sturgeons (*Acipenser ruthenus*, Appendix II), one starry sturgeon (*Acipenser stellatus*, Appendix II) and 6 kg of home-made caviar in 14 attractive tins, all of which supposedly presenting all legal attributes. The man was referred to the court.

Ministry of Internal Affairs, April 5, 2022; Punkt-A, April 5, 2022.<sup>64</sup>

## FAMILY AFFAIRS

### Beginning of April 2022

#### Syzransky District, Samara Oblast, Russia

The case seemed clear. Galina Nikolaevna, 63, and Ksenia Aleksandrovna, 36, mother and daughter, bought sturgeon (*Acipenser* spp., Appendix I or II), including beluga (*Huso huso*, Appendix II) and *Huso sturgeon* (*Huso dauricus*, Appendix II) from poachers officiating on the Volga River, prepared the fish and caviar and then proceeded to sell the contraband. They were arrested in 2019. An investigation was launched only 16 months later, then mysteriously suspended. The case is now drowned in the murky waters of the Volga. Tsargrad TV wonders, will it ever go to trial?

Tsargrad TV, April 6, 2022.<sup>65</sup>

## April 12, 2022

### Republic of Tatarstan, Russia

Sentence of 2 poachers to pay damages in the amount of 375,000 rubles (4,350 US\$), the estimated ecological value of 248 fish they illegally removed from the Kama River, a tributary of the Volga, in August 2021: sterlet sturgeons (*Acipenser ruthenus*, Appendix II), asps (*Leuciscus aspius*), breams (*Abramis brama*), white breams (*Blicca bjoerkna*), catfish (genus *Silurus*) and ideo (*Leuciscus idus*).

KazanFirst, April 12, 2022.<sup>66</sup>



## April 21, 2022

### Oktyabrskoye, Khanty-Mansi Autonomous District, Russia

Sentence of 2 poachers to 2 years in prison and 2 and a half years of probation. They had been caught in June 2020 on a tributary of the Ob River fishing for sterlet sturgeons (*Acipenser ruthenus*, Appendix II) despite the seasonal ban.

Ugra-News, April 21, 2022.<sup>67</sup>



## April 25, 2022

### Sredneakhtubinsky District, Volgograd Oblast, Russia

Arrest of 2 poachers caught in the act of electric fishing on the Volga. They had already electrocuted and brought 70 fish on board their boat.

Moskovski Komsomolets Volgograd, April 25, 2022.<sup>68</sup>





### Beginning of May 2022

#### Khabarovsk, Khabarovsk Krai, Russia

He claimed to have found bags full of pieces of sturgeon (*Acipenser* spp., Appendix I or II), including *Huso sturgeon* (*Huso dauricus*, Appendix II), on the banks of the Amur River, along with eggs. He was caught by the patrol while he was transferring bags to his home. One cannot exclude the contraband was left there temporarily by poachers who were better informed than he was about the police patrol schedule. Then a search of his home uncovered ammunition, a circumstance that did not help his case. He was sentenced to three years and one month' suspended imprisonment and one year of probation for illegal acquisition and possession of protected fish.

Komsomolskaya Pravda, May 4, 2022.<sup>69</sup>



### Beginning of May 2022

#### Syzran, Samara Oblast, Russia

Maria Ierusalimova, 36 years old, was sentenced to a one-year suspended prison term for the acquisition, storage, transport and sale of sturgeon caviar (*Acipenser* spp., Appendix I or II). Eight kilos of caviar in cans, including *Huso sturgeon* (*Huso dauricus*, Appendix II) and beluga (*Huso huso*, Appendix II) had been seized from her car and then from her store and apartment in late 2019. In April 2021, she had been charged on the basis of information transmitted by the FSB.

CityTraffic, May 5, 2022; GTRK Samara, May 5, 2022; Volga News, May 5, 2022.<sup>70</sup>



### May 11, 2022

#### Astrakhan, Astrakhan Oblast, Russia

The inspector of the Federal Fisheries Agency who let sturgeon (*Acipenseridae*, Appendix I or II) poachers go with part of their catch (see "On the Trail" No. 34, p.258) was sentenced to one year of penal colony and deprivation of the right to hold office for 2 years.

Russian Legal Information Agency, May 11, 2022.<sup>71</sup>



### Mid-May 2022

#### Vladimir, Vladimir Oblast, Russia

Indictment of 2 poachers caught on the night of June 28-29, 2021 on the Kliazma River (tributary of the Oka which is a tributary of the Volga) with electric fishing gear "which can lead to massive extermination of aquatic biological resources". The environmental damage was estimated at the time at 52,505 rubles or 710 US\$. 33Live.Ru, May 19, 2022.<sup>72</sup>



### REPEATED OFFENCE

#### May 16, 2022

#### Yakutsk, Republic of Sakha, Russia

Y., V. and T. were found guilty of poaching of 570 Siberian sturgeons (*Acipenser baerii*, Appendix II) from which they had extracted 216.9 kg of eggs, 103 nelmas (*Stenodus nelma*) and 28 taimens (*Hucho taimen*) in conspiracy (see "On the Trail" n°33, p. 271). Poaching was carried out on the Lena River between June and September 2021. The fish and eggs were transiting at the home of Y., a repeat offender, before being sold on the black market. The investigation had started after the inspection of their vessel and the seizure on board of 77 sturgeons. It was continued through phone tapping.

Y. was sentenced to 6 and a half years in prison, 3 years of probation and a fine equivalent to 2,780 US\$. V. was sentenced to 6 years in prison, 2 years of probation and a fine of 1,390 US\$. T. was sentenced to 6 years in prison, 2 years of probation and a fine of 695 US\$. The three of them will have to pay 1.46 million US\$ in compensation to the Federal Fisheries Agency. Vehicles and real estate were seized as payment guarantee. The fish and caviar were returned to the State.

SakhaLife, May 18, 2022; Fishnews, May 19, 2022.<sup>73</sup>



### May 23, 2022

#### Surgutsky District, Khanty-Mansi Autonomous District, Russia

Indictment of a poacher caught on the Ob River in October 2021 with 11 sturgeons (*Acipenseridae*, Appendix I or II) in his motorboat, including 7 sterlet sturgeons (*Acipenser ruthenus*, Appendix II).

SIA-Press, May 23, 2022.<sup>74</sup>

### May 24, 2022

#### Sredneakhtubinsky District, Volgograd Oblast, Russia

He combined the traditional method (nets of 50 and 70 m in length) and the modern method (electric rod), catching dozens of fish in this way, and a legal proceeding was launched against him.

MTV.online, May 24, 2022.<sup>75</sup>



**June 8, 2022**

**Astrakhan, Astrakhan Oblast, Russia**

Sentence of 2 smugglers of caviar from starry sturgeons (*Acipenser stellatus*, Appendix II) to 6.5 and 5 years of penal colony and a fine of 700,000 rubles (11,640 US\$) each. They were getting their supplies on the black market and repackaged caviar before resale. Fifty tins with a total weight of 27 kg were seized from their vehicle in mid-May 2021 while they were trying to leave the oblast.

Interfax Russia, June 8, 2022.<sup>76</sup>



**June 9, 2022**

**Tobolsk, Tyumen Oblast, Russia**

At the end of his fishing rod, a Siberian sturgeon (*Acipenser baerii*, Appendix II). On the banks of the Irtysh (tributary of the Ob), a fine of 10,000 rubles (165 US\$) and legal consequences to be feared.

Komsomolskaya Pravda, June 9, 2022.<sup>77</sup>



**June 16, 2022**

**Komsomolsk-on-Amur, Khabarovsk Krai, Russia**

These 2 poachers got off with 3 years' suspended imprisonment and 3 years of probation for having caught 2 Amur sturgeons (*Acipenser schrenckii*, Appendix II) in the eponymous Amur River in October 2021.

Komsomolsk-on-Amur Urban District Administration, June 16, 2022.<sup>78</sup>



**June 26 and July 7, 2022**

**Between Khanty-Mansiysk and Tyumen, Tyumen Oblast, Russia**

During a road check, 4 Siberian sturgeons (*Acipenser baerii*, Appendix II), 13 small sterlet sturgeons (*Acipenser ruthenus*, Appendix II) and one nelma (*Stenodus nelma*) were seized from a motorboat under tow of a Lada Niva (see map). The poacher initially arrested for unlicensed driving was fined 150,000 rubles (1,930 US\$).

Megatyumen, June 27, 2022; Moskovski Komsomolets Tyumen, June 27, 2022; PARK72.RU, July 7, 2022; Tyumen Line, July 7, 2022; IA Krasnaya Vesna, July 8, 2022.<sup>79</sup>



**June 28, 2022**

**Khabarovsk, Khabarovsk Krai, Russia**

Seizures totaling 190 kg of Amur sturgeon (*Acipenser schrenckii*, Appendix II) and Huso sturgeon (*Huso dauricus*, Appendix II) caviar were carried out in November 2021 (see "On the Trail" n°34 map p. 256). The verdict was just handed down. The 2 smugglers, one of them a Muscovite, were sentenced to 5 years and to 3 years and 6 months' suspended imprisonment, to 4 years of probation and to fines totalling 150,000 rubles (2,500 US\$). The donation of 50,000 rubles to an organization contributing to the restoration of sturgeon populations was accepted as a mitigating circumstance.

From April to November 2021, they had bought the caviar in Komsomolsk-on-Amur, the hometown of one of them, and then transported it to Khabarovsk 400 km away. They were caught at a road check. The initial plan was to continue the route to Moscow to ensure a very good margin after a very long route of 8,400 km.

DV Novosti, June 28, 2022; Interfax Russia, June 28, 2022.<sup>80</sup>



**June 28, 2022**

**Krasnoyarsk, Krasnoyarsk Krai, Russia**

Indictment of a man accused of acquiring on the black market 13 tins containing a total of nearly 3 kg of sturgeon caviar (*Acipenseridae*, Appendix I or II).

Ministry of Internal Affairs, June 28, 2022.<sup>81</sup>

**OCEANIA**

**AUSTRALIA**

**May 2022**

**Niiwalarra Island, Niiwalarra Islands National Park, State of Western Australia, Australia**

The Australian Border Force does not comment. Shark carcasses with fins cut off lie on the ground amidst food waste showing the names of brands of Indonesia or sold in Indonesia. The incursions of Indonesian fishermen on the island are not new. Archaeological evidence dating back 2 centuries shows the presence of fishermen from the Indonesian archipelago who came to harvest and dry sea cucumbers.

The Niiwalarra Islands National Park is 40 km north of the village of Kalumburu (Western Australia). It includes the islands of Niiwalarra (or Sir Graham Moore), Neawangu (or Scorpion), Kim and the Geranium Archipelago. It covers 31.64 km<sup>2</sup>. The Niiwalarra archipelago is about 500 km from the Indonesian island of Timor and has an area of 27.7 km<sup>2</sup>. The Balanggarra aborigines officially own it. It is as famous for its biodiversity as its archaeological sites.

ABC News, August 29, 2022.<sup>82</sup>



# 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*), loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*) and leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*).



Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*). Photo Cathylebouteiller

## EASTERN AFRICA

### FRANCE (MAYOTTE)

**April 7-25, 2022**

**Papani, Charifou and Moya Beaches, Department of Mayotte, France**

Six recently poached turtles are discovered by teams from the Association de Sécurité Villageoise de M'tsamoudou (Village Security Association of M'tsamoudou) and Sea Shepherd.

Sea Shepherd, April 8, 16, 18 and 26, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

**April 16, 2022**

**Charifou, Nyamba Titi and Papani Beaches, Department of Mayotte, France**

The Réseau d'Echouage Mahorais des Mammifères Marins et Tortues marines (REMMAT) counts an average of 179 dead turtles each year, 83% of which were unambiguously killed by poachers' machetes. With the help of a spring tide, a census and removal operation regarding hundreds of kilos of turtle bones and shells, whole or in pieces, which litter the beaches was carried out, in particular on the beach of Papani described by the Journal de Mayotte as "a kind of open-air turtle cemetery". The newspaper reminds us that the meat, which sells for 50 €/kg (55 US\$) on the black market, can be toxic and is not part of the traditional local dishes.

Le Journal de Mayotte, April 19, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

**May 26-30, 2022**

**Papani, Nyamba Titi, Charifou and Dapani Beaches, Department of Mayotte, France**

- Four poachers were spotted, one was immobilized by Sea Shepherd teams and handed over to the gendarmes.

- The gendarmes would not have been ready. The two immobilized poachers, equipped with a machete, a knife, a screwdriver and a sharpening stone, left as they had come, by canoe.

Sea Shepherd, June 13, 2022.<sup>3</sup>





**May 28 and 30, 2022**

**Pamandzi and Mamoudzou,  
Department of Mayotte, France**



Watchmen of the association Oulanga Na Nyamba spot 4 poachers dragging a green turtle still alive to butcher it in a remote corner of the beach of Titi Moya. The maritime police were alerted. The police intervened quickly enough for the turtle to escape the butchers. Two days later, in immediate appearance, they were sentenced to 8 months in prison with a committal order for 3 of them and to pay 1,000 € (1,050 US\$) in damages and 300 € (315 US\$) in legal fees to Oulanga Na Nyamba. The 4<sup>th</sup> will go to prison after passing his *baccalauréat*, a French national academic qualification. Oulanga Na Nyamba is pleased with this 10<sup>th</sup> arrest since the signature in December 2020 of the "Marine Turtle Pact" between the Prefect of Mayotte, the Departmental Council, the Community of Communes of Petite Terre, the Community of Communes of the South, The Naturalistes de Mayotte and Oulanga Na Nyamba. However, there is still a long way to go before the turtles can peacefully come and lay their eggs on the island.

Le Journal de Mayotte, May 31, 2022; Mayotte la 1ère, May 31, 2022; Oulanga Na Nyamba, May 31, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

## **LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

### **BAHAMAS**

**June 14, 2022**

**West End, District of West Grand Bahama, Bahamas**

An investigation was opened by the Fisheries Department for illegal loggerhead turtle harvesting. It was filmed by a couple of American tourists, still in the water but firmly tied by a rope around its neck at the back of a beachfront business. Untraceable by agents, its sad final fate seems to be certain. The Nassau Guardian, June 21, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

### **MEXICO**

**Beginning of May 2022**

**Agua Dulce, State of Veracruz, Mexico**

Local fishermen alerted the authorities to the presence of turtle egg raiders at dawn on the beaches. Some of them would have been identified. A "security strategy" would be in progress of apprehending them. It seems difficult to be laid down.

Imagen del Golfo, May 1, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

## **TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

**April 13, 2022**

**Las Cuevas, San Juan-Laventille  
Region, Trinidad and Tobago**



Discovery of a decapitated green turtle. Complaints are growing about the invasion of the area by partygoers who trash the beach and the nearby forest with all-terrain vehicles and show off on TikTok, which has the merit of being useful for investigations. Trinidad and Tobago Guardian, April 14, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

## **EASTERN ASIA**

### **CHINA**

**June 2022**

**Jinan, Shandong Province, China**

In the letter from abroad, customs officials find a hair clip made of hawksbill turtle shell: 4.26 grams. Chinese Customs, June 24, 2022.<sup>8</sup>

## **SOUTHEASTERN ASIA**

### **INDONESIA**

**April 25, 2022**

**Wosu, Morowali Regency, Central  
Sulawesi Province, Sulawesi Island,  
Indonesia**



A.K. was selling sea turtle eggs on Facebook. He was spotted. The services of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries hope that the eggs seized and returned to their home will come to term.

Seputarcibubur.com, May 6, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

### **MALAYSIA**

**June 1, 2022**

**State of Terengganu, Malaysia**

The State Legislative Assembly's ban on the sale of sea turtle eggs came into effect in November 2021. This amendment to the Turtle Enactment of 1951 simultaneously increases fines for offences ranging from disturbance to poaching. Offenders face fines of 50,000 ringgits (12,000 US\$) to 250,000 ringgits (60,000 US\$), up from 3,000 ringgits (715 US\$) previously.

New Straits Times (with Bernama), April 2, 2022; Terengganu State Government, June 19, 2022.<sup>10</sup>

**June 4, 2022**

**Lawas, State of Sarawak, Malaysia. Border with Indonesia and Brunei.**

11,700 sea turtle eggs in 17 polystyrene boxes were seized from a car. Authorities believe they were destined for export and estimate the value of the contraband at 109,250 ringgits (25,000 US\$ or 2.14 US\$ per egg). Two men were taken to the station and their vehicle was also seized.

New Straits Times (with Bernama), June 6, 2022.<sup>11</sup>



**EUROPE**

**GREECE**

**April 28, 2022**

**Elos, Region of Peloponnese, Greece**

After reaching the ocean as tiny baby turtles, barely-hatched in the warm sand, these male sea turtles never return to land. This one painfully pulled itself up the beach, its skull was fractured by a hammer or a machete. Efforts of the rescuers were in vain. The impressive 90-cm-long male loggerhead turtle died during its night transfer to the rescue center of the Archelon Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece.

Zoos.gr, April 30, 2022.<sup>12</sup>

**June 5, 2022**

**Kottes, Region of Thessaly, Greece**

Discovery of the corpse of a sea turtle with a noose around its neck and with head injuries. The fishermen are incriminated. "Don't complain that there are too many jellyfish" says the Hellenic Observatory of Biodiversity.

Zoos.gr, June 7, 2022.<sup>13</sup>

**OCEANIA**

**AUSTRALIA**

**Beginning of June 2022**

**Scott Reef and Browse Island, State of Western Australia, Australia**

The waters of the 2 isolated islands between Australia and Indonesia are more and more frequented by Indonesian fishermen-poachers. Sea cucumbers are their target. Their secondary victims are green turtles. Eight green turtle carcasses were discovered on the beaches with a cut under a flipper to extract the eggs. The meat, which is not halal for Muslims, was not chopped up. The number of Indonesian pirate ships detected in Australian waters has jumped. 337 interceptions were carried out in 12 months. The economic crisis

due to Covid-19 and Cyclone Seroja in April 2021 is believed to be at the root of the problem, along with the insatiable demand of the Chinese market for sea cucumbers.

Covid-19 has also changed anti-poaching practices. Fishermen are no longer repatriated to the Australian mainland to face trial. The proceeds of illegal fishing and fishing gear are seized and the boats are escorted out of Australian waters. In one year, 44 illegal fishing boats were also burned at sea. Their crews were put in excessive numbers in the boats that were turned back from Australian waters.

ABC News, June 19, 2022.<sup>14</sup>



**FRANCE (FRENCH POLYNESIA AND NEW CALEDONIA)**

**April 21, 2022**

**Papeete, Island of Tahiti, Overseas Collectivity of French Polynesia, France**

*la ora na e manava !* May you live forever, be welcome! These few words are addressed to tourists, not to turtles. From a distance, Nukutavake, one of the 118 islands that constitute French Polynesia, is a paradise to fishermen and producers of copra from the great coconut grove. To hear them in court, it is hell. Nine inhabitants, including the current mayor of the atoll, appeared for having captured 3 green turtles in October 2018. Alerted by a resident, the gendarmes had intervened in time to save one and return it to the water. "They are on a small island that is poorly serviced, where when you want to have meat, you have to go to the store. The island is not always supplied, and the meat costs three to four times the price in Tahiti," pleaded one of their lawyers. The judge was lenient and sentenced them to a 2-month suspended prison term and to pay jointly 1 million Pacific francs (9,300 US\$). The boat and the fishing and butchery equipment used to commit the offence were not seized.

Tahiti Nui Television, April 21, 2022.<sup>15</sup>



**June 10 and August 3, 2022**

**Saint Mary's Bay and Ilot Maître, South Province, Overseas Collectivity of New Caledonia, France**

Each year, the province's nature guards rescue about 50 injured turtles on the beaches, 20% of which are clearly victims of poaching attempts. A 51 kg sub-adult loggerhead turtle in care for 2 months at the Noumea aquarium has been released.

Les Nouvelles Calédoniennes, August 3, 2022.<sup>16</sup>



South Australian fur seal (*Arctocephalus forsteri*). Photo Bernard Spragg. NZ

## THE CARIBBEAN – ASIA

### CURACAO – SAUDI ARABIA

**June 9-August 30, 2022**

**Willemstad, Curaçao - Jeddah, Mecca Province, Saudi Arabia**

The Curaçao Aquarium is home to the "Dolphin Academy". Under this pompous name hides a vast business. For 194 US\$, you can swim with dolphins and fondle them in an artificial lagoon encroaching on the sea. The Covid-19 crisis has caused the aquarium's income to plummet, like that of many others. To replenish its finances, it sold 5 bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*, Appendix II), 3 females and 2 males aged between 5 and 10 years old, to the Fakieh aquarium in Saudi Arabia, for 280,000 US\$ each, according to Animal Rights, i.e. a total of 1.4 million US\$.

The Curaçao Aquarium refuses to be called a commercial water amusement park that only has an eye for making big profits. It is therefore with a heavy heart, tears in their eyes and strictly constrained by the overpopulation of their pools that the directors of the Curaçao aquarium said goodbye to these 5 dolphins. The director and a caretaker held their flippers in the DFS plane that stopped over in Cairo (Egypt). Of course, the conditions of transport, welfare and care of the animals in their new prison were seriously checked and rechecked by uncompromising professionals.

At the end of August, one of the transferred females died. In a sign of great distress and severe behavioral disturbance due to her captive conditions, she slammed into one of the concrete walls of the Fakieh Aquarium at high speed and succumbed to internal bleeding. "It's sad, but things like that happen to animals," said a spokesperson for the Curaçao Aquarium. With 1.4 million US\$, you can buy a lot of things but not skills.

Curaçao Chronicle, June 3 and 7, 2022; Curacao.nu, August 30, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

## EASTERN ASIA

### JAPAN

**June 13, 2022**

**Japan**

The new whaling season has begun in Japan, the third since the country turned its back on the international community and legality by slamming the door on the International Whaling Commission in 2019. The quota that Japan has self-allocated for this new season is 187 Bryde's whales (*Balaenoptera edeni*, Appendix I with Japan's reservation), 167 minke whales (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*, Appendix I with reservation from Japan) and 25 Sei whales (*Balaenoptera borealis*, Appendix I, with reservation from Japan) to be hunted in Japan's territorial waters and Exclusive Economic Zone. =>



## SOUTHEASTERN ASIA

### THAILAND

**End of April 2022**

**Palian District, Trang Province, Thailand**

She was selling on Facebook 3 dugong teeth (*Dugong dugon*, Appendix II). She was taken to the station. The investigation will have to determine the origin of the contraband. "On the Trail" reported dugong poaching in Indonesia,



sia, India, Sri Lanka, Mayotte and New Caledonia, a smuggling of teeth in Indonesia and another of bones in the United States of America which is not a country of the distribution area. This seizure confirms that the Thai market is on.

Dugong see "On the Trail" n°3 p.5, n°8 p.7, n°9 p.5, n°11 p.93, n°12 p.12, n°13 p.106 and 110, n°17 p.15, n°26 p.18, n°33 p.283 and 287.

Mgronline.com, April 27, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

**June 22, 2022**

**Ko Chang Island, Trat Province, Thailand**

Prachin Phuekphisut, a fisherman, found on the beach a 3.5-kg block of sperm whale ambergris (*Physeter macrocephalus*, Appendix I). Its authenticity would have been checked by "experts" and its value estimated at 131,000 US\$ (37,430 US\$/kg). Prachin had better beware of flatterers and thieves.

South China Morning Post, June 30, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

## SOUTHERN ASIA

### INDIA

**FAMILY AFFAIRS**

**April 8, 2022**

**Thondi, Ramanathapuram District, State of Tamil Nadu, India**

Arrest of V. Rakappan for poaching a female dugong (*Dugong dugon*, Appendix I) weighing more than 400 kg with a net. He acted with his brother V. Palani, who is currently on the run. They had then put up 300 kg of meat for sale at their stall, at a price ranging from 600 to 800 rupees per kilo (7.90 to 10.54 US\$/kg).

The Times of India, April 8, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

**May 18, 2022**

**Ratnagiri, Ratnagiri District, State of Maharashtra, India**

The 2 traffickers were denounced. The police seized from them several pieces of sperm whale ambergris (*Physeter macrocephalus*, Appendix I) valued at 6 million rupees (78,278 US\$) on the international market. The weight of the contraband is not specified. On the basis of approximately 134,000 US\$/kg frequently quoted in India, it would be 580 grams. United News of India, May 18, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

The whaling industry is having a hard time convincing consumers to buy its steaks. In addition to sell off its stocks to dog and cat food producers, it is reduced to offer its products in vending machines (unveiled in January 2023) with a lot of gimmicks and smiling whale plushies (not steaks). In a desperate and hopeless move, Kyodo Senpaku Co. is determined to build a new factory ship to replace the old *Nisshin Maru* (see "On the Trail" n°4 p.12 and 14, n°9 p.6, n°11 p.10, n°17 p.15, n°20 p.19, n°21 p.15, n°22 p.15, n°23 p.20 and n°32 p.301). "The future of the industry depends on the construction of a new mother ship," said its president posing in front of a model of the future ship.



"Once completed, we can continue whaling at least for the next 30 years," he said. "We want to make it the foundation for the revival of the whaling industry." Construction of the 112.6-metre vessel is scheduled to begin in June 2023 and be completed in March 2024. Its estimated cost is 6 billion yen (US\$47 million). The catchers that harpoon the whales and tow them to the mother ship are also aging. "The industry cannot be maintained without government support," a senior Fisheries Agency official said. However, the government has asked Kyodo Senpaku to be "financially independent," (see n°32 p.301). The upholding of whaling promoted by nostalgic nationalists would be costly for the whales and for Japanese taxpayers.

Animal Welfare Institute, May 27, 2022; Asia News Network, July 1, 2022; France 24, February 3, 2023.<sup>2</sup>

## DENMARK

**May 7, May 24, June 29, July 29, and October 12, 2022**

**Tórshavn and Skálafjørður, Faroe Islands, Denmark**

Assessment of the first "grind" or "grindadráp" of the year: 484 long-finned pilot whales (*Globicephala melas*, Appendix II) and 100 bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*, Appendix II) killed, bloody bays, slow and painful deaths, discarded carcasses barely cut up, fetuses in dumpsters, children playing eyeball crushers and being stubbornly given to eat mercury and PCB contaminated meat. "The Faroe Islands are fully committed to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) 14 – to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development." Despite the "grind" scandal of September 12, 2021 (1,428 animals killed in one night and corpses buried or incinerated due to lack of space in freezers, see "On the Trail" n°33 p.286), the Faroese government is not backing down. It emphasizes the low carbon footprint of dolphin meat and in July allocated a quota of 500 Atlantic white-sided dolphins (*Lagenorhynchus acutus*, Appendix II with reservation from Iceland) for 2022 and 2023.

Samuel Rostøl (Sea Shepherd), May 7 and July 3, 2022; Whale and Dolphin Conservation, May 9, July 29 and October 12, 2022; Dolphin Project, May 25, 2022; Sea Shepherd, May 25, 2022; The Government of the Faroe Islands, July 10, 2022.<sup>11</sup>

## ICELAND

**June 22, 2022**

**Reykjavik, Capital Region, Iceland**

The whalers of the company Hvalur hf. had been laid-up since 2018. They resumed service with 217 minke whales (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*, Appendix I with reservations from Iceland, Japan, Norway and Palau) and 161 fin whales (*Balaenoptera physalus*, Appendix I with reservations from Iceland, Japan and Norway) in their sights. As early as June 23, one whale was killed. By July 4, 18 victims had been reported. The whaling season will last until September. The Minister of Fisheries, Svandís Svavarsdóttir, has indicated that she is considering not allocating new quotas after 2023. The discrepancy between whale watching tourism dividends and whale meat is becoming increasingly untenable. Hvalur hf, see "On the Trail" n°29 p.181, n°30 p.199 and n°33 p.286.

The Reykjavík Grapevine, June 22, 2022; Iceland Review, June 23, 2022; Visir, July 4, 2022.<sup>12</sup>

**May 20, 2022**

**Anand, Anand District, State of Gujarat, India**

Girish Gandhi, Vikram Patadiya, Meet Gandhi, Meet Vyas, Dhruvil Patel and Zahoor Mansuri were looking to sell 2 pieces of sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*, Appendix I) ambergris with a total weight of 736 g and an estimated value of 7.3 million rupees (95,238 US\$ or 129,340 US\$/kg). They were reportedly purchased in Bengaluru, Karnataka, 1,400 km away. Special Operation Group inspectors seized the ambergris, 4 phones and the smugglers' car.

The Live Ahmedabad, May 21, 2022; The Times of India, May 21, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

**June 17 and 20, 2022**

**Nagpur, Nagpur District, State of Maharashtra, India**

This is a first in this city. Arun Gujar, Pawan Gajghate, Rahul Dupare and Praful Madane were arrested in possession of pieces of sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*, Appendix I) ambergris worth an estimated 4 million rupees (51,580 US\$). They denounced the alleged supplier, Vijay Krishnarao Ghare. All five men have been charged. The investigation will have to determine if they are regular traffickers and the source of the ambergris. "The accused have been frequently changing their statements and had also said that they procured the ambergris from persons in Tamil Nadu and Kerala. We are verifying the call detail records (CDRs) of the accused," said the deputy conservator of forest.

The Live Nagpur, June 18, 2022; The Times of India, June 20 and 22, 2022.<sup>8</sup>

**Night of June 23 to June 24, 2022**

**Madurai, Madurai District, State of Tamil Nadu, India**

Seizure of 11 kg of sperm whale ambergris (*Physeter macrocephalus*, Appendix I) with an estimated value of 100 million rupees (1,289,487 US\$ or 117,226 US\$/kg) in a jewelry shop. Arrest of R. Rajaram and P. Sundarapandi, owners of 2 jewelry shops in Madurai and A. Kavi, driver.

The Hindu, June 24, 2022; The Print, June 25, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

## CENTRAL ASIA AND EASTERN EUROPE

**April 2022**

**Caspian Sea, Russia and Kazakhstan**

During joint operations by Russian and Kazakh border guards, 43 Caspian seals (*Pusa caspica*) were rescued from nets deliberately set by poachers and 109 suspects were arrested. Already at the beginning of the month, officers from the Mangystau Region (Kazakhstan), followed in the field by Khabar 24 journalists, were sounding the alarm: "Compared to last year, there are many more seals trapped."

Khabar 24, April 18, 2022; Kazinform, April 30, 2022; Tengrinews, April 30, 2022.<sup>10</sup>

## FRANCE

**May 30-July 11, 2022**

**Department of Seine-Maritime, France**

An orca (*Orcinus orca*, Appendix II) came to die in the fresh and polluted waters of the Seine about fifty kilometres from the sea. Here is the press release published on July 11, 2022 by Robin des Bois.

**Orcas on the brink of collapse**

The press release published on July 6 under the authority of the Seine-Maritime Prefect has at least 2 surprises in store:

- The orca first spotted and photographed in the Seine Bay on April 5<sup>th</sup> by the crew of the fishing boat *Atlas* later died on May 30<sup>th</sup> opposite Caudebec-en-Caux in a loop of the Seine. She was not a male as claimed by experts.

- Ammunition was discovered on June 3<sup>rd</sup> by the osteology specialist of the Museum of Natural History in Paris, in some shreds of flesh at the base of the female orca's skull. This major discovery, subsequent to the post-mortem examination which in situ on the banks of the Seine had brought together some fifteen specialists under a tent, was kept secret for more than a month. The caliber of the bullet has not been communicated. It cannot be excluded that the carcass of the female orca contained other ammunition. Apart from a few samples to measure chemical contaminants, the carcass was quickly sent to a knacker. It was transformed into animal meal. Only the skeleton remains of the orca.



Off the coast of Texas, Mississippi, Florida and the Gulf of Mexico, more and more dolphins are being shot and killed, 17 between 2002 and 2014. The rate has been accelerating for the past 4 years. The NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) is now offering a reward of 20,000 US\$ to whoever can find the person or persons responsible for these acts of cruelty against animals protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act and by international conventions. The killing is spreading in California and in the Caribbean.

It appears therefore necessary to immediately pass the corpses of dolphins and whales stranded on the coast and in estuaries through a metal detector when the cause of death is not immediately identified. In Africa, this operation is performed as soon as possible on the bodies of poached rhinos. It helps to clarify the circumstances of the death and to extract from the flesh or the organs evidence useful for the investigations.

In France, the Rural and Maritime Fishing Code punishes with a 22,500 € fine "the fact of having on board or using for fishing firearms, soporific or toxic substances likely to destroy animals, plants and their environment". Regarding firearms, it is not certain that this ban is in force in the other countries of the European Union bordering the North-East Atlantic, in the Faroe Islands, Norway and Russia.

It was only in February 2021 that Scotland banned salmon farm operators from shooting on sight seals attracted by the concentration of a favorite prey and the opportunity to seize the escapees or somehow the captives. It is likely that the aquaculture industry used the same deterrence techniques for orcas as they did for seals. Orcas feed on fish (and seals).

In the North Sea, orcas closely follow the movements of the purse seiners and giant trawlers targeting mackerel and no information is available on how to scare away hungry orcas. The orca that was lost and alone in the Seine Bay probably came from the North Sea.

The CNRS study published in the Journal of Cetacean Research and Management in 2010 reports that to get rid of orcas that prey on toothfish caught on longline hooks, crews of pirate boats attack them with explosives in the southern Indian Ocean in sub-Antarctic waters.

Guns and dynamite are far from being the only enemies of orcas. They have unbeatable and constantly reinforced legions against them. Chlorinated, brominated and perfluorinated agents invented by chemistry to ensure the well-being, safety and prosperity of mankind on land rub off into the sea and concentrate in the milk, liver and muscles of orcas. At the top of the marine food chain, orcas are the primary beneficiaries of humanity's toxic legacy. The livers of 4 orcas stranded in Ireland between 2010 and 2017 contained 17 mg/kg of persistent, disruptive chemical residues and the fetus of one of the females was already contaminated.

Orcas live and hunt in packs like wolves. The social structure is stable. Each group is dominated by females and can include 4 generations if the foremothers reach their maximum life expectancy (90 to 100 years), an achievement that is increasingly unlikely given the amount of external and internal aggression they are subjected to along with all their fellow creatures. In the world's oceans, orcas are estimated to number no more than 50,000.

Even after death, stranded orcas are not at peace. Scavengers prowl the beaches and take their teeth and even their jaws. They are found some time later on sale on the Internet or in curiosity shops.

Robin des Bois has been an observer at the International Whaling Commission since 1986. The next plenary meeting should take place in Slovenia in October 2022.

Seine Maritime Prefect, July 6, 2022; Robin des Bois, July 11, 2022.<sup>13</sup>



June 6, 2022

**Saint-Hilaire-de-Riez, Department of Vendée, France**

There are still dolphin-eaters on fishing boats working in the Bay of Biscay. The sharp blade incisions on the remains of what was probably a common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*, Appendix II) are extremely telling.

Ouest-France, June 6, 2022.<sup>14</sup>

**SOUTHERN EUROPE**

**GREECE**

April 10, 2022

**Agriovotano, Region of Central Greece, Greece**

The 2.6 m long adult Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*, Appendix I) was killed by a dozen rifle shots. It is no secret that fishermen hate their "competitors". In France, the carrying of firearms is prohibited on board fishing vessels. The researchers of the Hellenic Society for the Study and Protection of the Monk Seal (MOM) who performed the autopsy have filed a complaint.

Zoosos.gr, April 12, 2022.<sup>15</sup>

**EASTERN EUROPE**

**BULGARIA**

Beginning of April 2022

**Burgas, Burgas Province, Bulgaria**

After the Atlantic, the Black Sea. The carcasses of 2 harbour porpoises (*Phocoenaphocoena*, Appendix II), one male and one female, with sharp blade incisions on the back, with flesh, muscles and ribs removed, were discovered near an elementary school. They were 92 and 91 cm long. The male had been injured at his pectoral fins by a fishing net. The police and agents of the Regional Directorate of Food Safety came to the scene. The oblast prosecutor has been notified.

iNews, April 7, 2022; BurgasNews, April 7, 2022; e-burgas, April 8, 2022.<sup>16</sup>



**OCEANIA**

**AUSTRALIA**

April-June 2022

**State of Tasmania, Australia**

The Tasmanian Inquirer has activated the citizen's right to information and has obtained data from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment on the use of explosive devices to deter fur seals (*Arctocephalus* spp., Appendix II) from salmon farms. The use of explosives is authorized with a permit "to deter fur seals from presenting an unacceptable risk to marine farm staff or interfering with marine farming infrastructure or operations." The explosives used are "seal crackers" that produce a flash of light and an intense noise when detonated, and lead shot cartridges called "bean bags" (plastic bullets surrounded by lead shot). 134,000 explosive devices have been deployed since 2016 on Tasmanian salmon farms controlled by 3 major groups.

Huon Aquaculture recently increased its firepower and used 10,600 "seal crackers" between January and June 2021. It reported the death of 20 sea lions during the same period. As of November 2021, Huon Aquaculture is owned by JBS, a Brazilian multinational agribusiness company.

Tassal has reduced its use of firecrackers but increased its use of lead shot cartridges. It is the only company to use these cartridges. Tassal has reported the death of 5 sea lions in the first 6 months of 2021. Tassal has been owned by Canadian Cooke Seafood since November 2022.

Petuna, an outsider in the market, has reduced its use of firecrackers and has reported no mortalities. Petuna is 50% owned by the Rockliff family and 50% by the New Zealand-based Sealord Group.

Shooting seals on sight on salmon farms in Scotland, see "On the Trail" n°32 p.304.

Tasmanian Inquirer, August 22, 2022.<sup>17</sup>



**NEW ZEALAND**

June 29-30, 2022

**Karioitahi Beach, Auckland Region, New Zealand**

Rangers are actively searching for the person who decapitated a striped dolphin (*Stenella coeruleoalba*, Appendix II) washed up on the beach, a "disrespectful way for commercial or personal gain," according to DOC Biodiversity Ranger, Olivia Keane. Separating any part of the carcass of a marine mammal is an offence punishable by up to two years imprisonment or a fine of up to 250,000 Australian dollars (180,000 US\$).

Department of Conservation, July 1, 2022.<sup>18</sup>

### **Sources of the map "2,044 birds seized in Brazil between April 1 and July 31, 2022" (p.128)**

Federal District: Portal R7, April 3, 2022 ; Mais Brasília, June 22, 2022 ; Boletim DF, June 26, 2022.  
State of Bahia: Folha de Pernambuco, May 2, 2022 ; G1 Bahia, May 11, 2022.  
State of Ceará: Civil Police of the State of Ceará, April 25, 2022.  
State of Minas Gerais: Government of the State of Minas Gerais, April 5, 2022 ; Estado de Minas, April 6, 2022 ; Regionalzão, April 13, 2022 ; Diário do Aço, May 27, 2022.  
State of Rio de Janeiro: ErreJota Notícias, April 12 and June 19, 2022 ; G1, May 23, 2022 ; Agência Brasil, June 22, 2022 ; iG (with O Globo), June 23, 2022.  
State of Rio Grande do Norte: G1 RN, April 4, 2022.  
State of Rio Grande do Sul: Rádio Taquara, April 25, 2022 ; Portal OCorreio, June 7, 2022.  
State of Santa Catarina: D Mais, April 21, 2022 ; SCC10, May 12, 2022 ; Rádio Araguaia, June 5, 2022 ; Santa Catarina Military Police, June 7 2022.  
State of São Paulo: Sampi, April 8, 2022 ; G1 Santos, April 11, 2022 ; G1 Piracicaba e Região, April 17, 2022 ; G1 Santos, April 25, 2022 ; Band, April 29, 2022 ; G1 Ribeirão Preto e Franca, May 11, 2022 ; G1 Piracicaba e Região, June 13, 2022 ; G1 Presidente Prudente, June 14, 2022 ; G1 Rio Preto e Araçatuba, June 15, 2022 ; G1 Piracicaba e Região, June 16, 2022 ; Band, June 30, 2022.  
State of Tocantins: Conexão Tocantins, June 3, 2022

### **Sources of the map " 2,639 sturgeons and 6,773.85 kg of sturgeons seized or poached and 979.7 kg of caviar seized in Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan and in Russia between April 1 and June 30, 2022" (p.226)**

- Kazakhstan: Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, April 14 and May 16, 2022 ; Khabar 24, April 18 and May 13, 2022; Tumba.kz, May 18, 2022; Kazinform, May 28 mai and September 15, 2022; Lada, May 28 and 30 and June 9, 2022; inAktau, May 30, 2022; Central Communications Service, June 17, 2022; Fisheries Committee of the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan, June 27, 2022; Kazakhstan Today, June 28, 2022.  
- Azerbaijan: Report News Agency, May 17, 2022.  
- Belarus: Blizko.by, June 9, 2022.  
- Russia: Altai Krai : Amitel, June 6, 2022.  
Astrakhan Oblast : Astrakhan FM, April 11 and 20 and June 2, 2022; Astrakhan.Ru, April 20 and 29 and May 11 and 31 and June 2, 2022; Komsomolskaïa Pravda, April 26 and 27, 2022; Punkt-A, April 26 and 27, 2022; Astrakhanpost, May 8, 2022; Regnum, May 8, 2022; Ast-news.ru, May 11, 2022; Moskovski Komsomolets Astrakhan, June 2, 2022.  
Republic of Dagestan : TASS Russian News Agency, May 11, 2022.  
Republic of Kalmykia : RIA Kalmykia, May 27, 2022; Moskovski Komsomolets Kalmykia , June 9, 2022.  
Khabarovsk Krai : Komsomolskaïa Pravda, May 23 and June 8 and 22, 2022; Ministry of Internal Affairs, May 23, 2022; Interfax Russia, June 22 and 27, 2022; Khabarovsk Territory Today, June 22 and 27, 2022; DV Novosti, June 27, 2022; Fishnews, June 27, 2022.  
Khanty-Mansi Autonomous District : NV86.ru, May 26, 2022; SurgutInformTV, May 26, 2022; Komsomolskaïa Pravda, May 27, 2022; Nyagan.life, May 27, 2022; Muksun.fm, May 28, 2022.  
Krasnodar Krai : Mail.ru, April 21, 2022; New Kuban, May 5, 2022; Yug Times, May 19, 2022; Kuban 24, June 17 and 24, 2022; KubNews, June 17, 2022.  
Novosibirsk Oblast : Sibkray.ru, June 16, 2022; Bulletin of the Legislative Assembly of Novosibirsk Oblast, June 28, 2022; Komsomolskaïa Pravda, June 28, 2022; New Siberia, June 28, 2022.  
Omsk Oblast : BK55, June 7, 2022; Omsk-Inform, June 7, 2022.  
Primorsky Krai : News VL, April 13, 2022; UssurMedia, April 16, 2022.  
Sakhalin Oblast : ASTV.RU, April 26 and 29, 2022; Moskovski Komsomolets Sakhalin, April 26, 2022; Citysakh.Ru, April 29, 2022.  
Samara Oblast : Ministry of Internal Affairs, May 30, 2022.  
Tyumen Oblast : Megatyumen, June 27, 2022; Moskovski Komsomolets Tyumen, June 27, 2022; FederalPress, July 5, 2022.  
Tomsk Oblast : Regnum, April 26, 2022; Fishnews, May 13, 2022.  
Volgograd Oblast : Infokam.su, June 26, 2022.  
- Caspian Sea: Kazinform, April 30, 2022; Tengrinews, April 30, 2022; Report News Agency, May 27, 2022.

