

# ON<sub>the</sub> TRAIL

The defaunation bulletin  
n°37. Events from the 1<sup>st</sup> July to the 30<sup>th</sup> September, 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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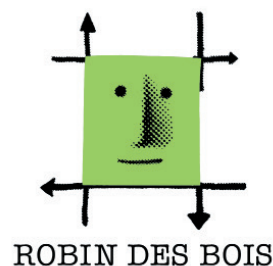
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# NOTE AND ADVICE TO READERS

"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 / rhinos
- Elephants + felines
- Elephants + rhinos
- 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@robindesbois.org](mailto:contact@robindesbois.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

**July 26, 2022**  
**Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa**

Anton Mzimba, age 42, a 25-year veteran of the Timbavati Game Reserve, 533.5 km<sup>2</sup> next to Kruger Park, had already received death threats since being named Ranger of the Year. He

Mpumalanga



served rhinos, elephants, lions, leopards, cheetahs, and other wildlife. He was impervious to corruption. On Tuesday July 26, 2022, 3 men shot him to death in his home in front of his family and fled without stealing anything or saying anything.

Timbavati Reserve, see "On the Trail" n°1 p. 23, n°2 p. 44, n°8 p. 60, n°10 p. 48, n°17 p. 95, n°18 p. 80, n°21 p. 61, n°29 p. 57 and n°30 p. 45.

News24, July 27 and 28, 2022; The New York Times, August 16, 2022; Anton Mzimba Education Trust, November 9, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

### ETHIOPIA

**July 27, 2022**  
**Mago National Park, Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region, Ethiopia**

Death of Aita Torsi. Rebels broke into his campsite in the early afternoon. They shot Aita. He died on the spot, unable to be rescued by doctors. He had been a park ranger for several years. Mago National Park covers an area of 2,162 km<sup>2</sup> and is crossed by 2 rivers, the Mago and the Neri, which are tributaries of



the Omo. It is home to hippopotamus, oryx, and leopards, along with a few elephants, lions, and giraffes, and almost 300 species of birds. Several tribes live in the park, such as the Mursi, whose women wear a terracotta disc on their lower lip.

Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority, July 29, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

**September 21, 2022**  
**Kasindi and Lubiliha, North Kivu Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo. Border with Uganda.**



According to a press release from ICCN (Institut congolais pour la conservation de la nature), a clash in the north of Virunga National Park between a patrol of ecoguards and "invaders" carrying machetes and other edged weapons resulted in the death of one assailant and the wounding of one ecoguard and one assailant. Actualité.cd, September 22, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

## ASIA

### IRAN

**July 7, 2022**  
**Deyr County, Bushehr Province, Iran**

Mohammad Reza Zarei and Asghar Esmaili, 2 rangers working in a protected area, were seriously injured by gazelle poachers. There are 3 species of gazelle in Iran: *Gazella bennettii* (Appendix III in Pakistan), *Gazella arabica*, and *Gazella gazella*. Instead of complying with regulatory summonses, the poachers responded with firearms. The 2 guards were transported overnight to Bandar Kangan hospital.

Khabaronline, July 8, 2022; Rahbord-e-Moaser, July 8, 2022.<sup>4</sup>



**August 13, 2022**

**Kermanshah, Kermanshah Province, Iran**



At dusk on August 4, 2020, a patrol of forest rangers attempted to intercept the car of suspected poachers leaving a protected area near Bisotun. One of the rangers, Boroumand Najafi, aimed at a tire to immobilize the vehicle, but missed and the bullet passed through the rear window, killing one of the occupants. His name was Youssef Falahi. Boroumand Najafi is on trial for murder.

On January 11, 2022, the Supreme Court confirmed the death sentence handed down to the ecoguard by the lower court. However, retrial was not off the table. Last-ditch financial and moral mediations were launched, in particular to obtain an official pardon from the victim's family, while Najafi's family, lawyers and environmental protection organisations tried to demonstrate to the courts and to public opinion that there had been no intention to kill, that the scene had indeed taken place inside the reserve, and that it was in no way a settling of scores, since Najafi and Falahi did not know each other.

In May 2022, the news arrived that a new examining magistrate would be appointed, and a new trial would take place.

On August 13, 2022, on the first day of the second trial, at 11:44 a.m., Najafi, the faithful defender of wildlife, while handcuffed, was killed by a burst of Kalashnikov fire. As the Asriran media put it in a sublime shortcut, "the bullet took the place of the rope." The gunman fled. He was Youssef Falahi's father.

Being a ranger in Iran, see "On the Trail" n°14 p. 107. Asriran, August 14, 2022.<sup>5</sup>



Boroumand Najafi

# 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*).

**On the Trail n°37**  
**Value on the black market according**  
**to media or official sources**  
**The values were estimated at the time of the seizures**

## Value of 1kg of pangolin scales

Continent	Country	US\$	Ref. (year)
Asia	Indonesia	2,880	34 (2022)

## Value of a pangolin

Continent	Country	US\$	Ref. (year)
Africa	Namibia	2,980	1* (2022)

\* see chapter Pangolins, elephants / felines / rhinoceroses

## WESTERN AFRICA

### COTE D'IVOIRE

**August 10 and 18, 2022**  
**Yopougon, Abidjan Autonomous District, Côte d'Ivoire**



Two people were arrested as they were getting out of a cab while unloading 3 bags containing a total of 122 kg of pangolin scales. The man was smuggling the scales from Liberia. The woman hid the scales in her shop while waiting to find customers. The duo had been doing this for several months. They have been brought to justice. The man is 34 years old, the woman is 35 years old. The operation is credited to the Forestry and Water Police (DPFE) and the Unit for the Fight against Transnational Crime (UCT).

The 2 individuals were sentenced to 6 months in prison with a suspended sentence and fined 150 US\$. Cross-border trafficking in scales between Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia is ongoing. See "On the Trail" n°36 p.9.

EAGLE, August 2022; EAGLE Côte d'Ivoire, August 2022; Koaci, August 16, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

## GHANA

**End of July 2022**

**Oti Region, and Amedzofe, Volta Region, Ghana**

The call of the forest. The white-bellied pangolin had been rescued from trafficking by a local representative of Alliance for Pangolin Conservation Ghana in the Oti Region and was then transferred to the Amedzofe Wildlife Sanctuary about 180 km away thanks to the dedication of 5 friends of the pangolins. The pangolin escaped into the forest a few hours after arriving, taking advantage of the night, before undergoing a health check.

Alliance for Pangolin Conservation - Ghana, July 29, 2022.<sup>2</sup>



Alliance for Pangolin Conservation - Ghana



## LIBERIA

**July 2022**

**Monrovia, Montserrado County, Liberia**



It's true that seeing them so protected from head to tail by their scaly armour, some may have the impression that pangolins are impervious to bad weather and brutality. The Tikki Hywood Foundation reminds the general public that pangolins are subject to pain and emotion. Their silence and loneliness do not make them all at once a tank, crocodile, and pine cone, cut off from the world and unnatural. The foundation confirms that their survival, after being stolen from the forest by human predators, is random and full of surprises, both good and bad.

- The tail of one male survivor was infected. He died a few days after the initial treatment and during the autopsy a rifle bullet was found in his lungs.

- A male white-bellied pangolin was taken by the police from children who were selling him on the roadside after capturing him in a trap. He responded well to treatment and after a few days the caregivers were pleased to see his tongue unfold to drink. But the next day, for unknown reasons, he died while 2 other pangolins, passive and seemingly stunned by their abduction, were released a few days later.

The Tikki Hywood Foundation works in Liberia in cooperation with the Libassa Sanctuary.

Tikki Hywood Foundation, July 22, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

## NIGERIA

**May 9 and September 16, 2022**

**Lagos, Lagos State, Nigeria**



Sentencing of a Vietnamese citizen to 3 months in prison for violating Section 64 of the Customs and Excise Management Act, 2004 and 3 months in prison for violating Section 5 of the Endangered Species Act, 2004. The 2 sentences are combined. Nguyen Huy had been caught with compatriots who fled in possession of 200 kg of pangolin scales on May 9, 2022 at the Chicken Republic, a restaurant at Marina Port in Lagos.

At the same time, in Ibadan and Ogbomoso in Oyo State, 130 and 230 km from Lagos, the "business" of endangered species continues as if nothing had happened. Men and women specializing in "Leku Leja", the Yoruba word for trafficking animals, plants, roots, and



barks, continue to sell raw ivory, pangolin scales, dried antelope, crocodile and snake meat, and lion, leopard, crocodile, and snake skins. If someone is interested in a live pangolin, they just have to ask for one and within minutes, thanks to the magic of cell phones, a pangolin is brought to them by a child and offered to them for 7,900 naira (a bit more than 18 US\$) with a shocking argument about the extinction of the pangolins. "You can only get one and I must say you are lucky. Sometimes you won't even get any in a week." To date, nothing has been able to disrupt the domestic market. Opportunists like Huy continue to be able to shop for wildlife and attempt to smuggle it onto the international market at their own peril.

Independent (Nigeria), September 217, 022; Premium Times, September 17, 2022; The Guardian (Nigeria), October 23, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

## CENTRAL AFRICA

### CAMEROON

**Mid-August to mid-October 2022**

**Mefou National Park, Centre Region, Cameroon**



The female white-bellied pangolin arrived in poor condition. She was rescued by a good samaritan. She was being sold on the street and was displayed upside down and hanging from a tree with a trap line around her tail. White-bellied pangolins are arboreal and their tails are much longer than those of southern African species and are used for gripping and swinging from branches. The newly arrived pangolin's scales were worn down, showing an advanced age. For 63 days, she was accompanied by a team member to feed on fresh ants. The wounds around her tail were then considered by the veterinarians to be sufficiently healed. She was able to be released and to move around the trees with agility.

Tikki Hywood Foundation Cameroon, September 2, October 1 and 12, 2022; Tikki Hywood Foundation, October 13, 2022.<sup>5</sup>





**End of August 2022**

**Mefou National Park, Centre Region, Cameroon**



After 51 days of care, the female white-bellied pangolin went back to taking over trees and ants. This was despite 3 claws being amputated due to a paw infection caused by a trap.

Tikki Hywood Foundation Cameroon, August 24 and 26, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

**September and December 2022**

**Mefou National Park, Centre Region, Cameroon**



Release of an adult male pangolin after 2 months of care. He had suffered an injured paw due to a steel trap. He was fed ants, termites, and their eggs during his recovery and when necessary, he quenched his thirst in a pan of fresh water.

Tikki Hywood Foundation Cameroon, September 13, October 4, 15 and December 3, 2022.<sup>7</sup>



## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

**Mid-August 2022**

**Kinshasa, Province of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo**

A dead giant pangolin was being sold in a market. Jonathan Sambya, August 18, 2022.<sup>8</sup>

**September 4, 2022**

**Port of Mbandaka, Equateur Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo**

Seizure of a pangolin in the hands of 2 traffickers. They intended to sell him in Zongo, next to the Central African Republic border.

Adams Cassinga, September 5, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

**End of September 2022**

**Sankuru Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo**

Rescue of a pangolin being held by a trafficker. After a visit to the veterinarian, he should be released.

Adams Cassinga, September 28, 2022.<sup>10</sup>

## EASTERN AFRICA

### KENYA

**End of August 2022**

**Vugurungani, Kwale County, and Nairobi, Nairobi County, Kenya**

Three men between the ages of 22 and 30 were arrested in an eventful encounter after they tried to escape from the DCI (Directorate of Criminal Investigations) team. They were heard by the investigators who want to know which network they belong to. The pangolin was handed over to the Nairobi Animal Orphanage.

Directorate of Criminal Investigations, August 23, 2022.<sup>11</sup>

### MALAWI

**July 1, 2022**

**Mangochi, Southern Region, Malawi**

"On the Trail" n°35 p.8 mentioned the arrest in March 2022 of Alex Jumbe in a Mangochi shopping center in possession of a live pangolin. In his defense, he claims to be an herbalist and to need pangolin scales to exercise his profession. He also said that he was the only one who could financially provide for his family and asked the court for an alternative sentence to prison.

In the first instance, the judge, in agreement with the prosecutor who demanded a dissuasive sentence due to the intensity of pangolin trafficking in Mangochi and the Southern region, sentenced Jumbe to 9 years in prison with hard labour.

Malawi 24, July 1, 2022.<sup>12</sup>

**July 16, 2022**

**Blantyre, Southern Region, Malawi**

Arrest of Wyson John and Charles Mayeso. Originally from Magombo in Blantyre District and Munyapa in the neighbouring Zomba District, the 2 men, ages 34 and 32, were attempting to sell a live pangolin.

The Maravi Post, July 17, 2022.<sup>13</sup>

**August 11, 2022**

**Mangochi, Southern Region, Malawi**

Arrest in a hotel of 5 men who, in their room, were holding and trying to sell 2 pangolins that they had acquired in Mozambique about 50 km from Mangochi. The Mozambique / Mangochi network is well documented. Three events are cited on this subject in "On the Trail" n°34 p. 11 and "On the Trail" n°35 p. 8.

The Maravi Post, August 13, 2022.<sup>14</sup>



**FAMILY AFFAIRS**  
**September 22, 2022**  
**Dedza, Central Region, Malawi. Border**  
**with Mozambique.**



A woman and her husband, both in their fifties, posing as herbalists, were each sentenced in the first instance to 7 years in prison for possession of a dead adult pangolin and 9 months in prison for illegally practicing medicine. They were also in possession of about 30 syringes, 19 bottles of penicillin, and many other medicines of unknown origin. The 2 sentences are combined. Police were tipped off by a phone call that Daudesiyo Gonya and Nalichete Ndeule were running an illegal dispensary in their home. Malawi Wathu Online, September 13 and 23, 2022; The Maravi Post, September 23, 2022.<sup>15</sup>

## UGANDA

### Beginning of July 2022

#### Uganda

Rescue and release of 2 pangolins.  
 Tikki Hywood Foundation, July 20, 2022.<sup>16</sup>

### July 2022

#### Kampala, Central Region, Uganda

Four people were arrested with 4.8 kg of scales. Two of them were released after posting bail for 4 million shillings (1,055 US\$). The other 2 pleaded guilty and were fined 20 million shillings (5,280 US\$) or 10 years in prison for non-payment. EAGLE Uganda, July 2022.<sup>17</sup>



## ZAMBIA

### September 8 and 28, 2022

#### Choma, Southern Province, Zambia

Olis Chikoko, John Kabali, and Innocent Sibalwa were caught in the act of transporting a live adult pangolin (15 kg) on Thursday, September 8. On Wednesday, September 28, they were sentenced to 5 years in prison with hard labour. Kalembe, September 28, 2022.<sup>18</sup>



## ZIMBABWE

### July 8, 2022

#### Rusape, Manicaland Province, Zimbabwe

Arrest of 2 "rotten" policemen and a third man. Kololo Kasiyama, Vhimba Marufu, and Remember Mavhudzi were trying to sell a pangolin in the parking lot of a gas station to 5 individuals who pretended to be traffickers and were in fact police officers on a mission. When they realized the trap, the 3 sellers fled, forcing the officers to fire warning shots. The pangolin was being sold for the equivalent of 5,000 US\$. He was in a bag under the seat of the 3 thugs' car. He was already dead. Fauna and Flora Zimbabwe, July 10, 2022; Zim Morning Post, July 13, 2022; The Manica Post, July 22, 2022.<sup>19</sup>

### July 9, 2022

#### Inyathi, North Matabeleland Province, Zimbabwe

Benjamin Ndlovu and Ndaniso Mpande were arrested. Ages 23 and 33, they were inside a shopping mall in possession of a live pangolin. Zim Morning Post, July 13, 2022.<sup>20</sup>

### September 13 and 15, 2022

#### Mutoko, Mashonaland East Province, Zimbabwe. Border with Mozambique

"Your desperation for money forced you to act unlawfully hence, committing a serious offence. The only way to curb abuse of natural animals is to keep people like you in jail for a mandatory nine years so that animals are kept safe while you spend time behind bars," said Judge Elijah Sibanda.

David Katsande and Phillip Chigubhu, aged 39 and 30, were sentenced on Thursday, September 15, to 9 years in prison. They had been arrested on Tuesday, September 13. The police, alerted by confidential information, had contacted the 2 traffickers and presented themselves as potential buyers before ambushing them. They were arrested with the pangolin in their hands. They wanted 8,000 US\$ for him. They later claimed that they had "acquired" the scaled mammal in Mozambique and were to deliver him to an undisclosed recipient in Mazowe, Mashonaland Central Province. NewsDay, September 17, 2022.<sup>21</sup>





## SOUTHERN AFRICA

### SOUTH AFRICA

**July 12, 2022**

**Upington, Northern Cape Province, South Africa**

Jerome Ignatius Joseph was fined 4,350 US\$ or, in default of payment, sentenced to 5 years in prison for illegally possessing a whole Temminck's ground pangolin armour. It was seized from the trunk of a vehicle during a search of his home and garage in October 2021. He also received a suspended sentence of 3 years in prison for transporting it. SAPS, July 12, 2022; Independent Online, July 14, 2022; Netwerk24, July 21, 2022.<sup>22</sup>



**July 15, 2022**

**Cosmo City, Gauteng Province, South Africa**

Seizure of 2 Temminck's ground pangolins in a house. Three arrests. One of the pangolins, in critical condition, has been finished off. The other one will be treated and if possible released in a reserve. African Pangolin Working Group, July 16, 2022; Roodepoort Record, July 17, 2022; Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary Hospital, August 4 and September 1, 2022.<sup>23</sup>

**End of August 2022**

**Pretoria and Johannesburg, Gauteng Province, South Africa**



The young Temminck's ground pangolin was roaming the streets of Pretoria. He had probably managed to escape from the hands of traffickers. Thanks to the intervention of a passerby, he was transferred to the Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary Hospital where he is being treated for his injuries and malnutrition.

Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary Hospital, August 24 and December 16, 2022.<sup>24</sup>

**Mid-September 2022**

**Tzaneen, Limpopo Province, South Africa**

Arrival at the Umoya Khulula Care Center of a pregnant female pangolin weighing 9.4 kg who was taken from the hands of 3 traffickers. The veterinarians are hoping to release her before she gives birth.

Umoya Khulula Wildlife Centre, September 17, 2022.<sup>25</sup>

**September 15, 2022**

**Bronkhorstspuit, Gauteng Province, South Africa**

Following a tip-off, the K9 unit intercepts a cab with 2 special passengers, Temminck's ground pangolins, a pregnant female and a juvenile male. The 4 men on board are arrested. The pangolins are handed over to the care of the veterinary clinic of Johannesburg. The female will be released in December.

Ridge Times, October 8, 2022; Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary Hospital, October 31, December 12 and 16, 2022.<sup>26</sup>

**September 27, 2022**

**Pretoria, Gauteng Province, South Africa**

Sentence of Shepherd Mubatasango, age 33, to 3 years in prison for transporting and attempting to sell a pangolin, and to 3 months for violating the Immigration Act. Upon his release from prison, he will be deported back to his home country of Zimbabwe.

SAPS, September 30, 2022.<sup>27</sup>



**September 27, 2022**

**Hazyview, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa**

Alert! The SAPS (South African Police Service) are informed that a white bakkie Bantam is circulating around the city and that its occupants are looking to sell a pangolin. The car was intercepted at the Sasol garage at the entrance of Hazyview, on the White River side. Hazyview and the surrounding area are better known for rhino horn trafficking than for pangolin trafficking. Traffickers faced with a shortage of horns and increased penalties are said to be turning to the black market for live pangolins and scales. The move does not necessarily pay off. Last year, 2 pangolin traffickers were sentenced to 10 years in prison in Gauteng province (see "On the Trail" n°33 p.12 and 13).

Lowvelder, September 28, 2022.<sup>28</sup>



**September 28, 2022**

**Rayton, Gauteng Province, South Africa**

On September 27, the Serious Organised Crime Investigation Unit Germiston received information about a man who was attempting to negotiate the sale of a live Temminck's ground pangolin. It obtained permission to go undercover and set a trap for the suspect. After gaining his trust, a meeting was arranged at a gas station. At 1:30 p.m., the man arrived. After making sure the pangolin was in his truck, the buyers revealed their identity. Forward Kaitano, believed to be from Zimbabwe, was arrested and transferred to the Cullinan Police Station. The pangolin was handed over to the veterinary clinic in Johannesburg.

SAPS, September 30, 2022; Ridge Times, October 8, 2022; Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary Hospital, November 9, 2022.<sup>29</sup>

## NAMIBIA

**July 10, 2022**

**Okahandja, Otjozondjupa Region, Namibia**

Arrest of 2 Angolan nationals in possession of 2 live pangolins.

Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism Namibia, July 10, 2022.<sup>30</sup>

**August 26, 2022**

**Hochfeld, Otjozondjupa Region, Namibia**

Arrest of a 34-year-old man, employed at the "Irene Farm," a private game reserve. He was found in possession of a pangolin armour that he hoped to sell. It is valued at 50,000 NA\$ (2,980 US\$).

Namibia News Digest, August 27, 2022.<sup>31</sup>

## SOUTHEASTERN ASIA

### CAMBODIA

**July 31, 2022**

**Krang Pol Tep, Kampong Spoe Province, Cambodia**

Arrest of Tum Pheak, age 38. He was carrying 5 pangolins with an average weight of 4 kg.

Khmer Times, August 1, 2022.<sup>32</sup>

### INDONESIA

**End of July and October 10, 2022**

**Palangka Raya, Central Kalimantan Province, Borneo Island, Indonesia**

Agus Hermanto was sentenced to 8 months in prison and fined 5 million rupiah (330 US\$) for possessing and attempting to sell nearly 800 grams of pangolin scales. If the fine is not paid, Agus will have to serve an additional 2 months in prison. The scales were about to be sold for 4 million rupiah (270 US\$ or 337.5 US\$/kg).

Borneo News, October 3 and 10, 2022.<sup>33</sup>



**Beginning of August 2022**

**North Tapanuli Regency, North Sumatra Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia**

Seizure of 38 kg of scales whose black market value is estimated by the police at 43 million rupiah per kilogram (2,880 US\$). The holder wanted to smuggle them to China.

FLIGHT - Protecting Indonesia's Birds, August 9, 2022; The Jakarta Post, August 10, 2022.<sup>34</sup>

**August 19 and November 29, 2022**

**Medan, North Sumatra Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia**

In late July 2022, police received information that an individual in North Tapanuli Regency was seeking to sell 50 kg of scales and, for the first time, 15 pangolin dried tongues or tongue sections. After gathering corroborating evidence, the police searched Henri Donal Siregar's home and seized 19 kg of scales and 8 dried pangolin tongues or tongue sections. A companion previously known as D. was also arrested.

Siregar was sentenced to a year and a half in prison and fined 20 million rupiah (1,285 US\$). He must also pay 5,000 rupiah (0.3 US\$) in legal fees.

Ministry of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia, August 22, 2022 ; Directory of Decisions - Supreme Court of the Republic of Indonesia, November 29, 2022.<sup>35</sup>



**September 28, 2022**

**Baru, Melawi Regency, West Kalimantan Province, Borneo Island, Indonesia**

October 5, 2022, press conference at police headquarters: "M.N., age 31, resident of Tanjung Gunung, was arrested at a guesthouse in Baru village on Wednesday, September 28 at around 2:00 p.m. He was in possession of 25.4 kg of wet pangolin scales, a basin, and a scale. M.N. wanted to sell the scales at a price of 1.8 million rupiah per kg (121.4 US\$/kg). The total value of the seizure is therefore estimated at 45.7 million rupiah (3,080 US\$). This is the largest fauna seizure recorded by the Melawi police. M.N. is still in custody and continues to be questioned by investigators. He is subject to Article 40 of the 1990 Law on Natural Resources. He faces 5 years in prison and a fine of 100 million rupiah."

KalbarOnline.com, October 5, 2022.<sup>36</sup>

### VIET NAM

**July 12, 2022**

**Hanoi Municipality, Viet Nam**

Sentencing to 7, 5, 4 and 2 years in prison for the 3 women and the man arrested in March 2021 for transporting and trafficking 984 kg of white-bellied pangolin scales (see "On the Trail" n°32 p. 16).

ENV, July 13, 2022.<sup>37</sup>



**August 13, 2022**  
**Bo Y Border Gate, Kon Tum Province, Viet Nam.**  
**Border with Laos.**



Arrest of Cao Trong Nghia and Hoang Van Nghiep. They were carrying 5 Sunda pangolins and 184 kg of Happy Boom Celebration Cake. They were allegedly paid 6 million dong (260 US\$) to smuggle the pangolins and pyrotechnic devices into Viet Nam from Laos.

Bao Bien phong, August 13, 2022; SVW, August 14, 2022; ENV, August 17, 2022.<sup>38</sup>

**August 16, 2022**  
**Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam**



A man had "inherited" under unknown circumstances a pangolin and was housing him in the dust and rubble of a basement. He finally called ENV (Education for Nature – Vietnam). The pangolin was picked up by city rescue workers and transferred to the Cu Chi shelter. ENV, August 18, 2022.<sup>39</sup>

**August 16, 2022**  
**Quang Tri Province, Viet Nam**

Arrested in January with 4 pangolins whose average weight was 4 kg (see "On the Trail" n°35 p. 9), Le Minh Quan was sentenced to 5 years in prison. ENV, August 19, 2022.<sup>40</sup>



**August 18, 2022**  
**Son Tay, Hanoi Municipality, Viet Nam**

Arrest of Hoang Viet Duc and Tran Xuan Khuoc, both in their thirties. Seizure of 2 Sunda pangolins. Bao Dân Viet, September 2, 2022.<sup>41</sup>

**September 1 and 7, 2022**  
**Phu Hoi, Lam Dong Province, Viet Nam**

On Thursday, September 1, an individual was stopped near Dai Ninh Bridge and in his bag, the police found 2 adult pangolins of the species *Manis javanica*. Truong Quang Bich was prosecuted for the illegal possession of a protected species and on Wednesday, September 7, the 2 pangolins were released into the undergrowth. They quickly escaped the eyes of their liberators. Báo Lâm Đồng, September 7, 2022.<sup>42</sup>

**End of September 2022**  
**Bac Binh District, Binh Thuan Province, Viet Nam**



Mr. Hieng bought 12 birds, 4 snakes, and a pangolin from a street vendor for 8 million dong (340 US\$) with the intention of releasing them all into a forest. The birds and snakes were successfully released, but the female pangolin was another story. She remained curled up and prostrated for several minutes showing no sign of wanting to escape. Fearing that she would be captured again to be eaten, Mr. Hieng took her back and entrusted her to the forestry services of Ho Chi Minh City. 17 wild animals were saved from certain and imminent death, but the department reminds us not to buy animals from street vendors, which in a way helps trafficking flourish. In theory, the correct procedure is to call the local police who are supposed to rush to the scene, arrest the seller, seize the animals, and release them after health checks. Tuoi Tre Online, October 4, 2022.<sup>43</sup>



## SOUTHERN ASIA

### INDIA

**July 7, 2022**

**Siliguri, Jalpaiguri District, State of West Bengal, India**



An 8 kg pangolin was in the car of the 2 traffickers who were heading to Nepal. The pangolin was reportedly captured 130 km away in Sikkim. The Voice of Sikkim, July 7, 2022; East Mojo, July 8, 2022; The Telegraph India, July 8, 2022.<sup>44</sup>

**July 9, 2022**

**Lanka, Nagaon District, State of Assam, India**

3.2 kg of scales found in the hands of Jaban, age 36, Jiyabur, age 38, and Billal, age 45, all 3 already involved in episodic trafficking of skins, meat, and horns.

The Sentinel, July 11, 2022.<sup>45</sup>

**August 18 and 19, 2022**

**Haldwani, Nainital District, Haridwar Roadway Station and Piran Kaliyar, Haridwar District, State of Uttarakhand, India**

Arrest of Ganpat Singh and Radhakrishna in Haldwani with 2.5 kg of scales. They directed the police to a man named Omprakash, who was arrested the next day at Haridwar station, 230 km away. The officers then went to Piran Kaliyar where they arrested the last 2 members of the group, Pawan and Satbir, with over 10 kg of scales. The 5 men were poaching pangolins in the forests of Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar districts. Their customers were interested in the supposed therapeutic properties of the scales.

Dainik Jagran, August 20, 2022; WCCB, August 20, 2022; Indian Masterminds, September 7, 2022.<sup>46</sup>

**September 26, 2022**

**Mayapur, Gaya District, State of Bihar, India**

There are still pangolins in the forests of Chatra District in Jharkhand. For the Birhors, they provide food and are seen as magic and medicinal resources. Two members of this tribe, which is threatened with extinction and dissolution in modern India, were caught carrying 1,700 grams of scales in Gaya District. A third Birhor escaped.



In ancient times, the semi-nomadic Birhors used to set up leaf huts near fairs and markets and sell rope and other forest products. They are confined to Jharkhand and maintain some positions in northern Odisha where they are stigmatized as "monkey eaters." Most of them have now become day labourers. They are taken over and exploited by sedentary and extensive agriculture. Only a few thousand of them still speak their original language. ETV Bharat, September 26, 2022; WCCB, September 26, 2022; Dainik Jagran, September 27, 2022.<sup>47</sup>

### NEPAL

**August 24, 2022**

**Banepa, Kavrepalanchok District, Bagmati Province, Nepal**

Nine kg of scales in the hands of Gobind Century, Biman Syangtan and Suraj Zedimar. They were in a café haggling over the price of the lot. According to the classic scheme, the scales would come from Bihar in India and make their way to China. District Police Office Kavre, August 24, 2022.<sup>48</sup>



# PANGOLINS, ELEPHANTS / FELINES / RHINOS

## AFRICA

### NAMIBIA

**August 27, 2022**

**Ntara, Kavango West Region, Namibia. Border with Angola.**

In the border village, 2 Namibian citizens were in possession of 2 elephant tusks and a live pangolin whose value is estimated at 50,000 dollars (2,980 US\$).

New Era, August 29, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

## ASIA

### INDIA

**July 23, 2022**

**Dongargaon, District of Gondia, State of Maharashtra, India**

Five arrests. Seizure of a leopard (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) skin and 3.5 kg of pangolin scales.

IG News, July 25, 2022; The Times of India, July 25, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

**August 31, 2022**

**Namati and Kampur, Nagaon District, State of Assam, India**

Seizure of 2 leopard (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) skins and around 10 kilos of pangolin scales. Four arrests. The operation was carried out by the HOFF (Head of Forest Force) and the PCCF (Principal Chief Conservator of Forests).

Asian News International, September 1, 2022; DNA India, September 1, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

## MALAYSIA

**July 10, 2022**

**Port Kelang, State of Selangor, Malaysia**



The 3 containers came from Africa and were carrying timber. In the back of one of them, there were 6 tonnes of raw ivory, 29 kg of rhinoceros horns, 100 kg of pangolin scales, tiger teeth (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I), and 300 kg of bones and skulls, the origin of which experts are investigating. The total value is estimated at 18 million US\$: the ivory is worth about 1,820 US\$/kg, the rhinoceros horns 65,460 US\$/kg, and the tiger teeth 2,270 US\$/kg. South Africa is the only African country to own (farmed) tigers.

New Straits Times, July 18, 2022; Dawn (with AFP), July 19, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

# ELEPHANTS



Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*). Photo Nanditha Ram Satagopan

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°37**  
**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	Kenya	866	17 (2022)
	Zimbabwe	167	44 (2022)
Asia	Malaysia	1,820	4* (2022)

\* see chapter Pangolins, elephants / felines / rhinoceroses

## WESTERN AFRICA

### SENEGAL

**July 27 and August 11, 2022**

**Saly and Mbour, Thiès Region, Senegal**

- Daouda Dicko, a Malian citizen, was arrested in the Royal Burger restaurant in possession of 10 bracelets, 2 necklaces, a ring, and 7 ivory pendants. Saly is a seaside resort town south of Dakar. The items appear to have been made recently. The operation is credited to the Directorate of Water, Forests, Hunting and Soil Conservation and the Urban Police with the support of EAGLE Senegal.

- Sentencing of Daouda Dicko to 6 months in prison, suspended. The prosecutor had requested 3 months in prison.

EAGLE, July 2022; EAGLE Senegal, July and August 2022; SeneNews, July 29, 2022.<sup>1</sup>



### TOGO

**August 26, 27 and early November 2022**

**Sokodé, Central Region, Togo**

- Arrest by the BRI (Brigade de Recherches et d'Investigations) of Pakoubadi Kazimna, Faladéma Tassou, Agbala Sonhaye, Nourri Inoussa, who introduced himself as a healer, and Matouzoué Kiza, who introduced himself as a shoemaker and admitted to being the owner of the 2 seized tusks and having killed the elephant in December 2021 in the Fazao-Malfakassa National Park. "I killed the elephant and hid the tusks in a field."

- Matouzoué Kiza is sentenced to 15 months in prison and a fine of 15 million CFA francs (22,750 US\$). His 4 accomplices were each sentenced to 15 months in prison, 9 months of which is to be suspended, and a fine of 10 million CFA francs (15,170 US\$). The 5 men must also pay 20 million CFA francs in damages.

Fazao-Malfakassa National Park, see "On the Trail" n°6 p.86, n°8 p.14 and p.29, n°9 p.11 and p.37, n°11 p.78 and n°21 p.109.

EAGLE, August 2022; EAGLE Togo, August 2022; Telegram228, November 3, 2022.<sup>2</sup>



## CENTRAL AFRICA

### ANGOLA

**September 24, 2022**

**Quatro de Fevereiro International Airport, Luanda Province, Angola**

Arrest of a 30-year-old man in possession of 26 kg of ivory rings, bracelets, and necklaces.

Novo Jornal, October 18, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

### CAMEROON

**September 3 and November 2022**

**Yaoundé, Centre Region, Cameroon**

New arrest in the Briqueterie district (see "On the Trail" n°33 p.20). The 2 men were in possession of 56 kg of raw ivory.



In the first instance, Awal Mohamadou was acquitted and Ali Aboukar was sentenced to 2 months in prison, fined 200,000 CFA francs (300 US\$), ordered to pay 620,000 CFA francs (940 US\$) in damages and 45,610 CFA francs (70 US\$) in legal fees.

"The poaching situation in the area is serious, particularly in northern Congo and southeastern Cameroon, where numerous arrest operations have been carried out," said Ofir Drori, founding director of the Eco Activists for Governance and Law Enforcement (EAGLE Network).

LAGA, September and second half of 2022; StopBlaBlaCam, September 16, 2022.<sup>4</sup>



### **September 20 and December 29, 2022 Douala, Littoral Region, Cameroon**

Seizure of 98 kg of raw ivory in the New Bell district. Three arrests. Amsetou Ngoungoure, Nassirou Abdoul, and Shoyombo Segun were sentenced to 12 months in prison to be suspended for 3 years on probation. They were also ordered to pay 2,547,000 CFA francs (4,020 US\$) in damages. New Bell is a poor neighbourhood inhabited mainly by immigrants from the interior who constitute a workforce for the development of Douala (4 million inhabitants). It is also a neighbourhood where delinquency is reputedly very high. The central prison of Douala is located there. Cameroon Tribune, September 23, 2022; LAGA, September and December 2022.<sup>5</sup>



## **GABON**

### **July 8, 2022**

#### **Libreville, Estuaire Province, Gabon**

- Ghislain Bibodi was sentenced in the first instance for poaching and the illegal possession of ivory, Patrick Mapangou Nzaou for illegal possession of ivory, and Yannick Mikoumou Minko for illegal possession of ivory and lack of a residence permit to 2 years in prison and a fine of 360 US\$ each. They were arrested in April 2022.

- Ibrahim Doume Ribouen was sentenced for the illegal possession of ivory to 18 months in prison, 2 of which were suspended, and a fine of 1,280 US\$, of which 480 US\$ was suspended. He was arrested in March 2022.

Conservation Justice, July 2022.<sup>6</sup>



### **August 15, 2022**

#### **Fougamou, Ngounié Province, Gabon**

Caught transporting and possessing 12 tusks weighing a total of 20 kg taken from 6 elephant calves, the young man in his twenties, posing as a fisherman, admitted to hiding the tusks in the waters of Ngounié while waiting to sell them. Georges Davy Lembi Mombo was placed in preventive detention at the central prison of Libreville. The judicial police, the General Directorate of Wildlife and Protected Areas, and the Provincial Directorate of Water and Forests participated in the arrest of the trafficker and the seizure of the ivory with the support of Conservation Justice.

Conservation Justice, August 2022; EAGLE, August 16 and August 2022; Gabon Media Time, August 18, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

### **August 2022**

#### **Nsimitang, Ogooué-Ivindo Province, Gabon**

A "problem" elephant accused of charging and killing a villager was voluntarily shot under the authority of Water and Forestry agents who secured the tusks while the villagers shared the meat. A draft decree was approved by the Council of Ministers in June 2021, according to which administrative beatings or killings could be undertaken with respect to aggressive elephants that endanger the lives or property of the population. Killing is not the only option being considered. It may also involve scaring them away or relocation. The decision must be validated by the relevant authorities so as not to contradict Gabon's desire to preserve ecosystems and biodiversity.

Gabon Media Time, August 22, 2022.<sup>8</sup>

### **September 1, 2022**

#### **Bitam, Woleu-Ntem Province, Gabon**

Arrest of Faustin Allogo Ovono. During a search of his home in connection with a theft case, police discovered 2 tusks.

Conservation Justice, September 2022.<sup>9</sup>

### **September 2, 2022**

#### **Libreville, Estuaire Province, Gabon**

Mbina Manfoumbi was sentenced for poaching and illegally possessing raw ivory and a firearm to 18 months in prison, 6 months of which were suspended. He was also ordered to pay one million CFA francs (1,530 US\$) in damages and a fine of 520,000 CFA francs (800 US\$), of which 220,000 CFA francs were suspended.

Conservation Justice, September 2022.<sup>10</sup>



## **REPEATED OFFENCE**

### **September 27 and 30, 2022**

#### **Lastoursville, Ogooué-Lolo Province, and Okondja, Haut-Ogooué Province, Gabon**

The judicial police and the Provincial Directorate of Water and Forests arrested Marichar Edjodjo, an agent of the CEB (Equatorial Wood Company). He is in possession of 2 tusks, each cut in half, with a total weight of 7.53 kg. He gave the names of 3 men: Sylvain Mbela, his accomplice, Apollinaire Angouo, the presumed owner of the ivory, who was already known by the courts for similar acts (see "On the Trail" n°30 p. 21), and Hamid, another Chadian trafficker, who was said to be hiding the tusks on the CEB premises. Sylvain Mbela was arrested 3 days later. A rifle and ammunition were found at his home. Apollinaire Angouo could not be found. As for Hamid, he was let free because the authorities did not find any trace of ivory in the place where Marichar Edjodjo claimed it was hidden.

The CEB was created in 1946. It operates around Lastoursville. Since 2007, it has been part of the Swiss group Precious Woods. Precious Woods-Compagnie Equatoriale des Bois received a certificate of compliance with the PAFC (Pan-African Forest Certification)-GABON forest certification scheme on April 4, 2018, which promotes sustainable forest management.

Conservation Justice, September 2022; EAGLE, September 2022; Gabon Media Time, October 3, 2022; 7Jours Info, October 5, 2022.<sup>11</sup>

## REPEATED OFFENCE

September 29, 2022

### Mouila and Lebamba, Ngounié Province, Gabon

Théophile Bessan was arrested in Mouila, presenting himself as a businessman while trying to sell 6 tusks, 2 of which were from baby elephants and 4 of which were cut in half. The total weight was 24.03 kg.

Arrest in Lebamba of 2 accomplices, Juldas Mondjo and Jean Pierre Nziengui. Seizure of 2 12-gauge weapons and ammunition for hunting big game. Lebamba and Mouila are about 100 km apart. Juldas Mondjo is said to be the boss of the group. He was reportedly arrested and convicted for similar acts in May 2017. Since then, reinforcement of sanctions has been issued and he will be well placed to check it.

Ministry of Water and Forests, Sea, and Environment, October 2, 2022.<sup>12</sup>

September 30, 2022

### Koulamoutou, Ogooué-Lolo Province, Gabon

On anonymous information, the police launched an investigation and came with a search warrant to the home of Mahmoud Jamal Chahrour, head of operations at Double Bois SARL, a subcontractor of SBL (Société des Bois de Lastourville). In Chahrour's room, 2 tusks were seized. He claims that they were already in the house when he moved in 5 years earlier. His compatriot Ahmed Koder allegedly left them there before returning to Lebanon.

SBL is a Chinese-owned and managed company. According to a report published by the International Tropical Timber Technical Association in June 2019, this industrial sawmill consumes 2,600 cubic meters of logs per month, 2,000 of which are Gabon mahogany (*Aucoumea klaineana*). According to the travel directory Petit Futé (crafty one), "SBL tries to reconcile logging and ecotourism, providing financial support to schools and environmental training and awareness in villages. It was one of the first logging companies to engage in systematic replanting of logged sites. When calling, you may consider visiting the industrial and forestry site of the Société du Bois de Lastourville. They are not organised to host tourists but can possibly take you on botanical trails to share their knowledge of wood species: Gabon mahogany, African padauk, kevazingo, rikio... Lovers of calm, solitude and nature will be fulfilled, guided by foresters fine connoisseurs of species."

Conservation Justice, September 2022; EAGLE, September 2022; 7Jours Info, October 4, 2022.<sup>13</sup>

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

September 12, 2022

### Democratic Republic of the Congo

Seizure of 12 tusks and sections of tusks. Seven suspects were reportedly arrested.

Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation, September 13, 2022.<sup>14</sup>

## REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

September 21 and October 14, 2022

### Dolisie, Department of Niari, Republic of the Congo



Interrogation of 3 traffickers, including an agent of the Ministry of Forest Economy, by the department's gendarmerie and agents of the Ministry of Forest Economy.

Kondo Mabiala, head of the Water and Forestry Department, used his position to secure the transport of 2 tusks cut into 4 sections between Bambama in the Lékoumou Department and Dolisie, a distance of more than 300 km and at least 5 hours' drive. The regular forces of the Republic of Congo received assistance from Project for the Application of Law for Fauna (PALF).

Kondo Mabiala and his 2 accomplices were sentenced to 3 years in prison and ordered to pay 5 million CFA francs (7,400 US\$) jointly to the Ministry of Forest Economy. For several years, he had been facilitating the trade thanks to the good reputation he enjoyed.

Ivory trafficking in Lékoumou and Dolisie, see "On the Trail" n°11 p.79, n°12 p.88, n°18 p.95, n°19 p.103, n°20 p.55, n°23 p.127, n°27 p.100, n°31 p.51, n°33 p.25, n°34 p.25 and n°36 p.21.

Polele-Polele, September 29 and October 24, 2022.<sup>15</sup>

## EASTERN AFRICA

### KENYA

July 6, 2022

### Oldonyiro, Isiolo County, Kenya

The elephant was stuck in a dam reservoir and drowned. He was winched to the ground. A spear was embedded in the left side of his abdomen.



SWT/KWS Mount

Kenya Mobile Veterinary Unit, July 2022.<sup>16</sup>

**6 juillet et 20 septembre 2022**

**July 6 and September 20, 2022**

**Mombasa, Mombasa County, Kenya**

- On January 1, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., Assad Mohammed Ahmed and Abdi Mohammed Ali were intercepted in their black Toyota in the business district of Mombasa. Seven tusks weighing 24.5 kg are hidden in a black bag wrapped in a green bag. They are estimated to be worth 2.4 million shillings (21,231 US\$ or 866 US\$/kg). Assad Mohammed Ahmed managed to escape. Abdi Mohammed Ali was charged with the illegal possession and sale of an endangered animal trophy.

- On July 6, a KWS (Kenya Wildlife Service) officer involved in the arrest testifies in court. "Intelligence had been received of 2 men selling tusks from a black car in central Mombasa. The vehicle was located and one of the men escaped, and has not been found to date."

On September 20, police officer Ahmed Mukhtar who was on the scene with KWS testifies in turn. He goes back on his initial statements. He reads his testimony. He expresses doubts about where the ivory was found inside the vehicle and about the number of suspects at the time. The suspect's lawyer, after Mukhtar's statements, says that it has not been proven that he was in possession of the ivory and that he fell into a trap.

To be continued.

Kenya Police, January 3, 2022; SEEJ-AFRICA (Saving Elephants through Education and Justice), July 6 and 17 and December 8, 2022.<sup>17</sup>

**July 8, 9, 11 and 27, 2022**

**Naboisho Conservancy, Olare Orok Conservancy and Kishermuruk, Narok County, Kenya**

- Anaesthesia, health examination, treatment of an abscess caused by an arrow. Prognosis was favourable.

- The elephant was shot with several arrows. All wounds were treated. Vital organs and joints were spared. His prognosis is favourable provided he can be relocated and visually monitored.

- A purulent abscess on the right flank at the level of the stomach was drained and disinfected. The arrowhead was not found. Prognosis was relatively favourable.

- After anaesthesia, the arrowhead was extracted from the right flank with a pair of forceps. Favourable prognosis. The alert was given in time.



- The 40 or so elephants were grouped together in a clearing when the veterinary team arrived on the scene, after being alerted by the rangers. The ailing elephant was isolated and anaesthetised. The arrowhead embedded in the left front leg was removed and the wound was treated. Oxytetracycline and dexamethasone were injected intramuscularly and intravenously. The prognosis was favourable.

- Another elephant in the Kishermuruk herd suffered a deep wound on the left rump from a spear throw. Another wound near the anal region possibly due to a fight with another

male was treated. During the operation, an extra dose of etorphine was injected to prevent him from waking too soon. The prognosis was favourable. SWT/KWS Mara Mobile Veterinary Unit, July 2022.<sup>18</sup>



**July 12, 2022**

**Taita Sisal Ranch and Ithumba, Tsavo East National Park, Taita-Taveta County, Kenya**



- The elephant with a single tusk was lying on his left side. He was trying to get up on his own and the alarm was raised by the Taita Sisal Ranch rangers who helped him to set off again by pulling him up with a rope attached to his tusk. The maneuver was successful and he joined other males grazing nearby, but after a few days he relapsed and by the time veterinarians arrived on the scene, he had definitely collapsed. A poisoned arrowhead was found deeply embedded in the thigh muscles. - Favourable prognosis for an elephant with an arrow wound to the abdomen. "He woke up about 2 minutes after being revived and walked majestically deep into the bushes."

SWT/KWS Tsavo Mobile Veterinary Unit, July 2022.<sup>19</sup>





**July 22, 2022**

**Galana Ranch, Kilifi County, Kenya**

The elephant was dragging a winch wire on his left hind leg. Prognosis is favourable.

SWT/KWS Tsavo Mobile Veterinary Unit, July 2022.<sup>20</sup>



**August 5, 13 and 20, 2022**

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

- Arrest of 4 suspects in possession of 45 kg of ivory.
  - Arrest of 4 suspects in possession of 35 kg of ivory.
  - Arrest of 3 suspects in possession of 11 kg of ivory.
- Big Life Foundation, August 2022.<sup>21</sup>

**August 17, 2022**

**Memerush, Kajiado County, Kenya**

Four men were looking to sell 45 kg of ivory near the Simba cement factory. They are in custody and the tusks are being held as evidence at Loitoktok Police Station.

National Police Service, August 17, 2022; SEEJ-AFRICA (Saving Elephants through Education and Justice), August 17, 2022; Opera News, August 18, 2022.<sup>22</sup>

**August 20, 2022**

**Kulalu Camp, Tsavo East National Park, Kenya**

The carcass was already decomposing. Meat had been cut off along the spinal cord. The only tusk the elephant had was already missing when the KWS team arrived at the scene.

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

**August 20, 2022**

**Mara Triangle, Narok County, Kenya**

The elephant's left hind leg was very deeply cut by the wire of a trap under the right hind leg knee joint. The success of the operation was all the more important as she was nursing her baby elephant. Dr. Ephantus Ndambiri did what he could but the prognosis is very poor. The Mara triangle is infested with hundreds of traps. They are regularly removed by rangers but are also regularly replaced by bushmeat traffickers.

Mara Elephant Project, August 26, 2022; SWT/KWS Mara Mobile Veterinary Unit, August 2022.<sup>24</sup>



**August 30, 2022**

**Rukinga Ranch, Taita-Taveta County, Kenya**

- The prognosis is favourable. The arrow stuck near the trunk was not poisoned. The elephant was awakened with an injection of diprenorphine and after several attempts she righted herself. Guided by a helicopter flight, the baby elephant was reunited with his mother.

- The neck of the approximately 3-year-old elephant was encircled by the metal wire of a trap. The prognosis is favourable.

- On the same ranch, a 7-year-old male had a purulent wound on his left thigh. The veterinarians attributed it to an arrow. Prognosis is favourable.

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



**September 6, 12, 13 and 20, 2022**

**Athi River, Machakos County, Salt Lick Conservancy, Maungu and Rukinga Ranch, Taita Taveta County, Kenya**

- The alert was raised by farmers. An elephant was attempting to escape from a trap attached to a tree. When KWS arrived on the scene, the elephant was gone. He was spotted much further away by a helicopter flyover. After anaesthesia, it was found that the iron ring had fallen off during the elephant's escape. Only the deep, circular wound on the left front leg remained. He was treated and the revival antidote was injected. One minute later the elephant stood up, staggered for a few moments, and then left without limping. Favourable prognosis.

- The prognosis is favourable. The baby elephant was injured in the right front leg by a trap. After anaesthesia, the steel wire was cut and the wound was treated. The rescue was not easy. He was in a family of 5 members with a very protective attitude. Before he was anaesthetised, the older brother and the mother had to be anaesthetised.

- The matriarch of the herd was suffering from a purulent wound on her left flank which was caused a few weeks ago by an arrow. She woke up 2 minutes after the injection of the antidote and joined the herd which was kept at a distance during the intervention. The prognosis was favourable.

- Another arrow! This time on the left front leg below the knee. From the bottom of the wound, the head of a poisoned arrow was extracted. The prognosis was favourable. The joints were not affected. Two minutes after the injection of the revival antidote, the elephant got up and joined his herd drinking from a river.

SWT/KWS Tsavo Mobile Veterinary Unit, September 2022.<sup>26</sup>



**September 7, 2022**

**Nan, Narok County, Kenya**

The Mara Elephant Project identifies elephants that are doing poorly and reports them to the KWS. It also identifies trafficking and reports it to the KWS. In the middle of the night, 2 suspects were intercepted on the Entasekera-Morijo road. They were transporting 4 tusks on a motorcycle, including 2 from baby elephants. Total weight: 23.6 kg.



Nation (Africa), September 7, 2022; Mara Elephant Project, September 9, 2022.<sup>27</sup>

**September 11, 27 and 30, 2022**

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

- Arrest of 4 suspects in possession of 49 kg of ivory.
- Arrest of one suspect in possession of 12 kg of ivory.

- Discovery of 2 tusks in a cache following a report. Owner not identified.

Big Life Foundation, September 2022.<sup>28</sup>

**September 16 and 22, 2022**

**Mara North Conservancy, Narok County, Kenya**

- The upper "finger" of the trunk was partially severed by a braided steel trap. It was removed from the wound with difficulty. The elephant also had 3 arrow wounds, one at the base of the tusks and another in the middle of the back near the spinal cord. The mobility of the trunk was not compromised. His gripping abilities are diminished after this accident, which is attributed to savage retaliation and the will to kill of some angry "land workers" after the victim's incursion into a cultivated plot.



- The 2 elephants were anaesthetised from an all-terrain vehicle. The female had an arrow wound in the middle of her left flank and the male had an arrow wound in the middle of her left hind leg. The wounds were purulent. After treatment, they were awakened by an intravenous injection of naltrexone and diprenorphine into the ear. They wandered off into the savannah shortly thereafter. Favourable prognoses.

Mara Elephant Project, September 23 and September 2022; SWT/KWS Mara Mobile Veterinary Unit, September 2022.<sup>29</sup>

**September 22, 2022**

**Oldonyiro, Isiolo County, Kenya**

The spear was deeply embedded in the left side of the adult elephant. Vital organs were hit. Despite the removal of the spear and relentless treatment by the veterinary team, the victim developed respiratory and cardiac complications while under anaesthesia which required the immediate injection of a revival antidote. The elephant was too weak to stand up and died within minutes.

SWT/KWS Meru Mobile Veterinary Unit, September 2022.<sup>30</sup>

**September 28, 2022**

**Kihingo and Kahawa, Kiambu County, Kenya**

Kahawa court sentences Ibrahim Muiru to 5 years in prison without the option of an alternative fine for illegally possessing 35 kg of raw ivory at his home.

Kenyans.co.ke, September 28, 2022; Uzalendo, September 28, 2022.<sup>31</sup>



**September 2022**

**Greater Mara, Narok County, Kenya**

Mara Elephant Project rangers, assisted by the KWS and Sheldrick Wildlife Trust veterinary team, rescue a bull elephant injured by spears to the front 2 legs. Mara Elephant Project, third quarter 2022.<sup>32</sup>



## MALAWI

### OPERATION ELEPHANTS ON THE MOVE

June 27 to July 31, 2022

**From Liwonde National Park, Southern Region, to Kasungu National Park, Central Region, Malawi. Border with Zambia.**

The project of DNPW (Department of National Parks and Wildlife), African Parks, IFAW, WWF, and Elephant Cooperation, an NGO based in the United States of America, is to use Liwonde National Park as a reservoir of elephants to repopulate parks and wildlife reserves decimated by poaching. Liwonde is home to over 600 elephants. In the next 10 years they could, according to experts, reach 1000 and endanger the park's plant and animal biodiversity. Already 366 elephants have been relocated from Liwonde to the Nkhosakota Wildlife Reserve (1800 square km) in 2016 and 2017 (see "On the Trail" n°14 p.75-76).

The images of these mass relocations are relentless. Elephants are reduced to anaesthetised parcels and moved by crane. This demonstrates more than any other cliché the role of wildlife dispatcher assumed by park management and NGOs. 263 elephants were transferred by road (350 km, at least 6 hours drive). In the past, elephants migrated on foot. Today, it is done by truck. The operation cost between 1.5 and 2 million US\$. A 40 km long fence has been erected on the eastern border.



Despite the partial fence and the vigilance of the guards, 2 adult elephants left the Kasungu Park on July 12. They provoked crowds and panic in 2 villages. Two residents were killed and another was injured. The 2 elephants were shot by the police. Brighton Kumchedwa, DNPW director, says it was difficult to capture them and bring them back into the park and adds that "the 2 lone bulls went out of the park which seemed to be an attempt to trace their route back to [their original habitat] Liwonde National Park."

Acts of poaching in Kasungu National Park, see "On the Trail" n°8 p.76 and 78, n°9 p.75, n°19 p.54, n°23 p.118 and n°27 p.93.

Elephant relocations, see "On the Trail" n°14 p.75-76, n°17 p.107, n°18 p.91, n°23 p.124, n°33 p.31 and n°36 p.30.

African Parks, June 21, 2022; NPR, July 14, 2022; Nyasa Times, July 18 and August 5, 2022; BVC News, August 5, 2022; Africa Geographic, August 8, 2022.<sup>33</sup>

July 1, 2022

**Mchinji, Central Region, Malawi. Border with Zambia.**

20 kg of raw ivory. Arrest of Uzani James, age 33. Malawi Voice, July 2, 2022.<sup>34</sup>

July 18, 2022

**Idrusi, Southern Region, Malawi. Border with Mozambique.**

An ex-police officer, age 40, a 62-year-old man, and 2 others, both age 39, had in their possession 2 large tusks with a total weight of 36.4 kg that had been acquired in Mozambique.

Friends Connect Malawi TV, July 18, 2022.<sup>35</sup>

July 30, 2022

**Chiponde, Southern Region, Malawi. Border with Mozambique.**

As usual, the raw ivory was in a black plastic bag and the 50-year-old man said he acquired it in Mozambique.

Malawi 24, July 30, 2022; The Maravi Post, July 31, 2022.<sup>36</sup>

## MOZAMBIQUE

August 23, 2022

**Massingir District, Gaza Province, Mozambique. Border with South Africa.**

Two young men, 20 and 23 years old, were trying to sell 2 tusks. They were arrested by criminal police and rangers from Limpopo National Park.

Carta de Moçambique, August 25, 2022; Club of Mozambique, August 25, 2022.<sup>37</sup>

## UGANDA

August 2022

**Uganda**

Medard and his partner were fined 1,030 US\$ or 3 years in prison in case of non-payment and 257 US\$ or one year in prison in the case of non-payment for transporting and possessing 3 tusks.

EAGLE Uganda, August 2022.<sup>38</sup>



End of August 2022

**Kasenyi, Queen Elizabeth National Park, Western Region, Uganda**

The life of an elephant was saved thanks to the alert of the Kazinga Tours guide and the intervention of a veterinary team from the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA). While the elephant was under anaesthesia, the metal trap that was cutting the left front leg was removed with a pair of wire cutters and the wound was treated. The prognosis is favourable. The Uganda Conservation Foundation (UCF) recognizes, however, that the battle is uneven. "The areas are vast and the poachers are persistent, and they keep finding their way in and setting traps and snares as soon as patrols have swept the areas and removed them."

Uganda Conservation Foundation (UCF), August 26, 2022.<sup>39</sup>





**September 9, 11 and October 2022**  
**Entebbe International Airport,**  
**Entebbe, Central Region, and Tororo,**  
**East Region, Uganda. Border with**  
**Kenya.**



Patel Kunal Jagdishchandra, an Indian national, was found on Friday, September 9, 2022 at Entebbe International Airport with 1.1 kg of carved ivory. His jeans had been tailored to have false pockets where the ivory was concealed. The pant network is much rarer than the vest network (see "On the Trail" n°10 p.64, n°13 p.93, n°15 p.99, n°16 p.83, n°19 p.88, n°20 p.83 and p.102). Patel Kunal Jagdishchandra was in cahoots with his compatriot Patel Mayur residing in Tororo, near the border with Kenya. Mayur was arrested at his home on Sunday, September 11, by a joint team of UWA and air police. Stella Maris Amabilis, chief magistrate of the Entebbe court, fined each of the 2 traffickers 5,280 US\$ or 16 years in prison for non-payment. Patel Kunal will be deported from Uganda after serving the sentence. Uganda Wildlife Authority, October 19, 2022.<sup>40</sup>

## TANZANIA

### FAMILY AFFAIRS

**July 19, 2022**

**Dar es Salaam, Dar es Salaam Region, Tanzania**

"On the Trail" n°26 p.83 wrote about it. Everything had been said: the 413 tusks or tusk sections, the poaching of 117 elephants, the value of the raw ivory is estimated to be 1.75 million US\$ and the 2 hippopotamus teeth (*Hippopotamus amphibius*, Appendix II) valued at 1,500 US\$. The main suspect at the time was Hassan Shaban Likwema, better known by his alias Nyoni, whom the Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism described as a "hardcore" poacher.

On July 19, 2022, after 3 years of investigation, Abdul Abdallah, age 35, and his wife Salma Mshamu, age 21, are considered to be the key figures in the trafficking operation. They are charged with buying and holding 338 tusk sections, 75 elephant tusks, and 2 hippopotamus teeth at their home in the Temeke district. They are charged with economic sabotage and violating the Economic Sabotage Act 1984. The court in Kisutu, a district of Dar es Salaam, declared itself incompetent to hear the case. According to the court's principal resident magistrate, the case must be transferred to the Corruption and Economic Sabotage Division of the High Court. According to "On the Trail" and SEEJ-AFRICA (Saving Elephants through Education and Justice), Nyoni and the other accomplices, including 2 police officers, have not yet been charged.

SEEJ-AFRICA (Saving Elephants through Education and Justice), July 20, 2022; The Citizen (Tanzania), July 20, 2022.<sup>41</sup>

## ZIMBABWE

**July 2022**

**Madlambuzi, Matabeleland South Province, Zimbabwe**

20.5 kg of raw ivory. Two arrests: Olter Ndlovu, 34, and an unnamed and unaged man from a foreign country.

The Sunday Mail, July 21, 2022.<sup>42</sup>

**July 21 and August 12, 2022**

**Hwange, Matabeleland North Province, Zimbabwe**



Siphelile Mathe, age 44, was transporting 2 tusks near Victoria Falls. He was sentenced to 9 years in prison.

Fauna and Flora Zimbabwe, July 24, 2022; Zim Morning Post, August 14, 2022.<sup>43</sup>

**July 30 and beginning of October 2022**  
**Gokwe, Midlands Province, Zimbabwe**



Six tusks. 52 kg. Estimated value 8,700 US\$ or 167 US\$/kg.

Sentence of Sanders Munsaka, age 37, to 9 years in prison.

My Zimbabwe, October 5, 2022.<sup>44</sup>

**August 6 - September 2022**

**Harare, Harare Province, Zimbabwe**

Pastor Simbarashe Nyoni, Makwenha Nyamayevhu, and Rodreck Funny Nyoni were under surveillance when they arrived with a large white bag at the Fife Avenue shopping center. They were carrying 37.8 kg of raw ivory and were looking to sell it. They were arrested by a team from the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) Wildlife Unit and released in September on 150,000 dollars (290 US\$) bail and judicial supervision.

The Herald (Zimbabwe), August 9 and September 16, 2022.<sup>45</sup>

**August 9 and mid-August 2022**

**Beitbridge, Matabeleland South Province, Zimbabwe. Border with South Africa.**



Oliver Matimure, age 25, had just jumped from South Africa to Zimbabwe across the Limpopo River with a halved tusk in his backpack when he was arrested by officers of the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) Wildlife Unit.

He was sentenced to 9 years in prison.

Fauna and Flora Zimbabwe, August 16, 2022.<sup>46</sup>

**August 12, 2022**

**Gokwe, Midlands Province, Zimbabwe**

Byron Gopoza, age 40, was arrested in a store. Seizure of a 7.163 kg tusk.

Pindula, August 14, 2022.<sup>47</sup>

**August 16, 2022**

**Hwange District, Matabeleland North Province, Zimbabwe**

Four men, Jimstone Regiment David, Aldo Tina Nyoni, Penjani Nyoni and Shupani Ndlovu, were sentenced to 9 years in prison for illegal possession of ivory.

Comments from mayors and ZimParks officials told the media on condition of anonymity that poachers are taken in by rumors of immediate and substantial profits. Once they have the ivory in their hands, the traffickers refuse to buy it at the agreed price, offer to buy it at a discount, and sometimes report to the authorities on anonymous tips poachers or their middlemen who refuse to haggle.

The Standard (Zimbabwe), August 21, 2022.<sup>48</sup>



**August 30, 2022**

**Charara Safari Area, Mashonaland West Province, Zimbabwe**

This was not a vine. It was a steel noose.

When she abruptly freed herself, she was as if suffocated by something unexpected around her neck that her trunk failed to untangle, that her rubbing against the trees did not remove, that the mud she sprayed herself with did not dissolve. After the skin incision, the iron collar over the weeks pierced the cartilage of the trachea artery. She was spotted right in the middle of her protective herd thanks to the coordinated efforts of the crews of helicopters called up by Aware Trust Zimbabwe and scouts of the Kariba Animal Welfare Fund Trust, then anaesthetised, freed and as far as possible cared for by the ZimParks vets. No one knows how the cruel tracheotomy will evolve. The prognosis is therefore very poor. The 12-year-old elephant has been named Shinga, which in the Shona language means "be brave."

She died of her injuries a few weeks later.

Aware Trust Zimbabwe, August 30 and September 1, 2022; Kariba Animal Welfare Fund Trust, August 30, 2022; Zim Morning Post, November 2, 2022.<sup>49</sup>



**Beginning of September 2022**

**Chitsere Conservancy, Mashonaland Central Province, Zimbabwe. Border with Zambia and Mozambique.**

A dozen of them, including veterinarian Keith Dutlow and Lisa Marabini, came from Harare in an emergency to rescue an elephant whose right front leg had been cut by the wire of a trap. Recovery is expected to take 3 months and the prognosis is favourable.

Mark Hellam, September 5, 2022.<sup>50</sup>



**September 25, 2022**

**Victoria Falls National Park, Matabeleland North Province, Zimbabwe**

The juvenile elephant was about to choke.

The trunk was bound by a steel trap that prevented him from breathing. He was saved in extremis by ZimParks veterinarian Adrian Read and the Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust team. Under anaesthesia, the steel noose was removed, the circular wound was treated and disinfected, and the elephant is breathing heavily again. Prognosis is good.

Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust, September 27, 2022.<sup>51</sup>



**SOUTHERN AFRICA**

**NAMIBIA**

**July 8, 2022**

**Windhoek, Khomas Region, Namibia**

Johan Lombaard, director of Golden Game CC, had filed a defamation suit against the Namibia Media Holdings newspaper group and the editor of the Namibian Sun after an article appeared in October 2017 about the conditions in which 3 elephant calves were captured, transported, and lived while awaiting shipment to a foreign zoo (see "On the Trail" n°19 p.100). Lombaard and his lawyers argued before the High Court that the 324 m<sup>2</sup> enclosure was a temporary facility and that the article had caused the loss of elephant export business to Dubai and other wildlife to Libya. The High Court awarded Lombaard damages of \$70,000 (4,550 US\$) in 2020 on the grounds that the Namibian Sun did not give him an opportunity in the body of the article to respond and justify himself, that the article failed to comply with the code of journalistic ethics and that it was not based on reason and responsibility. The High Court also awarded Golden Game CC \$50,000 (3,250 US\$) in damages.

The Namibia Media Holdings newspaper group appealed the ruling to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court found that all the information in the article was accurate and confirmed by several sources, and therefore the editor was not under an absolute obligation to contact Lombaard before publication.

The Namibian, June 13, 2022; The Supreme Court of Namibia, July 8, 2022; New Era, July 11, 2022.<sup>52</sup>



**July 14, 2022**

**Katima Mulilo, Zambezi Region, Namibia.  
Border with Zambia.**



Arrest of a 33-year-old Zambian national. He was attempting to sell 3 tusks cut into 13 pieces. Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism Namibia, July 14, 2022; Namibia Daily News, July 15, 2022.<sup>53</sup>

**August 3, 2022**

**Swakopmund, Erongo Region, Namibia**

Two tusks from a 1999 hunting permit in Maun, Botswana, were seized in 1999 by Nampol in a fishing boat bound for South Africa, then handed over to their owner by a court order and passed from hand to hand until they were attempted to be sold by Dirk Vermeulen, Edgar Clarke, and Michael Lusse in August-September 2019. This tale ends with the acquittal of the 3 defendants (see "On the Trail" n°26 p.85). In spite of the representatives of the State maintaining that the 2 tusks of 33 and 31 kg were held without title by the 3 "traffickers," the judge of the Swakopmund District recognized the arguments of the lawyers. The tusks did not come from poaching or smuggling and according to them there was no legal requirement for the suspects to obtain a sales permit from the Ministry of the Environment before selling them.

Allgemeine Zeitung (Namibia), August 5, 2022.<sup>54</sup>

**August 15, 2022**

**Batubaja, Zambezi Region, Namibia**

A male elephant is found dead. His tusks are intact. He was killed by 3 bullets. The person responsible is not yet identified. The Ministry of Environment spokesperson remains cautious: "we're waiting for a thorough investigation to see if it's an attempted poaching or just a retributive killing for human and wildlife conflict."

Eagle FM, August 17, 2022.<sup>55</sup>

**September 1, 2022**

**Ibbu, Zambezi Region, Namibia. Border with Botswana.**

Arrest of 2 Zambian illegal immigrants in possession of 4 tusks. They were ambushed by an undercover police officer.

Informanté, September 5, 2022.<sup>56</sup>

## NORTHERN AMERICA

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**Week of August 15, 2022**

**Jackson, State of Tennessee, United States of America**

This is probably a first in Tennessee. James Bennett was arrested on October 5, 2017. He was transporting and seeking to sell elephant raw tusks knowing that they had been fraudulently imported into the Tennessee and that their trade had been federally prohibited overall since 2016. His trial has just begun.

Jackson Sun, August 23, 2022.<sup>57</sup>

## EASTERN ASIA

### CHINA

### HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

**July 27, 2022**

**Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China**

Seizure of 284 carved ivories from a store in Yau Tsim Mong District. Only carved ivories that are proven to have been manufactured before July 1, 1925 are eligible for antique status and sale. The AFCD (Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department) reminds that since December 31, 2021, the import, export, and sale of carved ivory is prohibited and that it is also prohibited to display in store windows and shelves ivories intended to attract customers' attention even if they are accompanied by the words "not for sale."

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, July 28, 2022.<sup>58</sup>





## CHONGQING AUTONOMOUS MUNICIPALITY

**Beginning of July 2022**

**Chongqing-Jiangbei International Airport, Chongqing Autonomous Municipality, China**

Seizure in the hand luggage of a passenger from abroad of 2 ivory bracelets. Total weight: 120.27 grams.

Chinese Customs, July 12, 2022.<sup>59</sup>

**July 2022**

**Chongqing-Jiangbei International Airport, Chongqing Autonomous Municipality, China**

Four bracelets and an ivory pendant found in the luggage of a passenger from abroad. Total weight: 193 grams. Chinese Customs, July 26, 2022.<sup>60</sup>



## SHANGHAI AUTONOMOUS MUNICIPALITY

**August 2022**

**Shanghai Autonomous Municipality, China**



Seizure of ivory piano keys from abroad. Total weight: 190 grams.

Chinese Customs, September 4, 2022.<sup>61</sup>

**September 6, 2022**

**Shanghai Pudong International Airport, Shanghai Autonomous Municipality, China**

Seizure of 4 ivory bracelets in the luggage of a passenger coming from abroad who explains that he bought them in Nigeria. Total weight: 310 grams. Chinese Customs, September 14, 2022; Shanghai Customs, September 21, 2022.<sup>62</sup>

## TIANJIN AUTONOMOUS MUNICIPALITY

**Beginning of August 2022**

**Tianjin Autonomous Municipality, China**



Four bracelets and 9 ivory beads sent by people from abroad. Total weight: 263.6 grams. Chinese Customs, August 11, 2022.<sup>63</sup>

**August 2022**

**Tianjin Autonomous Municipality, China**

Seizure in a package declared to contain "clothes" of a necklace and a bracelet made of ivory. Total weight: 51.28 grams.

Chinese Customs, September 3, 2022.<sup>64</sup>

**August 2022**

**Tianjin Autonomous Municipality, China**

Seizure of 23 carved ivories, bracelets, and pendants in the luggage of 5 passengers from West Africa. Total weight: 1,412.7 grams.

Chinese Customs, September 8, 2022; Takefoto.cn, September 9, 2022.<sup>65</sup>

## ANHUI PROVINCE

**August 30, 2022**

**Luyang District, Hefei Prefecture, Anhui Province, China**

Seized 3 calligraphy scrolls with ivory tips in a package from abroad.

Chinese Customs, September 1, 2022.<sup>66</sup>

## FUJIAN PROVINCE

**Beginning of September 2022**

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

Seizure in the luggage of 5 passengers from abroad of 28 carved ivories, bracelets, pendants, and pearls hidden in cigar boxes and cigarette packs. Total weight: 729 grams.

Chinese Customs, September 15, 2022.<sup>67</sup>



## GUANGDONG PROVINCE

### Beginning of July 2022

#### Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport, Guangdong Province, China

Seizure of an ivory necklace, weighing 70 grams, from an overseas passenger.

Chinese Customs, July 13, 2022.<sup>68</sup>

### August 2022

#### Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport, Guangdong Province, China

Seizure of 12 ivory beads in the luggage of a passenger from abroad. Total weight: 80 grams.

Chinese Customs, September 6, 2022.<sup>69</sup>

### September 2022

#### Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport, Guangdong Province, China

A bracelet and 28 ivory beads in the luggage of a passenger from abroad. They were wrapped in aluminum foil and hidden under thick layers of plaster. Total weight: 229 grams.

Chinese Customs, October 1, 2022.<sup>70</sup>

### September 2022

#### Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, China

Seizure of 11 lawn bowling balls with ivory inlays in a package declared to contain a "fitness device."

Chinese Customs, October 2, 2022.<sup>71</sup>

## GUIZHOU PROVINCE

### Beginning of August 2022

#### Guiyang, Guiyang Prefecture, Guizhou Province, China

Seizure of a fork and a spoon made with ivory in a package declared to contain "miscellaneous items." Total weight of the ivory: 37 grams.

Chinese Customs, August 16, 2022.<sup>72</sup>

## HENAN PROVINCE

### Beginning of August 2022

#### Jinshui District, Zhengzhou Prefecture, Henan Province, China

Seizure of a calligraphy scroll with ivory tips.

Chinese Customs, August 15, 2022.<sup>73</sup>



## HUBEI PROVINCE

### Beginning of July 2022

#### Wuhan, Hubei Province, China

Seizure of an ivory fan weighing approximately 20 grams in a package declared to contain "toys."

Chinese Customs, July 15, 2022.<sup>74</sup>

### September 2022

#### Wuhan Tianhe International Airport, Hubei Province, China

Another ivory bracelet in the luggage of a passenger from abroad. Weight: 32 grams.

Chinese Customs, September 20, 2022.<sup>75</sup>

## JIANGSU PROVINCE

### September 30, 2022

#### Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, China

Seizure of 2 ivory made pens. Total weight: 49.47 grams.

Chinese Customs, October 5, 2022.<sup>76</sup>

## SICHUAN PROVINCE

### July 2022

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

Seizure in the luggage of several passengers of 10 carved ivories including bracelets. Total weight: 486 grams.

Chinese Customs, July 25, 2022.<sup>77</sup>

### Beginning of September 2022

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

Seizure of an ivory bracelet weighing 45 grams in a passenger's luggage.

Chinese Customs, September 14, 2022.<sup>78</sup>

### September 2022

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

Seizure of 2 ivory bracelets in the hand luggage of a Chinese passenger coming from Kathmandu, Nepal. Total weight: 140 grams.

Chinese Customs, September 27, 2022.<sup>79</sup>

## YUNNAN PROVINCE

### Beginning of August 2022

#### Mohan Border Post, Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province, China

Two ivory bracelets and a pendant seized from the hand luggage of a passenger from abroad. Total weight: 72.3 grams.

Chinese Customs, August 11, 2022.<sup>80</sup>

### Beginning of September 2022

#### Mohan Border Post, Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province, China. Border with Laos.

Seizure of an ivory bracelet found in the luggage of a passenger from abroad, 25.29 grams.

Chinese Customs, September 16, 2022.<sup>81</sup>

## ZHEJIANG PROVINCE

### Beginning of August 2022

#### Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, China

Seizure from a package declared to contain "accessories" of a necklace, a pair of earrings, and an ivory brooch. Total weight: 30.36 grams. Chinese Customs, August 12, 2022.<sup>82</sup>

### August 2022

#### Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, China

Seizure of an ivory writing set in a package from abroad declared to contain "tools." Total weight: 122.46 grams including the metal. Chinese Customs, September 4, 2022.<sup>83</sup>



### September 2022

#### Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport, Zhejiang Province, China

Seizure on several travelers from abroad of 13 carved ivories including bracelets, pendants, and rings. Total weight: 276.7 grams. Chinese Customs, September 22, 2022.<sup>84</sup>

## SOUTHEASTERN ASIA

### THAILAND

### July 2022

#### Salakpra Reserve, Kanchanaburi Province, Thailand



The cause of death of the 30-year-old elephant is still unclear. Only skin and bones remained when the body was discovered by a villager and reported to the authorities. The death occurred over 2 months ago. On the other hand, the ivory theft is blatant. The tusks, which given the age of the victim must have weighed 15 to 20 kg each, were missing. Thanks to a metal detector, 5 12-gauge bullets were found more than 2 cm deep into the skin. Veterinarians and Royal Thai Police experts found that the bullets had not hit any vital organs and thought that they were not likely to have caused the immediate death of the elephant. The impacts

on the right front leg, the right flank near the rib cage, the left thigh, and the middle of the right hind leg would have remained superficial without being able to cause death. According to Lt. Col. Maniphat Pengkred, who was in charge of the investigation, "it cannot be concluded that the person who took the elephant's tusks was responsible for the elephant's death."

The head of the Salakpra Wildlife Sanctuary recalls that in February, a collision between a truck and an elephant took place and the injured elephant fled into the forest. The investigation is ongoing. There are reportedly less than 150 elephants in the Salakpra wildlife sanctuary. Siamrath, July 28, 2022; Mgronline.com, July 29, 2022.<sup>85</sup>

## VIET NAM

### July 5, 2022

#### My Lam, Kien Giang Province, Viet Nam

- Seizure of 31 bracelets, 15 pearls, 2 Buddha effigies, and 6 rings made of presumed ivory in a jewelry shop.

- Seizure of 6 bracelets, 6 Buddha statuettes, 17 pearls, and 3 rings made of presumed ivory in a jewelry shop.

Thanh Niên, July 10, 2022.<sup>86</sup>

### July 11, 2022

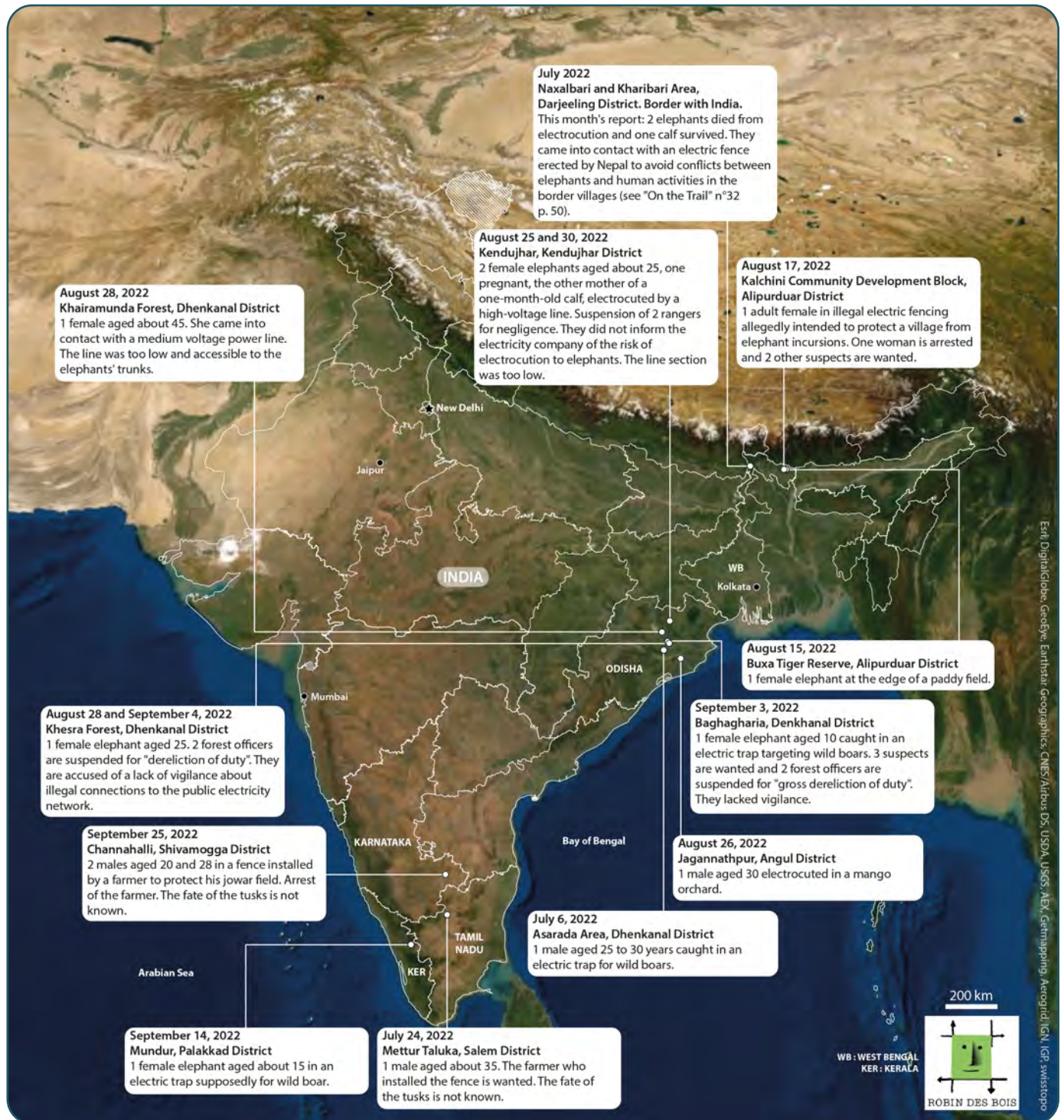
#### Dak Lak Province, Viet Nam

Twenty jewelry, art, handicraft, and souvenir stores were inspected and 2,000 items including carved ivory and trinkets with teeth, claws, feathers, and paws were seized. Seven establishments selling ivory were fined a total of VND 2 million (90,400 US\$). Tourists who come to Dak Lak want to leave with wildlife souvenirs and retailers, knowing that the regulations are changing or unaware of it, continue to sell ivory and other fauna trinkets. All were taken aback by the seizures and even more by the fines. Tiền Phong, July 11, 2022.<sup>87</sup>





## Electrocution of elephants between July 1 and September 30, 2022



Sources, see page 234





September 25, 2022  
Channahalli, Shivamogga District, State of Karnataka



July 6, 2022  
Asarada Area, Dhenkanal District, State of Odisha



September 3, 2022  
Baghagharia, Denkanal District, State of Odisha



August 26, 2022  
Jagannathpur, Angul District, State of Odisha

#### July 1 and 14, 2022

#### **Pennagaram Taluk, Dharmapuri District, State of Tamil Nadu, India**

Shanmugam, Kamalesan aka Mariappan, Gunasekaran, and Sivakumar, aged 27 to 44, shot to death a wild elephant. They claim to have acted in self-defense while trespassing in the forest to poach wild animals for meat. The victim is believed to be a "makhna," a tuskless bull elephant. DT Next, July 14, 2022.<sup>88</sup>

#### July 7, 2022

#### **Ainthapali Tehsil, Sambalpur District, State of Odisha, India**

Seizure during the night at Basanti Lodge of 2 tusks coming from a poached elephant in the area of Boudh according to the information of the forest services (see "On the Trail" n°36 p. 36). Three people were arrested and 2 fled.

Ommcom News, July 7, 2022; The New Indian Express, July 8, 2022.<sup>89</sup>

#### July 7, 2022

#### **Umshru, Kamrup District, State of Meghalaya, India**

Seizure of tusks and sections of tusks weighing 6 kg. Very young calves have been killed. Arrest of Edison Nongtri and Darishan Nonrum from the villages of Patharkmah and Nongmaw Tamur in Ri Bhoi district.

Praditin Time, July 7, 2022; East Mojo, July 8, 2022; WCCB, July 8, 2022.<sup>90</sup>



## **FAMILY AFFAIRS**

**July 7, 10, 14, 20, 24 and August 7, 2022**

**Kanduribadi and Kandhanuapalli, Ganjam District, State of Odisha, India**

- Discovery of the carcass of an elephant, about 20 years old, in an apple-cabbage forest. The tusks are missing. The post-mortem reveals that he was hit by at least 2 rifle bullets. Three suspects, the father, the son and a nephew, are heard by the police. The 2 tusks were exhumed near a canal by the forest police.

- The carcass of an elephant was discovered on Wednesday, July 20 near the village of Kandhanuapalli. A tusk section was cut off.

- On Sunday, July 24, 4 forestry officers were suspended for dereliction of duty.

- On Sunday, August 7, Bimal Ranjan Swain was arrested. The section of tusk (1.8 kg) was found buried at the back of his house. He said that he had been asked to hide the raw ivory and that he had not participated in the cutting.

The Print, July 8, 2022; The Times of India, July 10, 16 and 24 and August 8, 2022; Outlook India, July 15, 2022; Odisha Bytes, July 21, 2022.<sup>91</sup>

**July 8, 2022**

**Kodathasanur, Coimbatore District, State of Tamil Nadu, India**

Arrests of R. Ranjith, age 20, S. Ajith, age 25, P. Prabhu, age 27, V. Kumaresan, age 31, C. Ramamoorthy, age 39, P. Velliangiri, age 40, S. Babu, age 48, P. Nagarajan, age 56, and V. Arumugam, age 56. They live in Kodathasanur, Ezhusuzhi, Karamadai, and Sirumugai. They claim to have cut the 2 tusks from the carcass of an elephant 3 months ago in the Kattanchi Malai forest. The forest police went to the site and found a skull and bones. These remains may help answer the riddle. Did the elephant die naturally or was he a victim of poaching?

The Hindu, July 9, 2022; The Times of India, July 10, 2022; WCCB, July 10, 2022.<sup>92</sup>

## **FAMILY AFFAIRS**

**July 18, 2022**

**Palamalai, Dindigul District, State of Tamil Nadu, India**

Acting on intelligence, the forest police raided the tourist resort of Palamalai at night and arrested 8 individuals between the ages of 24 and 47 years old in a lodge. They were in possession of 3 tusks, including one tiny one, and a single barrel rifle. One member of the gang fled. Mathrubhumi media said the tusks were fake.

Mathrubhumi, July 18, 2022; The Times of India, July 19, 2022.<sup>93</sup>

**July 24, 2022**

**Athiyur Pudur, Erode District, State of Tamil Nadu, India**

K. Sadayappan and P. Sengottaiyan, aged 40, under the direction of a 17-year-old minor, cut up the 2 tusks of a dead elephant in the forest under circumstances that post-mortem examination may elucidate. The young man poured acid on the base of the tusks to detach them. The 3 men claim to have sold them before without disclosing the identity of the buyer or buyers. The teenager was brought before the juvenile court and placed in Coimbatore in the specialized institution of the Tamil Nadu government. His 2 accomplices are in custody in the Gobichettipalayam district jail.

The Hindu, July 25, 2022; The Times of India, July 25, 2022.<sup>94</sup>

**July 24, 2022**

**Tabalei-Deogaon Reserve Forest and Kolgaon Forest, Sambalpur District, State of Odisha, India**

Continuation of "Elephant Graveyards in Odisha" (see "On the Trail" n°36 p. 36-37).

An STF (Special Task Force) team found half-burned bones of one or more adult elephants in the forest near Kolgaon and suspicious piles of ashes in the Tabalei forest. Forestry officers are once again in the sights of the hierarchy and elephant conservationists. It is not easy to find bones and ashes in the forests in the middle of July, and clearly the STF knew where to find new evidence of natural or violent elephant deaths. Since the beginning of the year, there have been at least 10 cases of unreported elephant deaths. It takes at least 12 to 14 hours to burn an elephant's body and to bury the remains. Mechanical means and fuel are also required and everyone agrees, including forest officials, that such spectacular practices should not occur without prior post-mortem reports being made and shared.

The Times of India, July 25, 2022; Hindustan Times, July 26, 2022.<sup>95</sup>



**July 26, 29 and August 6, 2022**

**Narasinghapur Forest, Cuttack District, State of Odisha, India**

Another male elephant that did not survive a poaching attempt. He died of generalized sepsis 3 days after being spotted by locals and reported to forest officials. At first, the forestry officers assumed that the animal had been in a fight with a fellow animal, but the scepticism of the local NGOs was quickly justified. The veterinarians detected 5 rifle bullets in the left ear, the trunk, a leg, and other parts of the animal. This is the second time in 2 months that a bullet-riddled elephant has died in this grim forest of Narasinghapur. Once again, the WSO (Wildlife Society of Orissa) is on the information front. It assures that out of 970 dead elephants in the State since 2010, at least 290 died by firearms, poisoning or electrocution. According to the WSO, whose statistics are recognized by all experts, the cause of death for more than 200 elephants from 2010-2022 cannot be determined because of the state of decomposition of the bodies, which are sometimes reduced to skin fragments and bones. Well aware of forestry officials' accommodations with protocols, the WSO says that elephant deaths are often disguised as buffalo deaths, and that the deaths of male elephants poached for their ivory are disguised as the deaths of female elephants that lack tusks.

A few days after the death of the second elephant in the Narasinghapur forest, 4 men, Bamadeb Pradhan, Sankar Parida, Niranjana Arukha, and Santosh Guru, habitual poachers in the area, have been arrested. However, there is no evidence that these deer and wild boar hunters are responsible for the death of the elephants.

Odisha TV, July 26 and 29, 2022; Ommcom News, July 28, 2022; The Hindu, July 30, 2022; The New Indian Express, July 30 and August 7, 2022.<sup>96</sup>

**July 27, 2022**

**Bagrakote Area, Jalpaiguri District, State of West Bengal, India**

Gobinda Pradhan and Bikash Lama were riding a motorcycle at night when they were intercepted by the police near Washabarie tea estate. They were carrying 2 presumed ivory tusks, weighing each 12 kg. They were heading towards Nepal, some 40 km away. According to them, they had a meeting point in Kakarvitta in the Nepalese district of Jhapa where the 24 kg of raw ivory was to be sold for 6 million rupees (76,000 US\$ or 3,170 US\$/kg).

The Free Press Journal, July 28, 2022; The Telegraph India, July 29, 2022.<sup>97</sup>

**July 28, 2022**

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

Seizure of 2 presumed ivory tusks. Three arrests. CID (Crime Investigation Department) and forest police acted on information. Star of Mysore, July 29, 2022.<sup>98</sup>

**End of July 2022**

**Gudalur, Nilgiris District, State of Tamil Nadu, India**



A "cold case" of elephant electrocution was solved and punished 22 years after the fact. Manickam and Prabhakaran, ages 64 and 65, have been sentenced to 3 years in prison and fined 10,000 rupees (126 US\$) for electrocuting a 15 year old male elephant.

The New Indian Express, July 31, 2022.<sup>99</sup>

**Night of July 30 to 31, 2022**

**Renchi Protected Forest, Latehar District, State of Jharkhand, India**



An elephant is dead. His tusks are missing.

Lagatar News, July 31, 2022; Zee News, July 31, 2022.<sup>100</sup>

**August 5 and mid-August 2022**

**Hyderabad, Hyderabad District, State of Telangana, India**



Across the country, the domestic market for carved ivory is reportedly growing and may partly explain the resurgence of poaching in some States. Pawan Soni and Rothi Soni were selling suspected ivory bangles, pendants, statuettes, cufflinks, and other junk via Facebook. Analyses are underway to verify their authenticity. They are said to have made around 800,000 rupees (10,000 US\$) since starting their illegal business. According to the investigators who had them in their sights for several months, the 2 men were content to be resellers. They alternated the sale of authentic and fake ivory and at this stage, it does not seem that they are in connection with poachers. According to the WCCB (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau), there is a network of resellers of recent ivory jewelry in Rajasthan, West Bengal, and Tamil Nadu.

The Times of India, August 8 and 19, 2022; WCCB, August 8, 2022.<sup>101</sup>

**August 6, 2022**

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

"Elephant Graveyards in Odisha" - continued

Arrest of Dhaneswar Behera, alias Dhania, who is suspected of being involved in the 2018 poaching of 2 elephants whose bones were discovered by the SIT (Special Investigation Team) on June 14 and 17 in the Athgarh forest. See "On the Trail" n°36 p. 36-37.

The New Indian Express, August 7, 2022.<sup>102</sup>

**Beginning of August 2022**

**Vallakkadavu, Idukki District, State of Kerala, India**

Arrest of Arun, age 36, in possession of 8.5 kg of ivory. He was on his way to Kumily, about 30 km away, where he intended to sell them for 1.2 million rupees (15,000 US\$ or 1,750 US\$/kg).

The Times of India, August 11, 2022.<sup>103</sup>

**Beginning of August 2022**

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

Arrest of Ashit P. and Subhash in possession of a tusk. They were waiting for a customer at a bus stand on the Madikeri-Mangaluru highway.

The Times of India, August 12, 2022.<sup>104</sup>

**August 11, 2022**

**Begunia Block, Khordha District, State of Odisha, India**

Athgarh and district forest officials with the help of police succeeded after a 4 day chase through 6 villages to arrest SK Rajak. He allegedly admitted to be involved in smuggling at least 8 pairs of tusks between Odisha and West Bengal.

Sambad English, August 12, 2022; Hindustan Times, August 13, 2022; The New Indian Express, August 13, 2022.<sup>105</sup>

**August 13, 2022**

**Belguri, Kamrup Rural District, State of Assam, India**

An elephant, perhaps 12 years old, is dead. She was killed with a firearm. The trunk, tail, left hind leg were amputated. Meat was cut up. The Rani Forest Reserve is on the border between Assam and Meghalaya.

G Plus, August 13, 2022; East Mojo, August 14, 2022.<sup>106</sup>

**REPEATED OFFENCE**

**August 13, 2022**

**Rendhar, Jalaun District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India**

There are international traffickers, Indian interstate traffickers and inter-district traffickers. The 4 people arrested at night by a roadside check are from the districts of Varanasi, Hamirpur and Banda. They have admitted to being involved in wildlife trafficking for several years.

United News of India, August 13, 2022; The Times of India, August 14, 2022.<sup>107</sup>

**August 16, 2022**

**Kendudihi Forest, Sundargarh District, State of Odisha, India**

Discovery of the carcass of a young female elephant. "The baby elephant appears to have died of some disease as there was no apparent sign of foul play. To determine the exact reason of death, the viscera and brain samples have been sent to Bhubaneswar for further examination," explains forest ranger Sanath Kumar.

The New Indian Express, August 19, 2022.<sup>108</sup>

**16 and end of August 2022**

**Kalwa, Thane District, State of Maharashtra, India**

Seizure in the hands of Amit Warlikar, a fitness teacher, and Sagar Patil, a lottery ticket seller, of an engraved tusk 34.5 cm long and weighing 1.4 kg which dates back to the colonial period. Its value is estimated to be 25 million rupees (over 300,000 US\$).

The arrest of Rajesh Rawat, a cleaner, suspected of stealing the tusk from his employer in Mumbai, and a companion named Tara alias Tarapat Kayal, whose role was to find buyers or intermediaries.

The Print (with PTI), August 17, 2022; The Times of India, August 18 and 27, 2022.<sup>109</sup>

**August 18, 2022**

**Chatarpada Forest, Cuttack District, State of Odisha, India**

Two opposing visions:

- The elephant staggering in the Narasinghpur forest, Chatarpada section, is said to have been shot. This would be the third poaching victim in a month.

- The elephant was the victim of a fight with a fellow elephant.

Tranquilized by a sedative but remaining upright, the elephant was examined by metal detector and no bullets or splinters were found. He lost his left tusk, likely during the fight or some other event. He is about 45 years old. His wounds are superficial, say the vets. His health is being monitored. He arrived in the Athagarh forest division 3 days ago from Keonjhar.

KalingaTV, August 18, 2022; Prameya News, August 18, 2022; The New Indian Express, August 19, 2022.<sup>110</sup>

**August 24, 2022**

**Jonai, Dhemaji District, State of Assam, India**

Seizure of 7 tusks and sections of tusks, 2 firearms, and a vehicle. Arrest of 2 men from Arunachal Pradesh. Tage Rina is an ex-serviceman of the Indian army. Talen Jamoh lives in Sile in the East Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh. The police once again acted on confidential information. The encirclement operation started around midnight on Tuesday and ended around 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday.

East Mojo, August 24, 2022; Time8, August 24, 2022.<sup>111</sup>

## **End of August 2022** **State of Odisha, India**

The State's High Court of Justice has approved the formation of a commission comprising the forest department, the police, and an NGO to propose a reform of criminal penalties against elephant poachers. The High Court had been seized by a pro-elephant activist from the Cuttack District. The 2 judges said the "special force" should also investigate tiger poaching and pangolin trafficking. The death of 4 elephants in 10 days in Odisha raises the anger of NGOs. A delegation from the WCCB, the Indian Ministry of Forests, the Indian Wildlife Institute, and the principal chief conservator of forests of Kerala visited Odisha to investigate the disturbing elephant deaths. In 2 months, July and August 2022, Odisha recorded 16 violent elephant deaths. Never in 10 years has such a toll been recorded in such a short time period.

In the Denkhanal District, the Tata Power Central Distribution Limited had until March 31, 2022 to consolidate the electricity network, isolate the 10,000 volt lines, fence in the transformers, and thus stem the tide of illegal connections. This ultimatum has not been respected. Residents and farmers continue to hijack the grid to electrocute wild animals. They say this is to prevent wild boar from raiding crops, but the electric cables hanging from trees, blocking animal corridors, and littering the ground could have less avowed motivations, such as the marketing of meat and trafficking in ivory or other wildlife by-products sold on the black market. Pragativadi, September 3, 2022; Hindustan Times, September 4, 2022; The New Indian Express, September 4, 2022; The Times of India, September 4, 2022.<sup>112</sup>



## **September 9 and 15, 2022** **Faudatola, Sundargarh District, State of Odisha, India**

The body of an elephant approximately 14 years old that had been found near a stream on Friday, September 9 was examined by forensic veterinarians. The post-mortem examination revealed that the elephant had been pierced by throwing weapons believed to be spears and arrows. He was seriously injured and fled into the forest to die. Investigations revealed that the elephant was savagely attacked in the early morning of September 9 at the edge of a rice field in Faudatola. On Thursday, September 15, 6 people were arrested. At least 4 spears were seized. The owner of the rice field, Karma Tigga, is believed to have organised the massacre. Five accomplices between the ages of 30 and 41 are said to have participated in the ambush. According to unconfirmed reports, the elephant had put "a reign of terror" in and around the Tunguri forest for several days.

Argus News, September 15, 2022; Sambad English, September 15, 2022; The Pioneer, September 17, 2022.<sup>113</sup>

## **September 13, 2022** **Thamaraikarai, Erode District, State of Tamil Nadu State, India**

According to The Hindu newspaper, the anti-Naxalite Special Division arrested in Bargur hills K. Chandrasekar, age 45, of Gunduchettipalayam village. He was carrying 4 elephant tusks in a bag with the goal of selling them in Karnataka or Kerala according to other sources. Three accomplices, Rasu, living in Vakaimarathu Kodikkal, Chellappan, living in Burgur and Mahendran, living in Kadairetty, were later arrested. The 4 tusks are 60 cm long and their value is estimated to be several hundred thousand rupees (several thousand US\$).

The Hindu, September 14, 2022; DTNext, September 15, 2022; The Times of India, September 15, 2022.<sup>114</sup>

## **September 13, 2022** **Jagi Road, Morigaon District, State of Assam, India**



Seizure of 2 tusks weighing 1.3 and 1.21 kg. Two arrests.

WCCB, September 13, 2022.<sup>115</sup>

## **September 14-16, 2022** **Erode and Salem Districts, State of Tamil Nadu, India**

In the wake of the seizure at Thamaraikarai, the WCCB announces the seizure of 4 elephant tusks and the arrest of 10 individuals in an operation conducted in cooperation with the Tamil Nadu Police and Forest Department.

WCCB, September 22, 2022.<sup>116</sup>



**September 16, 2022**

**Gormora Forest, Ramgarh District, State of Jharkhand, India**

Discovery by locals of the corpse of an elephant estimated to be 12 years old. The tusks are still there. The village chief of Basantpur alerts the authorities. When the district forestry officers arrived on the scene, the tusks were gone. Two days later, they were found 300 meters from the corpse. The forest is regularly frequented by herds and their guardians. The body was examined with a metal detector which did not reveal the presence of bullets or throwing weapons. Viscera were taken to be analyzed. Poisoning is not diverted.

News Drum (with PTI), September 17, 2022; Lagatar News, September 19, 2022; The Times of India, September 19, 2022.<sup>117</sup>

**September 20, 2022**

**Bengaluru, Bengaluru-Urban District, State of Karnataka, India**

A 50-year-old man posing as a daily paid agricultural labourer was looking to sell 2 tusks near Government High School. Living at the time in Krishnagiri district, Tamil Nadu, 70 km from Bengaluru, he said that he was asked by "someone" to sell them in the capital of Karnataka.

The Times of India, September 22, 2022.<sup>118</sup>

**September 22, 2022**

**Latu, Latehar District, State of Jharkhand, India**

The patrol of the Palamau Tiger Reserve gets hold of a tusk of 20 cm long and 250 grams in the Bareysanr area. It would have been hidden by "dubious elements", in the words of the vice-director of the southern division of the reserve. Mukesh Kumar even suggests a worst-case scenario in which the juvenile elephant was the victim of a homemade explosive. The tiger reserve is in close proximity to the Burha Pahar Hills, a stronghold and naxalite territory that has reportedly been recently reclaimed, pacified, and cleared of mines by Jharkhand Special Forces. The naxalits are communist-inspired militants (see "On the Trail" n°2 p. 21, n°35 p. 55) whose pioneers appeared in 1967 in Naxalbari in West Bengal. Always fought against but never extinguished, the movement has an astonishing capacity for resilience in traditional agricultural circles that oppose the privatization and colonization of land by Indian and transnational mining and agribusiness companies. The "red corridor" runs through Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu.

Lagatar News, September 23, 2022; The Times of India, September 23, 2022.<sup>119</sup>

**NEPAL**

**July 14, 2022**

**Khudunabari, Jhapa District, Province n°1, Nepal**

Seizure of a raw ivory and arrest of Ramesh Rai. It follows the arrest on March 11, 2022 in Kathmandu of 3 men, 2 of whom lived like Ramesh in the district of Jhapa. They were in possession of 15.8 kg of ivory. Thaha Khabar, July 14, 2022; Nepal News, July 15, 2022.<sup>120</sup>

**SRI LANKA**

**July 7, 2022**

**Kebithigollewa, North Central Province, Sri Lanka**

According to the little information available, the large ivory-carrying male known as "Maheshakya" was in bad condition after a supposed fight with a fellow animal. Taking advantage of his weakened state, one or more people tore off one of his tusks with an axe. According to the veterinary surgeon Chandana Jayasinghe, this savage mutilation finished him off. At the request of the Minister of Agriculture, Wildlife and Forests, an investigation is being launched into possible negligence on the part of the guards in protecting "Maheshakya."

A forest, Padaviya Tank Wildlife Sanctuary, and Horowpathana National Park are surrounding Kebithigollewa.

Daily News, July 8 and 9, 2022.<sup>121</sup>



**July 26 and August 8, 2022**

**Jathika Namal Uyana Reserve, North Central Province, Sri Lanka**



It was one of the last super tuskers of the island. His tusks were 120 cm long. He was about 35 years old. He died by electrocution. The hope of seeing him attracted many domestic and foreign tourists to Kalawewa and Namal National Parks. A police officer is suspected of unintentional elephant killing. He was protecting a food garden with a direct current power line. He was released on bail of 250,000 rupees (685 US\$).

Daily Mirror, July 27, 2022.<sup>122</sup>

**August 14, 2022**

**Mihintale Mountain, North Central Province, Sri Lanka**



Three new electrocutions: a male and a female about 15 years old and a calf estimated to be 4 or 5 years old. The 2 adults died near a rice field and the calf in a fallow field. The owner of the neighbouring house was taken into custody. Electricity poles and cables were seized.

Human-elephant conflicts are worsening. In the first 4 months of 2022, 47 violent elephant deaths were reported. 13 were shot, 17 were electrocuted, and 19 were victims of homemade explosives. 34 people were killed. A symposium on the prevention of human-elephant conflict was recently held in Lunugamwehera in the Southern Province. It found that conflict is rampant in 131 administrative divisions, in 19 districts, and in 8 provinces (out of 9). In spite of the plans and good ideas that have been put forward and the exchanges with other countries facing the same problem (see "On the Trail" n°32 p. 51), the government remains powerless. The electrification program of the rural land registry is facing the anger of the farmers. They see it as a way of preventing them from expanding their farms while at the same time making elephant corridors safe.

LankaPage.com, August 14, 2022; News 1<sup>st</sup>, August 14, 2022; The Island, August 15, 2022.<sup>123</sup>

**August 2022**

**Anuradhapura District, North Central Province, Sri Lanka**



In Galenbindunuwewa, a dead elephant electrocuted.

In Medawachchiya, a dead elephant poisoned.



In Mahawilachchiya, an elephant fatally wounded by a firearm.

In Horovpatana and Tirappane, 2 elephants fatally wounded by "hakka patas," these home-made explosives hidden in fruits.



Daily News, September 12, 2022.<sup>124</sup>

**End of September 2022**

**Uragasmanhandiya, Southern Province, Sri Lanka**

One arrest. Seizure of 8 suspected Gaja Muthu worth an estimated 10 million rupees (28,000 US\$). Ada Derana, September 24, 2022.<sup>125</sup>

**EUROPE**

**GERMANY**

**August 17, 2022**

**Weil am Rhein, Baden-Württemberg State, Germany. Border with France and Switzerland.**

Seizure of an elephant foot box from England destined for a Swiss private individual.

Verlagshaus Jaumann, August 18, 2022.<sup>126</sup>



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**August 22, 2022**

**Dortmund International Airport, North Rhine-Westphalia State, Germany**

Sequestration of 2 grand pianos manufactured in 1896 and 1910. The 2 consignees in the south and north of Germany were not able to present import certificates. All keys are made of ivory. The consignees have one month to obtain waivers and provide clarification on the origin of the musical instruments.

German Customs, August 24, 2022; t-online, August 24, 2022.<sup>127</sup>

**PORTUGAL**

**September 13, 2022**

**Vila Real de Santo António, District of Faro, Portugal. Border with Spain.**

Seizure of 146 carved ivories and raw elephant tusks and a hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*, Appendix II) tooth in an auction house.

Republican National Guard - Faro Territorial Command, September 16, 2022.<sup>128</sup>

**CZECHIA**

**OPERATION OLIFANT**

**September 7, 2022**

**Pízen, Pízen Region, Czechia**

Seizure in an antique store of 2 tusks and several dozen carved ivories with a total value of 245,000 US\$.

The Customs Administration of the Czech Republic, September 9, 2022.<sup>129</sup>

## ELEPHANTS AND FELINES

### AFRICA

#### ZIMBABWE

**August 3, 2022**

**Victoria Falls, Matabeleland North Province, Zimbabwe. Border with Zambia.**

Arrest of Listed Munkuli, 35, Kudakwashe Ndlovu, 31, Darlington Moyo, 35, and Simon Nyoni, 45, in Zambezi National Park. They were carrying 2 elephant tusks weighing 4.28 kg and 15 claws and 4 lion fangs (*Panthera leo*, Appendix II).

Pindula, August 6, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

### ASIA

#### INDIA

**September 20, 2022**

**Bangalore, Bangalore Urban District, State of Karnataka, India**

At a jewellery store in the Hanumanthnagar District, police caught a certain Dinesh, age 47, trying to sell several elephant-shaped ivory statuettes and an effigy of Krishna, the 8<sup>th</sup> incarnation of the Hindu god Vishnu. He was also in possession of tiger fangs and claws (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I).

The Times of India, September 22, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

## ELEPHANTS AND RHINOS

### AFRICA

#### ANGOLA

**September 23, 2022**

**Quatro de Fevereiro International Airport, Luanda Province, Angola**

A Vietnamese man who had been in Angola for 5 days and was returning to his country via Dubai was arrested at the boarding gate of an Emirates flight. His luggage contained 26 kg of carved ivory, rings, bracelets and necklaces, 5 rolls of braided elephant hair, and 6 kg of rhinoceros horn. His name is Zung, and he's 30 years old. Angola is a country where elephants are turned into junk. There are no more rhinos in Angola.

Na Mira do Crime, September 27, 2022; Novo Jornal, October 18, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

### AMERICA

#### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**August 18, 2022**

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

Moazu Kromah, a.k.a. Ayoub, a.k.a. Ayuba, a.k.a. Kampala Man, a Liberian citizen residing in Uganda, was sentenced to 63 months' imprisonment by the Southern District of New York for his role in a conspiracy that was trafficking rhinoceros' horns and elephant ivory between Africa and the USA and trying to expand it. Kromah was arrested in Uganda and extradited to the USA in June 2019 (see "On the Trail" n°18 p.86, n°25 p.81 and n°29 p.42).

US Department of Justice, August 18, 2022; New Vision, August 28, 2022.<sup>2</sup>



Elephants + rhinos + pangolins, see page 15



# RHINOCEROSSES

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°37

**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	Country	US\$	Ref. (year)
Africa	Mozambique	62,670	2 (2022)
Asia	Malaysia	65,460	4* (2022)
Europe	Portugal	63,100	34 (2022)

\* cf. chapter Pangolins, elephants / felines / rhinoceroses

## CENTRAL AFRICA

### CAMEROON

**August 5, 2022**

**Douala, Littoral Region, Cameroon**

Elisabeth Ndawou is sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment with a 3-year probationary period. She must also pay 1.07 million CFA francs (1,650 US\$) in damages. She was arrested in Douala on 3 August 2020 in possession of a rhinoceros horn. LAGA, August 2022.<sup>1</sup>



## EASTERN AFRICA

### MOZAMBIQUE

**July 26, 2022**

**Maputo, Maputo Province, Mozambique**

Arrest of Simon Valoi, age 45, and Paulo Zucula, age 32, by SERNIC (National Criminal Investigation Service) in a hotel where they were delivering 7.5 kg of rhinoceros horns. Valoi is considered a major player in the trade. He is also suspected of killing a veterinarian in South Africa. The value of the seizure is estimated to be 30 million meticaïs (470,000 US\$ or 62,670 US\$/kg). Trying at all costs to consolidate his image as a deliveryman and small-time middleman, Valoi claims that the commission he was promised amounted to 20,000 meticaïs (310 US\$).

Julian Rademeyer, July 28, 2022; Club of Mozambique, July 29 and August 1, 2022.<sup>2</sup>



**September 28, 2022**

**Maputo, Maputo Province, Mozambique**

**Province,**



Sentencing of Vusi Geraldo Mucavele, age 22, to 30 years in prison. On January 13, 2022, he was arrested in the region of Lebombo bordering Eswatini. He was leaving a rhino farm. He entered by climbing over the fence. Mucavele was carrying a 375-caliber rifle, an axe, and some foodstuff. The investigation file does not mention the presence of horns in his belongings or on his route. At the time of the crime, 2 accomplices fled the scene. Mucavele was therefore convicted of premeditated and repeated attempts to poach rhinos. He was also fined the equivalent of 26 years at the rate of 1% of the Civil Service salary.

National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC), October 2, 2022; Club of Mozambique, October 3, 2022.<sup>3</sup>



## ZIMBABWE

**July 2022**

### **Midlands Black Rhino Conservancy, Midlands Province, Zimbabwe**

This protected area, dedicated to the conservation and development of wildlife and rhinos in particular, covers 631.13 km<sup>2</sup>. It is in the process of being colonized by intensive grain farming and cattle ranching, promoted by Patrick Mnangagwa, brother of President Emmerson Mnangagwa, Mthuli Ncube, Minister of Finance, and Douglas Kwande, Zimbabwe's cattle "king." Among the invaders of the Midlands Black Rhino Conservancy, The NewsHawks also lists Chitsaka Chipaziwa, former Zimbabwean representative to the United Nations, and David Douglas Hamadziripi, former Zimbabwean ambassador to France during the Robert Mugabe era, now in office in South Africa. Zimbabwe's current representative at the United Nations is also taking part. From New York, he tells The NewsHawks that he wants to go into horticulture and cattle breeding.

Brilliant Chibura, manager of the Midlands Black Rhino Conservancy, says that the land grabbers are moving in without consultation, erecting fences that interfere with the movement of wildlife and hinder the black rhinos' ability to forage. "Rhinos are selective feeders and major herbivores, meaning they have to travel a very long distance to select what they can eat. A rhino can eat 200 kg of food daily and for that he must travel for 50km to 60km. Over this distance he will be selecting thickets of feed."

One of the founders of the Midlands Black Rhino Conservancy in 1987 also expresses his concerns and opposition to the encroachment of agribusiness industrialists and income hunters: "We are having an increase in poaching and a decrease in wildlife habitat. This has led to a reduction in tourism potential. The country's reputation is being damaged. Large investments to protect wildlife which we made 35 years ago are now going down the drain. It is a big loss."

The Midlands Black Rhino Conservancy is home to elephants, antelopes, hippos, wild dogs, leopards, hyenas, cheetahs, zebras, giraffes, and thousands of birds.

The NewsHawks, July 16, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

**September 16, 2022**

### **Zimbabwe**

Preventive dehorning of rhinos has been tried in Zimbabwe since 1992 and a collective campaign was launched in 2016. The horns grow back 5-6 cm per year. ZimParks spokesperson Tinashe Farawo today announced that all rhinos in the country will be dehorned. "The reason is to make them less attractive to poachers." ZimParks refuses to disclose

the cost of the overall operation. The financial cost of dehorning an animal was estimated in 2016 at 1,200 US\$ (see "On the Trail" n°14 p.60 and 61). Amputation requires anaesthesia beforehand. Given the corruption that reigns in Zimbabwe, as in many countries in Africa and other continents, there are serious doubts about the management of amputated horns and chips from dehorning. Horns are cut with a chainsaw.

Bloomberg, September 16, 2022; DailyNews (Zimbabwe), September 16, 2022; Getaway, September 22, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

## SOUTHERN AFRICA

### SOUTH AFRICA

**July 1, 2022**

### **Between Malelane and Skukuza, Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa**

Three illegal immigrants from Mozambique launched a manhunt in the air with a helicopter and on land with a ranger patrol. The alarm had been raised by visitors worried about hearing gunshots in the park. On the poachers, a rifle, a silencer, 3 knives, 3 survival bags, and 4 cell phones were seized. Nearby there were 3 dead rhinos and 3 freshly cut horns. There was also a rhino in agony who was finished off.

SAPS, July 3, 2022; SANParks, July 6, 2022; Lowvelder, July 9, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

### **REPEATED OFFENCE**

**July 6, 2022**

### **Ekurhuleni, Gauteng Province, South Africa**

Njabulo Mbatha, age 31, and Armando Amosse Chingo, a 33-year-old Mozambican national, are taking the road to Johannesburg with 2 rhino horns. They were unaware that they were reported. As they entered the suburb of Bedfordview, their journey was stopped by officers from the K9 Brigade, the Hawks, and the Green Scorpions. The 2 horns were recovered. DNA tests will be carried out to try and link them to poached rhino carcasses. Mbatha is a former ranger at Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park (KwaZulu-Natal). He was dismissed in 2018. He was strongly suspected of being involved in the poaching and dehorning of at least 6 rhinos one night in early July 2017 in the Mbuzane section (see "On the Trail" n°18 p.70). He is said to have provided information to poaching gangs originating from the Mpumalanga province.

Mail & Guardian, July 11, 2022; Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, August 1, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

**July 8, 2022**

**Gravelotte, Limpopo Province, South Africa**

At 5 a.m., the double-cab Toyota was driving near Letsitele. It matched a description. It was intercepted and the 3 occupants were promptly ejected. Two managed to escape. Inside, a high-caliber firearm with ammunition, 2 horns, and an axe were found. At daybreak, a search of the ranch revealed the death of a rhinoceros



and the extraction of his 2 horns. Another rhino escaped immediate death. He is now in the hands of the vets. Lieutenant Thembi Hadebe thanked the lookouts of the Farm Watch collective: "Being our ears and eyes is very crucial in the fight against crime and it is very important for anyone who notices criminal activity to report immediately to the police."

SAPS, July 9, 2022; Polokwane Review, July 10, 2022; Letaba Herald, July 14, 2022.<sup>8</sup>

**July 2022**

**Barberton Nature Reserve, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa**

For safety reasons, 6 orphans approximately 3 years old were dehorned. This was a first for them. Anaesthesia, blankets over the eyes, earplugs in the ears, horns cut with a chainsaw, splinters filed off to prevent the rhinos from injuring each other, the operation lasted around 30 minutes. The horns are taken care of by SAPS. The orphanage wishes to make it clear that it does not own any.

Care for Wild Rhino Sanctuary, July 2022.<sup>9</sup>

**Beginning of August 2022**

**South Africa**

Transfer of an orphaned rhino to the Baby Rhino Rescue sanctuary. Its location is being kept secret for security reasons. He was discovered next to the body of his mother, killed by poachers.

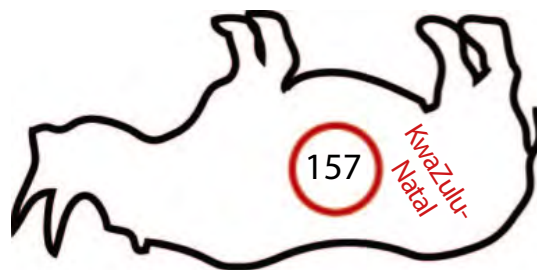
Baby Rhino Rescue, August 11 and 16, 2022.<sup>10</sup>

**Mid-August 2022**

**KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa**

Carcasses of 2 freshly poached rhinos found. Since the beginning of the year, 157 rhinos have been killed in the province.

Sue Spurgin, August 16, 2022.<sup>11</sup>



**August 17, 2022**

**Majakaneng, North West Province, South Africa**

The suspects had inside information. They were about to enter a reserve. They were in possession of a firearm, a silencer, ammunition, a butcher's knife, and an axe. On checking their identities, investigators discovered that the 6 individuals were already wanted by the Hawks and the Special Anti-Poaching Force.

Kormorant, August 26, 2022.<sup>12</sup>

**August 31, 2022**

**Sabi Sand Private Game Reserve, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa**

Orphans are alike and they are different. They have lived through common horrors, but each has specific cries and visions in their eyes and ears. This one was wandering at dusk in the Sabi Sand Reserve (650 km<sup>2</sup>). His movements were monitored all night by drones. Orphans sometimes seek refuge in inaccessible areas and risk being attacked by hyenas and lions. In the early hours of the morning, he was sedated



and flown by helicopter to the Care for Wild shelter. The first year of care for a baby rhino costs 12,000 US\$, with 24-hour care required, the second 8,000 US\$, the third 5,000 US\$, and in the fourth year, if all goes well, he is once again confronted with freedom and the risks of poaching.

Care for Wild Rhino Sanctuary, October 18, 2022; The Citizen (South Africa), November 19, 2022.<sup>13</sup>



## **Beginning of September 2022**

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

Poachers have claimed new victims in KwaZulu-Natal. Two new orphaned rhinos, a 7-month-old male and a 2-month-old female, have just arrived at the sanctuary of the NGO Zululand Conservation Trust.

Zululand Conservation Trust, September 4, 2022.<sup>14</sup>

## **September 21, 2022, and January 23, 2023**

### **Kruger National Park, Malelane Section, and Skukuza, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa**

The 2 Mozambique nationals entered the park through the Malelane section. They were carrying a rifle, ammunition, an axe, food, 3 cell phones, and 2 horns when, hiding in the tall grass, they were spotted by a helicopter crew and were quickly surrounded by a ground patrol.

Mpumalanga News, September 28, 2022; TimesLIVE (South Africa), January 23, 2022.<sup>15</sup>



## **REPEATED OFFENCE**

### **September 22, 2022**

### **Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa**

Aron Manique, a Mozambique national, and Alex Baloyi, a South African national, were sentenced to 8 years in prison for attempted poaching of rhinos in conspiracy, and 7 years in prison for illegally carrying a firearm and ammunition. The 2 sentences run concurrently.

They had been arrested on May 17, 2021, on the road near Colchester, and police had seized an unregistered high-caliber weapon, a silencer, and a hunting knife concealed behind the trim of a door and in the engine compartment of their vehicle. In addition, a bag in the trunk contained, among other belongings, a pair of sports shoes which Baloyia acknowledged ownership of. Traces of blood on the soles were analyzed for DNA. They matched the DNA of 2 rhinos poached in Hoedspruit, Limpopo province. "It is incredibly helpful that although the DNA sample in this case was not fresh, it showed that at some point the suspect had probably stood in the blood of those 2 rhinos," said Buks Coetzee, senior prosecutor in the Eastern Cape province.



On the other hand, cross-referenced investigations in the judicial files revealed that Manique and Baloyi had been arrested 10 years earlier with the carcass of an impala antelope in their vehicle, compelling evidence that the 2 had a history of poaching, especially since after their arrest, they had admitted to also being in search of a rhino.

The Herald (South Africa), October 8, 2022.<sup>16</sup>

## **September 30, October 18, and November 3, 2022**

### **Makhanda, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa** **The eclipses of Operation Full Moon.**

At the end of July 2018, 6 men between the ages of 25 and 30, all from Zimbabwe, were arrested with weapons, luggage, ammunition, and money on the Grahamstown Road now known as Makhanda. According to the investigators, ballistic tests and the decryption of their telephones showed that these 6 men were serial killers responsible between March 2016 and June 2018 for the death of 13 rhinos in the Eastern Cape province, which until then had presented itself as an anti-poaching fortress.

On September 30, 2022, the 6 who had been held in prison since their arrest were found guilty of rhino poaching by the Makhanda High Court. On this occasion, the prosecutor pointed out that according to the information available to him, rhino poaching in the province had ceased since the July 2018 incarceration of the 6 accused. The director of the Kragga Kamma Game Park in Gqeberha, where the gang in June 2018 allegedly accomplished their latest feat by poaching a female whose horns had nonetheless been shortened, enthusiastically declared, "We are always sending out a strong message that if you come poach in the Eastern Cape you are not going to get bail. You are going to sit in jail, and you are more than likely going to be prosecuted - which is very different to many other provinces in South Africa."

Following the indictments, the trial of the 6 suspects is set for November 4.

On Tuesday, October 18, 2022, almost all the poachers, who had been promised the harshest punishment, escaped during the night, along with 2 other criminals, after sawing through the bars of their cell! To be continued.

Algoa FM, October 1, 2022; Daily Maverick, October 18, 2022; News 24, October 24, 2022; Talk of the Town, October 24 and November 3, 2022.<sup>17</sup>

## BOTSWANA

### Beginning August 2022

#### Khama Rhino Sanctuary, Central District, Botswana

A white rhino has been poached and dehorned inside the Khama Rhino Sanctuary (KRS), according to 2 NGOs. The information has not been officially confirmed by the DWNP (Department of Wildlife and National Parks). The Khama Rhino Sanctuary covers 85 km<sup>2</sup> in the arid Kalahari bush. The Times says the most common way for poachers to enter the sanctuary is to buy an entry ticket.

Sunday Standard, August 19, 2022; The Times (UK), August 26, 2022.<sup>18</sup>

## NAMIBIA

### End of July and beginning of August 2022

#### Gobabis District, Omaheke Region, Namibia

Two rhinos were poached on a ranch whose owner prefers to remain anonymous for security reasons. Another rhino had already suffered the same fate at the end of July. The crooks fix pieces of mattress under their soles to hide the footprints, and often change their footwear from flip-flops to sneakers during their raids. The breeder adds that, given the way the animals are dehorned, he's dealing with a gang of professionals.

Allgemeine Zeitung (Namibia), August 17, 2022.<sup>19</sup>

### August 8, 2022

#### Outjo District, Kunene Region, Namibia

Carcasses of 2 white rhinos found near a private reserve. No arrests.

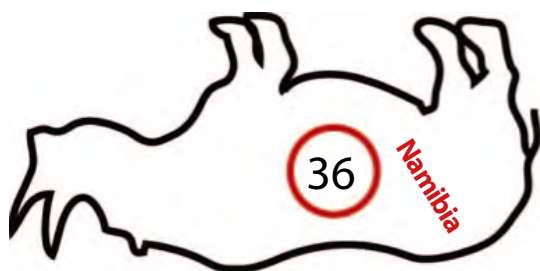
Namibian Sun, August 8, 2022.<sup>20</sup>

### August 9, 2022

#### Okahandja district, Otjozondjupa Region, Namibia

Discovery of a white rhino carcass in a game farm. Since the beginning of the year, 36 rhinos have been poached in Namibia.

Namibian Sun, August 10, 2022.<sup>21</sup>



### August 17, 2022

#### Namibia

#### Wildlife Vets Namibia press release, excerpts.

"Recently we have dehorned several white rhinos at the Rhino Momma Project. A sad but needed measure to prevent poaching. Rhino horns grow continuously throughout the life of a rhino at an average rate of 25 to 66 mm per year. The horn has absolutely no medicinal value; you can compare it you your fingernail (or even better, to a horse's hoof). Currently, a rhino is worth more dead than alive. Much money is being raised, many anti-poaching techniques are being used, but somehow, we are fighting a losing battle. We feel it is important that people are educated about the negative effects of the CITES ban on the legal rhino horn trade. The legal trade would give rhino owners an incentive again to have rhinos on their property, and to invest in them. A big thanks to the entire Rhino Momma Project-team for a job well done!"

The Rhino Momma Project presents itself as a non-profit organisation and boasts that it has exported 17 rhinos to the Democratic Republic of Congo, 3 to Angola, and 10 to the United States of America. "A vaccination program ensures that all Rhinos on the reserve are vaccinated against rabies and anthrax, including calves once they reach the age of 6 months." "To ensure and increase the protection and safety of our rhinos, we manage a regular horn trimming program, but the process is unfortunately very costly and can therefore only be done sustainably if the necessary funds are available."

Wildlife Vets Namibia, August 17, 2022.<sup>22</sup>



## INDIA

**August 22, 2022**

**Otjituuo, Otjozondjupa Region, Namibia**

Discovery of the carcass of a female black rhino shot near a game farm. The damage is estimated at 500,000 Namibian dollars or 29,770 US\$. Namibia News Digest, August 27, 2022.<sup>23</sup>

**End of August 2022**

**Otjiwarongo, Otjozondjupa Region, Namibia**

Another discovery of a black rhino carcass. It is a female. Both her horns are missing. She was shot while about to give birth. The damage is estimated at 1 million Namibian dollars or 59,540 US\$. Namibia News Digest, August 27, 2022.<sup>24</sup>

**End of August 2022**

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

Discovery of 2 new poached rhino carcasses. Since the beginning of the year, 20 rhinos have been fatally attacked by poachers in Etosha Park. Informanté, August 31, 2022.<sup>25</sup>

**End of August 2022**

**Onguma Safari Camps, Oshikoto, Namibia**

The anti-poaching unit spots 2 highly equipped men. One manages to escape, the other is injured during his arrest and transferred to hospital. Allgemeine Zeitung (Namibia), September 1, 2022.<sup>26</sup>

**September 9, 2022**

**Gobabis, Omaheke Region, Namibia**

The prophet and founder of the evangelical sect House of Joy Ministries will have to exercise his talents in prison:

- 3 years' imprisonment for poaching in a protected reserve, 3 years' imprisonment for organised poaching, and a fine of 100,000 Namibian dollars (almost 6,000 US\$) for each sentence.
- For theft of 4 horns from a female rhino and her calf: 2 years' imprisonment.
- For keeping 2 horns at home: 3 years' imprisonment.
- For attempting to bribe an investigator: 2 years' imprisonment or a fine of 20,000 Namibian dollars (1,190 US\$).
- For supplying and possessing ammunition: a fine of 5,000 Namibian dollars (300 US\$) or 12 months' imprisonment.
- For racketeering and money laundering: a fine of 50,000 Namibian dollars (2,980 US\$) or 3 years' imprisonment in the event of non-payment.

In all, Jackson Babi was sentenced to 10 years in prison and fines amounting to 370,000 Namibian dollars (22,000 US\$), with a further 17 years in prison in default of payment. For 4 years after his release, he will be prohibited from possessing a firearm.

Jackson Babi, see "On the Trail" n°29 p. 48.

New Era, September 12, 2022; The Namibian, September 13, 2022; Namibian Sun, September 13, 2022.<sup>27</sup>



**July 7, 2022**

**Bhojmari, Biswanath District, State of Assam, India**

After 3 years on the run in Kerala, Rasidul Haque (alias Meeru), killer of a rhinoceros in Kaziranga Park, was arrested. He had returned to his land. He was protected by 2 bodyguards and was hiding in a hut concealed in the marshes, 1 km from his home. Time8, July 7, 2022; The Times of India, July 8, 2022.<sup>28</sup>

**July 26, 2022**

**Mohbondha Grant, Jorhat District, State of Assam, India**

Qadir Ahmed, a guy from Titabar, was riding a motorcycle when he was intercepted by the police. He was carrying a one-kilo horn. India Today, July 27, 2022.<sup>29</sup>

**FAMILY AFFAIRS**

**August 1, 2022**

**Behali Block, Biswanath District, State of Assam, India**

Four men were apprehended on Monday night. They are suspected of attempting to poach a rhino in Kaziranga Park on Sunday. They include Dhanidev Saikia, whose whole family is involved in poaching, and Dipankar Boro, a former leader of the National Democratic Front of Bodoland, an ethnic community that claims to be the founder of the State of Bodoland and is considered a terrorist group by the federal government.

Asian News International, August 2, 2022; East Mojo, August 2, 2022.<sup>30</sup>

**August 15 and 18, 2022**

**Bandar Dubi, Nagaon District, Kuthuri, Golaghat District, and Rongbong, Karbi Anglong District, State of Assam, India**

Three men have been charged, but no horns have been seized.

"Based on a tip-off, we conducted a raid on the night of August 15 and arrested one Imam Ali from his house and during interrogation, he revealed to have sold a rhino horn to Baharul Islam. Based on his revelation, we arrested Baharul Islam. After investigating Baharul, the third person, Mohan Teron, was arrested. We are continuing our investigation into the matter," Ramesh Kumar Gogoi, the divisional forest officer of Kaziranga National Park, said.

East Mojo, August 19, 2022; Northeast Now, August 19, 2022; Praditin Time, August 19, 2022.<sup>31</sup>



## REPEATED OFFENCE

**August 30, 2022**

**Bokakhat, Golaghat District, State of Assam, India**

Seizure of a 2.3 kg rhinoceros horn. Arrest of Bhokto Bahadur Thapa and Budheshwar Shinte (alias Budhai Shinte). Thapa is said to have been involved in horn trafficking in the past.

Praditin Time, August 30, 2022; Golaghat Police, August 31, 2022; India Today, August 31, 2022.<sup>32</sup>

**September 19, 2022**

**Biswanath Chariali, Biswanath District, State of Assam, India**

Arrest of Pinku Mandal, age 31, from Bihar. He was hiding in the shed of a grocery store run by Hanuman Pandya. He is suspected of having supplied the weapons and inflatable dinghies used to poach a rhinoceros in Kaziranga Park on January 20, 2022. See "On the Trail" n°35 p.41-42 and n°36 p.52.

The Sentinel, September 19, 2022; Asian News International, September 23, 2022.<sup>33</sup>

## SOUTHERN EUROPE

### PORTUGAL

**July 5, 2022**

**Humberto Delgado International Airport, District of Lisbon, Portugal**

Seizure in the false compartment of a wooden crate from Angola of 2 rhinoceros horns cut into 13 sections, with a total weight of 10 kg and a total value of 600,000 € (63,100 US\$/kg). There are no more rhinos in Angola.

Portugal Posts English, July 22, 2022.<sup>34</sup>



Black rhinoceroses (*Diceros bicornis*). Photo Julian Mason



Indian leopard (*Panthera pardus ssp. fusca*). Photo Daniel V Raju

**On the Trail n°37**  
**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	Claw	550	India	8 (2022)
	Teeth (/kg)	2,270	Malaysia	4* (2022)
Leopard	Skin	7,600	India	31 (2022)
		6,330		33 (2022)

\* see chapter Pangolins, elephants / felines / rhinoceroses

**AMERICA**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**August 17, 2022**

**Dallas, State of Texas, United States of America**

During a search of the home of Devarius Dontez Moore, known by his stage name TrapboyFreddy, police found a caged tiger cub. The 30-year-old rapper had been arrested for illegally possessing a weapon, a Taurus TCP 380. He was released with a monitoring bracelet pending trial. He pleads not guilty.

FOX 4, August 18, 2022; Cable News Network, August 20, 2022; Fox News Channel, August 20, 2022.<sup>1</sup>



**ASIA**

**CHINA**

**August 2022**

**Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, China**

In 2017, a parcel arrived by mistake at a woman's home with inside a tiger body. The police investigated and arrested 2 men from Anhui Province. Chen had bought the stillborn tiger from a circus for 1,000 yuan (145 US\$) and kept it in his freezer for resale. Hao had acted as the middleman. The 2 men were sentenced to 5 years in prison and were fined 10,000 yuan (1,480 US\$) and 2,000 yuan (300 US\$). The owner of the circus is also expected to be brought to justice. Global Times, August 29, 2022.<sup>2</sup>



**INDIA**

**FAMILY AFFAIRS**

**July 7, 2022**

**Laksar Area, Haridwar District, State of Uttarakhand, India**

The Uttarakhand Special Task Force, in collaboration with foresters from the Rudrapur division, arrested 4 smugglers in possession of 2 tiger skins. They are Bunty, age 45, Ramdhari, age 60, Shyam Lal, age 35, and Haridwari Ram, age 30, son of Totha Ram. Totha Ram was previously arrested in 2002, 2003, and 2009 for tiger poaching. His sister Dilpo Ram was also jailed for similar offences.

The Times of India, July 7, 2022; WCCB, July 8, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

**August 6, 2022**

**Sutlimath, Nainital District, State of Uttarakhand, India**

Camera traps set up in Sitarganj forest by the Forest Department to count tigers captured images of 2 armed poachers. They were identified to be Rajwinder Singh (alias Raju) resident of Gidhaur, and Vijay Bahadur (alias Lallan) resident of Khatima. On the run, they were caught in the forest with a rifle and cartridges.

Dainik Jagran, August 6, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

**August 9, 2022**

**Velugodu Mandal, Nandyal District, State of Andhra Pradesh, India**

Discovery of a dead tigress aged between 4 and 6 years. She succumbed to neck wounds inflicted by a trap from which she had managed to extricate herself.

The New Indian Express, August 10, 2022.<sup>5</sup>



**August 11, 2022**

**Mahalgaoon, Chandrapur District, and Kora, Wardha District, State of Maharashtra, India**



A shepherd discovered in a nullah - a steep valley - in the Pawangaon forest, in the Wardha district, the remains of a tiger, cut into 14 pieces and in an advanced state of decomposition.

Avinash Bharat Soyam, a 34-year-old farmer, was arrested by the Forest Department. The tiger had been electrocuted to death on one of his fences. He cut off his paws and canines and then, with the help of 2 accomplices, moved away the tiger in pieces to the neighbouring district to lose the investigators. 17 claws and 4 canines that he had hidden underground were seized.

The Times of India, August 13 and 19, 2022; PiPa News, August 15, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

**Beginning of August 2022**

**Sindewahi and Chimur, Chandrapur District, State of Maharashtra, India**

Arrest of Jasbirsingh Sangatsingh Anderale at the Trupti Bar and Restaurant while attempting to sell the parts of a tiger poached in Sindewahi, about 50 km away.

The Times of India, August 13, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

**August 18, 2022**

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

The police, investigating the sale of marijuana, arrested Yasir Arafat, age 19, and Parhad-Ur-Rehman, age 33, in possession of 8 tiger claws valued at 350,000 rupees (4,400 US\$ or 550 US\$/claw). They refused to talk. They have no criminal record.

Udayavani, August 18, 2022; The Times of India, August 19, 2022.<sup>8</sup>



## TIGERS - followed

**August 27, 2022**

**Sildubi, Golaghat District, State of Assam, India**

Arrest of Shyamol Suklabaidya, Hira Munda, Jairam Chaunra, Sanjay Chaunra, and Rajesh Gowala. All 5 are presumed guilty of poisoning a Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*) in February 2022 (see "On the Trail" n°35 p.45). Time8, August 28, 2022; The Times of India, August 29, 2022.<sup>9</sup>



**September 7, 2022**

**Arani, Tiruvannamalai District, State of Tamil Nadu, India**

After a month-long investigation by the Vellore Forest Division, 2 men were arrested for attempting to sell 2 tiger cubs on social media. They are D. Parthiban, a 24-year-old man living in Arani, and his accomplice K. Tamil, who runs a pet shop in Ambattur, a quarter in Chennai (140 km away). They had met a few months earlier and were scouring pet shows to buy and resell small fry. This time, they were looking for the first prize, advertising tiger cubs for 2,500,000 rupees (31,430 US\$). When the undercover agents claimed to be interested, the suspects said they had already been entrusted to the Vandalur Zoo, which denied this. The suspects also stated that the tigers came from a forest in Andhra Pradesh. The cubs have not been found. They may never have existed. An attempted swindle cannot be ruled out. The Hindu, September 7, 2022; DT Next, September 8, 2022; The Times of India, September 8, 2022.<sup>10</sup>



## INDONESIA

**August 11 and 12, 2022**

**Sangir, Gayo Lues Regency, Aceh Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia**

Rescue thanks to Aceh BKSDA (Balai Konservasi Sumber Daya Alam) agents and locals of a Sumatran tiger (*Panthera tigris sumatrae*), about 1.5 years old, caught in a wild boar trap. SINDOnews, August 12, 2022.<sup>11</sup>



## EUROPE

### RUSSIA

**July 12, 2022**

**Ussuriysk, Primorsky Krai, Russia**

Law enforcement agencies foiled an attempt to sell an Amur tiger (*Panthera tigris altaica*). Four suspects have been arrested.

Interfax Russia, July 12, 2022; TASS Russian News Agency, July 12, 2022.<sup>12</sup>

**August 2022**

**Orenburg Oblast, Russia**

A tiger cub was flown to the Utes rehabilitation center in Kutuzovka, Khabarovsk Krai. He had been living in a travelling menagerie when a man broke in to steal him through a crude opening in the floor. The cub was seriously injured. It took 2 years of treatment at a veterinary clinic in Chelyabinsk before the animal could be transferred. The robbery failed thanks to the intervention of the mother tiger, who bit the thief who was then unable to repress his cries of pain. This raised the alarm. The man was treated and sentenced to 10 months in prison. AmurMedia, August 9, 2022; Armenian Museum of Moscow, August 25, 2022.<sup>13</sup>



## CZECHIA

**Beginning of September 2022**

**Brno, South Moravian Region, Czechia**

Miloš Hrozínek's appeal was rejected by the Supreme Court. The 3-year jail sentence has been confirmed. As a reminder, Hrozínek, in cooperation with Ludvík Berousek and a Vietnamese subject, Xuan Vu Le, trafficked in wild or circus animal organs, including a tiger, and sold the by-products in Prague's Vietnamese district or exported them to the United States of America or Viet Nam.

See "On the Trail" n°22 p. 69, n°25 p. 63, n°32 p. 76 and n°36 p. 58.

Ekolist.cz, September 6, 2022; Seznam Zprávy, November 21, 2022.<sup>14</sup>



**AFRICA**

**SOUTH AFRICA**

**July 15, 2022**

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

Villagers living near the Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park have asked the authorities to intervene urgently. Livestock had allegedly been devoured by lions that came out of the park. Park rangers shot the lions. When they returned to collect the carcasses, the villagers had already butchered and roasted them.

Independent Online, July 18, 2022.<sup>15</sup>

**KENYA**

**August 23, 2022**

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

Discovery of the decapitated carcass of a lion. The claws are also missing.

Big Life Foundation, August 2022.<sup>16</sup>

**September 11, 2022**

**Masai Mara National Reserve, Narok County, Kenya**

Three lionesses, 3 lions and 18 cubs in June 2022 formed a pride in the vast "Topi Plains" of the Masai Mara National Reserve. One of the 3 lionesses was poached at the end of August, and on September 11 it was the turn of a male in his prime (7 years old) to be poached by herdersmen



on the border between Kenya and Tanzania. A spear penetrated his left flank and caused a fatal haemorrhage into his abdominal cavity. If there is a conflict between lion and man in the area where Mandevu (as the NGO Lion Lovers called him) was killed, it is exclusively due to herdersmen invading the territory of the lions and their prey with herds of goats.

Lion Lovers, September 23, 2022 ; Lion sightings, September 23, 2022 ; SWT/KWS Mara Mobile Veterinary Unit, September 2022.<sup>17</sup>

**September 23, 2022**

**Masai Mara National Reserve, Narok County, Kenya**

The juvenile lion was victim of a concerted attack. A shepherd's crook, stones, and 3 spears were found in a dried-up watering hole. He received all possible care, but the prognosis remains guarded. A spear in the back penetrated 15 cm into the flesh. Vital organs may have been affected. His difficulty with walking may be due to partial paralysis caused by a spinal cord injury. Should this hypothesis be confirmed, the veterinary team, in conjunction with the rangers, plans to finish him off to prevent him from being harassed and killed by hyenas.

SWT/KWS Mara Mobile Veterinary Unit, September 2022.<sup>18</sup>

**MOZAMBIQUE**

**End of July 2022**

**Coutada 11, Sofala Province, Mozambique**



A wounded female lion was spotted by a helicopter flying. Veterinarians were able to remove the snare trap that had been embedded in her neck. Zambeze Delta Conservation and Anti-Poaching, July 25, 2022.<sup>19</sup>



**UGANDA**

**September 1, 2022**

**Kampala, Central Region, Uganda**



Farmer Vincent Tumuhirwe and motorcycle cab driver Robert Ariyo have been found guilty of illegally entering a protected area and killing wildlife. The 2 poachers entered Queen Elizabeth National Park between March 17 and 19, 2021. They poisoned and mutilated 6 lions, 8 white-backed vultures (*Gyps africanus*, Appendix II), and a white-headed vulture (*Trigonoceps occipitalis*, Appendix II) (see "On the Trail" n°32 p. 78). The 2 men were subsequently found in possession of 4 lion heads, 15 lion paws, a lion tail, and a 3-liter can of lion fat. They were sentenced to 10 years in prison. The mastermind has not been brought to justice.

ChimpReports, August 30, 2022; The Observer (Uganda), September 2, 2022.<sup>20</sup>

## LIONS - followed

### ZIMBABWE

**August 30, 2022**

**Bumi Hills, Mashonaland West Province, Zimbabwe**

Rescue of a lioness injured in the left front paw and head by steel wire snares. She had no other resource than to roar. Without the intervention of the BHAPU (Bumi Hills Anti Poaching Unit), she would have died of hunger and thirst.

Bumi Hills Anti Poaching Unit (BHAPU), September 7 and November 4, 2022.<sup>21</sup>



#### ASIA

### INDIA

**August 13 and 14, 2022**

**Untwala, Amreli District, State of Gujarat, India**

Arrest of Pravinsinh Jorubha Gohil and Lakhman Bijal Solanki, a farmer and his worker, the day after a female lion died from electrocution after coming into contact with the electric fence surrounding the farm.

DeshGujarat, August 17, 2022; Outlook India (with PTI), August 17, 2022.<sup>22</sup>



#### EUROPE

### FRANCE

**July 7, 2022**

**Thionville, Department of Moselle, France**

Conviction of the 3 men ages 26 to 30 who abandoned 2 lion cubs in cat cages outside an animal park in 2019 (see "On the Trail" n°27 p.75). Marseille rapper Lacrim wanted to get rid of them and asked the 3 Fensch valley (eastern France) residents to sell them on his behalf. The main defendant was sentenced to 12 months in prison, in addition to 10 months following the revocation of a suspended sentence in a previous case. His 2 accomplices also received prison sentences of 4 and 6 months, in addition to the revocation of suspended sentences for previous cases. Each will have to pay a fine of 2,000 € (2,100 US\$).

France 3 Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, July 8, 2022; France Bleu Lorraine Nord, July 8, 2022.<sup>23</sup>



### ROMANIA

**August 17, 2022**

**Radauti, Suceava County, Romania**

Seizure of a lion cub during the search of a private home. The occupant received 2 fines totaling 25,000 leis (5,120 US\$).

Suceava Environmental Guard, August 17, 2022.<sup>24</sup>



### UKRAINE

**August 11, 2022**

**Vysoke, Kharkiv Oblast, Ukraine**

A female lion cub, about 8 months old, was roaming. Police captured her after 5 hours. She had escaped from a nearby farm where she had been staying, her "owners" having been mobilized by the war. She was transferred to the UAnimals shelter.

Community Police Officers, August 12, 2022; UAnimals, August 12, 2022.<sup>25</sup>

## LEOPARDS - *Panthera pardus*, Appendix I

#### AFRICA

### SOUTH AFRICA

**Beginning of July 2022**

**Hoedspruit, Limpopo Province, South Africa**

An adult male leopard who had contributed to the birth of dozens of leopard cubs and had never harmed anyone was fatally captured in a trap.

LionExpose!, July 5, 2022.<sup>26</sup>

**July 17, 2022**

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

A leopard said to be problematic and dangerous for visitors and staff was deliberately shot by rangers in accordance with the protocol for safeguarding human life. His body was then beaten as if the leopard needed a second death. Park management identified the perpetrators of the post-mortem lynching and punished 3 rangers, 3 employees of external companies, and a visitor who is now persona non grata in the park. It is viewed to strengthen the KNP Code of Conduct for visitors and residents as well as amending the Standard Operating Procedures "to improve crowd control in the rare cases where animals have to be shot to death for safety reasons in close proximity to humans".

SANParks, July 22 and 28, 2022; Wildlife at Risk, July 28, 2022.<sup>27</sup>





## LEOPARDS - followed

**July 26, 2022**

### **Makhanda, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa**

After obtaining the favourable opinion of the commission for access to administrative documents in accordance with the PAIA (Promotion of Access to Information Act) and after 3 years of legal wrangling raised by the hunting lobby, the Landmark Foundation has obtained a favourable ruling from the Supreme Court: the provincial government must within 14 days publish "all applications received and all permits issued by the Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs of the Eastern Cape Provincial Government to trap, kill, hunt, or transport any leopards in or from the Eastern Cape, in terms of the Threatened or Protected Species Regulations (GNR 152 in GG 29657 of February 23, 2007) from 2017 to December 3, 2019."

High Court of South Africa, July 26, 2022; Landmark Foundation, July 27, 2022.<sup>28</sup>

## KENYA

**August 22, 2022**

### **Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy, Nyeri County, Kenya**

Trapped, anaesthetised by a syringe on the left shoulder. The drug worked after 15 minutes. Treatment, amputation of the right front paw from carpal joint. He can no longer live in the wild. He was taken to a specialized facility in Nairobi.

SWT/KWS Mount Kenya Mobile Veterinary Unit, August 2022.<sup>29</sup>



**September 2, 2022**

### **Dol Dol, Laikipia County, Kenya**

The male was caught in a trap. He was roaming around Dol Dol. Put to sleep, cared for, blood sample taken, ticks removed, returned to reserve. Favourable prognosis.

SWT/KWS Mount Kenya Mobile Veterinary Unit, September 2022.<sup>30</sup>



## ASIA

## INDIA

**July 1, 2022**

### **Dindnerli, Kolhapur District, State of Maharashtra, India**

Police arrested 2 men in their 30s and seized an adult leopard skin valued at 600,000 rupees (7,600 US\$). Loksatta, July 1, 2022; The Times of India, July 3, 2022.<sup>31</sup>

**July 2, 2022**

### **Semla Area, Nabarangpur District, State of Odisha, India**

Forest officials and police were on the lookout. They arrested Ananta Panaka who was on his way to Nabarangpur to sell the leopard skin to a "businessman." The skin will be examined to confirm that it is not a fake.

Argus News, July 2, 2022.<sup>32</sup>

**July 18, 2022**

### **Kharkhara Area, Gariaband District, State of Chhattisgarh, India**

Aged 28 and 21, Peeluram Thakur and Agnuram Singh Thakur were transporting a 1.95-meter-long, 48-cm-wide skin on a motorcycle, valued at around 500,000 rupees (6,330 US\$), to be sold in Kharkhara. They were each to receive a commission of 50,000 rupees (633 US\$). They were stopped by police near the Tirahe dam.

The Pioneer, July 19, 2022; Times Now, July 19, 2022.<sup>33</sup>

**July 19, 2022**

### **Ramagiri, Koraput District, State of Odisha, India**

The STF (Special Task Force) seized a leopard skin from a young man named Mana Gouda. Over the past 2 years, the market for leopard skins, teeth, and claws has exploded in Odisha.

KalingaTV, July 20, 2022; Press Trust of India, July 20, 2022; The Statesman, July 20, 2022.<sup>34</sup>



**July 28, 2022**

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

STF seizure of a skin from Kailash Majhi. Over the last 2 years in Odisha, 41 people have been arrested in connection with the illegal leopard business.

The Statesman, July 29, 2022.<sup>35</sup>

**August 2, 2022**

### **Brahmanipada, Kandhamal District, State of Odisha, India**

Seizure of a skin. A local man is arrested by the STF. Official reports often state that the suspect was selling or was about to sell the skin. More often than not, the buyer remains in the shadows.

The Statesman, August 3, 2022.<sup>36</sup>

## LEOPARDS - followed

**August 5, 2022**

**Miraj, Sangli District, State of Maharashtra, India**

Sameer Jaywant Narkar, a resident of Thane, 400 km away, was arrested. He was getting out of an MSRTC (Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation) bus with the skin of the spotted feline in a black bag.

The Times of India, August 7, 2022.<sup>37</sup>

**August 5, 2022**

**Kharpa, Shahdol District, State of Madhya Pradesh, India**

A leopard is found dead in a thicket. The canine brigade of the Sanjay Tiger Reserve tracked down 2 poachers. They had set up an electrical ambush in the forest to kill animals for meat and caught a beautiful adult leopard, that they tried to hide.

The Times of India, August 7, 2022.<sup>38</sup>



**August 7, 2022**

**Moravan, Sheopur District, State of Madhya Pradesh, India**

Crisis in Kuno. Just as the national park has been chosen as a location to reintroduce cheetahs to India and 8 specimens donated by Namibia are about to land in Madhya Pradesh, a new leopard poaching incident occurred. The body was pawless and without whiskers. This is the fourth case in 2 years. The poachers know Kuno, its routes, and its animals well.

The leopards do as they please. Five of them have taken over one of the 5 km<sup>2</sup> enclosures reserved for cheetahs while they get used to the climate and grasslands of the Indian subcontinent. Two have been captured, but the other 3 remain in the cheetah enclosure, despite the arrival of 2 domestic elephants and their mahouts, who are supposed to facilitate the capture of the 3 recalcitrant ones. Time is running out, as the African cheetahs are due to arrive in a month's time.

The Wildlife India, August 20, 2022.<sup>39</sup>

**August 10, 2022**

**Anjaniya Road Station, Mandla District, State of Madhya Pradesh, India**

The bus station. A fragment of spotted skin, bones, and tusks of wild boar (*Sus scrofa*). Seven men aged between 29 and 66 in police custody for 15 days. They are from the Seoni District, 150 km away. They claim to be seeking good fortune through black magic rituals.

WCCB, August 17, 2022; Dainik Bhaskar, August 14, 2022.<sup>40</sup>

**August 12, 2022**

**Godipalli, Nayagarh District, State of Odisha, India**

Four years after the fact, a braggart posted selfies of the poaching of a leopard cub, triggering a volley of indignation. Swinging into action, forest officials quickly identified him and arrested him in his village.

Odisha TV, August 13, 2022.<sup>41</sup>

**August 14, 2022**

**Muthurayana Hosahalli, Mysuru District, State of Karnataka, India**

A lifeless leopard is discovered in a trap on Sunday morning. He died 4 days ago. He was 7 years old.

The Times of India, August 15, 2022.<sup>42</sup>



**August 23 to 24, 2022**

**Bistan, Khargone District, State of Madhya Pradesh, India**

The leopard cub was drifting in a tributary of the Narmada. People saw him from the bridge connecting Pipaljhopa and Raisagar. The police went down to the riverbank and found that the paws had been amputated, the tail cut off, and the whiskers removed. The police, cautious to a fault, say "they cannot rule out the possibility of poaching".

The Times of India, August 24 and 25, 2022.<sup>43</sup>



**August 26, 2022**

**Dinkarapur, Dhamtari District, State of Chhattisgarh, India**

The carcass of the perhaps 3-year-old leopard was dumped like a tire in the forest. The claws were missing.

Outlook India (with PTI), August 26, 2022.<sup>44</sup>

**September 5, 2022**

**Amboli, Nashik District, State of Maharashtra State, India**



The 17 forest officers surround the 4 suspects and the evidence of the crime is in the middle of the scene.

Pankaj Garg, September 5, 2022; United News of India, September 5, 2022.<sup>45</sup>

## LEOPARDS - followed

### Beginning of September 2022

#### Tumakuru District, State of Karnataka, India

Byatappa Gowda and Vaishak had recently shot a leopard. They asked Charan, a computer scientist in Bangalore, to sell the skin, claws, and jaws. He was hastily displaying the trophies near a hilltop temple when he was approached by so-called religious seers, who were in fact police officers. He was arrested. The other 2 escaped and were later caught. They claim to be specialists in trapping rabbits and wild boar (*Sus scrofa*).

TeluguStop, September 13, 2022.<sup>46</sup>



### September 13 and 16, 2022

#### Baghapali, Subarnapur District, State of Odisha, India

Arrest of Danabihari Saran alias Dayasagar Tharti, spiritual master of an ashram and 4 of his followers. Taking advantage of the extension of the public grid, they had diverted electricity and set traps in the forest. The alarm was raised by shepherds who graze their goats in the forest. They were bothered by an increasingly strong smell of putrefaction. The electrocuted leopard had been dead for several days. He was 4 to 5 years old. The whiskers and claws were missing. The claws were found into the hands of Danabihari Saran and his partners.

Argus News, September 15 and 16, 2022; Odisha Bytes, September 17, 2022.<sup>47</sup>



### September 15, 2022

#### Alegaon Forest, Akola District, State of Maharashtra, India

The mystery is thick and there's a sword on someone's head. Either a villager buried him to stay out of trouble after electrocuting him or killing him by other means, or a forest officer did it on his own without telling the chiefs. In any case, photos taken on April 23, 2022 surfaced on social networks showing the burial of a leopard. Five months later, the remains have been exhumed and a post-mortem is underway to find out part of the truth. The Times of India, September 16, 2022.<sup>48</sup>

### September 15, 2022

#### Ambegaon, Nashik District, State of Maharashtra, India

Arrest of Motiram Mahadu Khoskar and Subhash Ramdas Gumbade, age 35. Seizure of a leopard skin. The bargain had been set at 1.1 million rupees (13,830 US\$) between the 2 sellers and Igatpuri forest officials working undercover.

Fresh Google News (Igatpuri News Service), September 16, 2022 ; Jsnewstimes , September 16, 2022.<sup>49</sup>

### September 16 to 17, 2022

#### Khanpur and Boriyach, Navsari District, State of Gujarat, India

Four arrests. They claim that the skin they were trying to sell for 315,000 rupees (3,960 US\$) comes from a leopard that fell and drowned in a well 1.5 years ago. For a time, they had rented the skin to a charlatan who performed black magic rituals, and a few days ago they decided to sell it. By exploiting their confession, the police found the leopard skeleton in a hole, without the 18 claws.

Newsroom Odisha, September 18, 2022; WCCB, September 19, 2022; The Indian Express, September 20, 2022.<sup>50</sup>

### September 21, 2022

#### Nizampur and Roha, Raigad District, State of Maharashtra, India

Seizure of 10 leopard claws. Four arrests.

The Times of India, September 25, 2022.<sup>51</sup>

### September 22, 2022

#### Jaganpur Urf Jaganwala, Bijnor District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India

Some people had set nets in a sugarcane field in the hope of catching birds or small mammals to sell or eat. When they saw that a big cat was entangled and heard him roaring, they scurried away. It took several hours for foresters and law enforcement officers from the 3 neighbouring towns to get the leopard into a cage and stop his angry meowing, before he was released back into the forest without further incident.

Dainik Jagran, September 22, 2022.<sup>52</sup>





## LEOPARDS - followed

**September 27 and October 2 to 3, 2022  
Thenkarai Area, Theni District, State of  
Tamil Nadu, India**



An around 2-year-old leopard is found dead at the foot of the fence of a 140-hectare agricultural estate. According to sources close to the case, speaking on the condition of anonymity, he had been strangled by a trap rope attached to the fence. After the post-mortem examination, the body was burnt and buried on the estate belonging to O. P. Ravindhranath, a member of the lower house of the Indian parliament. Alexpandian, a shepherd, was arrested within hours. He is the ideal person to blame for the leopard's death. He runs a meagre herd a kilometer away. In the eyes of the authorities and landowners, he's a troublemaker. He has settled there like a seed carried by the wind to the wrong place. He takes his cattle to graze in the forest reserve, where he draws out the leopards who are attracted at night by the scent of easy prey. Two or 3 of his cattle have already been attacked. Rumors soon circulated. Three forestry officers allegedly tried to intimidate the shepherd and convince him to take the blame. On October 2, the secretary of the Tamil Nadu Cattle Breeders' Association claimed to be in possession of an audio recording in which one of the directors of the MP's 140 hectares put pressure on the modest shepherd to admit responsibility. He claims to have produced this piece of evidence to whom it may concern. On behalf of his association, he lodged a complaint with the Tamil Nadu Human Rights Commission. The following day, Thangavel and Rajavel, stewards of the estate, were arrested in connection with the leopard case, which is gradually taking on a social and political dimension. To be continued.

The Hindu, September 29, and October 2, 2022; The New Indian Express, October 3, November 2, and December 2, 2022.<sup>53</sup>

## IRAN

**July 2022  
Gilan Province, Iran**



Seizure in a private home of the skins of a Persian leopard (*Panthera pardus saxicolor*), a Caspian red deer (*Cervus elaphus maral*), and a wild boar. Fine of 725 million rials (17,620 US\$). The poacher will subsequently be tried in court.

Farda News, July 22, 2022.<sup>54</sup>

## NEPAL

**July 28, 2022  
Krishnapur, Kanchanpur District,  
Sudurpashchim Province, Nepal. Border with  
India.**

Arrest of Malti Malla and Mohan Sarki, ages 29 and 40, in possession of at least 2 leopard skins.

Dinesh Khabar, July 28, 2022; Wild Tiger News, July 28, 2022.<sup>55</sup>

**August 17, 2022  
Binasaun, Baitadi District,  
Sudurpashchim Province, Nepal.  
Border with India.**



Fatal capture of a female leopard in a trap. She was pregnant. The 2 fetuses were discovered during the autopsy. All 3 were buried in a pit. The farmer wanted to protect his cornfield from the wild boars.

Dinesh Khabar, August 17, 2022; Paschim Today, August 17, 2022.<sup>56</sup>

## SRI LANKA

**August 7, 2022  
Hatton, Central Province, Sri Lanka**



The leopard is caught in a trap. He manages to extricate himself, dragging several meters of steel wire. He climbs a eucalyptus tree and finds himself hanging upside down. The wire had become knotted around his abdomen. The leopard was bleeding from his mouth and claws. He was still alive. The veterinary anaesthetist arrived on the scene 3 hours later. He had to queue at a service station to avoid running out of fuel. While waiting for him, forestry officials decided to cut down the tree, and the leopard died immediately afterwards.



Wildlife conservationist Ven Pahiyanala Ananada Sagara tells the press that DWC (Department of Wildlife Conservation) officers of the Department of Wildlife Conservation are merely using outdated tactics and making silly decisions. Biodiversity expert Supun Lahiru Prakash agrees. The DWC is short of resources, infrastructure, training, and staff, but the authorities are not concerned. The drama unfolded at the Vanaraja tea plantation. Workers set traps to improve their daily lot. Management turns a blind eye.

On the subject of defaunation on tea plantations in Central Province, see "On the Trail" n°29 p. 64, n°30 p. 62, n°33 p. 89 and n°34 p. 76

News 1<sup>st</sup>, August 8, 2022; The Sunday Times, August 14, 2022; Daily News, August 15, 2022.<sup>57</sup>

## CHEETAHS - *Acinonyx jubatus*, Appendix I

### AFRICA

#### KENYA

**July 28, 2022**

**Masai Mara National Reserve, Narok County, Kenya**

#### **The death of a strategist**

Post-mortem examination. The cheetah was lying on his right flank near a thicket. The fur is bloodstained from the left shoulder to the sternum. The body is cold and rigid. A deep wound was discovered on the left flank in the center of the rib cage. A lung is protruding from the wound. External haemorrhage is estimated at 3/4 litres of blood. The attack occurred close to the animal's death. The cheetah did not put up a fight before dying. The through-wound was caused by a spear throw. The report by the park rangers and the KWS is out of the ordinary. It recommends that the perpetrators of this heinous act be tracked down and that justice be allowed to take its course. "Preventive measures" must be put in place in order to prevent further losses. The report is on the scale of the loss of Leboo, a member of the "Five Musketeers", a cheetah coalition made up of 3 brothers and 2 brothers of 2 different lines from the Olare Motorogi Conservancy which is a 141 km<sup>2</sup> territory dedicated to the cohabitation of wildlife, local populations and vision tourism. After losing Olpadan, Olarishani and now Leboo in the span of only a few months, the "Five Musketeers" are now down to 2. The coalition of 5 males was defending its territory. They had learned - a rare phenomenon among male cheetahs, who tend to live solitary lives - to hunt together and develop encirclements that were the nightmare of antelopes and zebras. They contributed to the balance of ecosystems and never showed aggression towards local or international bipeds.

SWT/KWS Mara Mobile Veterinary Unit, July 2022 ; K24 Digital, August 2, 2022.<sup>58</sup>

### ASIA

#### SULTANATE OF OMAN

**Beginning of August 2022**

**Dhofar Governorate, Sultanate of Oman. Border with Yemen and Saudi Arabia.**

Seizure of 2 cheetahs. Legal proceedings are underway.

Environment Authority of Oman, August 14, 2022.<sup>59</sup>

## SERVALS - *Leptailurus serval*, Appendix II

### EUROPE

#### FRANCE

**September 13, 2022**

**Roubaix, Department of Nord, France. Border with Belgium.**

The body of a serval wrapped in a blanket is found on a city traffic circle. Police responded to the report of a stench.

La Voix du Nord, September 16, 2022.<sup>60</sup>

## SNOW LEOPARDS - *Panthera uncia*, Appendix I

### ASIA

#### KYRGYZSTAN

**September 30, 2022**

**Bishkek, Chüy Region, Kyrgyzstan**

Police arrest A.S., age 45. He was carrying a bag containing the skin and skull of a snow leopard. He said he had killed him on a mountain in Talas province, 200 km away.

Press Service of the Bishkek City Department of Internal Affairs, September 30, 2022.<sup>61</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

**July 13, 2022**

**Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam**

Handing over of a leopard cat that a woman had received from a friend. ENV is concerned about the normalization of the keeping of wild animals and recalls that the specific needs of these animals do not allow them to be kept in captivity.

ENV, July 19, 2022.<sup>62</sup>



**September 2, 2022**

**Hanoi Municipality, Viet Nam**

Another leopard cat sold by a wildlife trafficker as a Bengal cat. He is joining the Soc Son rescue centre. ENV, September 2, 2022.<sup>63</sup>

## JAGUARS - *Panthera onca*, Appendix I

### AMERICA

#### BRAZIL

July 4, 2022

**Ladário, State of Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil. Border with Bolivia.**

The female jaguar lay on the banks of the Paraguay River with a gunshot wound to the head. She had been dead for 6 or 7 days. The person responsible faces 18 months in prison and a fine of 5,000 reais (950 US\$), but there's a big risk he won't be found. Wildlife crime is on the rise compared with 2021. Correio do Estado, July 4, 2022.<sup>64</sup>

#### COSTA RICA

August 29, 2022

**Río Cuarto, Alajuela Province, Costa Rica**

Two adult jaguars kept in captivity on a cattle farm were seized under the authority of the wildlife protection prosecutor. They have been transferred to a specialized facility. "They will be subjected to quarantine and health examinations which will allow the consideration of possible management options," says the Minae (Ministerio de Ambiente y Energía).

La Vanguardia, August 30, 2022.<sup>65</sup>

## OCELOTS - *Leopardus pardalis*, Appendix I

### AMERICA

#### COLOMBIA

July 1, 2022

**Cali, Department of Valle del Cauca, Colombia**

Seizure of a female ocelot held captive for 2 years on a farm offering tourist lodging. She was locked in a 2 m<sup>2</sup> cage. Although the farmers claim she was given everything she needed, they risk being charged with animal abuse.

Semana, July 6, 2022.<sup>66</sup>

## MARGAYS - *Leopardus wiedii*, Appendix I

### AMERICA

#### COSTA RICA

Beginning of September 2022

**Los Chiles, Alajuela Province, Costa Rica. Border with Nicaragua.**

Margay without borders. Castillo and his accomplice Sanchez were transporting a live margay hidden in a suitcase in their vehicle. They were coming from Nicaragua.

AmeliaRueda.com, September 11, 2022.<sup>67</sup>

## GEOFFROY'S CAT - *Leopardus geoffroyi*, Appendix I

### AMERICA

#### ARGENTINA

July 1, 2022

**San Miguel de Tucuman, Province of Tucuman, Argentina**



The kitten, about 6 months old, was on the playground of the Bernardino Rivadavia school in the city center. The teaching staff alerted the DFFSyS (Dirección de Flora, Fauna Silvestre y Suelos). According to the veterinarian dispatched to the scene, the margay kitten was in good health and had probably escaped through the roof of a house where he had been captive. He has been returned to the care of the DFFSyS. El Tucumano, July 1, 2022.<sup>68</sup>

## PUMAS - *Puma concolor*, Appendix II, except for the populations of Costa Rica and Panama which are in Appendix I

### AMERICA

#### ARGENTINA

Mid-August 2022

**Sastre, Province of Santa Fe, Argentina**

The poacher boasted on social media that he had killed a puma. Photos showed him with 2 friends and a child holding the slaughtered puma in their arms, and the poacher in a butcher's coat couldn't resist posing triumphantly with his victim between his shoulders. At his home, 10 kg of puma meat were seized from a freezer. He is charged under the Argentine Penal Code with carrying a firearm without authorization and with violating the law on wildlife conservation. He is also under fire from public opinion and local NGOs such as Refugio Sastre. "We're not going to comment on these people. The photos speak for themselves. We simply want to express our deep sadness and indignation at seeing how, once again, humans show irrationality and cowardice," they said in a statement.

TN, August 20, 2022.<sup>69</sup>



**End of August 2022**

**Province of La Pampa and Villa Rumipal,  
Province of Córdoba, Argentina**

Pumas destined for death on hunting ranches in La Pampa have been transferred to Villa Rumipal in the Pumakawa Reserve, where they live in peace in specially equipped enclosures. The operation is credited to RACTES (Red Argentina Contra el Tráfico de Especies Silvestres), the Cullunche Foundation, and HSI (Humane Society International). Too dependent on humans for food, they cannot be released back into their natural habitats. The campaign to ban the hunting of pumas and the sale of their trophies is gaining momentum in Argentina, and it seems to be winning public approval. Aerolíneas Argentinas has decided to stop carrying trophies on its domestic and international flights. Argentina is the seventh largest exporter of hunting trophies.

Infobae, August 30, 2022.<sup>70</sup>

**EUROPE**

**UKRAINE**

**September 2022**

**Odesa, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine**

A puma in Odessa! UAnimals reports and denounces the presence of Argentina's largest feline in an apartment in Ukraine's third largest city, in contradiction of paragraph 10 of article 25 of the law on animal abuse. The owner of the puma is endangering the animal and the people of Odessa by walking him in the streets of the city. UAnimals has lodged a complaint and, as a precautionary measure, is demanding that the feline be seized by the oblast police. During the war, UAnimals continues unperturbed to fulfill its mission. "Join us and together we'll save more animals."

UAnimals, September 13, 2022.<sup>71</sup>

**BOBCATS AND LYNX - *Lynx spp.*, Appendix II**

**AMERICA**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**July 26 to 29, 2022**

**Long Island, State of New York, United States of America**

After 3 days of wandering, the lynx was captured by the Strong Island Animal Rescue League and transferred to the Sweetbriar Nature Center in Smithtown. It is illegal to keep big cats and other predators in New York State. Individuals who owned them prior to the ban must hand them over to the appropriate authorities. The Suffolk County SPCA has taken in leopards, American black bears, monkeys, venomous snakes, an anaconda, and alligators.

New York Post, July 27, 2022; Observer, July 29, 2022.<sup>72</sup>

**ASIA**

**KAZAKHSTAN**

**September 20, 2022**

**Bayanaul, Pavlodar Region,  
Kazakhstan**



Sentencing of 2 Pavlodar residents to 3 years in prison and 21 million tenge in damages (45,325 US\$) for the possession of 2 lynx skins and the carcass of a Siberian roe deer (*Capreolus pygargus*) on January 2, 2022, see "On the Trail" no. 35 p. 61. Lynx hunting is prohibited in the Pavlodar Region. They were banned from hunting for 6 years and their rifles were confiscated. At the time of their arrest, the 2 convicts were in the company of 7 other suspects, 2 of whom were from Almaty Region, located 80 km from Pavlodar Region. The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan claims that the 2 men are Salafists.

Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, September 20, 2022; Pavlodar Online, September 20, 2022.<sup>73</sup>

**EUROPE**

**FRANCE**

**September 16, 2022**

**Mouthe, Department of Doubs, France. Border with Switzerland.**

Discovery of a Eurasian lynx. Press release from the prefecture of the Bourgogne-Franche-Comté region: "The necropsy revealed that the animal had been killed by a firearm."



"For this threatened population, every individual counts." "Investigations are continuing as part of a judicial inquiry conducted under the authority of the Besançon Public Prosecutor to identify the person or persons responsible for this offence (punishable by a maximum sentence of 3 years in prison and a 150,000 € fine), which is seriously damaging the lynx population in France." The prefecture points out that the species is "strictly protected at the international level by the Bern Convention, the Washington Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and the European Habitats-Fauna-Flora Directive, and at the national level by protected species status." The French government has therefore decided to join the civil action.

Centre Athénas, October 14, 2022; Bourgogne-France-Comté Regional Directorate for Environment, Development and Housing, October 14, 2022; France 3 Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, October 14, 2022.<sup>74</sup>

## LITHUANIA

**September 5, 2022**

**Švenčionys District Municipality, Vilnius County, Lithuania. Border with Belarus.**



Seizure of a stuffed lynx from a private individual who claims to have bought it abroad for 850 € (860 US\$), without being able to provide proof that the remains were imported legally. Since the beginning of the year, seizures of stuffed animals have multiplied. In Marijampolė, wildlife conservation officers seized a European polecat (*Mustela putorius*), 2 common wood pigeons (*Columba palumbus*), a common moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*), a European nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*), a wood sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*), 3 willow ptarmigans (*Lagopus lagopus scotica*), a European pine marten (*Martes martes*), an American mink (*Mustela vison*), a red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*), and 2 European roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*).

Environmental Protection Department, September 8, 2022.<sup>75</sup>

## POLAND

**September 14, 2022**

**Between Suchan and Piasecznik, West Pomerania Voivodeship, Poland**

In the forest, the lynx's cries have fallen silent. The first time mother disappeared and one of her 3 kittens was found with 4 bullets in her body, including one in the spine. He was 2 months old. The NGO ZTP (Zachodniopomorskiego Towarzystwa Przyrodniczego, West Pomeranian Nature Society) has reintroduced more than 50 lynx into the forests of the voivodeship, but lynx have 3 enemies: mange, cars, and poaching. In the first 6 months of 2022, 2 lynx were officially killed. That's not counting the unknown deaths due to skull and skin trafficking.

Polskie Radio Koszalin, September 15, 2022; Leśny Patrol - Ludzie Przeciw Myśliwym, September 17, 2022.<sup>76</sup>

## MULTI-FELINES

ASIA

INDIA

**July 17, 2022**

**Delhi, National Capital Territory of Delhi, and Jaipur, Jaipur District, State of Rajasthan, India**

Seizure from the clothes of 3 traffickers of at least 4 tiger claws and 15 leopard claws.

The Times of India, July 19, 2022.<sup>77</sup>



Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*)

# WOLVES AND PAINTED DOGS



Grey wolf (*Canis lupus*). Photo Yakov Oskanov

## AFRICA

### ZIMBABWE

**August 4, 2022**

**Savé Valley Conservancy, Masvingo Province, Zimbabwe**

Rescue of a young painted dog (*Lycaon pictus*) caught in a trap. Thanks to the AWCF (African Wildlife Conservation Fund) team and the expertise of ZimParks' Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr. Chaitezvi, she was extricated. Favourable prognosis.

African Wildlife Conservation Fund, August 5, 2022.<sup>1</sup>



The Vancouver Zoo is the subject of much controversy. A little girl was bitten by a black bear. An employee was bitten by a jaguar. The NGOs Zoocheck and Vancouver Humane Society noted that the surface area of certain enclosures was below regulatory standards. In 2020, management announced a multi-million dollar investment to improve living conditions for captive animals. CBC/Radio-Canada, August 16 and 17, 2022; CityNews Vancouver, August 18, 2022; Greater Vancouver Zoo, August 19, 2022; Vancouver Sun, December 18, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**August 5, 2022**

**Baker County, State of Oregon, United States of America**

Discovery of a dead grey wolf (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) in Pine Creek Wildlife Management Unit. She was 2 years old. The poaching took place the previous day, Thursday August 4. She was part of the Keating pack. The Oregon Wildlife Coalition is promising 11,500 US\$ to help find the culprit(s). The Turn in Poachers program guarantees 300 US\$ or 4 to 5 vouchers to the informant. If he is a hunter, these points entitle him or her to preferential treatment in obtaining hunting permits for bears, pumas, wolves, deer, pronghorns, elk, moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats. Oregon State Police, August 9, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

## AMERICA

### CANADA

**August 16 to 19, 2022**

**Aldergrove, Province of British Columbia, Canada**

The Greater Vancouver Zoo cries foul. Individuals have allegedly deliberately cut through a fence, allowing 14 grey wolves (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) and cubs to escape. Most wandered onto the zoo grounds, while a few landed in the dinosaur enclosure. 48 hours later, a 3-year-old wolf was found dead on the side of a road, and 72 hours later, a year-old wolf wandering in the wild was captured alive and returned to the zoo.



September 23, 2022 and February 28, 2023

### Martin City and Kalispell, State of Montana, United States of America The silliest of the quarter

Amber Rose set off early in the morning with her licence and the desire to get a black bear, and wonder of wonders, she stumbled upon another game animal. "It was a great feeling to text my man and say I just smoked a grey wolf pup" (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II). She posted triumphant photos on social media. It took less than a second for experts and layman alike to realize the error of her ways. The cub was a stray 6-month-old husky just waiting to be adopted. The killer, in her euphoria, skinned him on the spot to bring back in her pick-up truck the proof of her exploit.

facebook



Amber Rose via Facebook

She was ordered to take hunting lessons for 60 days, to dispose of the husky rifle for 6 months, and a suspended fine of 585 US\$. The worst punishment of all was the ridicule she covered herself in. KTVQ, September 26, 2022; New York Post, September 27, 2022; Fox News Channel, October 28, 2022; Daily Inter Lake, March 1, 2023.<sup>4</sup>

## EUROPE

### AUSTRIA

#### Mid-August to mid-October 2022 Stall, Carinthia State, Austria

An anonymous letter sets fire to the Möll valley and mountain slopes. Six or 7 grey wolves (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) were allegedly killed and buried by one or more farmers. The letter gives precise details of where the wolves were buried. The public prosecutor's office has opened an investigation for animal cruelty and environmental damage. A photo of a dead wolf with a cartridge in his mouth has recently been circulating in the valley. The main suspect denounced by the anonymous letter claims malice. At the same time, he says that that if he came face to face with a wolf, he would shoot him.

facebook

Experts estimate the wolf population in Carinthia at around a dozen individuals. In their view, the 6 to 7 wolf accusation is unrealistic. The mayor of Stall defends the 2 cow and sheep farmers caught up in the controversy.

ORF, September 2, 2022; Kleine Zeitung, October 19, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

## ITALY

Tuesday, September 6, 2022

### Era, Province of Sondrio, Region of Lombardy, Italy



© Varese Press

The head of a grey wolf (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) hanging from the village sign in Era has kept motorists on their toes for as long as the environmental police from Sondrio, 55 km away, have been arriving to make the usual reports and remove the welcome totem pole. Tensions are running high in the valley, where 2 wolf packs have become established in recent years. Breeders complain of scattered attacks and don't hesitate to poach wolves to protect their flocks. They believe they are acting in self-defense. Under the wolf's head, a blood-stained sheet was stretched with the inscription "Professors gloss over, the ignorant shoot."

Kodami, September 6, 2022; SondrioToday, September 6, 2022; Varese Press, September 8, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

## NORWAY

**July 6, 2022**

**Oslo, Eastern Norway Region, Norway**

NOAH had won a posthumous court victory in Oslo. The decree to kill the pack was illegal, but at least 2 adults and 2 cubs (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) were killed on July 9, 2021 (see "On the Trail" n°33 p.99). The Ministry of the Environment lodged an appeal, and on June 6, 2022, the hearing in the Borgarting court was a trying one for the NOAH staff and their lawyers. On the stand, the State representative reaffirmed the validity of the shootings, which are meant to limit the growth of the Letjenna pack near Elverum and to take into account "public interests of significant importance."

On July 6, the Court of Appeal agreed with NOAH and its experts.

The fact that the wolf population in Norway is assumed to have reached the viability threshold set by parliament does not, however, authorize action to limit wolf numbers. The Letjenna pack has not attacked any grazing animals since it was identified some 10 years ago.

The attempted eradication of the pack within a zone dedicated to the protection of wolves was disproportionate to the concerns it aroused in a section of the population. The Court of Appeal ordered the State to pay NOAH one million kroner (102,000 US\$) in legal costs. The USS (Utmarkskommunenenes Sammenslutning, Association of peripheral municipalities) is angry: "The wolf protection area must not become a wolf reserve."

It is possible that the wolves, after being defended by NOAH, the Oslo District Court, and the Court of Appeal, will somehow be referred to the Supreme Court.

Wolves in Norway, see "On the Trail" n°9 p.92, n°14 p.102, n°15 p.73, n°19 p.79, n°28 p.87, n°30 p.70, n°33 p.99, n°35 p.67 and n°36 p.198.

NOAH, June 11 and 16 and July 6, 2022; ABC Nyheter, July 6, 2022; Dagsavisen, July 6, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

**August 26, 2022**

**Lillestrøm, Eastern Norway Region, Norway**

What happened next wasn't much of a surprise. The region is in the south of Norway and borders Sweden to the east. Grey wolves (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) don't recognize borders, and some packs are both Swedish and Norwegian.

The regional council, most of whose members have not read the Court of Appeal's judgment on the Letjenna pack (see above) or do not want to take it into account, has voted in favour of shooting the Ulvåa, Fjornshojden, Juvberget, and Kockohonka packs. To go into effect, the vote must be validated by the Ministry of Climate and Environment.

NOAH, August 26, 2022.<sup>8</sup>



## THE NETHERLANDS

**September 21, 2022**

**Heerde, Province of Gelderland, The Netherlands**



One less grey wolf (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) in the province. The investigation is ongoing. They will have to determine whether the wolf was the victim of a road collision or whether he was shot and transported to the side of the A50 freeway to camouflage poaching. The police have launched an appeal for witnesses. The wolf was a young male weighing around 35 kg.

There are an estimated 15 to 20 wolves in the province. "There would be enough prey for wolves in the Netherlands if deer and wild boar were not hunted," says De Faunabescherming (Foundation for the Protection of Wildlife) (see "On the Trail" n°34 p.89).

De Telegraaf, September 28, 2022; National Police (The Netherlands), September 28, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

## POLAND

**July 18, 2022**

**Katowice, Silesian Voivodeship, Poland**

He was selling his mother-in-law's Canadian wolf (*Canis lupus occidentalis*, Appendix II) fur coat online (see "On the Trail" n°33 p.99). He was fined 1,000 zlotys (225 US\$). Katowice24.info, July 18, 2022; Municipal Police Station in Katowice, July 18, 2022.<sup>10</sup>



## SWEDEN

**Beginning of September 2022**

**Kristianstad, Skane County, Sweden**

She was selling her grey wolf pelt (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) of unknown origin on the Internet. She was fined 2,000 kronor (190 US\$). Göteborgs-Posten, September 5, 2022.<sup>11</sup>







American black bear (*Ursus americanus*). Photo Cole J Wolf

## AMERICA

### CANADA

**July 2022**

**Saint-David-de-Falardeau and La Doré, Province of Quebec, Canada**

- An American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) who was reportedly rummaging through the garbage at the ski resort was seriously injured by a firearm. An appeal for witnesses was launched by the Chicoutimi wildlife office. According to the law, a bear who is threatening or causing damage to property can only be shot if all other means to scare him away or prevent him from causing damage were in vain. Unless there is an emergency situation where it may be necessary to shoot the animal without delay, a wildlife officer must always be notified. "However, the circumstances of the reported event, associated a priori with the management of household waste, did not require such intervention by the citizen involved."

- 160 km from Saint-David-de-Falardeau, bear remains were found at the back of the MRC (Regional County Municipality) waste disposal site. They had been there for a year. Poaching was in conspiracy. A network of traps was dismantled. Only bones remain. It is too late to know which parts of the animal were desired.

- This is routine. According to the spokesman for the Wildlife Protection of Quebec, there is no increase in crime against bears in the northeast of the province. Le Quotidien, August 18, 2022; Radio-Canada, August 18 and 23, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

**August 6, 2022**

**Jasper National Park, Province of Alberta, Canada**

This is a first in the park. A hiker shot twice at a passing American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II), who then tumbled down a slope and disappeared into the forest, leaving behind traces of blood. The Overlander Trail was temporarily closed while the victim was found. "If the bear is severely injured, staff may kill the bear, and if he is dead, the body may be moved away from the trail." The hiker is being prosecuted for multiple offences under the National Parks Act.

According to a park spokesperson, the best way to keep a bear away from a close contact is to carry pepper spray or bear spray, and know how to use it. "When a bear walks into the spray, his eyes and skin will sting and he will have difficulty breathing—symptoms nasty enough to prompt a retreat. The spray is non-lethal: the bear will be uncomfortable, but unharmed. Using bear spray is always a last resort; do all you can to avoid a bear encounter in the first place. Remove the safety clip and aim for the bear's face (make sure the nozzle is pointing away from you). If you want to create a wall of spray between you and the bear give quick, one-second bursts until the bear retreats. .../...



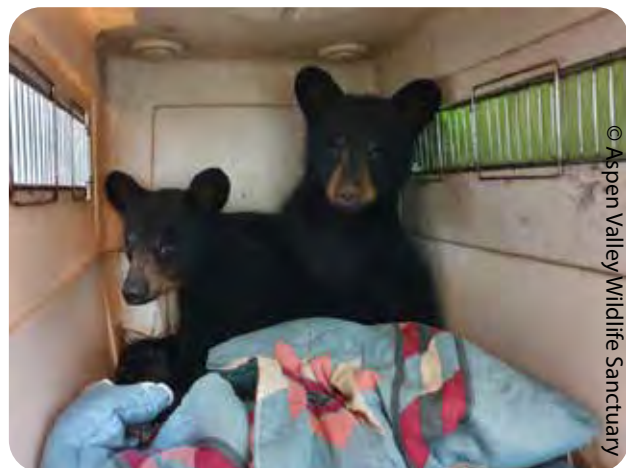


Leave the area immediately. Wind or rain may reduce the spray's effectiveness; be careful not to get in the path of the spray."  
CBC/Radio-Canada, August 9, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

### **Beginning of September 2022**

#### **Haliburton County, Province of Ontario, Canada**

Arrival at Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary of 7 American black bear cubs (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) less than 10 months old whose mothers were poached or killed in road traffic collisions.  
My Muskoka Now, September 7 and 12, 2022.<sup>3</sup>



### **September 8, 2022**

#### **Kamloops, Province of British Columbia, Canada**

Discovery of an American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) amputated of his 4 paws on the roadside.  
CFJC Today, September 9, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

### **September 16, 2022**

#### **Anglemont, Province of British Columbia, Canada**

You may remember the discovery by a family on forest road 695 of nearly a hundred bear paws (*Ursus* spp., Appendix II) (see "On the Trail" n°33 p.101). A year and a half later, the enigma is solved and all's well that ends well in a friendly and accommodating manner. The person responsible was a declared taxidermist. He was driving through the forest in his pick-up truck and a bag containing the legally obtained bear paws accidentally fell onto the side of the road. The taxidermist admitted his responsibility but pleaded bad luck. To avoid a lawsuit, a fine and damage to his image, the taxidermist, in agreement with the Conservation Officer Service, made a "substantial" donation to the local environmental and bear protection association.

"We understand the public is passionate about wildlife and recognize this scene was alarming and concerning to many Indigenous communities, British Columbians and others." "Hunters, as well as those in the taxidermy and related industries, are required to dispose of wildlife remains in a lawful and ethical manner. This is to avoid alarming passersby, as well as attracting dangerous wildlife to an area frequented by people, which can create a public safety risk."

British Columbia Conservation Officer Service, September 16, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

## **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

### **July 5, 2022**

#### **State of Florida, United States of America**



The latest conviction in the case of American black bears (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) cruelly poached in conspiracy is closely followed by the Ocala Star-Banner and "On the Trail" (see "On the Trail" n°31 p.75, n°33 p.102, n°35 p.70 and n°36 p.77).

Troy Travis Starling, 49, was sentenced to 5 years' probation and banned from hunting, entering the Ocala National Forest and owning a hunting dog. He was ordered to pay 23,000 US\$ for the cost of the investigation and 4,700 US\$ in court costs.

Dustin Reddish was sentenced to 180 days in jail followed by 5 years of probation, the same financial charges as Starling and the same constraints during his probation period.

Ocala Star-Banner, July 5, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

### **July 5, 2022**

#### **Washington, State of Massachusetts, United States of America**

Seizure of the poacher's bow and arrows. He had hunted an American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) to eat his meat. He has been prosecuted for illegal possession of a bear body.

Massachusetts Environmental Police, September 1, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

### **July 21, 2022**

#### **Woodland Lakes, State of Missouri, United States of America**

An American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) was killed with a firearm out of season and without proof of self-defence. An appeal for witnesses is launched.

The News & Observer, July 26, 2022.<sup>8</sup>

## **OPERATION GAME THIEF**

**July 22, 2022**

**Ridgway Township, State of Pennsylvania, United States of America**

Call for witnesses. Anyone with information about the death of an American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) shot in the chest in the early hours is asked to contact the Pennsylvania Game Commission at 1-833-PGC-WILD or the Operation Game Thief Hotline at 1-888-PGC-8001. Pennsylvania Game Commission, July 25, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

## **Beginning of August 2022**

**Devils Lake, State of Michigan, United States of America**

A hunter was caught placing bait for American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II). He was issued a ticket.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources August 6, 2022.<sup>10</sup>

## **Beginning of August 2022**

**State of Michigan, United States of America**

The District 5 conservation officer suspected something was up when he spotted a local hunter, who specialises in American black bears (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II), out and about. After a few minutes of tailing, the man realised he was spotted and tried to hide a bucket full of bait. Too late. "Awe, you got me!" exclaimed the poacher.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources August 6, 2022.<sup>11</sup>

## **End of August 2022**

**Sault Ste. Marie, State of Michigan, United States of America**

A sentence of 40 hours of community service, 3,500 US\$ in damages and 2 years of probation for poaching an American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) in the fall of 2020 in Chippewa County.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources, September 3, 2022.<sup>12</sup>



## **End of August 2022**

**Missaukee County, State of Michigan, United States of America**

A novice hunter was caught checking his American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) bait with his dogs. He had not seen the officer watching for him in the bushes. "I knew it was early, but I was not the only one who hunts off it," he said. In or out of hunting season, the use of bait to attract bears is prohibited.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources, September 3, 2022.<sup>13</sup>

## **August 2022**

**Flathead Indian Reservation, State of Montana, United States of America**

An investigation has been launched after the death of an American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) and her cub in the industrial cherry orchard Pinkerman Orchards. They were shot and killed. Forest fires and a lack of wild berries are believed to have caused the bear and her cub to enter the farm and climb into the cherry trees.

The Flathead Indian Reservation covers 5,000 square kilometres. It is managed by the Salish, Pend d'Oreille and Kootenai tribes. Their main sources of revenue come from the timber industry, the co-operation of a dam, 2 electronics companies, the operation of a casino and a bank that allows the 7,000 members of the Confederated Tribes to invest in business.

KPAX, September 15, 2022.<sup>14</sup>

## **September 8, 13 and 27, 2022**

**Mammoth Lakes and Bridgeport, State of California, United States of America**

- Death of an American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) behind the city hospital.

- Elohim Kai Tracy, a 46-year-old resident of the city, was arrested, charged with cruelty to an animal, carrying a loaded firearm in a public place, possession of a firearm by a narcotic addict. He was then taken into custody.

- Tracy was released. Pending trial, he must turn over any and all firearms/ammunition in his possession, he cannot use or possess any controlled substances, he cannot consume or possess alcohol and he must be tested twice a week for controlled substances. Mammoth Lakes Police Department, September 15 and 16, 2022; The Sheet, September 16 and 28, 2022.<sup>15</sup>

## **September 10, 2022**

**State of Massachusetts, United States of America**

Arrest of 2 individuals. They were baiting American black bears (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) with sunflower seeds, popcorn, marshmallows and peanut butter scattered in the trees. Seizure of a firearm.

Massachusetts Environmental Police, September 20, 2022.<sup>16</sup>

## **September 11, 2022**

**White County, State of Georgia, United States of America**

One indictment. The man was luring American black bears (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) with bait. A dead bear was seized. The meat will be distributed to families in need.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division, September 12, 2022.<sup>17</sup>

**September 11, 2022**

**Delaware County, State of New York, United States of America**



The man had been given permission to hunt American black bears (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) on private property, but set out bait to lure them within rifle range. The dead bear was seized. His meat was donated to families in need. The man was fined.

In 2021, the 282 State wildlife officers received 26,207 reports which resulted in 11,562 tickets or arrests for violations ranging from deer poaching to solid waste dumping, illegal mining, the black market pet trade, and excessive emissions violations.

Department of Environmental Conservation, September 14, 2022.<sup>18</sup>

**Beginning of September 2022**

**State of Michigan, United States of America**

Several suspects were arrested for trespassing on private property with hunting dogs. One of them shot an American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II).

Michigan Department of Natural Resources, September 17, 2022.<sup>19</sup>

**Beginning of September 2022**

**Baraga County, State of Michigan, United States of America**

A hunter was charged with shooting an American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) in an area not covered by his licence. He was also accused of using a rifle capable of holding more than 6 rounds and of carrying his weapon without holstering it. The bear carcass was seized.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources, September 17, 2022.<sup>20</sup>

**Mid-September 2022**

**Stephens County, State of Georgia, United States of America**

The suspect maintained a bear baiting site behind his house. A dead American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) was seized and the meat will be donated to charity.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division, September 22, 2022.<sup>21</sup>

**September 16, 2022**

**State of Wisconsin, United States of America**

Seizure of bait and the carcass of an American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) shot by a hunter thanks to a tip-off. A second bear shot to death was not found.

Outdoor News, November 3, 2022.<sup>22</sup>

**OPERATION GAME THIEF**

**September 30, 2022**

**Lewis Run, State of Pennsylvania, United States of America**



Discovery of the carcass of an American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) victim of a poacher. He died of an infection following a gunshot wound. Pennsylvania Game Commission, October 3, 2022.<sup>23</sup>

**September 2022**

**Springfield, State of Oregon, United States of America**

A hunter buys a bear tag online that is valid for hunting a single American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II). Less than a minute later, he reports he has shot an individual. After a visit to his home by environmental officers, he is charged with killing a bear without a licence and attempting to regularise his situation. The bear's meat, skin, head and paws were confiscated.

Oregon State Police, September 2022.<sup>24</sup>

**September 2022**

**Sawyer County, State of Wisconsin, United States of America**

- A hunter was charged with shooting a juvenile American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II). The bear was only 96.5 cm high.

- Indictment of a hunter caught in the act of hunting with bait and at night with a spotlight. He was stalking a bear weighing over 225 kg. When questioned by the officers, he admitted to having killed a bear the previous year using an acquaintance's tag.

Outdoor News, November 3, 2022.<sup>25</sup>



## MEXICO

**August 25, 2022**

### **Castañas, State of Coahuila, Mexico**

The lifeless body of an East Mexican black bear cub (*Ursus americanus eremicus*, Appendix II), approximately 5 months old, is found on the public highway. The Profepa (Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente) filed a complaint. An autopsy is underway. "All available means will be used to find the person or persons who may be responsible for a crime against biodiversity." Profepa, August 25, 2022.<sup>26</sup>

## ASIA

### ARMENIA

**August 28, 2022**

### **Yeghegis, Vayots Dzor Province, Armenia**

A brown bear cub (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II), about one year old, attracted the attention of some villagers by his growling. A team from the Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets arrived on the scene with the police. The bear cub was anaesthetised. He was being strangled by a metal snare. The wounds were only superficial thanks to the timeliness of the alert and the rescuers. After anaesthesia and treatment, the bear cub was quickly released.

Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets, August 28, 2022; International Animal Rescue, September 23, 2022.<sup>27</sup>



## INDIA

**July 4, 2022**

### **Rathakandi Reserve Forest, Boudh District, State of Odisha, India**



Electrocution of a sloth bear (*Melursus ursinus*, Appendix I) in a trap set by poachers. The Boudh district is deadly for wildlife (see "On the Trail" n°23 p.66, n°27 p.60, Covid-19 Special Edition p.15, n°29 p.38, n°32 p.86, n°33 p.88, n°34 p.72, 73 and 74 and n°36 p.15, 16 and 36). KalingaTV, July 5, 2022.<sup>28</sup>

**July 21, 2022**

### **Malda District, State of West Bengal, India**



The sloth bear (*Melursus ursinus*, Appendix I), a street dancer and public entertainer, was on a truck from Nepal. His canines were removed, his muzzle pierced with a rope used as a leash running through it. He had several badly healed wounds. The bear was transferred to the Wildlife SOS facility in Purulia. "While we hope to never revisit the horrors of the dancing bear practice in India, wildlife poachers and traffickers continue to take advantage of the semi-porous borders between Nepal and India to smuggle wild animals and contraband across international borders and conceal themselves in remote areas," says Kartick Satyanarayan, co-founder and director of the NGO.

Dancing bear, see "On the Trail" n°8 p.55, n°9 p.57, n°18 p.65, n°20 p.76 and n°33 p.106. The Hindu, August 13, 2022.<sup>29</sup>

## IRAN

**July 2022**

### **Noor, Mazandaran Province, Iran**

A beekeeper has been identified as the poacher of the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) through the decoding of a video circulating in cyberspace. Parts of the animal were seized from his home. In 10 years, 67 brown bears have been poached in Iran, including 11 in Mazandaran province.

Rokna News, July 28, 2022.<sup>30</sup>

### **Beginning of July 2022**

#### **Deh Damcheh, Fars Province, Iran**

A brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) wounded by poachers has been finished off by the rangers. The carcass of another bear was burnt. The 2 brown bears were slaughtered near a garden. Khabaronline, July 7, 2022.<sup>31</sup>

### **Beginning of July 2022**

#### **Izeh, Khuzestan Province, Iran**

Three ringleaders followed by about 30 villagers lynched a brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) and her cub with sticks. During the hot summer, the bears had approached the village of Margha without showing any signs of aggression, to the point that some of the villagers had given them food and water. Initially, wildlife protection experts from the town of Izeh in the northeast of the province came to the scene and called for calm. They also recommended that everyone stop feeding the bears and explained that in the current situation it was useless to anaesthetise the bears and relocate them to the mountains. In a 2<sup>nd</sup> phase, the authorities, noting that tensions were not subsiding and that the first beginnings of bear hunting were emerging, prepared to transfer the bears after having anaesthetised them, but they were outrun by popular vindication. The 3 leaders are being heard by the police and the courts. Rokna News, July 12, 2022.<sup>32</sup>

### **Beginning of and July 12-13, 2022**

#### **Ramian, Golestan Province, Iran**

- A brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) was poached and the perpetrator was identified through photos of the crime scene.  
- A photo circulated on the networks showing a young man with a rifle in front of a dead bear in the Ramian forests. The man posing is quickly identified. The man depicted is Javan Ramiani. With a circumspection, which is not necessarily the modus operandi of justice in Iran, investigators are now wondering if the young man is indeed the killer of the bear or one of the killers. It is possible that he passed by the carcass by chance with his rifle, and decided to take the picture to boast. To be continued.

Young Journalists Club, July 11, 2022; Eghtesaad24.ir, July 13, 2022.<sup>33</sup>

### **September 2022**

#### **Tange Ganjaei Reserve, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province, Iran**

Searching and locating of a dead brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II). He was killed by a firearm outside the Tange Ganjaei Reserve, near the cultivated plots of the village of Ganjaei Bozorg. Borna News, September 16, 2022; Kebnanews.ir, September 16, 2022.<sup>34</sup>

### **September 2022**

#### **Rudbar, Gilan Province, Iran**

A brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) is tangled up in a fence that functions as a trap. It defends gardens and orchards by the lake at all costs. The worst part is that the bear had just escaped from a boar trap. The best part is that he was anaesthetised, treated and moved to the heights of Rudbar. The local people are said to have shown a spirit of benevolence and cooperation.

In previous years, an attempt to reintroduce a bear near Rudbar had failed. Unsuccessful anaesthetics and mobile phone flashes in the eyes had caused the bear to become angry or aggressive and conflicts with the local population had escalated to the point where the bear had been executed on the orders of the authorities.

Aftab News, September 16, 2022.<sup>35</sup>

### **September 2022**

#### **Amol, Mazandaran Province, Iran**

A brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) dragging himself miserably near Amol on the Caspian Sea was located, examined and anaesthetised by the provincial veterinarians, the city's wildlife services and the Babol fire brigade. He was then transported to the veterinary clinic in Semeskandeh, 100 km away. The bear had been shot in the back. It is possible that the spinal cord was hit. South of Amol, near the villages of Neshel and Andevan, it is forbidden to hunt in the mountains which are home to brown bears, leopards, wild goats.

Fars News Agency, September 19, 2022.<sup>36</sup>

## **MONGOLIA**

### **Beginning of September 2022**

#### **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**

B. Tursuld, General Secretary of the National Youth Association, ex-chairman

of the National Committee for Culture, is accused with 2 other persons known as G. and E. in the trafficking of a brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix I) skin and head. Tursuld claimed in court that he did not know that the pelt and head were from a brown bear. However, he was convicted and ordered to pay the State 6.5 million tugriks (2,030 US\$) for the ecological and economic value of a brown bear as defined by the State authorities. In addition, he is forbidden to travel beyond Bayangol district, a subdivision of Ulaanbaatar city.

Tentsver.mn, September 4, 2022; Eguur.mn, September 5, 2022.<sup>37</sup>



## NEPAL

**July 3, 2022**

**Kathmandu, Kathmandu District, Bagmati Province, Nepal**

Two arrests. They were selling bear (*Ursidae*, Appendix I or II) parts.

Diyopost, July 3, 2022; Khabarhub, July 3, 2022.<sup>38</sup>

## PAKISTAN

**September 16, 2022**

**Gujar Khan, Province of Punjab, Pakistan**

Shaukat Ali was fined 10,000 rupees or 46 US\$ for capturing and trying to sell an Asian black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I). He was handed over to the Islamabad Wildlife Department for release in a suitable habitat.

The Express Tribune, September 17, 2022.<sup>39</sup>



## VIET NAM

**July 7, 2022**

**Hanoi Municipality, Viet Nam**

Voluntary transfer of 7 bears from the farm where they had been exploited for nearly 20 years to the specialised sanctuary of Tam Dao. Their breeder had been arrested in May while transporting 350 vials of bear bile (see "On the Trail" n°36 p. 81).

ENV, July 11, 2022.<sup>40</sup>

**July 27, 2022**

**Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam**

In November 2021, a breeder of Asian black bears (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I), who exploits the bears for their bile, still owned 3 of them. In June 2022, he owned only one. His 2 companions in misery were missing. The survivor, aged about 20 years, was transferred to the Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station before, if his health permits, being admitted to the specialised enclosure in Cat Tien National Park.

ENV, July 28, 2022.<sup>41</sup>

**August 18, 2022**

**Soc Trang Province, Viet Nam**

Release of an adult female Malayan sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*, Appendix I) and an adult female Asian black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I) caged in a private property. They were allegedly imported from Cambodia when they were cubs. They were transferred to Cat Tien Park 270 km away. The operation is credited to provincial forestry officers in the Mekong Delta and Free the Bears. After quarantine, they should be moved to enclosures dedicated to ex-prisoners.

ENV, August 22, 2022; Free the Bears, August 22, 2022.<sup>42</sup>

**September 2022**

**Truc Ninh District, Nam Dinh Province, Viet Nam**

A 120 kg female Asian black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I) held in captivity for 17 years is transferred to Animals Asia's Vietnam Bear Rescue Center thanks to the educational work of ENV. Veterinary examination reveals lesions proving bile extraction.

VnExpress International, September 22, 2022; ENV, September 23, 2022.<sup>43</sup>

**September 2022**

**Hanoi Municipality, Viet Nam**

Seizure from a certain Tran Ngoc Thinh, 39 years old, of 4 Asian black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I) paws.

An Ninh Thủ Đô, September 27, 2022; ENV, September 28, 2022.<sup>44</sup>

**September 29, 2022**

**Dien Bien District, Dien Bien Province, Viet Nam**

Lo Van Bua, who was transporting 2 Asian black bear cubs (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I) weighing 4 kg each on a motorbike at the end of May 2022 (see "On the Trail" n°36 p. 81), was sentenced by the Dien Bien District Court to 18 months' suspended imprisonment and 36 months' probation.

ENV, October 5, 2022.<sup>45</sup>



**September 29, 2022**

**Hanoi, Viet Nam**

When Kieu Van Da says he received her as a gift 20 years ago, the female Asian black bear cub (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I) weighed 12 kg and now the adult bear weighs about 160 kg. Fed on crushed fruit and milk with a supplement of rice porridge, she served as a curiosity and pet in a large cage at the end of the garden. She was partly toothless. Mr. Da, also feeling the weight of years, noting that in his family no one feels capable of being a bear keeper, and fearing that one day he would fall under the law, decided to hand over the captive to the authorities in charge of wildlife protection in Hanoi. Her anaesthesia and transfer to the bear refuge in Tam Dao National Park, 100 km away, were ensured thanks to the veterinarians and the logistics of Animals Asia. This is the 9th bear released in Hanoi since the beginning of 2022.

Báo điện tử Pháp luật và Xã hội, September 29, 2022.<sup>46</sup>



## EUROPE

### BULGARIA

#### End of August and September 20, 2022

##### Belitsa, Bulgaria

##### Bears without borders

Transfer of a 6-year-old brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) from a courtyard in Skopje Municipality, North Macedonia, to the Belitsa refuge in Bulgaria via Greece. Nineteen brown bears live in Belitsa. Many used to work as dancing bears in Serbia and Albania. The Belitsa refuge covers 12 hectares. It is funded by the Brigitte Bardot Foundation and Four Paws.

Four Paws, September 21 and November 1, 2022.<sup>47</sup>

### FINLAND

#### August 26, 2022

##### Kuusamo, Region of North Ostrobothnia, Finland. Border with Russia.

The brown bear cub (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) was in a tree. Three hunters shot him. The cub fell to the ground and they finished him off.

Finnish Border Guard, February 13, 2023.<sup>48</sup>

#### September 9 and 10 and October 27, 2022

##### Kuusamo, Region of North Ostrobothnia, Finland

They are trigger-happy when it comes to gunning bears down in Kuusamo.

The Kuusamo refuge zoo has a bad reputation. In April 2022, 2 bears escaped and one of them, a 4-year-old bear, was killed due to a lack of human and technical resources to catch him.

In May, a surprise visit by the regional inspectorate revealed shortcomings in the housing and feeding of the animals.

In June, the zoo was under threat of administrative closure.

On Friday afternoon, September 9, a brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) of about 20 years old escaped through open doors. Spotted late the next day in a peat bog by hunting dogs, she was not anaesthetised and with the agreement of the director of the zoo she was shot by members of the SRVA (Suurriistavirka-apu), a national organisation from the hunting world that assists the police in the management of large wild animals and conflicts with human activities.

At the end of September, the regional administration suspended the licence of the bear sanctuary zoo and ordered the transfer of the animals without explaining how the "transfer" was to be carried out. Is it a transfer to other facilities or a transfer to death row?

On Thursday, October 27, the competent administrative court ruled that the zoo did not have to "abandon its animals" until the appeal lodged by Sulo Karjalainen, its founder, had been examined.

Police of Finland, June 14 and September 10, 2022; Yle News, September 11, 2022; MTV Uutiset, September 26, 2022; Helsingin Sanomat, October 27, 2022.<sup>49</sup>

#### September 16, 2022

##### Kajaani, Region of Kainuu, Finland

A man who went hunting for Eurasian elk (*Alces alces*) became interested in hunting brown bears (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II).

He and his dog followed a bear. They were joined by a friend and from reinforcement to reinforcement, they were soon a whole troop and the leader finally shot. The carcass was taken to the hunting lodge and the skin and meat were separated. The man was fined 180 € or 180 US\$.

Pohjoisen Polut, September 16, 2022.<sup>50</sup>



### GREECE

#### July and August 12, 2022

##### Sklithro, Region of Western Macedonia, Greece

Arcturos is outraged. Since the beginning of the year, 4 brown bears (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) have been killed in Western Macedonia in areas where hunting is prohibited (see "On the Trail" n°35 p.72). Within a radius of one kilometre and in one month, 3 bears, including a nursing mother, were found dead and riddled with lead bullets. One of them was near a pile of rubbish. The 3 crimes took place just outside a protected area that is also believed to be home to wolves and lynx. Bear killer(s) act with impunity according to the NGO Arcturos.

Arcturos, August 18, 2022; Kathimerini, August 18, 2022.<sup>51</sup>

### POLAND

#### August 2022

##### Grzechotki Border Post, Warmian–Masurian Voivodeship, Poland. Border with Russia (Kaliningrad enclave).

Seizure of the skin of a brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) measuring 1.80 metres long by 1.80 metres wide and weighing approximately 3 kg in a vehicle coming from Kaliningrad. It was hidden on the back seat, covered by clothes. The driver, a German of Russian origin returning from a visit to his native country, stated that he had received it as a gift in Siberia.

National Revenue Administration, September 27, 2022; TVP Info, September 27, 2022.<sup>52</sup>



## ROMANIA

**July 7, 2022**

**Petru Voda, Neamt County, Romania**

The alert on the 112 was well intended, but it did not save the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II), who was still moving, half strangled. When veterinarians, police and representatives of the hunting federation arrived on the scene, the bear had just died.

The heroic rescue of Bicaz-Chei in the same county was not repeated. This bear was entangled in a steel wire fence. He was in agony trying to free himself. The gamekeeper and volunteers succeeded in cutting the wire around the neck and paws with these long-handled pliers and the freed bear went back into the forest to heal his wounds without showing any aggression towards his rescuers.

Adevarul, July 10, 2022.<sup>53</sup>



**August 22, 2022**

**Valea Borulu, Prahova County, Romania**

Four brown bears (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) were abandoned by unknown persons. According to shepherds, a truck stopped at the side of a small road and an adult bear and 3 cubs got out. Since then, some damage has been reported in the gardens.

Ziare.com, August 22, 2022.<sup>54</sup>

**End of August 2022**

**Harghita County, Romania**

A shepherd posted on Facebook under the banner "Harghita megyei juhosok" (Shepherds of Harghita County) the video of his 8 guard dogs devouring a brown bear cub (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II). Bear conservationist Csaba Domokos forwarded the footage to the environmental officers of the Harghita, Mures and Vrancea counties and to the Harghita police. "I think this happens much more often than we think. I often hear about cases of cubs being killed by sheepdogs, or cubs being deliberately run over by tractors. But there has never been an example of someone bragging about it on social media." Domokos is concerned about the mother's fate.

Transtelex, August 29, 2022.<sup>55</sup>



**September 11 and 21, 2022**

**Gura Teghii, Buzau County, Romania**

Witnesses called for help. Their neighbour, who was returning home at night around 2.30 a.m., was attacked by a bear and seriously injured. The unfortunate man was rushed to hospital. In reality, it was all staged. The 5 men had set traps in the forest - it was a habit - but this night there was a bear caught in the boar trap. Still alive for a few moments, he struggled when the poachers arrived and one of them was injured. After finishing off the bear, they carried their injured accomplice to the roadside at the entrance to the village and told the fib. Under a search warrant, the 5 men's home were searched and 20 traps, 10 cutlasses, 2 hacksaws, an axe, all soiled with "a reddish brown substance", a brown



bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) fur with head, 146 grams of "a psychotic plant substance" and 2 pipes were seized.

Adevarul, September 22, 2022; Romanian Police, September 22, 2022; Ziarul de Iasi, September 22, 2022.<sup>56</sup>

## RUSSIA

**February 17 and July 5, 2022**

**Kosh-Agach, Republic of Altai, Russia**

Sentence of one year's hard labour with deduction of wages to the benefit of the State for the 34-year-old man who in April 2021 poached a brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II), butchered him at his home and undertook to sell the meat (see "On the Trail" n°34 p.98). In court, he complained that he had lost a foal and had found his remains in the forest with bear tracks around it. He said he had killed the bear in retaliation.

Altai Republic Prosecutor's Office, July 5, 2022; News of Gorny Altai, July 6, 2022.<sup>57</sup>



**August 2022**

**Kibi-Zhik'ya, Republic of Udmurtia, Russia**

The Alliance of the Animal Defenders protests against the detention of a brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) for several months in the "Vostok" estate. Vostok is both a hunting concession and a fur farm. The Alliance went to the site. It found that the bear was pacing to and fro in his wire mesh enclosure and showing signs of stress. Vostok officials have no document authorising his detention and give no explanation as to why he was captured and detained. The Alliance alerted the Udmurtia environmental protection prosecutor, who forwarded the case to the Ural Ministry of Natural Resources, which in turn forwarded it to the Western Ural Interregional Directorate of Natural Resources Management, which, as far as we know, has no opinion on the matter. The bear would be used to increase the attractiveness of the "Vostok" hunting area.

Alliance of the Animal Defenders - Izhevsk, September 27, 2022.<sup>58</sup>

**August 1, 2022**

**Salym, Khanty-Mansi Autonomous District, Russia**

Another fib about bears! One of the 3 men who shot a brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) from a car with a gun said in his defence that the innocent victim who was peacefully crossing the highway kept destroying his land and that of his ancestors, that he had been tracking this lame bear for years and had finally identified him. Other road users say that the bear was not lame at all. At the main suspect's house, several firearms and the ammunition that goes with them were seized. Before being arrested, the 3 bear hunters - presence of a 4<sup>th</sup> person is suspected - shot the bear on the side of the road, loaded the carcass into the SUV, butchered him and dumped the remains in a bin.

.../...



There are an estimated 7,000 bears in the Khanty-Mansi autonomous district (534,000 km<sup>2</sup>), authorities told the newspaper Kommersant. A warning system is available. Since the beginning of the year, 120 calls have been made concerning wolves and especially bears who break into factories or inhabited areas.

Megatyumen, August 1, 2022; Bulletin of the Surgut Region, August 2, 2022; Faktologia, August 2, 2022; Kommersant, August 2, 2022; SurgutInformTV, August 2, 2022.<sup>59</sup>

#### **August 8 and 17, 2022 Ust-Bolsheretsk, Kamchatka Krai, Russia**



In issue no. 33, p.110, "On the Trail" reported on the exploits of Igor Redkin, who in August 2021 killed a brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) near a rubbish dump in a village in the Kamchatka Krai, and then killed a metal salvager he had mistaken for a bear. Pending trial, Redkin was released with the obligation to report to the police once a month, not to travel outside the Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky municipal district, and not to change residence without the consent of the judicial authority. Redkin underwent his house arrest in a luxury chalet and was released from his obligations in February 2022. Redkin is said to be Russia's 20<sup>th</sup> richest man. Together with his wife, he owns a major fishing company, an airline, and several real estate and tourism businesses. He was sentenced to a year's restriction of liberty from which was deducted the few months of house arrest. He was at first charged with murder, then manslaughter, and finally negligent homicide. The court considered the goodwill of the multi-millionaire, who paid the State ecological damages for the bear's death and deliberately paid the victim's mother 10 million rubles (164,300 US\$) and his widow 20 million rubles. The Kamchatka court's leniency caused a stir in the krai and in Russia. The prosecutor has appealed.

The investigative committee of the Russian Federation, August 8, 2022; Ust-Bolsheretsky District Court, August 8, 2022; Kamchatka-Inform, August 17, 2022.<sup>60</sup>

#### **August 10, 2022**

##### **Nikolaevka, Krasnoyarsk Krai, Russia**

The brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) was rumored to be killing little pink pigs, and people were forcing him out with pitchforks. But the hunters banded together, and the bear was killed with an abundance of ammunition. Photos of the carnage were posted on social media. The comments are numerous and often indignant. "What makes you think it's the same bear? Was he walking with a piglet under his arm?" "The one to blame is not the bear, but the one who burns and cuts down all the forests. And the bear just wants to eat, but there's nothing to eat!"

Emergency Kansk, August 10, 2022; Channel 7 Krasnoyarsk, August 11, 2022.<sup>61</sup>

#### **End of August 2022**

##### **Magnitogorsk, Chelyabinsk Oblast, Russia**

Tourists on the beaches of Lake Bannoye are flocking and are concerned about a brown bear cub (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) who may disrupt their stay and frolic. Messages are circulating on social networks calling for his death and saying that a shooting permit has been issued by the authorities. His mother is said to have been a victim of poachers. The Oblast Ministry of Ecology denied this information. The bear cub passed through a village before reaching the swamps and possibly the mountains. If he returns to the tourist and beach areas, he will be anaesthetised and captured by veterinarians and transferred to a wild habitat unless he is already dependent on humans for food. In this unfavourable case, he would be placed in the Chelyabinsk Zoo.

mgorsk.ru, August 29, 2022; Good news from the Chelyabinsk oblast, August 30, 2022.<sup>62</sup>

#### **September 3, 2022**

##### **Dikson Island, Krasnoyarsk Krai, Russia**

A polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*, Appendix II) is found in what looks like a rubbish dump. He is motionless on his back, as if paralyzed. Initially, he was flown to Norilsk, 530 km from the island. According to Pavel Borzykh, Minister of Ecology for the Krasnoyarsk Krai, "the management of polar bears is the responsibility of Rosprirodnadzor, the federal body in charge of the protection and exploitation of natural resources." "But it's urgent, and we're working hand in hand with our colleagues in Moscow," continues the Minister.

In a second step, the bear, who remained unable to move any limbs other than his head and front paws, was flown to Moscow and then transferred to the Moscow Zoo's veterinary clinic. Initial examinations show that the bear was hit by homemade bullets. A shower of small pellets rained down on the animal. At least 50 impacts were observed, mostly on the back and rear end, suggesting that the assailant was not acting in self-defense. .../...





Under these conditions, even under anaesthesia, it is impossible to carry out an MRI and determine whether the spine and spinal cord have been irreparably damaged. The only good news is that the bear is gradually regaining his appetite.

After 7 months, the bear's condition has improved: he's eating, playing, and splashing around in his pond, but his hind paws are still paralyzed. His left hind paw, however, has regained some of its sensitivity. His caregivers offer him daily mobility exercises and are delighted with his willingness to participate.

The urban colony of Dixon comprises a mainland and an island section. In 2021, 319 people lived there. In 1985, there were 5,000. Located west of the Taimyr peninsula, east of the Kara Sea and in the Gulf of Yenisei, the colony is known as the northernmost inhabited urban area in the world. Due to its strategic location in the Arctic Ocean, it served as a military base during WWI, WWII, and the Cold War. With increasing traffic on the Northern Sea Route, the port of Dixon is gradually regaining importance. The island is located 1.5 km from the mainland in the Kara Sea. It covers an area of 25 km<sup>2</sup>. Krasnoyarsk Krai Government, September 5, 2022; Izvestia, September 6 and 7, 2022; The Polar Bear Programme, September 6, 2022; Interfax Russia, September 9, 2022; Vechernyaya Moskva, April 17, 2023.<sup>63</sup>

## September 5, 2022 Altai State Nature Biosphere Reserve, Republic of Altai, Russia



After 3 months of training in self-sufficiency under the guidance of experts from the Orphan Bear Rescue Centre in Tver Oblast, 2 brown bear cubs (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) were released deep into the Altai Nature Reserve, where conflict with human activity is unlikely. Arriving by boat, they were unloaded on the shores of Lake Teletskoye after munching on a few of the apples they love. They come from the Krasnoyarsk Krai, 600 km from the Altai Republic. They were rescued at the end of April and cared for in a wildlife rehabilitation center in Krasnoyarsk after their mother was poached (see "On the Trail" n°36 p.83).

Altai State Nature Biosphere Reserve, September 9, 2022; Channel 7 Krasnoyarsk, September 12, 2022.<sup>64</sup>

## Mid-September 2022 Bolotninsky District, Novosibirsk Oblast, Russia

A brown bear cub (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) wandering after the death of his mother, accused by herders of attacking livestock and killed in retaliation, was captured by fishermen. The other orphan was captured by wildlife conservationists. The 2 were temporarily transferred to an enclosure under the supervision of a gamekeeper. They were examined by vets. It was decided that they could not be released back into the forest immediately. At their age, they would not be able to survive the next hibernation without the help of their mother. They would have to be transferred to a wildlife training center in Leningrad Oblast, 3,880 km away, and stay there for 6 months before being released with the arrival of spring into a suitable habitat. They will not return to the Bolotninsky District, where there are too many conflicts between bears and human activities.

VN.ru, September 20, 2022; NDN.INFO, September 22, 2022; Sibkray.ru, September 23, 2022.<sup>65</sup>

## SLOVAKIA

**September 30, 2022**

### **Mostenica, Banská Bystrica Region, Slovakia**

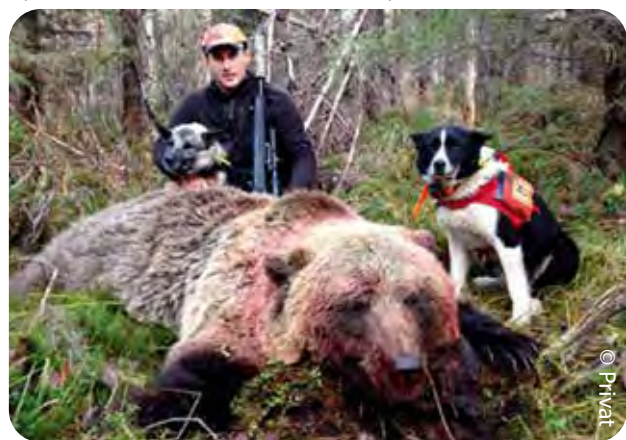
Poaching of a brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II). Veterinarians confirm that he was killed by a firearm. Bear poaching is rampant in the country. Not all cases are reported. The same goes for wolves and birds of prey. The National Nature Protection Service urges the public to systematically report any discovery of dead wild animals or their remains to the police.

State Nature Protection of the Slovak Republic, October 12, 2022.<sup>66</sup>

## SWEDEN

**Beginning of July 2022**

### **Lycksele, Västerbotten County, Sweden**



Robert Salomonsson, a proud bear hunter, is suspected of luring his victims deep into the woods with treats and corn. Seven of the brown bears (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) on his kill list had corn and non-forest food in their stomachs. Salomonsson says that "rumours" have tainted his image and scared off customers and that baiting is not banned if approved by the county game council. His last victim was an 85-kg female murdered among the spruce trees in Dorotea in 2019.

He has just been charged with 3 accomplices including a woman. A trial date has not yet been set. He is also suspected of using an all-terrain vehicle to chase the bear, who was initially only wounded by a close shot.

Jaktjournalen, July 13, 2022; Jakt & Jägare, July 14, 2022; Sveriges Radio, July 22, 2022; Svensk Jakt, July 26, 2022; Vildmarken, September 2, 2022.<sup>67</sup>

**August 30 or 31, 2022**

### **Dalarna County, Sweden**

Same as in Västerbotten County. It was the beginning of the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) season. The hunters were baiting their victims and chasing them with their dogs and all-terrain vehicles until nightfall when hunting is prohibited. They were caught in flagrante delicto by a sworn gamekeeper who called in the police to assist. The trial is expected to follow. The suspects present themselves as the first of the victims: "We are risking our lives hunting a large and dangerous game and we find ourselves in a completely absurd situation, where we are accused of both using bait and hunting without a licence."

Jaktjournalen, September 1, 2022.<sup>68</sup>

## UKRAINE

**Beginning of September 2022**

### **Bakhmut, Donetsk Oblast, Ukraine**

He won't fall victim to bombings. The brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) discovered by the 15th Transcarpathian Battalion in an abandoned house was transferred from his wire hut to the Domazhyr bear sanctuary in Lviv Oblast, more than 1,200 km from Bakhmut, thanks to the dedication



of the NGO UAnimals. It was about time. Nothing to eat, nothing to drink. During the evacuation, there was no truce and the shells kept falling.

UAnimals, September 7 and 8, 2022.<sup>69</sup>





# ■ ANTELOPES, WILD GOATS, GAZELLES, WILD SHEEP, ■ ■ URIALS, IBEXES, ORYX AND PRONGHORNS ■



Goitered gazelle (*Gazella subgutturosa*). Photo Miroslav Bobek

## AFRICA

### COTE D'IVOIRE

**August 7 and 24, 2022**

**Comoé National Park and Bouna, Zanzan District, Côte d'Ivoire**

Sentencing of H. Dihalé and K. Ditchanin to 12 months in prison and a joint fine of 200,000 CFA francs (308 US\$) for poaching gazelles (family Bovidae). It was the national holiday. "They had deluded themselves into believing that all the forestry commandos had gone to Bouna for the big parade."

Bay duiker (*Cephalophus dorsalis*, Appendix II) and yellow-backed duiker (*Cephalophus silvicultor*, Appendix II) are found in the park, which covers 11,500 km<sup>2</sup> and has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1983.

Agence Ivoirienne de Presse, August 28, 2022.<sup>1</sup>



## KENYA

**September 18, 2022**

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

A 12-year-old boy with a spear in his hand was caught with 7 dogs after killing a beisa oryx (*Oryx beisa*). The rangers let him go after confiscating his spear and the carcass. The range of the beisa oryx, the only oryx species found in Kenya, extends from Tanzania to Ethiopia. The species is in danger of extinction. The meat and skin are used for food and clothing, and the horns are prized as amulets.

Big Life Foundation, September 2022.<sup>2</sup>



## CHAD

**September 1 to October 21, 2022**

**Erdi, Ennedi-Est Region, Chad**

Sheep and gazelle diplomacy in the Sahel

- September 1. Four Libyan poachers are arrested



by the Chadian wildlife guard with weapons, ammunition, luggage and a 4X4. They were suspected of poaching mouflons and gazelles (family Bovidae) around Mourdi, 280 km from the border with Libya. Poachers target in particular dama gazelles (*Nanger dama*, Appendix I) and barberry sheep (*Ammotragus lervia*, Appendix II) in this area. They were transferred under guard to N'Djamena. Libya immediately demands the release of its 4 nationals, who are said to have "wandered off into the desert."

- September 9. The lawyer for the Association pour le Développement et la Protection de l'Environnement de Mourdi (ADEPEM) deplores the incursions of Libyan poachers into the province of Ennedi-Est. They are said to be in Chad as if they were at home, and have not hesitated to display the remains of animals as if they were "war trophies."

- September 12. Libyan reprisals hit hundreds of Chadians who had entered Libya illegally. They were harassed and, according to the Chadian government, "parked" in Ajdabiya in appalling conditions. The 166th katiba of the Libyan army is said to be leading the offensive. The Chadian Foreign Minister condemned these illegal and arbitrary arrests and demanded that the "competent" Libyan authorities "preserve the integrity of its citizens and protect them from any inhumane treatment." In Ajdabiya, Libyan voices were raised to criticize the fate inflicted on Chadian emigrants. A total of 50,000 of them work in the gold mines and in agriculture.

- September 13. The Libyan Foreign Minister confirms that a crisis unit has been set up and is active 24 hours a day, and says he is in contact with his Chadian counterpart. The Chadian embassy in Tripoli confirms the "imminent" release of the 4 Libyans, but N'Djamena does not confirm this information.

- October 21. After intense negotiations and the threat of a breakdown in diplomatic relations between the 2 countries, a Libyan military delegation, including senior officers from the 166th katiba, travelled to N'Djamena, where the Chadian Director of General Intelligence handed over the 4 men who had "strayed" into Chad and who, for almost 2 months, had almost set the 2 countries on fire.

Between 2002 and 2010, Chad lost some 4,000 elephants to ivory poaching by gangs from Libya and Sudan.

Alwinda, September 1, 13 and October 21, 2022; Mula Africa, September 1, 2022; Tchadinfos, September 9 and 12, 2022; The Guardian, September 16, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

## AMERICA

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**July 2022**

**Gresham, State of Oregon, United States of America**

Following a tip, the police went to the home of the owner of a Mexican bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*, Appendix II in Mexico) skull decorated with stones. The man claimed to have "found" it on the banks of the Deschutes River, picked it up and decorated it before hanging it on the wall. The skull has been seized. Oregon State Police, July 2022.<sup>4</sup>



**August 10 and 27, 2022**

**Campbell County, State of Wyoming, United States of America**

Jeremiah A. Beason and David Hernandez were heard after the finding of the heads of 2 male pronghorns (*Antilocapra americana*, Appendix I in Mexico) near a hotel dumpster. The 2 men allegedly shot them from the window of a vehicle with a 300 Blackout rifle, without a permit and while hunting prairie dogs (genus *Cynomys*). County 17, September 6, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

**August 20-21, 2022**

**Whitehorse Unit, State of Oregon, United States of America**

Wildlife officers were busy during the opening weekend of the pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*, Appendix I in Mexico) hunt in Whitehorse: many hunters were fined for shooting specimens without a permit or tag.

Oregon State Police, August 2022.<sup>6</sup>

**August 2022**

**Owyhee Unit, State of Oregon, United States of America**

Two people cited for bow poaching of pronghorns (*Antilocapra americana*, Appendix I in Mexico). Oregon State Police, August 2022.<sup>7</sup>

**August 2022**

**Thompson Reservoir, Oregon State, United States of America**

Two small pronghorns (*Antilocapra americana*, Appendix I in Mexico) are hanging from a tree. Cooperation between rangers and hunters led to the arrest of a man who had been camping on site in his all-terrain camper and had been poaching. Oregon State Police, August 2022.<sup>8</sup>

**ASIA**

**AZERBAIDJAN**

**End of July 2022**

**Kalbajar District, Azerbaijan. Border with Armenia.**

A video shows soldiers shooting a wild goat (*Capra hircus aegagrus*, Appendix III in Pakistan). RusArmlInfo, July 27, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

**July 28, 2022**

**Shirvan National Park, Salyan District, Azerbaijan**

Rashad Sultanov, goitered gazelle (*Gazella subgutturosa*) poacher, arrested in the middle of the night.

Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan, July 28, 2022.<sup>10</sup>

**INDIA**

**June 29 and August 23, 2022**

**Chameli and Mahurkhora, Nagpur District, State of Maharashtra, India**

Camera traps captured the image of 4 poachers on a motorcycle with the carcass of an Indian gazelle (*Gazella bennettii*, Appendix III in Pakistan). They were identified and arrested.

The Times of India, August 26, 2022.<sup>11</sup>

**July 23, 2022**

**Ranebennur Devaragudda, and Haveri District, State of Karnataka, India**



Officers from the mobile forest brigade of the Belagavi division dismantled a blackbuck poaching ring (*Antilope cervicapra*, Appendix III in Nepal and Pakistan). Based on a tip-off, the officers pretended to want to buy 3 skins and arrested Tyagaraj Lakshman Lamani, age 24, and Gurunath Basavarj, age 23, at the Ranebennur bypass. Their cooperation led to the arrest of Theerkappa Marappa Goder, age 50, Nagappa Dyamappa Harijan, age 45, and above all the alleged head of the network: the priest Beerappa Nagappa Medleri, age 32. For the past 2 years, the latter had been claiming that antelope skins would bring wealth to the wealthy devotees of his Devaragudda temple. The group of poachers sourced their supplies from the Ranebennur Blackbuck Sanctuary in several ways. They would set iron mesh snares and nets at night, then release trained hunting dogs. They placed explosives in baits. They electrocuted antelopes with fences placed in the forest.

The Hindu, July 25, 2022.<sup>12</sup>



**Mid-August 2022**

**Kollegal, Chamarajanagara District, State of Karnataka, India**

Seizure of 8 blackbuck skins (*Antilope cervicapra*, Appendix III in Nepal and Pakistan) and 2 arrests. Bengaluru Wire, August 18, 2022.<sup>13</sup>

**IRAN**

**July 2022**

**Tabas, South Khorasan Province, Iran**

The environmental police seized from a poacher-butcher the meat and 3 heads of 2 Indian gazelles (*Gazella bennettii*, Appendix III in Pakistan) and a wild sheep (*Ovis vignei*, Appendix I or *Ovis gmelini*, Appendix I for the populations of Cyprus).

Irib News Agency, July 21, 2022.<sup>14</sup>

**July 2022**

**Esfarayen, North Khorasan Province, Iran**

The police commander announced the seizure of 2 heads of wild goat (*Capra hircus aegagrus*, Appendix III in Pakistan) and the carcass of an urial (*Ovis vignei*, Appendix I) poached in Salook National Park. One arrest.

Rokna News, July 29, 2022.<sup>15</sup>

**July 15 to 19, 2022**

**Lamard, Fars Province, Iran**

After a game of hide-and-seek in the Mount Hava Reserve, a patrol managed to catch 2 poachers, 5 firearms, and the carcass of a wild sheep (*Ovis vignei*, Appendix I or *Ovis gmelini*, Appendix I for the population of Cyprus).

Mehr News Agency, July 20, 2022.<sup>16</sup>

**REPEATED OFFENCE**

**August 2022**

**Kashan, Isfahan Province, Iran**

Sentencing of a man to 2 years in prison for poaching 2 urials (*Ovis vignei*, Appendix I). He is a repeat offender.

Iranian Students' News Agency, August 23, 2022.<sup>17</sup>



**August 2022**

**Khabr National Park, Kerman Province, Iran**

Arrest of several experienced poachers. They killed an Indian gazelle (*Gazella bennettii*, Appendix III in Pakistan) and 3 wild goats (*Capra hircus aegagrus*, Appendix III in Pakistan) in the national park. The park covers an area of 1,200 km<sup>2</sup>. It is also home to leopards, golden eagles, and caracals. It is located 60 km from Baft, population 35,000.

Fardaye Kerman, September 1, 2022.<sup>18</sup>

**Beginning of September 2022**

**Boshruyeh, South Khorasan Province, Iran**

In a Peugeot 405, police seized the head and horns of a urial (*Ovis vignei*, Appendix I) and a hunting weapon. Two arrests.

Khabarban, September 11, 2022.<sup>19</sup>

**KAZAKHSTAN**

**March and August 10, 2022**

**Oral, West Kazakhstan Region, Kazakhstan**



"They pay more for a rotten saiga horn than for killing a man."

The families of a dozen district residents, who were sentenced in the first instance to a few years' imprisonment and staggering fines disproportionate to their incomes, gather outside the courthouse and demand a meeting with the prosecutor to obtain a retrial. Recriminations were rife: horns had been sawn from saiga antelopes (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II) that had died naturally or from disease, horns lost during molting had been found in a meadow, and confessions, if any, had been obtained under duress. Defense witnesses had been dissuaded by investigators from attending trials. The weapons found in the homes of certain convicts were not necessarily there for poaching purposes. Even the smallest saw or bolt cutter is designated as evidence. It seems that the saiga population in Kazakhstan has recovered from the 2015 epizootic outbreak (see "On the Trail" n°16 p.93), and in the corridors of the ministries there is some half-hearted talk of future saiga regulation and a trade that would be governed by a nationalized company. The public prosecutor has agreed to receive the demonstrators' petition, while refusing to receive them physically in the name of the anti-terrorism plan currently in force in the country. Eleven men are in prison.

Uralskaya Nedelya, August 10, 2022; Ratel.kz, August 11, 2022.<sup>20</sup>

**May 27 and August 8, 2022**

**Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan**

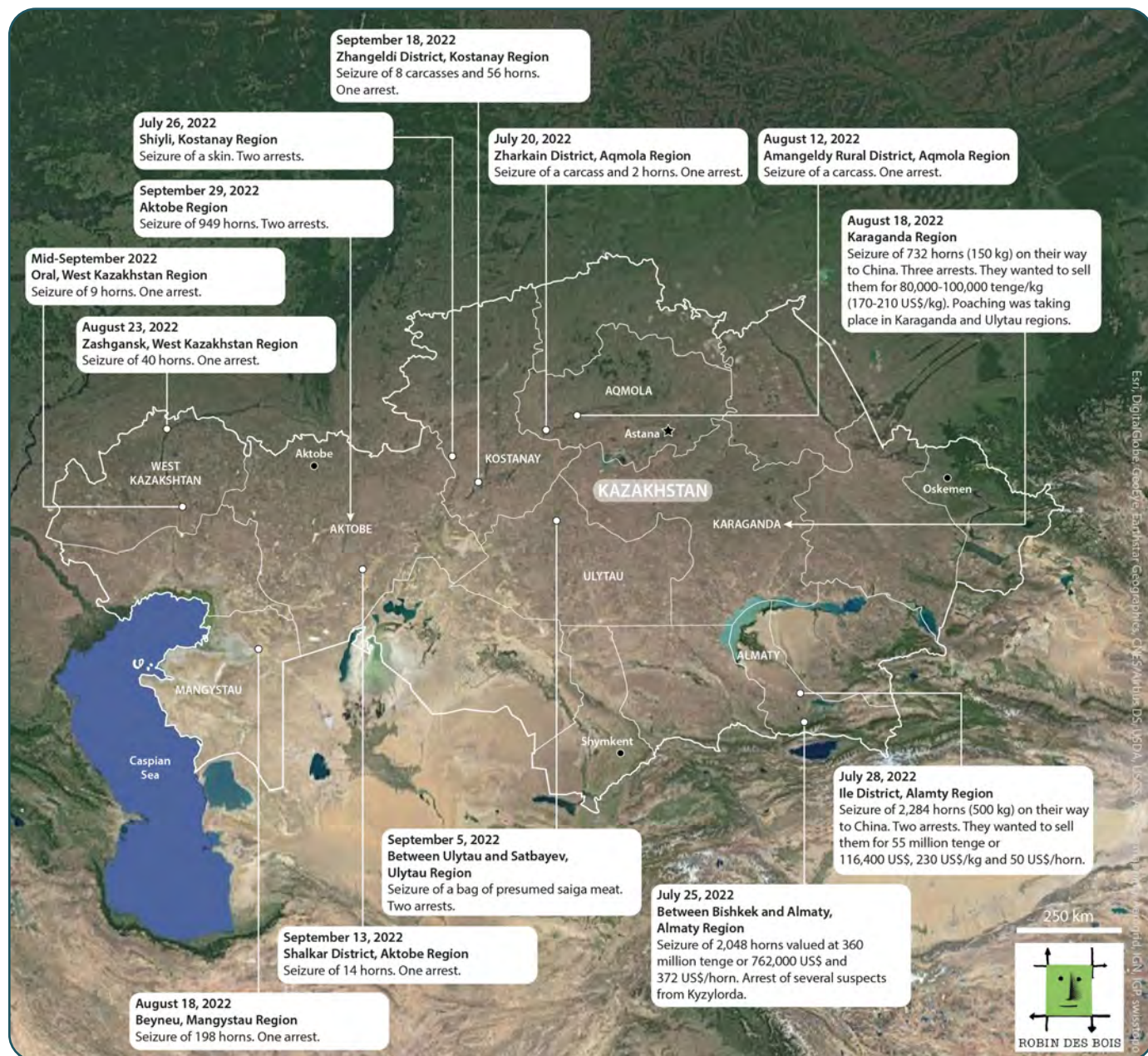


Russian scientist Marc Pestov, age 61, was arrested at the airport on his way back to Moscow with the horns of a goitered gazelle (*Gazella subgutturosa*), sea urchin fossils, and shark teeth in his luggage, which he allegedly found "accidentally" in the steppe of the Mangystau Region. A coordinator of amphibian and reptile protection in the Nizhny Novgorod Region, he had been invited to visit the south of the Ustyrt Region. His repentance in court probably saved him from prison. He was ordered to pay 1,837,800 tenge (3,820 US\$) in damages, a fine of 612,000 tenge (1,270 US\$) and was banned from activities involving rare and endangered species for 5 years in Kazakhstan. The wildlife products were transferred to the museum collections of the Institute of Zoology of the Ministry of Education and Science of Kazakhstan.

BaigeNews.kz, August 16, 2022; inAktau, August 16, 2022; Ulysmmedia.kz, August 16, 2022.<sup>21</sup>



## Kazakhstan. Seizures of horns (6,332), skins, carcasses and meat of saiga antelope between July 1 and September 30, 2022



Saiga antelope (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II)

Sources, see page 234.





July 28, 2022  
Ile District, Almaty Region



September 29, 2022  
Aktobe Region



August 18, 2022  
Beyneu, Mangystau Region



August 23, 2022  
Zashgansk, West Kazakhstan Region



July 20, 2022  
Zharkain District, Aqmola Region



July 25, 2022  
Between Bishkek and Almaty,  
Almaty Region. Border with  
Kyrgyzstan.

**July 11, 2022**

**Sarybastau, Almaty Region, Kazakhstan**

The driver was arrested. He was carrying a goitered gazelle (*Gazella subgutturosa*, Appendix II of the Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals) in the back of his vehicle. Criminal proceedings have been opened and an expert report has been launched to confirm the species.

KazTAG, July 18, 2022.<sup>22</sup>

**July 30, 2022**

**Charyn Canyon National Nature Park, Almaty Region, Kazakhstan**

At around 1 p.m., a Toyota Land Cruiser without licence plates was intercepted. On board, 3 citizens from Enbekchikazakh District (about 80 km away) and Almaty city (190 km away) were arrested with 3 hunting rifles, 2 knives, meat, and what is presumed to be the skin of a Himalayan ibex (*Capra sibirica*, Appendix III in Pakistan).

Forestry and Wildlife Committee Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan, July 30, 2022; zakon.kz, August 1, 2022.<sup>23</sup>

**August 2, 2022**

**Toktinsky Nature Reserve, Jetisu Region, Kazakhstan. Border with China.**

At around 7:30 p.m., a police check of a vehicle resulted in the seizure of 2 heads of Himalayan ibex (*Capra sibirica*, Appendix III in Pakistan), a skin, and 60 to 62 kg of meat. The driver was Kazakh and the 2 passengers were Spanish.

Forestry and Wildlife Committee Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan, August 3, 2022.<sup>24</sup>

**August 6, 2022**

**Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan**

Three residents of Kazakhstan's capital are sentenced to 7 and 8 years in prison for selling 43 kg of saiga antelope (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II) in conspiracy.

Ulysmedia.kz, August 6, 2022; Time.kz, August 8, 2022.<sup>25</sup>



**KYRGYZSTAN**

**July 27, 2022**

**Ak-Suu District, Issyk-Kul Region, Kyrgyzstan**



Camera traps captured images of 3 poachers on horseback carrying shotguns and the carcasses of 4 Himalayan ibex (*Capra sibirica*, Appendix III in Pakistan). An investigation has been launched to identify them.

Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision, July 27, 2022.<sup>26</sup>

**TÜRKİYE**

**July 4, 2022**

**Çelikhan, Adıyaman Province, Türkiye**

Arrest of 2 poachers transporting 3 wild goats (*Capra hircus aegagrus*, Appendix III in Pakistan) in their vehicle. They were fined 254,200 liras (15,280 US\$) per goat, for a total of 758,400 liras (45,580 US\$). Sözcü Gazetesi, July 4, 2022.<sup>27</sup>



**July 2022**

**Kâhta District, Adıyaman Province, Türkiye**

Police and forest rangers caught the poacher of a wild goat (*Capra hircus aegagrus*, Appendix III in Pakistan). He was fined a total of 254,200 liras (15,280 US\$).

Mardin Life, July 25, 2022.<sup>28</sup>



**August 6, 2022**

**Near Harmanlı, Adıyaman Province, Türkiye**

Fine of 507,000 liras (30,470 US\$) and confiscation of weapons for 2 poachers in possession of meat and other by-products from 2 wild goats (*Capra hircus aegagrus*, Appendix III in Pakistan).

MidyatGazete.com, August 6, 2022.<sup>29</sup>





## REPEATED OFFENCE

**Beginning of September 2022**

**Gulluk Mountain Termessos National Park, Antalya Province, Türkiye**

A fine of 530,794 liras (29,200 US\$) was imposed on 3 poachers caught red-handed hunting 2 wild goats (*Capra hircus aegagrus*, Appendix III in Pakistan). They threatened the officers with firearms and wounded one of them with a stone. Two of them were repeat offenders. Cumhuriyet, September 9, 2022.<sup>30</sup>



**Beginning of September 2022**

**Arsuz District, Hatay Province, Türkiye**

The Dört Yol environmental police searched the home of A.V. and seized 21.8 kg of wild goat meat (*Capra hircus aegagrus*, Appendix III in Pakistan) and an AK-47. The individual was fined 254,912 liras (14,020 US\$). NTV (with Anadolu Ajansı), September 10, 2022.<sup>31</sup>



**Mid-September 2022**

**Hasyurt, Antalya Province, Türkiye**

Freeing a wild goat (*Capra hircus aegagrus*, Appendix III in Pakistan) caught in a trap. Habertürk, September 19, 2022.<sup>32</sup>



## EUROPE

### GERMANY

**September 2022**

**Munich Franz Josef Strauß International Airport, Bavaria State, Germany**



"Exceptional" seizure of 2 smoked antelopes (family Bovidae, 4 species in Appendix II found in Ghana) in the suitcase of a woman returning from Ghana. German Customs, October 11, 2022.<sup>33</sup>

## ANDORRA

**August 2022**

**Ordino Parish, Andorra**

Poaching of a Corsican mouflon sheep (*Ovis aries musimon*, synonymous with *Ovis orientalis musimon*). The mouflon sheep are thought to have been introduced to Andorra in the early 1990s. The Corsican mouflon sheep is listed in Appendix III of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention). Corsican mouflon, see "On the Trail" n°22 p.106 and n°33 p.116.

Corps of forest guards of Andorra, August 21, 2022.<sup>34</sup>

## ITALY

**September 5, 2022**

**Villagrande Strisaili, Province of Nuoro, Autonomous Region of Sardinia, Italy**

After hearing gunshots, anti-poaching officers saw a man fleeing in a vehicle without licence plates. After a chase, they intercepted the 58-year-old criminal. He was carrying a Corsican mouflon sheep (*Ovis aries musimon*, synonymous with *Ovis orientalis musimon*) in a bag. He was also in possession of a 12-gauge shotgun, 51 cartridges, a flashlight, and a 22 cm-long hunting knife. The rifle was in the name of his deceased father. Sardegna Live, September 6, 2022.<sup>35</sup>

## RUSSIA

**August 10, 2022**

**Chechen Republic, Russia**

Suspended sentence of 1.5 years in prison for attempting to sell a saiga antelope (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II) over the Internet for 5,000 rubles (80 US\$). RuNews24.ru, August 10, 2022.<sup>36</sup>



**August 24, 2022**

**Volgograd, Volgograd Oblast, Russia**

Indictment of a 34-year-old man. He tried to sell 2 horns of a saiga antelope (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II) that he had "found" in the village of Bereslavka online.

The investigative committee of the Russian Federation, August 24, 2022.<sup>37</sup>

# GIRAFFES AND OKAPIS

## AFRICA

### KENYA

**July 1, 6, 11, 24 and 30, 2022**

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

Big Life Foundation rangers are facing an upsurge in poaching of giraffes for bushmeat:

- On July 1, a poached giraffe carcass is discovered.
- On July 6, a suspect is arrested.
- On July 11, a new carcass is discovered. The culprits fled to Tanzania.
- On July 24, 2 more giraffes are found dead.
- On July 30, 2 suspects are arrested for killing a giraffe.

Big Life Foundation, July 2022.<sup>1</sup>

**July 19, 2022**

**Meru National Park, Meru County, Kenya**

The giraffe limps. The iron trap ring had disappeared from his left hind leg, but he still bore the circular lacerations. The whirling effect of the trap dug into the tissue. Infection set in. Treatment was administered. The prognosis is very guarded given the extent and depth of the wound. SWT/KWS Meru Mobile Veterinary Unit, July 2022.<sup>2</sup>



**August 4, 17 and 26, 2022**

**Crater Lake Conservancy, Kedong Ranch and Oserengoni Wildlife Sanctuary, Nakuru County, Kenya**

- The prognosis is favourable. The iron ring around the left front leg was removed. The wound was superficial. The reserve's lookouts sounded the alarm in good time.



- The 303 km<sup>2</sup> Kedong Ranch is still riddled with traps. An iron scarf encircled the giraffe's neck. Security teams alerted the veterinary unit in time. Favourable prognosis.

- Bad luck! The operation had gone well. The trap on the right hind leg was removed and the superficial wounds were treated. It was just after waking up that things went wrong. She had trouble standing up.

She fell on an asphalt road and the leg that had just been treated and fractured it at the pelvis level. There was no way out but death. She was put to rest.



SWT/KWS Rift Valley Mobile Veterinary Unit, August 2022.<sup>3</sup>

**August 6, 7, 11, 12, 20, 27 and 28, 2022**

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

- One giraffe wounded by a spear.
- One giraffe killed by a spear.
- 2 giraffes with injury marks probably caused by poachers and a giraffe with a trap on one leg.
- One giraffe killed by poachers.
- One giraffe with a leg trap.
- One giraffe killed by a poisoned arrow.
- One giraffe wounded.

Big Life Foundation, August 2022.<sup>4</sup>



**August 16, 2022**

**Kimana Sanctuary, Kajiado County, Kenya**

Remnant of a trap above the fetlock joint on the left hind leg. Wire removed.

Favourable prognosis.

SWT/KWS Amboseli Mobile Veterinary Unit, August 2022.<sup>5</sup>



**August 16 and 31, 2022**

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

- Arrest of 2 suspects in possession of 60 kg of giraffe meat.
- Arrest of 3 suspects in possession of 10 kg of giraffe and dik-dik (genus *Madoqua*) meat.

Big Life Foundation, August 2022.<sup>6</sup>

**September 1 and 4, 2022**  
**Tinga and Eselenkei, Kajiado**  
**County, Kenya**



- The adult giraffe responded well to sedation. He was held down by the team throughout the operation, which involved removing a trap line from her neck and flanks. Favourable prognosis.
- After the injection of sedatives, the giraffe collapsed in dense undergrowth. The operation was delayed. The team had to clear the area quickly so that the operation could be carried out in conditions of sufficient safety for the giraffe. The 3 arrows were finally removed from the rump. The wounds were treated, and it was 45 long minutes after the wake-up antidote that the giraffe stood up again. Favourable prognosis.

Big Life Foundation, September 2022; SWT/KWS Amboseli Mobile Veterinary Unit, September 2022.<sup>7</sup>

**September 9 and 10, 2022**  
**Rukinga Conservancy, Taita Taveta**  
**County, and Ishaqbin Conservancy,**  
**Tana River County, Kenya**



- The giraffe was dragging the trap line and the huge branch to which it was attached. She struggled to walk and breathe. Etorphine and azaperone were injected to anaesthetise her. After 8 minutes, she collapsed with the help of the veterinary team, but during her fall, arteries were severed by the trap that was strangling her, and her trachea was torn. She died during the operation.
- The trap's thick nylon rope was wrapped around his left hind leg. Favourable prognosis.

SWT/KWS Tsavo Mobile Veterinary Unit, September 2022.<sup>8</sup>

**September 13 and 20, 2022**  
**Mundui Wildlife Conservancy and**  
**Crater Lake Conservancy, Nakuru**  
**County, Kenya**



- The giraffe had lacerations on his right front leg. They were superficial. Anaesthesia, removal of steel wire, care, and recovery. The prognosis is favourable.
- Vermin were already swarming in the wounds made by the cable of a trap from which the giraffe had freed himself. Anaesthesia, treatment, and recovery went well, but the prognosis remains guarded.

SWT/KWS Rift Valley Mobile Veterinary Unit, September 2022.<sup>9</sup>

**September 14, 15, 19, 22 and 24, 2022**  
**Amboseli National Park, Kajiado**  
**County, Kenya**



- Discovery of a butchered giraffe.
- Rescue of a giraffe with a trap around his neck.
- Discovery of a giraffe killed by a throwing weapon.
- Report of a giraffe injured by a trap.
- Discovery of a butchered giraffe.

Big Life Foundation, September 2022.<sup>10</sup>

**UGANDA**

**June and July 2022**  
**Murchison Falls National Park,**  
**Northern and Western Regions,**  
**Uganda**



Extrication of 3 Nubian giraffes (*Giraffa camelopardalis camelopardalis*) caught in traps by Joshua Lubega, recently graduated and recruited by GCF (Giraffe Conservation Foundation) and UWA (Uganda Wildlife Authority) to ensure emergency operations in Murchison Falls National Park. Giraffe Conservation Foundation, July 10, 2022.<sup>11</sup>



**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

**August 4, 2022**  
**Beni, North-Kivu Province, Democratic Republic**  
**of the Congo**

Arrest of a trafficker in possession of an okapi (*Okapia johnstoni*) skin. Adams Cassinga, August 4, 2022.<sup>12</sup>

**September 27, 2022**  
**Beni, North Kivu Province, Democratic Republic**  
**of the Congo**

Interception of a gold prospector and a pastor. They were in possession of an okapi (*Okapia johnstoni*) skin. They were coming from Mambasa, on the edge of the Okapi Wildlife Reserve. The operation is credited to ICCN and was relayed by Conserv Congo. The reserve's theoretical management plan comprises 3 zones: 2,820 km<sup>2</sup> where hunting is prohibited, 9,500 km<sup>2</sup> where the collection of forest products and the traditional food hunting of the Mbuti and Efe Pygmies are authorized, 180 km<sup>2</sup> on either side of National Road 4 which crosses the center of the reserve and a secondary road between Mambase and Mungbere where clearing is authorized. This theoretical management plan has been thrown into the wastepaper basket by civil unrest, poachers, and illegal mining operations. In the Okapi reserve, there are fewer and fewer okapis. The estimate for 2020 speaks of a few hundred individuals. Okapis, see "On the Trail" n°12 p.98, n°18 p.85 and p.108, n°21 p.102, n°30 p.79, n°31 p.85, n°34 p.212 and n°35 p.81.

Conserv Congo, September 28, 2022.<sup>13</sup>

**ZAMBIA**

**End of August 2022**  
**South Luangwa National Park, Eastern**  
**Province, Zambia**



Rescue of a giraffe whose left hind leg was gashed by a wire rope. Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF), August 31, 2022.<sup>14</sup>



# ZEBRAS AND DONKEYS



Grevy's zebra (*Equus grevyi*). Photo Miguel A. Casado

## AFRICA

### SOUTH AFRICA

#### End of July and beginning of August 2022

##### Bisley Valley Nature Reserve, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa



The reserve is beset by trap setters. A female zebra and her foal were the victims. Poachers have it easy. A road crosses the reserve. It remains open at night. Fences are cut and repaired every week. "We have evidence that the snaring is better organised than just opportunistic crime. It appears that entire carcasses are being transported out of the reserve. Previously, snared animals were butchered on site and only portions taken," said Peter West president of FOBNR (Friends of Bisley Nature Reserve). Dr Edith Elliott, Ward 37 councillor and member of University-Msunduzi Bisley Nature Reserve Joint Management Committee, said the major problem is that extremely limited resources are allocated for any sort of security intervention for the reserve.

The FOBNR has never seen such a density of traps. The Msunduzi Municipality, which manages the reserve, is worried. The last operation to rescue

2 zebras (genus *Equus*, *Equus zebra hartmannae* and *Equus zebra zebra*, Appendix II, found in South Africa) resulted in a bill of 6,000 rand (370 US\$). The zebra had a steel wire around his neck. The muscles were cut over 3 cm. Several attempts at anaesthesia were necessary. The zebra was wary and elusive. The prognosis appears favourable.

The other operation was easier. In the presence of a reptile trapper, 20 Hillcrest students and Msunduzi's wildlife referent, the zebra was freed from the steel wire that was biting the flesh of his neck, and upon awakening rejoined his herd.

Bisley Valley Nature Reserve, see "On the Trail" n°31 p. 79, n°33 p. 221 and n°34 p. 110.

The Citizen, July 28 and August 15, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

#### August 9, 2022

##### Indawana, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

Berg Protection Services is informed that men are poaching a zebra (genus *Equus*, Hartmann's zebra, *Equus zebra hartmannae*, and Cape mountain zebra, *Equus zebra zebra*, Appendix II, found in South Africa). The information was passed on to the local Ezemvelo office. The poachers were arrested by SAPS.

Berg Protection Services, August 24, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

**September 25, 2022**

**Phalaborwa, Limpopo Province, South Africa**



It's been a busy end to the week for the Foundation's volunteers and Phalaborwa's vet. After straightening out a black rhinoceros that was walking on a road and creating a traffic jam, keeping away an elephant that was getting too close to a stable, fending off an African buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*) that was wandering in the middle of a village, and capturing a snake in a private garden, they removed 18 traps in the dry forest that threatened zebras (genus *Equus*, *Equus zebra hartmannae* and *Equus zebra zebra*, Appendix II, found in South Africa), leopards, and other mammals. All this preventive work was carried out in cooperation with veterinarian Gerrit Scheepers, Phalaborwa Snake Club member Dirk de Klerk, and members of the SAHGCA (South African Hunters and Game Conservation Association) Mopani branch.

Phalaborwa Natural Heritage Foundation, September 26, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

**COTE D'IVOIRE**

**July 13, 2022**

**Côte d'Ivoire**

Communication of the Council of Ministers of Wednesday July 13, 2022

[...]

"In the name of the Ministry of Animal and Fisheries Resources, in liaison with the Ministry of the Interior and Security, the Ministry of the Budget and State Portfolio, and the Ministry of Trade, Industry and SME Promotion, the Council adopted a decree regulating the slaughter and export of asins, their products and by-products. Except for family or private consumption, or asins that have suffered an accident, or are affected by or suspected of having transmissible diseases, this decree prohibits, throughout the national territory, the slaughter and export of asins for the purposes of marketing for human and animal consumption or for any other use, including the export of meat, skin and any other products and by-products from the asinine species.

This measure aims to preserve the asinine species, i.e. the donkey and all assimilated species, widely used in sub-Saharan Africa in the agricultural sector as draught animals, from the threat of extinction due to acts of ill-treatment, clandestine slaughter and trafficking in their by-products used in the cosmetics industry."

Government of Côte d'Ivoire, July 13, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

**KENYA**

**July 9 and 14, 2022**

**Chyulu Hills National Park, Makueni County, and Kimana Sanctuary, Kajiado County, Kenya**



In the space of a week, the Big Life Foundation went to the bedside of 6 zebras (genus *Equus*, *Equus grevyi*, Appendix I, present in Kenya) that were victims of traps. Five prognoses are favourable, but the 6th is very guarded. The steel wire had penetrated deep into the neck muscles and pierced the trachea.



As usual, Big Life Foundation's week was packed with interventions and findings. Elephants temporarily pre-empted a village's water supply for cattle. A lost child was found in the savannah. A hyena killed 4 goats. A lion killed a cow. A cheetah is reported to have killed a goat. Sixty lost goats are reported, and most are found alive or dead, others have disappeared. A suspect climbed through a gap in the park fence and was followed by rangers, who were pelted with stones. 45 kg of sandalwood was seized.

Big Life Foundation, July and August 5 2022; SWT/KWS Amboseli Mobile Veterinary Unit, July 2022; SWT/KWS Tsavo Mobile Veterinary Unit, July 2022.<sup>5</sup>

**July 10, 2022**

**Mara Triangle, Narok County, Kenya**

An arrow was shot into the back of a zebra foal (genus *Equus*, *Equus grevyi*, Appendix I, found in Kenya). It fell after a while, leaving a deep wound near the spinal cord. During the operation under anaesthesia, the zebra had breathing problems. A revival antidote was injected, and the operation continued with the zebra held down by the hands of the entire veterinary team. Favourable prognosis. SWT/KWS Mara Mobile Veterinary Unit, July 2022.<sup>6</sup>

**July 11, 12, 18 and 19, 2022**

**Kedong Ranch, Mirera, Manera Farm, Aquilla Farm, Kenya Nut – Olmurogi and Nini Farm, Nakuru County, Kenya**



- Injury to the left front leg of a zebra (genus *Equus*, *Equus grevyi*, Appendix I, present in Kenya) caused by a trap that eventually broke loose. Favourable prognosis.
- Cuts on the left side of the abdomen and on the neck by a throwing weapon, as well as a trap wound on the right hind leg. The prognosis is guarded.
- The zebra was trapped by his left front leg. Favourable prognosis.
- The zebra was dragging a trap with his right front leg. Fortunately, the steel wire had not yet attacked the flesh. The alert was given in good time. Favourable prognosis.
- The zebra was trapped by his right hind leg. The wound was cleaned with water, rinsed with iodine and sprayed with fly spray. Favourable prognosis. SWT/KWS Rift Valley Mobile Veterinary Unit, July 2022.<sup>7</sup>

**July 14, 2022**

**Nanyuki, Laikipia County, Kenya**

An arrow hit the male zebra (genus *Equus*, *Equus grevyi*, Appendix I, found in Kenya) above the right eye. The poaching attempt failed, but the wound became purulent and infected. The prognosis is favourable. Had the alarm been sounded a few days later, the zebra would have lost his eye and possibly his life.

SWT/KWS Mount Kenya Mobile Veterinary Unit, July 2022.<sup>8</sup>

**July 16, 25 and 29, 2022**

**Balungi Farm and Jua Kali, Laikipia County, Kenya**



- The trap encircled the neck and penetrated the muscles. The zebra was still in good physical condition. Anaesthetic drugs were injected intramuscularly. The steel wires were cut and removed. The wound was cleaned, disinfected, and sealed with green clay. Favourable prognosis thanks to early warning. Wake-up antidote was injected intravenously.
- The zebra foal was suffering from a snare around the neck. The abrasions were superficial. The alert was given in time. Prognosis favourable.
- Residents report 3 zebras with traps around their necks. Alert given in time. The male and 2 females were in good physical condition. Favourable prognosis. SWT/KWS Mount Kenya Mobile Veterinary Unit, July 2022.<sup>9</sup>

**July 20, 2022**

**Muriri and Meru National Park, Meru County, Kenya**

A male Grevy's zebra (*Equus grevyi*, Appendix I) was being chased out of town by local people who wanted to turn him into steak. The KWS team arrived in a hurry. The crowd was dispersed. The zebra was anaesthetised in a field and examined. He was bleeding from the head and jaws and had machete cuts on his hind legs. The wounds were treated and sutured. Still asleep, he was loaded into a Land Cruiser and repositioned inside the national park. During the transfer, his breathing was stabilized with butorphanol. Three minutes before arrival, the antidote was injected. He woke up and walked away. Follow-up shows that he is recovering.

SWT/KWS Meru Mobile Veterinary Unit, July 2022.<sup>10</sup>

**July 28, 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, July 2022.<sup>11</sup>

**August 1 and 28, 2022**

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

- Arrest of a suspect in possession of a zebra (genus *Equus*, *Equus grevyi*, Appendix I, found in Kenya) skin, 2 impala (*Aepyceros melampus*) carcasses and 2 dik-dik (genus *Madoqua*) carcasses.

- Arrest of 3 suspects with 20 kg of zebra meat.

Big Life Foundation, August 2022.<sup>12</sup>

**August 5, 10, 16, 25 and 26, 2022**

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



- One zebra (genus *Equus*, *Equus grevyi*, Appendix I, found in Kenya) killed by a spear.
  - One zebra injured by a spear.
  - One zebra killed by a poisoned spear.
  - One zebra dead after being injured by a trap.
  - One zebra injured by a trap. Help came too late.
- Big Life Foundation, August 2022.<sup>13</sup>

**August 17, 2022**

**Manyani, Taita-Taveta County, Kenya**



The SWT-KWS De-snaring Unit spotted the male zebra (genus *Equus*, *Equus grevyi*, Appendix I, found in Kenya) dragging a steel wire around his neck. The prognosis is favourable. The operation was carried out at the right time. The neck was only bruised. After waking up, the zebra rejoined his herd.

SWT/KWS Tsavo Mobile Veterinary Unit, August 2022.<sup>14</sup>



**August 19, 23, 26, 29 and 31, 2022**  
**Mirera, Kedong Ranch, Soysambu Conservancy, Hell's Gate National Park, Oserengoni Wildlife Sanctuary, Naivasha and Aquilla Farm, Nakuru County, Kenya**



- Prognosis guarded. The right hind leg was amputated by a trap at the level of the pastern.
- The neck is bruised by the trap line. Favourable prognosis.
- A zebra had his right front leg encircled by a trap. Favourable prognosis.
- A trap line was wrapped around the neck like a steel scarf. The operation was carried out at the right time. Favourable prognosis.
- Observation, immobilization, examination, and de-snaring of trap. Favourable prognosis.
- The report was made by honorary ranger J. Ndegwa. The trap was tied to the right hind leg. As always, the operation was performed with a blanket over the patient's eyes.



- The trap line was several meters long. The neck was encircled. Under anaesthesia, the steel wires were cut. Favourable prognosis.
  - Removal of winch wire from right front leg. Water, iodine, fly repellent, antibiotics, and deworming. Favourable prognosis.
- SWT/KWS Rift Valley Mobile Veterinary Unit, August 2022.<sup>15</sup>

**August 21, 2022**

**Mara North Conservancy, Narok County, Kenya**

The arrowhead was in the right buttock muscles. The zebra (genus *Equus*, *Equus grevyi*, Appendix I, found in Kenya) collapsed 5 minutes after the anaesthetic was injected. His head was covered. His body was watered to prevent heat stroke. An incision was made to allow removal of the barbed arrowhead without further damage. Favourable prognosis.

SWT/KWS Mara Mobile Veterinary Unit, August 2022.<sup>16</sup>

**September 1, 7, 14 and 30, 2022**  
**Amboseli National Park, Kajiado County, Kenya**



- Arrest of 2 suspects in possession of zebra meat (genus *Equus*, *Equus grevyi*, Appendix I, found in Kenya).
  - Report of 2 zebras injured by spears.
  - Discovery of 2 zebras injured by throwing weapons.
  - Report of a zebra injured by a trap.
- Big Life Foundation, September 2022.<sup>17</sup>

**September 1 and 21, 2022**

**Jua Kali and Balungi Farm, Laikipia County, Kenya**



- The zebra (genus *Equus*, *Equus grevyi*, Appendix I, found in Kenya) had an iron noose around his neck. The alert was given just in time. He was not yet injured. Favourable prognosis.



- The zebra (genus *Equus*, *Equus grevyi*, Appendix I, found in Kenya) collapsed on his right flank 7 minutes after anaesthesia. The trap had damaged the neck muscles. He was in good health, and despite the severity of the injury, the prognosis is favourable.
- SWT/KWS Mount Kenya Mobile Veterinary Unit, September 2022.<sup>18</sup>

**September 10, 16, 19, 23, 28 and 30, 2022**

**Kedong Ranch, Aquilla Farm and Simba Lodge, Nakuru County, Kenya**



- The zebra (genus *Equus*, *Equus grevyi*, Appendix I, found in Kenya) is weakened by the effects of drought. Trap wound to right front leg. Prognosis guarded.
  - Seven other zebra events took place at Kedong Ranch, which is infested by the traps. The extrication of 6 individuals, including one foal, appears to have been successful. The seventh, however, ended very badly.
  - A winch wire was cutting into the left front leg. It was cut off with a hacksaw. Favourable prognosis.
  - The trap wound on the left front leg was too deep for the prognosis to be favourable.
  - The zebra was disorientated. Injured in a fight with another zebra, he was also dragging a trap on his right hind leg. The operation took place just a few yards from a lodge.
- SWT/KWS Rift Valley Mobile Vet. Unit, Sept. 2022.<sup>19</sup>

**September 11, 22 and 23, 2022  
Masai Mara National Reserve and Mara Triangle, Narok County, Kenya**



- The barbed arrow was embedded in the left rear flank. The wound was bleeding and purulent. Anaesthesia from the rescue vehicle. Incision to remove arrowhead without damage. Treatment and recovery. Favourable prognosis.

- The zebra was wearing a wire snared around her neck and one ear. She was not yet injured or bruised. Early warning saved her, and at the same time the foal she was nursing. To preserve the quality of her milk, no medication was injected or applied after the wire was removed. The prognosis is favourable.

- The foal, so young and already subjected to the torture of the traps, was anaesthetised. His neck had already been cut by the steel cable. During anaesthesia, the wound was treated, disinfected, and sprayed with insect repellent. He received a dose of Ivermectin to combat both internal and external parasites and set off straight for his herd.

SWT/KWS Mara Mobile Veterinary Unit, September 2022.<sup>20</sup>

## NAMIBIA

**July 13 to 21, 2022**

**Otjiwarongo, Otjozondjupa Region, Karibib and Omaruru, Erongo Region, Namibia**



Cattle rustling is on the increase on farms, and wildlife rustling on cattle ranches.

Most thefts occur during the full moon. Thieves use several pairs of shoes during their operations - safety shoes, leather shoes, sports shoes - which blurs the footprints and complicates the pursuit of farmers and canine brigades. Farmers are forced to hire security guards to foil thieves. Speaking on condition of anonymity, a rancher who has been in business for over 20 years says that "for the first 15 years, he didn't need security reinforcements, there were far fewer people around and those who got caught were strictly punished." "The presence of security guards on my farm has cut thefts by more than half. I'm glad to have them and to be able to count on a thousand neighbours ready to help."

Around Otjiwarongo, during a week with a full moon at the end of July, cattle worth 8,380 US\$, gemsbok (*Oryx gazella*) worth 3,700 US\$ and zebras (genus *Equus*, *Equus zebra*, Appendix II, found in Namibia) worth 1,360 US\$ were stolen. They are sometimes butchered on the spot. The thieves take the best parts and leave the rest to rot. Cabs are said to be complicit in transporting the meat to Omaruru and Karibib. Livestock farmers gathered in front of the Karibib courthouse on July 25. They want the cattle and bred wildlife thieves not to be released on bail before their trial.

Republikein, July 26, 2022.<sup>21</sup>

## NIGERIA

**Beginning of September 2022**

**Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Lagos State, Nigeria**

Customs seized 7,000 donkey penises in 16 bales bound for Hong Kong. They were declared to be "cattle penises." The total value of the contraband is estimated at 500,000 US\$, or 71.50 US\$ per penis. No35 of "On the Trail" (p. 85) reports that on March 24, 2022, in Nigeria, in Kano State, 2,574 donkey penises were seized, with an estimated value of 29 million naira, or 25.50 US\$ per penis. The penis is on the rise.



Africanews, September 8, 2022; NCBN, September 8, 2022; Nigeria Customs Service, September 8, 2022; Chronicle (Nigeria), September 9, 2022.<sup>22</sup>

## ASIA

### MONGOLIA

**September 1, 2022**

**Sainshand District, Dornogovi Province, Mongolia**



Arrest of E. He poached an Asian wild ass (*Equus hemionus*, Appendix I or II). He sought to sell the meat, bones, and skull. Two subspecies are found in Mongolia, *Equus hemionus hemionus*, Appendix I and *Equus hemionus kulan*, Appendix II. updown.mn, September 6, 2022; Unuudur.mn, September 22, 2022; Chuhal News, September 27, 2022.<sup>23</sup>

## PAKISTAN

**August 18, 2022**

**Port of Karachi, Province of Sindh, Pakistan**

Seizure of 9,650 kg of donkey skins bound for Hong Kong. Based on 5 kg per skin, the shipment declared as "salt" corresponds to 1,930 donkeys. The export of donkey skins and meat has been banned in Pakistan since the scandals of 2017 to 2018 (see "On the Trail" n°16 p. 113 and n°21 p. 122). Daily Pakistan, September 3, 2022.<sup>24</sup>



# NILGAIS, BISONS, BANTENGs AND GAURS



European bison (*Bison bonasus*). Photo Piotr Lukasik

## ASIA

### CAMBODIA

#### Beginning of September 2022 La Minh, Ratanakiri Province, Cambodia

Police discovered 2 banteng (*Bos javanicus*) skulls. They were handed over to the provincial prosecutor general. According to villagers, they were captured with traps and the meat was sold through informal channels. A banteng weighs between 500 and 900 kg. Since 1960, the banteng population in Cambodia has declined by 90%. They graze in swamp forests and bamboo groves. Males have dark brown, black-brown, or blue-black coats, while females have reddish-brown coats. They are considered the most beautiful and elegant of wild cattle. Khmer Times, September 16, 2022.<sup>1</sup>



## INDIA

### July 2, 2022

#### Hamirpur, Hamirpur District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India

Eventful arrest of 4 nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*, Appendix III in Pakistan) meat traffickers. The occupants of the vehicle fired at the police before stopping. Meat in 3 bags, firearms and ammunition were seized. Nilgaus are used for feasting in the region. They weigh an average of 150 kg. This culinary tradition was reinforced during the Covid-19 pandemic. Meat smugglers used to travel to Kampur (population 2.7 million).

Nilgaus are vulnerable to poachers. They move in small herds through the bush and are easy to spot. Their reputation for aggressiveness and crop-raiding gives nilgaus poachers an image of benefactors.

Navbharat Times, July 2, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

### August 23, 2022

#### Valasai, Tiruvannamalai District, State of Tamil Nadu, India

Seizure of 15 kg of gaur meat (*Bos gaurus*, Appendix I). Four men fled the scene. Gaur are the most massive of wild cattle. They weigh between 600 and 1,000 kg. The species is in danger of extinction. In addition to encroachment on its preferred habitats and poaching for its meat, the species has suffered from foot-and-mouth disease and rinderpest transmitted by domestic herds grazing illegally in forests and undergrowth.

The Hindu, August 25, 2022.<sup>3</sup>



## FAMILY AFFAIRS

September 23 and 24, 2022

**Araniya, Sikar District, and Tibawali Dhani, Jaipur District, State of Rajasthan, India**

Two women are arrested. They poached ruminants by day with rifles, butchered them at night and supplied meat to hotel-restaurants in the cities of Jaipur and Chomu. Goat or sheep meat can be bought for between 500 and 700 rupees per kilo, or 6-8 US\$, while nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*, Appendix III in Pakistan) meat can be bought under the table for around 100 rupees per kilo (1.25 US\$). Restaurant customers think they're eating goat or mutton, but they're actually eating nilgau meat. Times Now, September 25, 2022; Panchjanya, September 27, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

## EUROPE

### POLAND

**Week of September 13 to 20, 2022**

**Złocieniec, Różańsko and Studnica, West Pomeranian Voivodeship, Poland**

- The approximately 10-year-old male European bison (*Bison bonasus*) lay 25 meters from a hunting stand. The decomposition of the corpse made it impossible to determine the cause of death. However, the carcass was passed through a metal detector.

- Poaching of a female European bison. She had great difficulty moving. The alarm was raised by forestry officers. When the vets arrived on the scene, they saw that the animal was partially paralyzed and had no choice but to finish her off. Post-mortem examination revealed the presence of several large-caliber bullets, including one in the neck. According to the forensic veterinarians, the animal's agony lasted a good 10 days.

- The carcass of the 10- to 12-year-old male European bison lay in a meadow near a hunting stand. He had been decapitated. His corpse is in the process of putrefaction. A metal-detector search for the bullet will be undertaken.

European bison are hunted for their meat and trophies. A trophy of a European bison with horns sells for up to 3,000 US\$ on the Internet.

Maciej Tracz has been involved in nature conservation in Poland for 45 years. On behalf of the NGO Zachodniopomorskiego Towarzystwa Przyrodniczego (West Pomeranian Wildlife Society), he says that poaching has increased dramatically over the last 2 years, and at the same time, the number of animals in the forest has dropped dramatically. Lynx also pay a heavy price to poachers.

Poaching of European bison, see "On the Trail" n°32 p.119, n°35 p.86 and n°36 p.95.

Zachodniopomorskie Towarzystwo Przyrodnicze - Dzika Zagroda, September 20, 2022; Radio Szczecin, September 21, 2022; Szczecinskie24.pl, September 22, 2022; Głos Szczeciński, September 23, 2022.<sup>5</sup>



# DEER, ELKS, ROE DEER, CARIBOUS, MOOSE AND REINDEER

## AMERICA

### CANADA

**July 8, 2022**

**Drumheller, Province of Alberta, Canada**

Mr. Fitch, a student, is fined 780 US\$ for killing a mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) without a licence. He is deprived of all hunting privileges for one year. The judge ruled that the sentence could be reduced, as Fitch had cooperated with investigators. It was thanks to his confession that 20 packages of meat and the mule deer's skull were found. Fitch also admitted to shooting migratory birds.

The Drumheller Mail, July 12, 2022.<sup>1</sup>



### FAMILY AFFAIRS

**July 12, 2022**

**Wakaw, Province of Saskatchewan, Canada**

Travis Balone, the son, Donna Balone, the mother, Miles Balone, the father, and their accomplice Nicole Forcier, are jointly and severally fined \$16,960 (13,200 US\$) and banned from hunting for one to 3 years for contravening regulations on the hunting of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and moose (*Alces alces*) between 2012 and November 2021.

Government of Saskatchewan, October 25, 2022.<sup>2</sup>



**September 13 and 16 and October 24, 2022**

**Timber Bay, by Aylmer Lake and Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada**

- On Tuesday, September 13, some 100 members of the native Łutsel K'e Dene tribe and tourists from around the world were taking part in a "cultural camp" on the shores of Artillery Lake when territorial wildlife officers landed by helicopter and under search warrant searched all the tents, concentrating on coolers and freezers. The services had been informed by 2 different and concordant sources of the existence of caribou trafficking in the camp. Indeed, 10 carcasses of barren-ground caribous (*Rangifer tarandus*) and presumed caribou meat were seized. Timber Bay was once a traditional village where many of the tribe's families were born and lived. Tribal Chief Charlie Catholique and Tribal Administrator Iris Catholique demanded an apology from the territorial government and said that children and elders had been traumatized by the systematic search of tents. Larry Innes, the tribe's lawyer, was offended by this collective search. He had witnessed it. "Shock and outrage only begin to describe the depth of people's reaction to this."

- On Friday, September 16, a mass grave of at least 8 caribou was discovered by officers on the shores of Lac Aylmer, 360 km from Yellowknife.

- On Monday, October 24, the Yellowknife Supreme Court ruled in 20 minutes that the Timber Bay search had no legal basis. Larry Innes is now considering seeking damages for breach of individual privacy, sense of security, and cultural dignity.

In the Northwest Territories, wolves are considered the exclusive and official predators of the endangered caribou.

Caribou in Canada, see "On the Trail" p.120 and p.121, n°35 p.87 and n°36 p.188.

CBC/Radio-Canada, September 15, and October 24, 2022; Cabin Radio, September 18, 2022; Government of Northwest Territories - Environment and Natural Resources, September 19, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**July 11, 2022**

**Billings, State of Montana, United States of America**

Conviction of Brayden Reed, age 19, to forfeiture of hunting privileges for 16 years and 6,405 US\$ in fines and damages for poaching 4 mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*). "On the Trail" n°34 p.114 attributed only 3 poaching deaths to him.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, July 11, 2022.<sup>4</sup>



© Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

**July 15, 2022**

**Lincoln, State of Nebraska, United States of America**

Georgia resident Daniel Morris was fined 5,000 US\$ and ordered to pay 2,000 US\$ in damages for illegally killing mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) in 2020, with the complicity of Noble Outdoors, a major hunting safari organiser. The trophies were smuggled to Georgia to be stuffed. He also killed another mule deer from a road and, with the help of a Noble Outdoors guide, dumped the carcass in a waterway.

News Channel Nebraska, July 15, 2022.<sup>5</sup>



**Between August 5 and 7, 2022**

**Sybill Canyon, State of Wyoming, United States of America**

Between Friday evening and Sunday morning, an elk (*Cervus canadensis*) was killed along Interstate 34, 4 km from Sybill Canyon, and the victim's head and antlers were cut off. A call is out to informants. Wyoming Game & Fish Department, August 16, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

**August 5 and 11, 2022**

**East Baton Rouge Parish and Zachary, State of Louisiana, United States of America**

Lieutenant Will Roberts and caporal Josh Cooper went to the home of Darious M. Johnson after receiving information. They found the meat and antlers of a large white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) shot out of season. Johnson, age 32, faces 120 days in prison. Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, August 16, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

**August 15, 2022**

**Divide, State of Colorado, United States of America**

The poacher was exposed by hidden camera photos. He is seen on camera leaving the scene of the carnage. He shot an easily identifiable adult male moose (*Alces alces*) with his bow. He then attempted to decapitate the live animal and leave with the head and antlers. Unable to do so, he threw a few branches over the body to hide it.



The photos have been posted by investigators on social networks. An appeal for witnesses or denunciations is launched. "Moose have become an iconic part of the Colorado landscape." "They were reintroduced in 1978 and the current population is estimated to be near 3,000 animals," says Travis Sauder, a Colorado Parks & Wildlife agent involved in the investigation. To exonerate themselves, moose poachers claim to have mistaken them for elk. Colorado Parks & Wildlife, August 15, 2022.<sup>8</sup>

**September 2022**

**Park City, State of Utah, United States of America**

Discovery of 2 adult male elk (*Cervus canadensis*) corpses. They were decapitated. They had been killed out of season, and the meat had been discarded, constituting an additional offence. Chad Bettridge advises those who witness poaching not to intervene directly. "Situations can be emotional and possibly escalate." He advises calling the UTiP (Utah Turn-in-a-Poacher) hotline at 800-662-3337. KPCW, September 30, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

**September 2, 2022**

**Westmoreland County, State of Virginia, United States of America**

The man was stalking white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) out of hunting season and selling the antlers and other parts. The operation is credited to the County Sheriff's Office and Conservation Police Officers.

Westmoreland County Sheriff's Office, September 2, 2022.<sup>10</sup>

**September 2, 2022**

**Lincoln, State of Nebraska, United States of America**

Another Noble Outdoors customer in Nebraska is sanctioned. He too resides in Georgia. He was fined 5,000 US\$ and ordered to pay 4,000 US\$ in compensatory damages for shooting a mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) from the back seat of a car - a prohibited practice - and transporting the trophies to Georgia to be stuffed by a taxidermist.

Six other Noble Outdoors customers were fined a total of 28,500 US\$ for also shooting deer with a firearm from a vehicle, dumping carcasses in waterways and transporting trophies illegally out of the State of Nebraska.

US Department of Justice, September 2, 2022.<sup>11</sup>



**September 15, 2022**

**Santa Fe, State of New Mexico, United States of America**

"On the Trail" n°29 p.88 said it well. "Cody W. Davis is going to have a high price to pay." His incredible poaching of a mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) and the transfer of the antlers between New Mexico and his home in North Dakota cost him over 70,000 US\$. The New Mexico Supreme Court upheld the lower court's ruling. Of the 74,000 US\$ in fines and damages, 54,000 US\$ was for criminal investigation costs.

Los Alamos Daily Post, September 15, 2022; U.S. News (with AP), September 15, 2022.<sup>12</sup>





**September 16, 2022**

**Lewistown, State of Montana, United States of America**

Alex St. Marie, age 37, was sentenced to 2,000 US\$ in fines and damages for killing 2 elk (*Cervus canadensis*) from a public roadway and then trespassing on private property to take the heads and antlers, and leaving the 2 carcasses to rot, for which he was convicted of wasting meat. He was also banned from hunting, trapping, and fishing for 5 years.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, September 16, 2022.<sup>13</sup>



**September 30, 2022**

**Rockland, State of Idaho, United States of America**

Discovery, thanks to a tip from Citizens Against Poaching (CAP), of the decapitated carcass of a large deer (genus *Odocoileus*) or small elk (*Cervus canadensis*). The death occurred a few days ago when the archery season was still open. If identified, the person responsible will be charged with food waste. Those who provide additional identifying information will be eligible for rewards.

Idaho Fish and Game, October 13, 2022.<sup>14</sup>

**End of September 2022**

**Lambertville, State of New Jersey, United States of America**

Information reaches wildlife officers that a white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) has been poached and decapitated in the woods. The deer carcass is located. A crossbow bolt was driven into it. Further information was provided to the officers, leading to the interrogation of an unnamed poacher. He admits the facts.

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, October 20, 2022.<sup>15</sup>

**ASIA**

**CHINA**

**August 2022**

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

Seizure of a pair of sika deer (*Cervus nippon*) antlers in the luggage of a passenger from abroad. Total weight: 375 grams. Chinese Customs, August 25, 2022.<sup>16</sup>



© China Customs

**INDIA**

**Night of July 6 to 7, 2022**

**Taraimal Forest, Raigarh District, State of Chattisgarh, India**



They wanted to trap deer or other animals with an 11,000-volt power line diverted from the public grid. A spotted deer (*Axis axis*) was electrocuted, and Birbal Dhanwar, Anil Kujur, and Bodhan Tirkey were fatally electrocuted when they tried to free him.

Electrocution of a poacher in India, see "On the Trail" n°36 p.7.

The Times of India, July 8, 2022.<sup>17</sup>

**REPEATED OFFENCE**

**August 5, 2022**

**Ushakothi Wildlife Sanctuary, Sambalpur District, State of Odisha, India**



Seizure of 10 sambar deer (*Rusa unicolor*) antlers. The 5 suspects, aged between 22 and 32, intended to export them to Chhattisgarh. Intercepted by a patrol in the heart of the sanctuary, they claimed to have been targeting antlers shed after molting or in fights with fellow deer, or after lost battles with carnivorous predators. But, they were equipped with 5 large knives and metal traps.

The New Indian Express, August 6, 2022; The Times of India, August 6, 2022.<sup>18</sup>

**UZBEKISTAN**

**July 28, 2022**

**Beruniy, Republic of Karakalpakstan, Uzbekistan**



Conviction of Sh. A. and M. K. sentenced to 3 years and one month in prison and fined 81 million soums (7,480 US\$), which will be paid into the budget of the Amudarya Reserve, for poaching a Bokharan deer (*Cervus elaphus bactrianus*, Appendix II) (see "On the Trail" no. 35 p.90).

ekolog.uz, August 8, 2022.<sup>19</sup>

**EUROPE**

**GERMANY**

**End of July and September 8, 2022**

**Holzheim am Forst and Berching, Bavaria State, Germany**

- A decapitated roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*). The head has been professionally severed.

- A decapitated female roe deer. This is the eighth one to be discovered in the Upper Palatinate since the beginning of the year. A decapitated body was also found in Lower Bavaria.

Trophies of roe deer - skulls and antlers - are traded internationally. A skull with antlers sells for between 20 US\$ and 50 US\$.

PIRSCH, May 12 and August 3 and September 6, 2022; Bavarian Police, September 9, 2022; Donaukurier, September 13, 2022.<sup>20</sup>

## HUNGARY

### September 25 and November 14, 2022 Pécs, Baranya County, Hungary

A 54-year-old man from Pécs and his 72-year-old partner, a Slovak citizen, have been terrorizing red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) and wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) for years. They hunted in all seasons between 2016 and 2020. The animals were eviscerated and butchered. The meat was sold illegally. The remains of the animals were illegally buried in Homorud, 10 km from Pécs, by a third man in pits dug by a public works machine. Animal carcasses are considered by law to be hazardous waste. Over 211 wild animals were killed in 5 years, with a total estimated value of 85 million forints or 209,875 US\$.

Hungarian Police, September 25, 2022; The Prosecution Service of Hungary, November 14, 2022.<sup>21</sup>

## ROMANIA

### OPERATION TROFEUL

July 15, 2022

#### Sebesu de Sus, Sibiu County, Romania

Seizure of 3 red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) trophies, 26 European roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) trophies, 2 chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra*) trophies, 14 wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) tusks, 14 pyrotechnic devices, firearms, and ammunition. Fine of 5,001 leis (1,065 US\$).

During July and August 2022, the combined police force seized 100 firearms, 10,107 rounds of ammunition, 1,460 kg of meat from animals protected by law, 55 live animals whose possession is prohibited, 72 hunting trophies, 29 traps and snares and 33 thermal cameras, spotlights, spears, and night sights. 125 hunting concessions and 34 gunsmiths were inspected. 256 offences were recorded.

Romanian Police, September 18, 2022.<sup>22</sup>



Wednesday, September 21, 2022

### Sânmihaiu de Câmpie, Bistrita-Nasaud County, Romania



A gang of poachers from France (3 individuals) and Romania (one individual), aged between 44 and 74, was dismantled this evening. Five firearms, a collection of ammunition of various calibers, meat, skins, and European roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) trophies were seized. The 4 predators and traffickers were taken into custody.

Romanian Police, September 22, 2022.<sup>23</sup>

## UNITED KINGDOM

Sunday, August 7, 2022

### Portreath, Cornwall County, England, United Kingdom

The decapitated body of a deer (family Cervidae) washed up on the beach at around 6 p.m. It was discovered by a family who were out for some fresh air. Blood was still spurting from the neck. The children were frightened.

Cornwall Live, August 11, 2022.<sup>24</sup>

## RUSSIA

July 10 to 11, 2022

### Kemsky District, Republic of Karelia, Russia

Discovery of 2 reindeer skins (*Rangifer tarandus*) near the Letnyaya River. In the same district, in March, a snowmobile gang chased a herd of reindeer to exhaustion and 5 reindeer skins were found out by a forest ranger.

BezFormata, July 11, 2022.<sup>25</sup>





Campbell's mona monkey (*Cercopithecus campbelli*). Photo Roland Godon

## WESTERN AFRICA

### GUINEA

#### End of July and October 16, 2022 National Park of Upper Niger, Faranah and Kankan Regions, Guinea

The Guinean association Chimpanzee Conservation Center took in a 2-month-old sooty mangabey (*Cercocebus atys*, Appendix II), whose mother had allegedly been killed for the bushmeat trade. Thanks to a fundraising campaign, they were able to entrust him 3 months later to the Libassa sanctuary in Liberia (743 km away) in the hope that he would later be released into the forest.

Chimpanzee Conservation Center, July 25, 31, August 14 and September 5, 2022; Libassa Wildlife Sanctuary, October 17, 2022.<sup>1</sup>



#### July 2022 Forécariah, Kindia Region, and National Park of Upper Niger, Faranah Region, Guinea



A one-year-old male chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*, Appendix I) was confiscated by an eco-guard in a bauxite mining town. He became the 4<sup>th</sup> orphan of 2022 to be taken in by the Guinean association Chimpanzee Conservation Center located 630 km away.

Chimpanzee Conservation Center, August 21, October 2 and 11, 2022.<sup>2</sup>



## GUINEA-BISSAU AND LIBERIA

**July 9, 2022**

### **Guinea-Bissau and Liberia**

#### **Chimpanzees without borders**

After several years of preparation and fundraising, 4 orphaned western chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*, Appendix I) living in isolation and in precarious conditions were finally transferred to a suitable sanctuary. The transfer took place by van and plane from Guinea-Bissau, which does not have a rehabilitation centre, to Liberia, more than 1,000 km away. The Liberia Chimpanzee Rescue & Protection gives regular news of the 4 orphans. They have integrated well with the 80 other victims of bushmeat and pet trafficking.

Pan African Sanctuary Alliance, October 14 and 22, 2021; Forestry Development Authority, July 12, 2022; Born Free Foundation, July 14 and 26, 2022; Liberia Chimpanzee Rescue & Protection, August 25, 28, 29 and September 1, 2022; Zoo de La Palmyre, August 12, 2022.<sup>3</sup>



## LIBERIA

**July to September 2022**

### **Marshall, Margibi County, Liberia**

Arrival of 2 young chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*, Appendix I) seized by the authorities at the LCRP (Liberia Chimpanzee Rescue & Protection) sanctuary.

Liberia Chimpanzee Rescue & Protection, September 13, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

## SIERRA LEONE

**End of September 2022**

### **Lungi, North West Province, Sierra Leone**

A western chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes verus*, Appendix I) aged about 2 years, stressed but in relatively good condition, was rescued and taken in by the Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary. He was allegedly given as payment for a service to someone planning to sell him on Mahera beach.

Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary, October 1, 2 and 8, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

## CENTRAL AFRICA

## CAMEROON

**July 5, 2022**

### **Ngoumou, Centre Region, Cameroon**

Moïse Ottou Atangana is acquitted by the court of first instance. He had been arrested on March 23, 2022 for the illegal detention of 2 chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*, Appendix I) (see "On the Trail" n°35 p.94).

LAGA, July 2022.<sup>6</sup>

**August 2022**

### **Limbe, South-West Region, Cameroon**

A few months old orphaned mona monkey (*Cercopithecus mona*, Appendix II) was brought to the Limbe sanctuary by an official of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife. He was rescued from the pet trade. When he arrived, he was still wearing a rope around his waist.

Limbe Wildlife Centre, October 21 and third quarter 2022.<sup>7</sup>



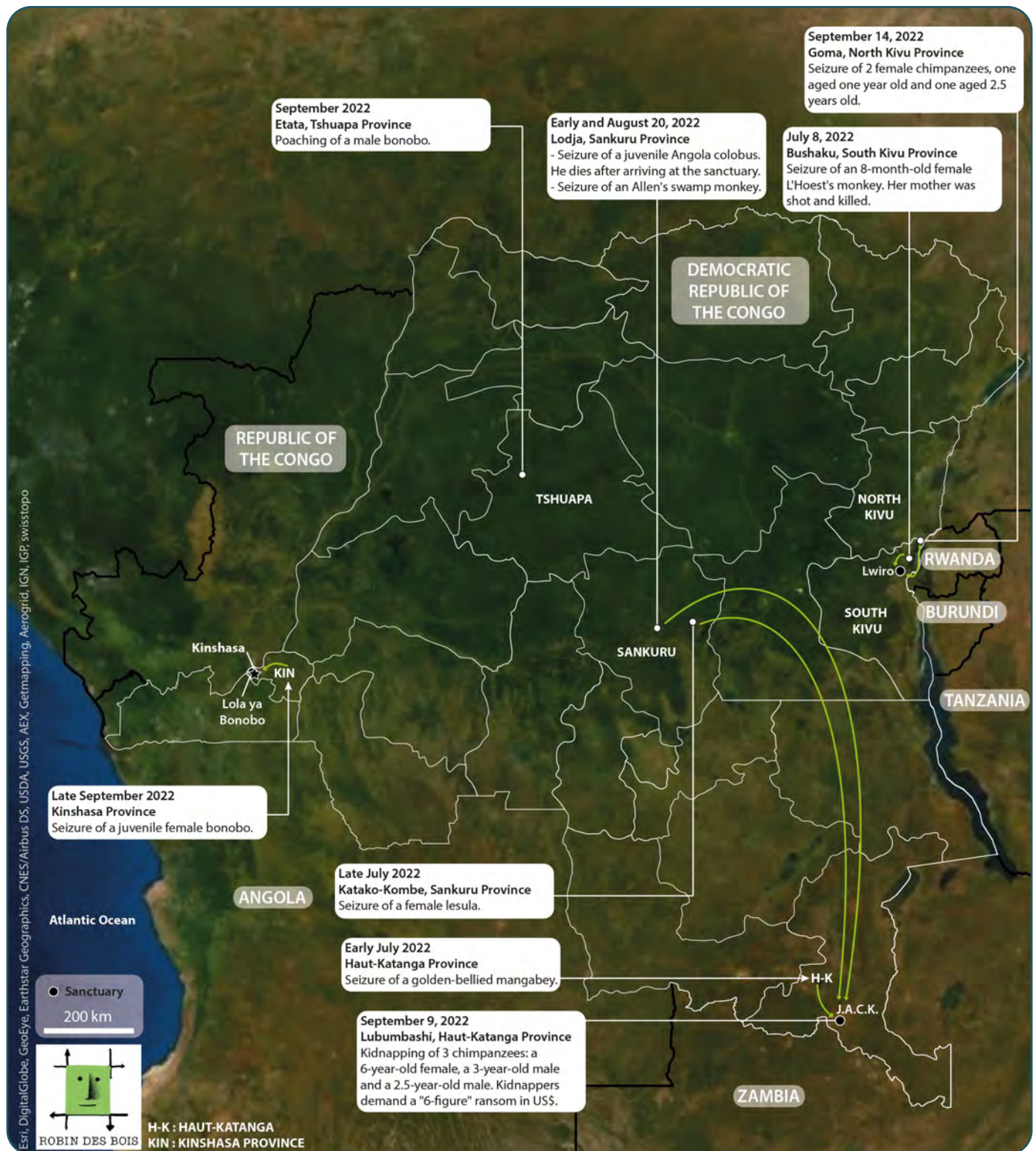
**September 27, 2022**

### **Yaoundé, Centre Region, Cameroon**

Two traffickers were arrested while carrying a mandrill (*Mandrillus sphinx*, Appendix I) in a bag. They were about to sell him. During his captivity, he lived in chains. Originally he came from a logging operation near the Congolese border. He was transferred to the zoo in Mvogbetsi, while waiting for something better.

EAGLE, September 2022; LAGA, September 2022.<sup>8</sup>

## Democratic Republic of the Congo. Seizures, poaching and kidnapping of monkeys between July 1 and September 30, 2022



- Bonobo (*Pan paniscus*, Appendix I)  
 L'Hoest's monkey (*Cercopithecus lhoesti*, Appendix II)  
 Allen's swamp monkey (*Allenopithecus nigroviridis*, Appendix II)  
 Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*, Appendix I)  
 Angola colobus (*Colobus angolensis*, Appendix II)  
 Lesula (*Cercopithecus lomamiensis*, Appendix II)  
 Golden-bellied mangabey (*Cercocebus chrysogaster*, Appendix II)

Sources: see page 234





Beginning of August 2022  
Lodja, Sankuru Province



September 14, 2022  
Goma, North Kivu Province



July 8, 2022  
Bushaku, Sud-Kivu Province

## REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

### September 14 and November 21, 2022 Dolisie, Department of Niari, Republic of the Congo

Didier Moutombo was caught red-handed for the illegal possession of a mandrill (*Mandrillus sphinx*, Appendix I) at his home. He was found guilty by the Court of First Instance and was sentenced to 24 months' suspended imprisonment, a fine of 100,000 FCFA (150 US\$) and damages of 200,000 FCFA (300 US\$). EAGLE, September 15, 2022; PALF, September and November 2022.<sup>9</sup>



## KENYA

### September 2022 Diani, Kwale County, Kenya

Thanks to a phone call, the NGO Colobus Conservation recovered an injured Syke's monkey (*Cercopithecus albogularis*, Appendix II) that some children were trying to sell. After a course of vitamins, he has allegedly regained all his energy. Colobus Conservation, October 14, 2022.<sup>11</sup>

## ZAMBIA

### Beginning of July 2022 Copperbelt Province, and Kafue National Park, Southern Province, Zambia

A male vervet monkey (*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*, Appendix II) about one year old was seized by an honorary wildlife police officer. His waist was covered in scars. He was held captive by a rope around his belly. He was taken to a specialised sanctuary in Kafue National Park 750 km away to be integrated into a troop of fellow animals. Zambia Primate Project, July 2, 3 and 4, 2022.<sup>12</sup>



## EASTERN AFRICA

### BURUNDI

### Beginning of September 2022 Bujumbura Province, Burundi

Rescue of 2 female eastern chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii*, Appendix I) and transfer to government pounds. They are believed to be from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Lwiro Primates, September 2, 2022.<sup>10</sup>



**August 22, 2022**

**Lusaka, Lusaka Province, Zambia**

An approximately one-year-old vervet monkey (*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*, Appendix II), presumed to be a former pet, was spotted and rescued in the exhibition park. His integration into a group of congeners in the sanctuary of the Kafue National Park is being considered.

Zambia Primate Project, August 25, 2022.<sup>13</sup>

**August 25, 2022**

**Kabwe, Central Province, Zambia**

Seizure of a one-year-old female baboon (*Papio* spp., Appendix II) from Wirad Chiponya. She had been permanently tethered for 4 months after being purchased from traffickers.

Zambia Primate Project, August 26, 2022.<sup>14</sup>

**September 4, 2022**

**Kasima, North-Western Province, Zambia**

Rescue of a male vervet monkey (*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*, Appendix II), around one year and 8 months old, who had been held for one year by Mr Sakuha. Transfer to the Kafue sanctuary 310 km away is desired.

Zambia Primate Project, September 13, 2022.<sup>15</sup>

**September 5, 2022**

**Manyinga District, North-Western Province, Zambia**

Rescue of an approximately one-year-old male vervet monkey (*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*, Appendix II), who had been illegally held for 7 months by Mr Peter. He had allegedly kept him as a pet when he was a baby victim of the bushmeat trade. Transfer to the Kafue sanctuary 420 km away is desired.

Zambia Primate Project, September 13, 2022.<sup>16</sup>

**September 22, 2022**

**Lusaka, Lusaka Province, Zambia**

Rescue of a vervet monkey (*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*, Appendix II), only 4 weeks old, found alone and whose mother had apparently been killed. Transfer to the Kafue sanctuary 280 km away is desired.

Zambia Primate Project, September 23, 2022.<sup>17</sup>



**ZIMBABWE**

**July 30, 2022**

**Victoria Falls, Matabeleland North Province, Zimbabwe**



Rescue of a chacma baboon (*Papio ursinus*, Appendix II) with a deep neck injury from a trap. Her cub stayed snuggled up to her during the treatment after which both of them set off on the right foot.

Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust, August 2, 2022.<sup>18</sup>

**August 27 and 30, 2022**

**Harare, Harare Province, Zimbabwe**

Zacharia Moyana, a 32-year-old student, was arrested for illegal possession of a vervet monkey (*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*, Appendix II). He said that he lived in Chipinge, 450 km away, and that he was on his way to hand over the young monkey to the authorities. He claimed that the mother had been poached and he presented himself as a rescuer.

Three days later, he was sentenced to pay 15,000 Zimbabwean dollars (41 US\$) or 2 months' imprisonment in case of non-payment. In addition, he was given a 3-month suspended sentence. For 5 years he must not commit any wildlife offence.

The Herald (Zimbabwe), August 29, 2022; Fauna and Flora Zimbabwe, August 30, 2022.<sup>19</sup>



## SOUTHERN AFRICA

### SOUTH AFRICA

**August 2022**

**Marble Hall, Limpopo Province, and Johannesburg, Gauteng Province, South Africa**

The Mohol galago (*Galago moholi*, Appendix II) had a close call. Weighing just 132 grams, he was still going to end up on a plate. He is now recovering from a fractured femur at the Johannesburg Veterinary Hospital. Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary Hospital, August 23, 2022.<sup>20</sup>



**September 24, 2022**

**Cape Town, Western Cape Province, South Africa**

One individual shot a pregnant chacma baboon (*Papio ursinus*, Appendix II). She was finished off due to the irreparable nature of her injuries. Beauty Without Cruelty responded by putting up a reward of 8,000 rand (440 US\$) for information leading to the arrest of the culprit. The offence is liable to a fine of 40,000 rand (2,220 US\$) and/or 12 months in prison.

News24, October 3 and 29, 2022.<sup>21</sup>

## NORTHERN AMERICA

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**FAMILY AFFAIRS**

**July 2022**

**Galveston Island, State of Texas, United States of America**

The keeping of monkeys remains a common practice despite a ban that came into force in 2007. In 2020, a female capuchin (*Cebus* spp., synonymous with *Sapajus* spp., Appendix II) escaped onto the streets of the city during a burglary. The owners were given a 2 and a half year reprieve to find a legal home for her. The young capuchin was temporarily transferred to the city zoo.

A couple who had recently moved to the island (53,000 inhabitants) wanted to open a private zoo with interaction with a capuchin and a spider monkey (*Ateles* spp., Appendix I or II). They were arrested for illegal possession of monkeys and they had 30 days to find a legal home. The spider monkey was transferred to a sanctuary in Tennessee (1,400 km away). No solution has been found yet for the capuchin.

Houston Chronicle, August 3, 2022.<sup>22</sup>

**August 9 and September 1, 2022**

**Chicago O'Hare International Airport, State of Illinois, and George Bush Intercontinental Airport Houston, State of Texas, United States of America**

Many planes fly from Asia to supply animal testing laboratories:

- August 9: 720 long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*, Appendix II) are flown to Chicago. Transport by Hainan Airlines, whose permit was cancelled in May by USDA (United States Department of Agriculture). Origin: Phnom Penh, via Beijing (17.5 hours flight). Supposed destination: the monkey farm of Envigo Global Services (owned by Inotiv) in Alice, Texas (2,150 km away).

- September 1: 360 long-tailed macaques are flown to Houston. Transport by Maleth Aero and its parent company AELF FlightService, which do not have a USDA permit. Origin: Phnom Penh, via Tbilisi (24-hour flight and 7-hour stopover). Supposed destination: the Orient BioResource Center monkey farm (owned by Inotiv) in Alice, Texas (430 km away). The authorities' response was to ignore PETA's 2 complaints and to regularise the airline Maleth Aero.

PETA, September 8, 21 and 23, 2022.<sup>23</sup>

**September 5, 2022**

**Sanford, State of Florida, United States of America**



Three young Mexican spider monkeys (*Ateles geoffroyi vellerosus*, Appendix II) arrived at the zoo. They had reportedly been intercepted a few days earlier at the border between Mexico and the United States. Aged between 5 and 6 months, they were about to be sold on the US pet market. The US did not return the illegal immigrants to Mexico. The zoo director was pleased. "They will bring new genetic lines to the Association of Zoos & Aquariums population of spider monkeys". According to him, they will help many people understand the issue of wildlife trafficking.

Central Florida Zoo & Botanical Gardens, September 5, 2022; FOX 35 Orlando, September 5, 2022; ZooBorns, September 5, 2022.<sup>24</sup>



September 13, 2022

## States of Illinois and Texas, United States of America

After a 24-hour transport from Illinois, more than 1,500 km away, 3 vervet monkeys (*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*, Appendix II) and 3 bonnet macaques (*Macaca radiata*, Appendix II) arrived at a sanctuary. Formerly kept as pets, they were overweight, stressed and had had their canines removed. "These new arrivals are just the latest of a steady stream" (see "On the Trail" n°34 p.124). Shortcomings of federal legislation are pointed out. Born Free USA, October 25, 2022.<sup>25</sup>

## LATIN AMERICA

### ARGENTINA

Beginning of August 2022

## Remedios de Escalada, Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina

Arrest of a man for possession, transit and sale of 2 marmosets (*Callitrichidae*, Appendix I or II). He was selling them via Facebook. A woman decided to catch him by pretending to buy them for 60,000 pesos each (460 US\$) while alerting the authorities. The 2 apes are recovering at the Temaikén Foundation Biopark. La Nacion, August 8, 2022.<sup>26</sup>

facebook



September 8, 2022

## Province of Misiones, Argentina

The province classifies the black howler monkey (*Alouatta caraya*, Appendix II) as a natural monument and of public interest. This status theoretically protects the species from poaching and deforestation, which are the primary causes of their disappearance, along with yellow fever. Canal Doce Misiones, September 9, 2022.<sup>27</sup>

## BRAZIL

Mid-August 2022

## São José do Rio Preto, State of São Paulo, Brazil



A worrying series of poisonings occurred within a few days of each other and within a radius of about 10 km. First, 30 capuchins (*Cebus* spp., synonymous with *Sapajus* spp., Appendix II) were poisoned in the area of Mata dos Macacos, which has become a tourist feeding site for wild monkeys, even though information signs give guidelines. The next day, 2 black-tufted marmosets (*Callithrix penicillata*, Appendix II) were poisoned in Danilo Santos de Miranda Park. In the same week, the attacks increased and another 8 monkeys died. Some of them were assaulted. The environmental police reacted by increasing patrols and removing feeding troughs at the entrance to the forests. The perpetrators left few traces. According to the authorities, this was a fear reaction to the "monkeypox". The first attack occurred 24 hours after the public declaration of 2 cases in the city. TAB UOL: August 13, 2022.<sup>28</sup>



Left panel: To preserve the health of our monkeys and the place where they live, don't give them sweets or other foods. Authorised foods: fruit, eggs, vegetables and greenery. Don't leave anything in the forest, throw it in the bin.

Right panel: Warning. You are in a wilderness area where there is a possible risk of transmission of rabies and yellow fever. Recommendations: get vaccinated against yellow fever; don't go near monkeys or other animals and don't feed them; use repellents and long-sleeved clothing; in the event of an accident (bite or scratch), see a doctor immediately; if you find a dead or injured animal, call the fire brigade on 193.

August 24, 2022

## Rio de Janeiro, State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

During a search of the home of a suspected drug trafficker, police discovered a capuchin (*Cebus* spp., synonymous with *Sapajus* spp., Appendix II) in captivity. The fugitive has been charged with international drug trafficking, illegal possession of a wild animal and mistreatment, and falsifying documents.

Federal Police of Brazil, August 24, 2022.<sup>29</sup>



## COLOMBIA

**Mid-September 2022**

**Dibulla, Department of La Guajira, Colombia**

After several months of rehabilitation at the Corpoguajira Wildlife Centre, 7 howler monkeys (*Alouatta* spp., Appendix I or II), victims of illegal wildlife trafficking, were released in the Buen Ejemplo Reserve.

RCN Radio, September 20, 2022.<sup>30</sup>

## FRANCE (FRENCH GUIANA)

**Beginning of July 2022**

**Territorial Collectivity of Guiana, France**

A private individual was cited following the harmful and aggressive behaviour of his dog during the arrival of sea turtles on the beaches. At his home, the 2 OFB (Office Français de la Biodiversité, French Biodiversity Agency) agents spotted a weeper capuchin (*Cebus olivaceus*, Appendix II). Detained for a year, he was handed over to a care centre.

French Biodiversity Agency in Guiana, November 2022.<sup>31</sup>



**August 11, 2022**

**Cayenne, Territorial Collectivity of Guiana, France**

Following a report, inspectors went to the home of a family keeping a monkey. They discovered a black bearded saki (*Chiropotes satanas*, Appendix II), a very rare species endemic to Brazil. The animal was seized and entrusted to a care centre pending his possible return to Brazil.

French Biodiversity Agency in Guiana, November 2022.<sup>32</sup>

## GUYANA

**July 1, 2022**

**Guyana**

From July 1, 2022, the sale and possession of 3 species - white-fronted capuchin (*Cebus albifrons*, Appendix II), tufted capuchin (*Cebus apella*, synonymous with *Sapajus apella*, Appendix II) and weeper capuchin (*Cebus olivaceus*, Appendix II) - are prohibited. Persons in possession of an individual of these 3 species before this date are required to register and microchip him.

INews Guyana, February 1, 2022; News Room Guyana, February 1, 2022; Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission, April 20 and June 30, 2022.<sup>33</sup>

## PERU

**Beginning of August 2022**

**Taricaya Private Reserve, Province of Tambopata, Department of Madre de Dios, Peru**

After several years, the Serfor finally authorised the release of the spider monkeys (*Ateles* spp., Appendix I or II) who were living in poor conditions in an illegal zoo. The 7 adults and 2 juveniles were transferred to the Taricaya Reserve in the Amazon basin with the help of Animal Defenders International.

Treehugger, August 4, 2022.<sup>34</sup>

**Mid-September 2022**

**San Camilo, Province of Ica, Department of Ica, Peru**

Following a citizen's complaint on the Alerta Serfor web platform, a 6-year-old male white-fronted capuchin (*Cebus albifrons*, Appendix II) was rescued. He was tied with a rope to a fig tree in the yard of the village house. The specimen was transferred to Ica Zoo after evaluation by a veterinarian. He shares his enclosure with 2 other male individuals also victims of "petmania". They cannot be released because of their degree of dependence to humans. Agencia Peruana de Noticias (Andina), September 18, 2022.<sup>35</sup>

## SOUTHEASTERN ASIA

### INDONESIA

### ORANGUTANS

**Between July 5 and 10, 2022**

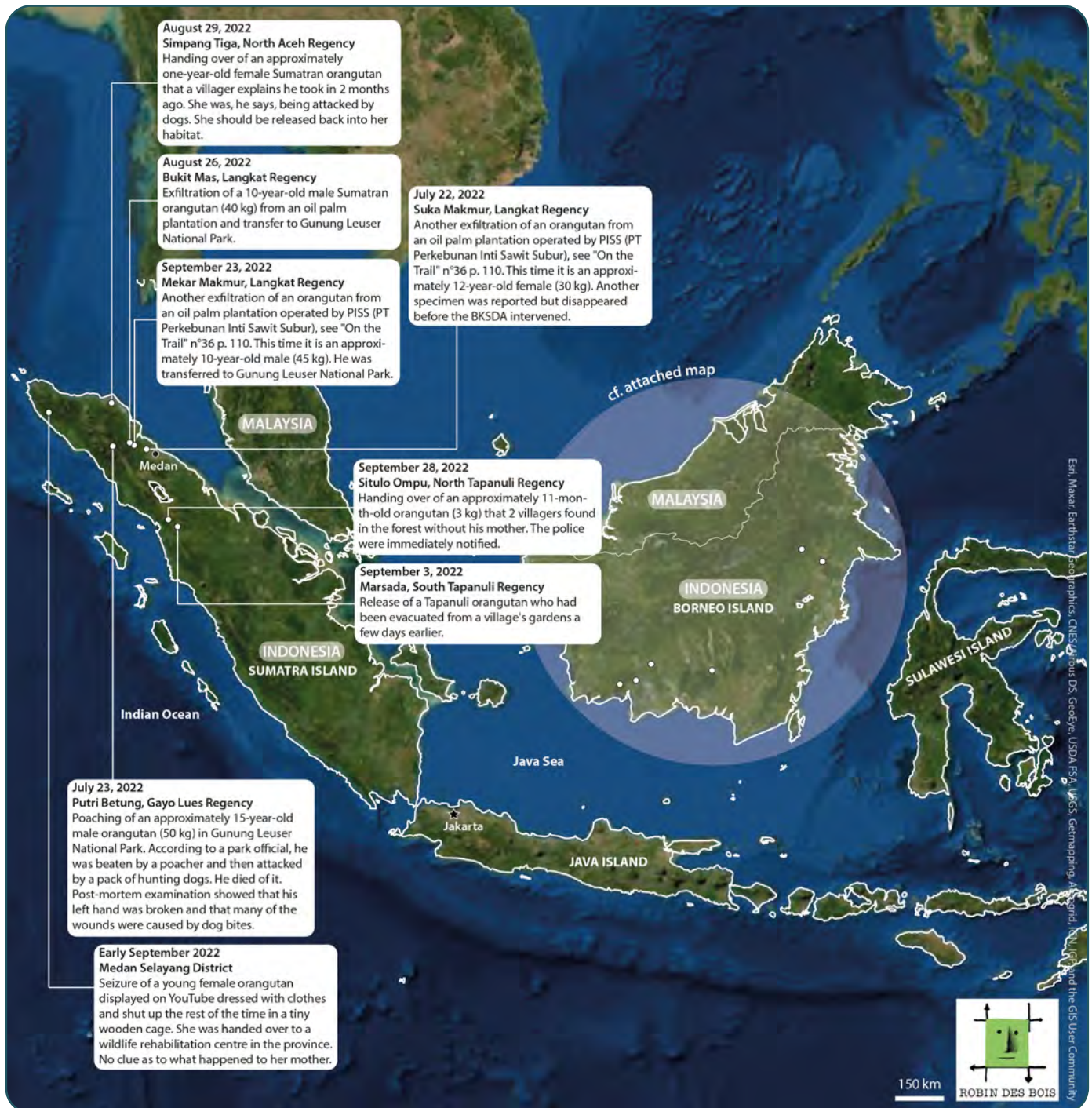
**Indonesia**

A video of a young captive orangutan with a left arm injury is circulating on social networks. The Scorpion Indonesia Foundation reminds us that it is forbidden to hold an orangutan captive and calls for his handing over to the authorities.

Telisik Indonesia, July 19, 2022.<sup>36</sup>



## Orangutans in Indonesia July 1 - September 30, 2022



Orangutan (*Pongo* spp., Appendix I)

Sources, see page 234

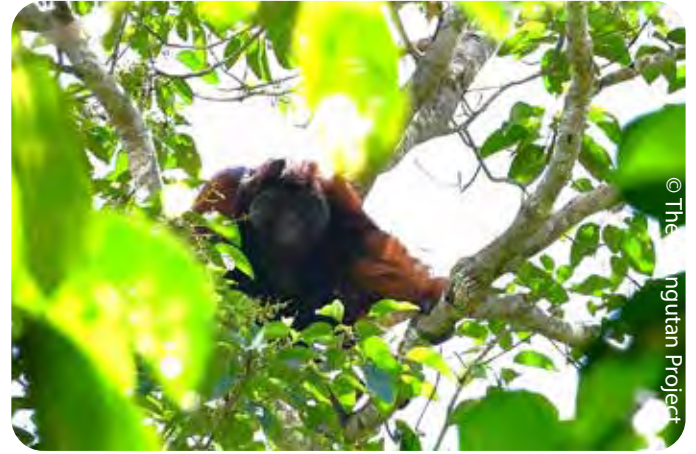


## Orangutans in Indonesia - Borneo July 1 - September 30, 2022



July 1, 2022  
Kotawaringin Hilir, West Kotawaringin Regency, Central  
Kalimantan Province, Borneo Island





Beginning of July 2022  
Busang District, East Kutai Regency, East Kalimantan Province, Borneo Island



September 23, 2022  
Mekar Makmur, Langkat Regency, North Sumatra Province, Sumatra Island

August 26, 2022  
Bukit Mas, Langkat Regency, North Sumatra Province, Sumatra Island



July 23, 2022  
Putri Betung, Gayo Lues Regency, Aceh Province, Sumatra Island

Beginning of September 2022  
Medan Selayang District, North Sumatra Province, Sumatra Island

## INDONESIA - EXCLUDING ORANGUTANS

**September 19, 2022**

**Pekan Kutam Baru, Langkat Regency, North Sumatra Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia**

The authorities were able to convince a resident to hand over the southern pig-tailed macaque (*Macaca nemestrina*, Appendix II) he had been keeping for 10 years and the long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*, Appendix II) he had been keeping for 3 years. Some farmers believe that keeping macaques around their homes keeps parasites away from the livestock, but there are no studies to support this belief.

Scorpion Foundation Indonesia, September 20, 2022.<sup>37</sup>

## THAILAND

**August 23, 2022**

**Huai Mae Phriang Sub-District, Kaeng Krachan District, Phetchaburi Province, Thailand**

Arrest of 2 poachers on a motorbike 15 km from Kaeng Krachan Park. They were carrying the carcass of a stump-tailed macaque (*Macaca arctoides*, Appendix II) and a dusky leaf monkey (*Trachypithecus obscurus*, Appendix II) in a fertiliser bag. They had already been arrested on February 22, 2021 for illegally felling trees in the national park forest together with 28 other people.

Thai PBS, August 24, 2022.<sup>38</sup>

**August 26, 2022**

**Hansang Sub-District, Bang Pahan District, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthay Province, Thailand**

An adult male long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*, Appendix II) shot through the face by a throwing weapon to the face was treated by a veterinary team. Hopeless prognosis. Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, August 26, 2022.<sup>39</sup>



## VIET NAM

**Beginning of July 2022**

**Bac Giang Province, Viet Nam**

Handing over of a stump-tailed macaque (*Macaca arctoides*, Appendix II). His jailer had died and nobody wanted him. He was transferred to the Tay Yen Tu Reserve.

ENV, July 10, 2022.<sup>40</sup>

**July 2022**

**Nam Dinh Province, Viet Nam**

Seizure of a macaque (*Macaca* spp., Appendix I or II) kept in a cage in the garden of a residence and transfer to Cuc Phuong National Park.

ENV, July 15, 2022.<sup>41</sup>

**July 16, 2022**

**Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam**

A long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*, Appendix II) was handed over by Mr Nguyen Van Vinh to the Forestry Department after being kept in a cage for a year and a half. The 4-kg male monkey is expected to be released into the forest after receiving care at the Cu Chi Wildlife Rescue Station. Tuoi Tre Online, July 16, 2022.<sup>42</sup>

**July 26, 2022**

**Dak Lak Province, Viet Nam**

Seizure of a long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*, Appendix II). He was reported by an ENV supporter.

ENV, July 27, 2022.<sup>43</sup>

**July 29, 2022**

**Kien Giang Province, Viet Nam**

A long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*, Appendix II) had been reported to the authorities by a passer-by long ago. Covid-19 and a typhoon had delayed their intervention. The "owner" eventually handed over the animal.

ENV, August 4, 2022.<sup>44</sup>

**Beginning of August 2022**

**Hoa Binh Province, Viet Nam**

Thanks to an anonymous call, a four-macaque (*Macaca* spp., Appendix I or II) troop including 2 adults and 2 babies was seized in a private garden and transferred to the rescue centre of Cuc Phuong National Park.

ENV, August 11, 2022.<sup>45</sup>

**August 15, 2022**

**Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam**

Another caged macaque reported by an ENV supporter was seized. He was handed over to the rescue centre in Cu Chi. It is a Northern pig-tailed macaque (*Macaca leonina*, Appendix II).

ENV, August 15, 2022.<sup>46</sup>

**August 23, 2022**

**Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam**

Release of a long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*, Appendix II) that a family had been keeping in a cage for several years. Cu Chi has an additional resident.

ENV, August 23, 2022.<sup>47</sup>



**August 24, 2022**

**Cat Tien National Park, Dong Nai, Lam Dong and Binh Phuoc Provinces, Viet Nam**



Extrication of a young monkey whose leg was caught in a trap set by poachers. It is probably a macaque (*Macaca* spp., Appendix I or II). Luckily, the trap did not injure him and he ran away from his rescuers.

SVW, August 24, 2022.<sup>48</sup>

**August 25, 2022**

**Trang Dinh District, Lang Son Province, Viet Nam**

Seizure of 12 rhesus macaques (*Macaca mulatta*, Appendix II) transported in plastic crates in the back of a vehicle. The driver was unable to produce any documents proving the legal origin of the primates. They were taken to the rescue centre in Cuc Phuong National Park.

ENV, September 6, 2022.<sup>49</sup>

**August 29, 2022**

**Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam**

Seizure of 2 macaques (*Macaca* spp., Appendix I or II), 2 purple swamphens (*Porphyrio porphyrio*) and 2 doves in a restaurant known for selling pangolin, deer and snake meat.

ENV, August 29, 2022.<sup>50</sup>

**Beginning of September 2022**

**Dong Nai Province, Viet Nam**

Another victim of cages in Viet Nam. This time it is a long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*, Appendix II) held outside a café. Forestry officials came to seize him a few days after the NGO ENV reported him.

ENV, September 10, 2022.<sup>51</sup>

**September 20, 2022**

**Dak Lak Province, Viet Nam**



Who wants to have lunch in front of a stump-tailed macaque (*Macaca arctoides*, Appendix II) running around in a cage that is too small? Luckily for him, forestry officers seized him and handed him over to good hands.

ENV, September 20, 2022.<sup>52</sup>

**SOUTHERN ASIA**

**BANGLADESH**

**September 26, 2022**

**Mia Bazar, Cumilla District, Chattogram Division, Bangladesh. Border with India.**



A 27-year-old man, Md Jewel Rahman Sohel, has been fined 50,000 taka (526 US\$). He was transporting a hoolock gibbon (*Bunopithecus hoolock*, Appendix I) to smuggle him into India. He was arrested on a coach bound for Khulna, 200 km from where the gibbon was caught and 55 km from the Indian border.

Dhaka Tribune September 26, 2022.<sup>53</sup>

**INDIA**

**July 27, 2022**

**Vijayawada, Krishna District, State of Andhra Pradesh, India**

Following a citizen's report, a troop of monkeys, presumably rhesus macaques (*Macaca mulatta*, Appendix II), were released within the hour after being held in cages for several days without food or water. They were released into the nearby forest after a veterinary examination.

PETA India, July 28, 2022; Telangana Today, July 28, 2022.<sup>54</sup>

**August 23, 2022**

**Chennai International Airport, State of Tamil Nadu, India**

Two marmosets (*Callitrichidae*, Appendix I or II) transported in plastic boxes were found by customs officers. They had died as a result of an overdose of sedative or asphyxiation.

The Times of India, August 29, 2022.<sup>55</sup>

**August 30, 2022**

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

Arrest of Ramesh Singh (20) and Pusal Nagraju (23) for illegal transport of 15 rhesus macaques (*Macaca mulatta*, Appendix II). They were packed in 8 burlap bags and transported in a tuk-tuk from Venkatapuram (Andhra Pradesh) 530 km away. During the journey, 10 macaques died of asphyxiation. The 5 survivors were treated and released in the nearby forest.

The Print (with PTI), September 1, 2022; The Times of India, September 1, 2022.<sup>56</sup>

**FAMILY AFFAIRS**

**September 12, 2022**

**New Delhi, East Delhi District, National Capital Territory of Delhi, India**

Arrest of Raju Saini (55), his son Shubham (25) and their friend Saurabh Sharma (35). They had captured a rhesus macaque (*Macaca mulatta*, Appendix II) and tried to sell him for 4,000 rupees (50 US\$) via social media.

The Indian Express, September 14, 2022.<sup>57</sup>



**September 16, 2022**

**Tuisenphai Checkgate, Khawzawl District, State of Mizoram, India. Border with Myanmar.**

Interception of Vanlalrosiama (25 years old) and C. Liankunga (52 years old), from Champhai, 43 km away, in possession of an indri (*Indri indri*, Appendix I), a species endemic to Madagascar, and a mother spider monkey and her baby (*Ateles* spp., Appendix I or II), a species endemic to Southern America. They are believed to have been smuggled from Myanmar.

Asian News International, September 17, 2022; East Mojo, September 17, 2022.<sup>58</sup>

**September 27, 2022**

**Lailapur, Cachar District, State of Assam, India**

Two young orangutans (*Pongo* spp., Appendix I), less than one year old, were found next to a border police station 70 km from Myanmar. A veterinarian checked their health status. There are plans to send them to the Guwahati Zoo. The superintendent of police believes that "the consignments come from Indonesia, they use a route through Myanmar and India to take rare species to international markets." "On the Trail" n°9 p.42 (June 2015) already reported on the trafficking of 2 orangutans a few months old in Andra Pradesh.

Hindustan Times, September 27, 2022; East Mojo (with PTI), September 28, 2022; The Times of India, September 28, 2022.<sup>59</sup>

**PAKISTAN**

**July 6, 2022**

**Karachi, Province of Sindh, Pakistan**

Qadir Khan was arrested for holding 15 rhesus macaques (*Macaca mulatta*, Appendix II) barely 2 months old. He was transporting them in a Peshawar - Karachi bus in wooden boxes; these baby monkeys were therefore seized more than 1,500 km from where they were caught.

Dawn, July 7, 2022.<sup>60</sup>

**WESTERN EUROPE**

**GERMANY**

**September 5, 2022**

**Giessen, Hesse State, Germany**

Thanks to a whistleblower and checks by the authorities, the ordeal of a 14-year-old female Barbary macaque (*Macaca sylvanus*, Appendix I) has ended. She was discovered in a basement in January 2022 and then placed for months in an open-air cage with a leash around her neck. Her keeper objected to her being transferred to a shelter in the Netherlands. The court ruled. The transfer took place on October 26 and the man is banned from keeping primates.

Giessen Administrative Court, September 5, 2022; PETA, October 28 and November 12, 2022.<sup>61</sup>



**FRANCE**

**Beginning of July 2022**

**Nice, Department of Alpes-Maritimes, France**



A retired couple was tried for illegally keeping 2 capuchin monkeys (*Sapajus* spp., synonymous with *Cebus* spp., Appendix II). The possession of these wild animals requires a certificate of competence, an obligation which had been reminded to them in 2014 and again in 2017. The animals were finally seized and placed in Fréjus Zoo. The husband is said to be in the process of obtaining his certificate of competence. In the first instance, the couple was given a 6-month suspended prison sentence and fined 1,000 € (1,003 US\$). They have appealed.

Nice-Matin, July 2, 2022.<sup>62</sup>

**EASTERN EUROPE**

**POLAND**

**September 14, 2022**

**Bytom, Silesian Voivodeship, Poland**

Police officers and veterinary surgeons discovered 7 monkeys in small cages, including suspected marmosets (*Callitrichidae*, Appendix I or II) and at least one white-eared marmoset (*Callithrix jacchus*, Appendix II) and one blue-and-yellow macaw (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II) at the home of a 46-year-old woman. Before seizing the animals if necessary, it was decided to give her 14 days to improve their living conditions.

Silesian Police, September 15, 2022.<sup>63</sup>

**RUSSIA**

**July 5, 2022**

**Krasninsky District, Smolensk Oblast, Russia. Border with Belarus.**



Customs officers stopped and issued a ticket to a man carrying a rhesus macaque (*Macaca mulatta*, Appendix II) in his car. He stated that he was transferring the macaque from Moscow to Belarus in order to "train him and make him work" in a Belarusian circus.

GTRK-Smolensk, July 5, 2022; Virtual Customs, July 6, 2022.<sup>64</sup>



Grey marmot (*Marmota baibacina*). Photo David Bishop

## ASIA

### MONGOLIA

#### Between July 1 and August 10, 2022 Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Seizure at the market of 32 marmots (*Marmota baibacina* or *Marmota sibirica*) suspected of transmitting bubonic plague and declared to be endangered in Mongolia. Daily News (Mongolia), August 11, 2022.<sup>1</sup>



#### July 26, 2022

#### Bogd Khan Uul Biosphere Reserve, Ulaanbaatar Municipality, Mongolia

One arrest. B. was poaching marmots (*Marmota baibacina* or *Marmota sibirica*) with his TOZ-8 rifle and traps. He claims it was for personal or family consumption. Ulaanbaatar News, August 2, 2022; iSee.mn, August 3, 2022; Mongolian National Broadcaster, August 3, 2022.<sup>2</sup>



### End of July 2022

#### Otgon District, Zavkhan Aimag, Mongolia

B. Byambaa, governor of the Tövshrüülekh district, went on vacation in July 2021 and hunted marmots (*Marmota baibacina* or *Marmota sibirica*) in the Otgon district, 700 km from his political homeland. He is liable to a fine of 300,000 tugriks (95 US\$) and 370,000 tugriks (120 US\$) in damages.

The citizens' conference of the Tövshrüülekh district may decide in favour of Byambaa's dismissal. In response to the accusations, the governor says that the members of the marmot drive in which he took part killed them with stones, and that he witnessed this episode without being involved.

Zarig.mn, September 6, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

### August 8, 2022

#### Tsengel District, Bayan-Olgii Aimag, Mongolia

The authorities are up in arms against the smuggling of marmot (genus *Marmota*) meat. Marmot hunting is banned at national level because of the decline in their numbers after years of intensive hunting, but above all because of the risk of transmitting bubonic plague through the consumption of their meat. A 45-day prevention campaign started on August 7, and already a man on a motorbike was arrested with 4 marmot carcasses.

Montsame News Agency, August 9, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

### September 6, 2022

#### Lün District, Töv Province, Mongolia

Seizure of 180 dead marmots (*Marmota baibacina* or *Marmota sibirica*) 100 km from Ulan Bator. Marmot meat is becoming a luxury dish in the capital. Samples are currently being taken to check that they are not carriers of bubonic plague.

Ugluu.mn, September 9, 2022.<sup>5</sup>



### Mid-September 2022

#### Tosontsengel District, Zavkhan Aimag, Mongolia

Seizure of 48 marmots (*Marmota baibacina* or *Marmota sibirica*). Marmot hunting has been banned in Mongolia for the past 3 years. The decline in populations is largely attributed to poaching (see "On the Trail" n°35 p.111).

Montsame News Agency, September 14, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

### Mid-September 2022

#### Kharkhorin District, Övörkhangai Aimag, Mongolia

Seizure of 50 marmot (genus *Marmota*) carcasses in a vehicle travelling from Zavkhan aimag (over 500 km away) to Ulaanbaatar (over 300 km away). Three arrests.

Montsame News Agency, September 13, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

### September 14, 2022

#### Tariat District, Arkhangai Aimag, Mongolia



Seizure of 30 marmot (genus *Marmota*) carcasses from B., who had killed them in Tsakhir district, an outbreak of bubonic plague. They were quickly destroyed.

Montsame News Agency, September 15, 2022.<sup>8</sup>



## ASIA

### THAILAND

**September 3, 2022**

**Tha Mai Ruak Sub-District, Tha Yang District, Phetchaburi Province, Thailand**



Four-toed hedgehogs (*Atelerix albiventris*) are not part of Thailand's natural heritage. They are smuggled in or illegally bred to supply the pet market. Two specimens were seized in private gardens. They have been handed over to WFFT (Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand). WFFT, September 3, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

## EUROPE

### BULGARIA

**August 15, 2022**

**Minzuhar, Kardzhali Province, Bulgaria**

Five men driving a Mercedes aroused curiosity in the village of 470 inhabitants. They were stopped at a roadblock. In the trunk were 12 eastern European hedgehogs (*Erinaceus concolor*). They were set free. The 5 suspects say they hunt them with the help of a dog for their own consumption. Hedgehogs are protected by the law on biodiversity. All forms of capture or deliberate killing of specimens by any means or method are prohibited.

Regional Environmental and Water Inspectorate - Haskovo, August 18, 2022; BNT, August 30, 2022.<sup>2</sup>



## FRANCE

**September 25, 2022**

**Albi, Department of Tarn, France**

Checking a van in the center of Albi on Saturday night, the BAC (Brigade Anti-Criminalité) rescued 7 European hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*). The 2 men were fined and will be summoned to appear in court at a later date. The hedgehogs were released far from the road.

La Dépêche du Midi, September 25, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

## GREECE

**August 21, 2022**

**Koskinou, Island of Rhodes, Region of South Aegean, Greece**

Poisoning of a hedgehog (*Erinaceus concolor* or *Erinaceus roumanicus*), a cat and 2 dogs. The area hosting Bonelli's eagles (*Hieraetus fasciatus*, Appendix II) was combed by a dog squad accompanied by forest rangers. Twenty poisoned figs were found.

Zoosos.gr, August 22, 2022.<sup>4</sup>



## ITALY

**Beginning of July 2022**

**Alba, Province of Cuneo, Region of Piedmont, Italy**

A woman killed 4 European hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*) in her garden with a broomstick. She was reported by neighbours. The plight of hedgehogs in Italy, see "On the Trail" n°36 p.122.

Targatocn.it, July 8, 2022; Kodami, July 10, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

## OTHER MAMMALS

HIPPOS, VICUNAS, ARMADILLOS, MONGOOSE, OTTERS ...



Hoffmann's two-fingered sloth (*Choloepus hoffmanni*). Photo Randall Jiménez

### AFRICA

#### KENYA

**July 2022**

**Greater Mara, Narok County, Kenya**

Rescue of a hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*, Appendix II) with a spear stuck in his back.

Mara Elephant Project, July 2022.<sup>1</sup>

#### UGANDA

**August 22, 2022**

**Queen Elizabeth National Park, Western Region, Uganda**

Six arrests for poaching. One man was in possession of the forelegs of an African buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*) and 5 men were in possession of suspected hippopotamus meat (*Hippopotamus amphibius*, Appendix II).

The Independent (Uganda), August 24, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

Hippos, see also pages 24, 37, 179 and 180.

### AMERICA

#### ARGENTINA

**Beginning of July 2022**

**Province of Río Negro, Argentina**

A joint operation by the police and the Secretariat for the Environment resulted in the interception of 3 vehicles transporting guanaco meat (*Lama guanicoe*, Appendix II). Near Paraje Los Berros, 2 bags of meat were seized from the boot of a car. Near Paja Alta, a vehicle was stopped with roasted meat and guanaco skins, as well as a van with a whole guanaco, a rifle and ammunition.

NoticiasNet, July 11, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

**August 10, 2022**

**Barranca Larga, Province of Catamarca, Argentina**

On provincial road n°43, police intercepted a white Mercedes Benz. Inside, a burlap bag containing 7 vicuña skins (*Vicugna vicugna*, Appendix I).

El Esquiú.com, August 11, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

## BOLIVIA

**September 15, 2022**

**Santiago de Andamarca, Province of Sud Carangas, Department of Oruro, Bolivia**

In less than 2 weeks, 15 vicuñas (*Vicugna vicugna*, Appendix II) were found dismembered and shorn. El Deber, September 28, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

## BRAZIL

**July 27, 2022**

**Felício dos Santos, State of Minas Gerais, Brazil**

One 32-gauge shotgun. Three cartridges. A dead paca (*Cuniculus paca*, Appendix III in Honduras). A 31-year-old man. One dog. The suspect was detained by military police. Aqui, July 27, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

**August 29, 2022**

**Planaltina, State of Goiás, Brazil**

The PMDF (Polícia Militar do Distrito Federal) intercepted 2 vehicles following each other at a roadblock. The first contained a firearm and ammunition, the second 3 firearms and meat from paca (*Cuniculus paca*, Appendix III in Honduras), armadillo (family Dasypodidae), agouti (genus *Dasyprocta*), and deer. The poachers were taken to the 16th police station. Jornal de Brasília, August 30, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

**September 30, 2022**

**Boa Vista, State of Roraima, Brazil**

THE PRF (Polícia Rodoviária Federal) intercepted a Fiat Strada at around 11 p.m. on BR 174, 8km from Boa Vista. Seizure of a dead peccary (*Tayassu pecari* or *Pecari tajacu*, Appendix II) and 2 dead armadillos (family Dasypodidae). Driver charged with poaching, transport, and attempted sale of wildlife meat. Roraima 1, October 4, 2022.<sup>8</sup>

## COLOMBIA

**August 29, 2022**

**Near Bajo Calima, Department of Valle del Cauca, Colombia**

Rescue on the banks of the Río San Juan of 3 Hoffmann's two-fingered sloth (*Choloepus hoffmanni*), a young male and a female with her young. They had been kept in captivity in a house. They were lucky enough to be spotted by elements of the Colombian Navy and avoided going to the saucepan. They were entrusted to the department's wildlife wardens.



Hoffmann's unaus can be distinguished from most other sloths by the fact that they have only 2 toes on their front legs. They measure between 58 and 70 cm and weigh between 4 and 8 kg. They are tree-dwellers, nocturnal, and solitary. Their range extends from Honduras to Bolivia. They are mainly threatened by habitat destruction and food hunting but are also sold as pets to tourists. Regional Autonomous Corporation of Valle del Cauca, August 29, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

## ASIA

### INDIA

**July 1, 2022**

**Nashik, Nashik District, State of Maharashtra, India**



Seizure of 2,587 mongoose (genus *Herpestes*) hair brushes by the WCCB feds and the Forest Division from a paper mill in the city. All mongoose species present in India are in CITES Appendix III. WCCB, July 4, 2022.<sup>10</sup>



## OPERATION CLEAN ART

July 2022

Varanasi (Benares), Varanasi District; Kanpur, Kanpur Nagar District; Palia Kalan, Lakhimpur Kheri District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India



Brushes made from mongoose hair (genus *Herpestes*) for watercolorists are always in vogue. Seizures were already reported in the third issue of "On the Trail" in October 2013 (p.78).

Over 50,000 mongooses are killed every year in India for their hair. A simultaneous operation coordinated by the Wildlife Trust of India and the WCCB resulted in the seizure of 4,717 brushes that are the bane of mongooses, 3,916 in Varanasi, 600 in Kanpur, and 201 in Palia Kalan. "The next time you pick a brush, make sure that you don't have blood on your hands."

Wildlife Trust of India, September 26, 2022.<sup>11</sup>



## VIET NAM

July 12, 2022

Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam

Quach Tan Sang, age 22, had bought 2 small-clawed otters (*Aonyx cinerea*, Appendix I) over the Internet for 800,000 dong (35 US\$) and was looking to resell them a few weeks later for 3.5 million dong (150 US\$). He was caught red-handed delivering them to a woman in a café. He was given an 18-month suspended prison sentence.

Thanh Niên, July 12, 2022; ENV July 20, 2022.<sup>12</sup>



August 5, 2022

Cam Giang, Tay Ninh Province, Viet Nam. Border with Cambodia.

Based on a tip, Nguyen Van Thua, local road police chief, assisted by Lieutenant Tran Quoc Bao and Major Pham Van Tuan, blocked an SUV with registration BS 70A - 192.04 on national road 22B. In the back were bags containing 30 small Indian civets (*Viverricula indica*, Appendix III in India) intended for food consumption.

Thanh Niên, August 8, 2022; ENV, August 9, 2022.<sup>13</sup>

September 2022

Thanh Nhat, Cao Bang Province, Viet Nam. Border with China.

L. M. T. was transporting 40 masked palm civets (*Paguma larvata*, Appendix III in India) in iron crates. Báo Điện tử VOV, September 21, 2022.<sup>14</sup>

21 septembre 2022

District de Ngoc Lac, Province de Thanh Hoa, Vietnam

September 21, 2022

Ngoc Lac District, Thanh Hoa Province, Viet Nam



Seizure of 2 Owston's palm civet (*Chrotogale owstoni*) from 2 traffickers. They claim to have bought them from trap setters. They were destined for the food market. Paws are injured. They were transferred to the Cuc Phuong rescue center. The prognosis is guarded.



Owston's palm civets are nocturnal. In the wild, they are mostly seen between 8 p.m. and 4 a.m. when it is completely dark. Owston's palm civets are very good climbers but remain on the forest floor for most of their lives. They venture into the trees to forage, rest, or groom.

Their meat, their bones, penises, and scent glands are used in traditional medicine throughout southeast Asia. They get ensnared in meat traps. They are sought after for the beauty of their fur. They are considered endangered by experts. They live in the evergreen forest of Nam Et-Phou Louey on the Laos-Viet Nam border.

VTV, September 23, 2022 ; Nelson, C. 2020. "Chrotogale owstoni" (On-line), Animal Diversity Web.<sup>15</sup>

**September 26, 2022**

**Ky Khang, Ha Tinh Province, Viet Nam**

Seizure of 9 Asian palm civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*, Appendix III in India) from Nguyen Tien Vinh. They were destined for the food market. If all goes well, they will be transferred to Vu Quang National Park.

Thanh Niên, September 27, 2022; ENV, September 30, 2022.<sup>16</sup>

## EUROPE

### FRANCE

**July 20-21, 2022**

**Department of Cher, France**

OFB rescued 2 crested porcupines (*Hystrix cristata*) aged between 4 and 6 months from a garden. The following day, a female was located and captured nearby. The little family had probably been abandoned by the "owners." During the summer vacations, pets can be evicted. They have been transferred to the La Tanière shelter.



Porcupines are nocturnal rodents. They weigh between 15 and 30 kg and measure between 60 and 80 cm without the tail, with quills reaching 30 cm. They can live up to 20 years. They live in North Africa and Italy. They are hunted for their meat. Actu Chartres, July 23, 2022.<sup>17</sup>

## ITALY

**July 7, 2022**

**Modica, Free Municipal Consortium of Ragusa, Region of Sicily, Italy**

An offroad car is checked by the police. In the back there are 2 dogs, German hunting terriers, stalking mammals in their dens. One of the 2 is bleeding from the muzzle. There are also 2 blood-stained clubs and a dying adult crested porcupine (*Hystrix cristata*). The driver-hunter-maltreater is in his fifties.

MeridioNews, July 7, 2022; RagusaH24, July 7, 2022.<sup>18</sup>

## UNITED KINGDOM

**OPERATION RANDALL**

**September 4, 2022**

**Between Fersfield and Bressingham, Norfolk County, England, United Kingdom**



Discovery of a dead common otter (*Lutra lutra*, Appendix I) in a trap. Police appeal for witnesses. Operation Randall aims to tackle rural crime in Norfolk.

Norfolk Constabulary, September 24, 2022.<sup>19</sup>



Magnificent riflebird (*Ptiloris magnificus*). Photo David White

## NORTHERN AFRICA

### MOROCCO

#### End of July 2022

##### **Boumia, Drâa-Tafilalet Region, Morocco**

Thanks to an anonymous source, the authorities were able to foil an international smuggling of European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine) to Algeria. A person from the town of Oued Zem, 200 km away, was arrested with 4 goldfinches. Three alleged accomplices fled. Al3omk, July 25, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

#### Mid-September 2022

##### **Mohammed V International Airport of Casablanca, Casablanca-Settat Region, Morocco**

Arrest by customs officials of a traveller bound for a foreign country with 6 falcons (*Falco* spp., Appendix I or II) with an estimated value of more than 180,000 dirhams (17,141 US\$). The birds were sedated and wrapped in cloth. The authorities released them 100 km from the airport after awakening and health checking. Agadir24, September 14, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

## WESTERN AFRICA

### LIBERIA

#### August 2022

##### **Monrovia, Montserrado County, Liberia**

A shikra (*Accipiter badius*, Appendix II) was captured near a house and taken into captivity. Thanks to the intervention of a neighbour, the forestry authorities and the NGO Fauna & Flora International, it was seized and transferred to the Libassa sanctuary. It should soon be free again.

Libassa Wildlife Sanctuary, August 26, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

## CENTRAL AFRICA

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

#### August 29, 2022

##### **Bikenge, Maniema Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo**

In the village of Kibimbi, a group of traffickers was caught by the authorities with 30 grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*, Appendix I). They managed to escape but abandoned the birds. The officers followed protocol and transferred the parrots to ICCN in Kindu, 78 km away. Seven died on the way. Environews RDC, September 6, 2022; Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation, September 6, 2022; Mediacongo.net, September 9, 2022.<sup>4</sup>



**September 5, 2022**

**Kahuzi-Biega National Park, Sud-Kivu Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo**

Release of 68 grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*, Appendix I) rescued from trafficking after several months of rehabilitation. They will continue to be closely monitored and, if necessary, members of Lwiro Primates will provide them with food. Lwiro Primates, September 5, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

**EASTERN AFRICA**

**KENYA**

**August 24, 2022**

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

Arrest of 2 suspects in possession of 2 owl (*Strigiformes*, Appendix I or II) eggs. Big Life Foundation, August 2022.<sup>6</sup>

**August 30, 2022**

**Kiborgoch Community Wildlife Conservancy – Lake Bogoria, Baringo County, Kenya**

Successful intervention on an ostrich (*Struthio camelus*, Appendix I in 12 countries) whose right wing had been pierced by a throwing weapon. SWT/KWS Rift Valley Mobile Veterinary Unit, August 2022.<sup>7</sup>



**ZAMBIA**

**August 19, 2022**

**Itezhi-Tezhi, Southern Province, Zambia**



Solomon Mafuta, a 48-year-old farmer, was found guilty of several poaching offences in Kafue National Park. He admitted killing a warthog (*Phacochoerus africanus*) without a hunting licence or a permit to carry a weapon and recovering 70 kg of meat. He was also in possession of the head and claws of a white-headed vulture (*Trigonoceps occipitalis*, Appendix II). He was sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment and fines totalling 242,000 kwachas (14,950 US\$). Lusaka Times, September 7, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

**ZIMBABWE**

**September 5, 2022**

**Wild Horizons Sanctuary, Matabeleland North Province, Zimbabwe**



Less than three days after the International Vulture Awareness Day, a white-backed vulture (*Gyps africanus*, Appendix II) was found in poor condition on an impala (*Aepyceros melampus*) poisoned carcass. It is recovering in a rehabilitation centre.

Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust, September 6, 2022.<sup>10</sup>



## The decline of grey-crowned and black crowned cranes



Grey-crowned crane



Black crowned crane

Uganda has a cultural attachment to the grey-crowned crane (*Balearica regulorum*) which was previously presented on the first flag in 1914. The crane is venerated. It is also emblematic in South Africa, Kenya, Namibia, and Zambia, where, for a number of ethnic groups, the royal crane is a good omen. They are associated with the rain. For the past ten years, the species has been considered endangered. Its count today is estimated to be 20,000 individuals, compared with 35,000 in 1995. The species is protected legally on paper in South Africa, Kenya, Uganda, and Zimbabwe, but experts believe that their protection in the wild is not guaranteed. Their decline has many causes. Firstly, the loss of wetlands, which have been cut in half in Uganda over the last 20 years has driven the cranes to search for food on farms, thus creating new conflicts with humans and their activities. In these situations, they may be slaughtered. However, certain farmers in Uganda still refuse to kill them for the beliefs that still surround the cranes. It is said that the murderer of a royal crane is haunted by its fellow cranes until he goes mad or dies. Crane body parts and eggs can be requested by sorcerers to perform rites. They can also be hunted for their meat.

Another threat to the royal crane and its sister species, the black crowned crane (*Balearica pavonina*), is that they are captured for caging and their eggs stolen for artificial incubation and clandestine breeding. Royal and crowned cranes are sold to luxury hotels, notably in Burundi and Rwanda. They are used to decorate gardens. They are also bought by wealthy families who see them as a symbol of wealth. Furthermore, the cranes are acquired and held captive all over the world: after Europe and the United States of America in the 1970s and 1980s, it's now the Middle and Far East where the company of cranes is sought. Royal and crowned cranes are listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). As of the 16th CITES Conference of the Parties in Bangkok in 2013, the export of king cranes from Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania has been suspended, as has the export of black-crowned cranes from Guinea, Sudan and South Sudan.

"On the Trail" has already recorded several instances of traffic in these 2 species:

- 5 grey-crowned cranes were sequestered in July 2015 in a Mexican zoo (see "On the Trail" n°10 p. 73),
- 3 young grey-crowned cranes were seized on February 28, 2016 from a Ugandan (see "On the Trail" n°12 p. 27),
- 2 black crowned cranes were discovered on April 12, 2017 in a clandestine zoo in Guinea (see "On the Trail" n°17 p. 113),
- 4 black crowned cranes were intercepted on April 13, 2017 in a pick-up truck in Cameroon (cf. "On the Trail" n°17 p. 112),
- Black crowned cranes were sequestered in July 2019 after the closure of an illegal zoo in Spain (see "On the Trail" n°26 p. 44),
- 106 grey-crowned cranes were poisoned in Uganda (see "On the Trail" n°34 p. 141),
- 15 black crowned cranes were seized on May 25, 2022 from a trafficker in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (see "On the Trail" n°36 p. 185),
- A wetland was set up in Rwanda at the end of September 2020 to house black crowned cranes seized from private gardens and unable to fly long distances (see "On the Trail" n°30 p.157).

Awareness-raising campaigns are underway in several host countries, and it is suggested that communities find ways to coexist and benefit financially from these birds in their natural habitat by creating ecotourism projects or participating in censuses, for example. Confiscation campaigns and reintroduction of cranes into the wild have also taken place, as in Rwanda.

### Quotation of the 2 cranes:

Depending on size, species and sex, live specimens are sold for between 1,000 US\$ and 10,000 US\$, a skull for between 100 US\$ and 500 US\$, and feathers for between 18 US\$ and 80 US\$. Stuffed specimens sell for between 408 US\$ for chicks and 16,000 US\$ for adults.

Sources: cf. page 236.



## SOUTHERN AFRICA

### SOUTH AFRICA

**August 11, 2022**

**Kruger National Park, Punda Maria Section, Province of Limpopo, South Africa**



A spotted hyena (*Crocuta crocuta*) and 108 vultures died after feeding on the poisoned carcass of an African buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*): 104 white-backed vultures (*Gyps africanus*, Appendix II), a white-headed vulture (*Trigonoceps occipitalis*, Appendix II), 2 Cape vultures (*Gyps coprotheres*, Appendix II) and a lappet-faced vulture (*Torgos tracheliotus*, Appendix II). This macabre discovery took place on the edge of the park, near a village, where 2 mass poisonings took place in 2021. 24 vultures were still alive. They were quickly transferred to a rehabilitation centre 270 km away. Two survivors were released on August 18, 2022 with GPS collars. Vultures are regularly used in traditional medicine, and the price of a whole vulture carcass is estimated at 300-1,500 rand (17-89 US\$).

News24, August 11, 2022; Endangered Wildlife Trust, August 19, 2022.<sup>11</sup>

### BOTSWANA

**August 11, 2022**

**Chobe National Park, Chobe District, Botswana**



In the middle of the breeding season, 50 white-backed vultures (*Gyps africanus*, Appendix II), including 12 juveniles, were found dead after feeding on the poisoned carcass of an African buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*) in the CH1 area. Poachers removed the heads, feet and organs of 10 individuals to sell to healers.

Bhejane Trust, August 11, 2022; Vulture Conservation Foundation, August 17, 2022.<sup>12</sup>



## NAMIBIA

**July to November 2022**

**Otjiwarongo District, Otjozondjupa Region, and Windhoek, Khomas Region, Namibia**



A legal battle between the N/a'an ku sê Foundation and the Ministry of Environment about a pair of Cape vultures (*Gyps coprotheres*, Appendix II) and their eggs, 2 tawny eagles (*Aquila rapax*, Appendix II), a bateleur eagle (*Terathopius ecaudatus*, Appendix II), an African hawk-eagle (*Hieraaetus spilogaster*, Appendix II), a Verreaux's eagle-owl (*Bubo lacteus*, Appendix II) and a spotted eagle-owl (*Bubo africanus*, Appendix II). The birds were before in the Rare and Endangered Species Trust's rehabilitation centre, which was closed due to Ministry of Environment red tape. On November 23, 2022, the Foundation won its case in court. It will be able to house the 8 birds and the chick that hatched.

N/a'an ku sê Foundation, July 20, August 13, 17, November 23, 24 and December 8, 2022.<sup>13</sup>

## NORTHERN AMERICA

### CANADA

**July 19, 2022**

**Winnipeg, Province of Manitoba, Canada**

A merlin (*Falco columbarius*, Appendix II) was found wounded by a bullet. After surgery and treatment, it could be released.

CTV News, July 21, 2022; CBC/Radio-Canada, July 22, 2022.<sup>14</sup>

**End of September 2022**

**Province of New Brunswick, Canada**

A young bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, Appendix II) lying on the ground was admitted to a health centre. The X-ray revealed bullet fragments and an inoperable humerus. It was put down. The bald eagle is endangered in the province and sacred to native peoples.

Atlantic Wildlife Institute, October 5, 2022.<sup>15</sup>



## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**July and September 1, 2022**

**Miami International Airport, State of Florida, United States of America**

Jose Ortega Molina, a Spanish citizen coming from Madrid, was intercepted by customs while attempting to smuggle 6 budgerigars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*). He was sentenced to 37 days in prison followed by deportation and 3 years' supervised release.

Environmental Crimes Monthly Bulletin, October 2022.<sup>16</sup>



**Mid-July 2022**

**Plant City, State of Florida, United States of America**

A team from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission inspects a bird show in the Teco Expo Hall. Several vendors were issued warnings. One of them was cited with dealing in exotic birds without a permit.

At the Plant City Flea Market, 2 suspects were also issued citations, one for selling parrots (Psittaciformes, Appendix I or II except for 4 species), the other for selling mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*). Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, July 21, 2022.<sup>17</sup>

**July 17 and End of July 2022**

**Racine and Walworth Counties, State of Wisconsin, United States of America**

A bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, Appendix II) was found with 2 bullet wounds and trap scars. It had to be finished off. A red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*, Appendix II) was also shot and wounded. The authorities are seeking information.

Wisconsin Public Radio, August 5, 2022.<sup>18</sup>



Bald eagle

## REPEATED OFFENCE

**July 22, 2022**

**West Valley City, State of Utah, United States of America**

Citing the risk of bird flu, the authorities raided an informal rehabilitation centre and seized 84 birds - ducks (family Anatidae), pheasants and partridges (family Phasianidae), doves (family Columbidae), seagulls (family Laridae), ravens (genus *Corvus*) and swallows (family Hirundinidae). 73 were killed on the spot. During the search, 11 dead birds were found. In December 2021, the 56-year-old owner of the centre, Richard Thomas Nowak, had already been convicted of keeping and intentionally destroying protected wildlife species and had been given a fine.

KSL-TV, August 9, 2022.<sup>19</sup>

**August 3, 2022**

**Port Jefferson, State of New York, United States of America**

A neighbour hears gunshots and sees a large bird fall from a tree in the next door garden. The DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation) is alerted. In the garden, an osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*, Appendix II) is found dead and buried. The resident admits killing it with a 12-gauge shotgun and is charged with illegal taking of protected wildlife, unjustified killing of an animal, discharge of a firearm within 500 feet of a dwelling.

Department of Environmental Conservation, August 31, 2022.<sup>20</sup>

**Beginning of August 2022**

**Farmington, State of Connecticut, United States of America**

Discovery of a red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*, Appendix II) with a gunshot wound to the right shoulder. It was too badly injured to be saved and was finished off.

In the previous weeks 2 other red-tailed hawks and a black vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) were brought to the bird rescue centre A Place Called Hope for the same reason. Only one hawk escaped killing.

Already in December 2021, a red-tailed hawk was found in Oxford, in New Haven county, 60 km from Farmington, shot and pierced by an arrow. It survived.

CT Insider, August 19, 2022.<sup>21</sup>

**September 6, 2022**

**Sioux Falls, State of South Dakota, United States of America**

Sentence in absentia of Michael Pomani to 2 months' imprisonment, followed by one year of supervised release, including 2 months' home confinement, and a fine of 16,800 US\$ for violating the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and fraudulently selling feathers of bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, Appendix II), falcons (Accipitridae, Appendix I or II) and owls (Strigiformes, Appendix I or II).

Environmental Crimes Monthly Bulletin, October 2022.<sup>22</sup>



**September 13, 2022**

**Punta Gorda, State of Florida, United States of America**

Theft of 28 birds including cockatoos (*Cacatuidae*, Appendix I or II), amazons (*Amazona* spp., Appendix I or II) and grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*, Appendix I) in the Parrot Outreach Society shelter. FOX 13 News, September 14, 2022; NBC2, September 15, 2022.<sup>23</sup>

**September 19, 2022**

**Jupiter, State of Florida, United States of America**

Michael Bochicchio, aged 31, is suspected of torturing a sandhill crane (*Antigone canadensis*, synonymous with *Grus canadensis*, Appendix II). He allegedly grabbed it by the neck and plucked its feathers in the presence of a witness. Local 10 News, September 20, 2022; WTVX-TV, September 25, 2022; Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, September 29, 2022.<sup>24</sup>

**REPEATED OFFENCE**

**September 20, 2022**

**Newark, State of New Jersey, United States of America**

Mario Maldonado pleaded guilty to killing and boiling a red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*, Appendix II). He is a habitual torturer of birds and other animals. Environmental Crimes Monthly Bulletin, October 2022.<sup>25</sup>

**September 27, 2022**

**Foxborough, State of Massachusetts, United States of America**

Rescue of a red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*, Appendix II), whose right leg was caught in a prohibited leg-hold trap. Norfolk Massachusetts Animal Control and Shelter, September 28, 2022; Boston Globe, November 3, 2022.<sup>26</sup>



**September 2022**

**Kennedy International Airport, State of New York, United States of America**

Three traffickers have been charged with attempting to smuggle 18 finches (*Fringillidae*) from Guyana in April 2022 (5h45 flight). The finches were allegedly purchased for around 50 US\$ each. Ramchandra Kuldip and Chaitram Hubert put them in curlers and packed them in a "Happy Birthday" bag. Basant Doman, a New York airport passenger handler, participated in the smuggling attempt. He helped Chaitram Hubert who was in a wheelchair. All 3 suspects were arrested and released on 10,000-US\$ bail. Last year, another smuggler, Kevin Andre McKenzie, attempted a similar scheme by slipping 35 finches into curlers hidden in his jacket and wrapped around his ankles (see "On the Trail" n°32 p.154). Guyana Times (with New York Daily News), October 22, 2022.<sup>27</sup>

**September 2022**

**Waupaca County, State of Wisconsin, United States of America**

A waterfowl hunter poached a sandhill crane (*Antigone canadensis*, synonymous with *Grus canadensis*, Appendix II). Outdoor News, November 3, 2022.<sup>28</sup>

**September 2022**

**Marathon County, State of Wisconsin, United States of America**

Called in for the possible poaching of a deer, the officers found that he had been killed in accordance with the rules. Nevertheless, they discovered also a complete bird carnage. Among the victims were hawks (*Accipitridae*, Appendix I or II), a sandhill crane (*Antigone canadensis*, synonymous with *Grus canadensis*, Appendix II), songbirds, waterfowl and wild turkeys. Outdoor News, November 3, 2022.<sup>29</sup>

**LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

**ARGENTINA**

**End of July 2022**

**Villa Carlos Paz, Province of Córdoba, Argentina**

The environmental police seized screaming hairy armadillos (*ChaetophRACTUS vellerosus*) and 82 birds in captivity in 2 houses: red-crested cardinals (*Paroaria coronata*, Appendix II), red pileated finches (*Coryphospingus cucullatus*), blue-grey saltators (*Saltator coerulescens*), saffron finches (*Sicalis flaveola*), grassland yellow finches (*Sicalis luteola*), ultramarine grosbeaks (*Cyanocompsa brissonii*), white woodpeckers (*Melanerpes candidus*), rufous-bellied thrushes (*Turdus rufiventris*), chiguanco thrushes (*Turdus chiguanco*), black-backed grosbeaks (*Pheucticus aureoventris*), black-crested finches (*Lophospingus pusillus*), great kiskadees (*Pitangus sulphuratus*), tawny-bellied seedeaters (*Sporophila hypoxantha*), double-collared seedeaters (*Sporophila caerulescens*), rusty-collared seedeaters (*Sporophila collaris*), warbling finches (genus *Poospiza*), shiny cowbirds (*Molothrus bonariensis*), band-tailed seedeaters (*Catamenia analis*) and rufous-collared sparrows (*Zonotrichia capensis*). All the birds were transferred to the Casa Grande Reserve where they will be quarantined and given first aid before being possibly released. La Voz del Interior, August 5, 2022.<sup>30</sup>



# BRAZIL

Seizure of 2,149 birds between July 1 and September 30, 2022



Sources, see page 234, details see page 124





© TV Sudoeste

45 birds including red-cowled cardinals (*Paroaria dominicana*). August 29, 2022. Iguai, State of Bahia



© Polícia Rodoviária Federal

64 blue-fronted amazons (*Amazona aestiva*, Appendix II) and 2 yellow-bellied seedeaters (*Sporophila nigricollis*). September 17, 2022. Tianguá, State of Ceará



© PMA-MS

Blue-winged macaw (*Primolius maracana*, Appendix I) August 10, 2022. Jateí, State of Mato Grosso do Sul



© Polícia Rodoviária Federal

7 double-collared seedeaters (*Sporophila caerulea*) September 13, 2022. São Gonçalo do Abaeté, State of Minas Gerais



© PMA

16 parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II) September 25, 2022. Novo Horizonte do Sul, State of Mato Grosso do Sul



© Ronaldo Bernardi / Agência RBS

105 birds including red-crested cardinals (*Paroaria coronata*). August 26, 2022. State of Rio Grande do Sul

## 2,149 birds seized in Brazil

### Map details

293 green winged saltators (*Saltator similis*)  
 265 double-collared seedeaters (*Sporophila caerulea*)  
 212 ultramarine grosbeaks (*Cyanocopsa brissonii*)  
 202 hooded siskins (*Spinus magellanicus*)  
 126 yellow-bellied seedeaters (*Sporophila nigricollis*)  
 119 red-headed cardinals (genus *Paroaria*)  
 71 blue-fronted amazons (*Amazona aestiva*, Appendix II)  
 70 saffron finches (*Sicalis flaveola*)  
 35 parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II)  
 31 blue-black grassquits (*Volatinia jacarina*)  
 26 chestnut-bellied seed finches (*Oryzoborus angolensis*)  
 24 white-throated seedeaters (*Sporophila albobularis*)  
 20 lined seedeaters (*Sporophila frontalis*)  
 18 great-billed seed finches (*Sporophila maximiliani*)  
 12 lined seedeaters (*Sporophila lineola*)  
 10 monk parakeets (*Myiopsitta monachus*, Appendix II)  
 9 glaucous-blue grosbeaks (*Cyanoloxia glaucocerulea*)  
 9 racket-tailed coquettes (*Discosura longicauda*)  
 9 green-chinned euphonias (*Euphonia chalybea*)  
 9 golden-rumped euphonias (*Euphonia cyanocephala*)  
 9 Java sparrows (*Lonchura oryzivora*, Appendix II)  
 8 red-cowled cardinals (*Paroaria dominicana*)  
 8 thrushes (genus *Turdus*)  
 7 tanagers (genus *Thraupis*)  
 6 chestnut-capped blackbirds (*Chrysomus ruficapillus*)  
 5 common waxbills (*Estrilda astrild*)  
 5 copper seedeaters (*Sporophila bouvreuil*)  
 5 white-necked thrushes (*Turdus albicollis*)  
 5 cocoa thrushes (*Turdus fumigatus*)  
 4 dusky-legged guans (*Penelope obscura*)  
 3 great kiskadees (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)  
 2 blue-and-yellow macaws (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II)  
 2 speckled pigeons (*Columba guinea*)  
 2 blue-winged parrotlets (*Forpus xanthopterygius*, Appendix II)  
 2 toucans (family Ramphastidae)  
 2 white-bellied seedeaters (*Sporophila leucoptera*)  
 1 yellow-faced amazon (*Amazona xanthops*, Appendix II)  
 1 red pileated finch (*Coryphospingus cucullatus*)  
 1 emu (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*)  
 1 violaceous euphonia (*Euphonia violacea*)  
 1 finch (family Fringillidae)  
 1 chopi blackbird (*Gnorimopsar chopi*)  
 1 campo troupial (*Icterus jamacaii*)  
 1 blue-winged macaw (*Primolius maracana*, Appendix I)  
 1 plumbeous seedeater (*Sporophila plumbea*)  
 1 creamy-bellied thrush (*Turdus amaurochalinus*)  
 494 unidentified birds

September 1, 2022

### Arruda Câmara Zoological-Botanical Park (Bica), João Pessoa, State of Paraíba, Brazil

The thieves cut the fences and stole 2 orange-winged amazons (*Amazona amazonica*, Appendix II), 2 blue-winged macaws (*Primolius maracana*, Appendix I), a southern mealy amazon (*Amazona farinosa*, Appendix II), a blue-fronted amazon (*Amazona aestiva*, Appendix II), a blue-headed parrot (*Pionus menstruus*, Appendix II), a red rufous-bellied thrush (*Turdus rufiventris*), 2 tanagers (genus *Thraupis*) and a white-eyed conure (*Aratinga leucophthalma*, Appendix II). Ongoing investigation.

MaisPB, September 7, 2022.<sup>31</sup>

## GUYANA

September 14, 2022

### Cheddi Jagan International Airport, Timehri, Demerara-Mahaica Region, Guyana



Double arrest for drug and songbird trafficking: Unique Sunshine London, 59, wanted to fly to the United States of America with 11.188 kg of cocaine with a retail value of 336,000 US\$. Dhanraj Deochand had checked a bag on behalf of Unique. When he was arrested, customs officials found 6 chestnut-bellied (*Oryzoborus angolensis*) or large-bellied (*Oryzoborus crassirostris*) seed finches concealed in hair curlers on his body. Customs Anti Narcotic Unit, September 16, 2022.<sup>32</sup>

## MEXICO

August 3, 2022

### Tizimín, State of Yucatán, Mexico

A couple on a motorbike were arrested in possession of drugs and juvenile lesser goldfinches (*Spinus psaltria*). The sanction for trafficking threatened wildlife species can on paper go up to 9 years' jail. In real life, trafficking continues.

Diario de Yucatán, August 5, 2022.<sup>33</sup>



**September 2, 2022**

**Tepeaca, State of Puebla, Mexico**

A municipal official wanted to keep for himself 6 parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II) that he had seized instead of handing them over to Profepa as required by procedure. When informed, the NGOs "Tap Ferly" and "Fryda Puebla" put pressure on him. Four birds were already dead and one was one-eyed when a week later the official decided to return them.

El Universal Puebla, September 4, 2022.<sup>34</sup>

**PERU**

**July 20, 2022**

**Ayacucho, Province of Huamanga, Department of Ayacucho, Peru**

Arrest of Luz María Nolas Gómez. She was walking near the main square with an adult blue-and-yellow macaw (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II) in her arms, hidden under a blanket.

Diario Jornada, August 2, 2022.<sup>35</sup>

**Mid-August 2022**

**Province of Ica, Department of Ica, Peru**

Seizure of a red-masked conure (*Aratinga erythrogenys*, Appendix II) on an interprovincial bus on the South Pan-American Highway.

El Popular, August 11, 2022.<sup>36</sup>

**TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

**August 11, 2022**

**Point Fortin, Point Fortin Borough, Trinidad and Tobago**

Mr Jemol Butler was fined a total of 147,000 dollars (20,730 US\$) or in case of non-payment was sentenced to 2,450 days' imprisonment (almost 7 years). He was arrested on South Central Main Road with 98 chestnut-bellied seed finches (*Oryzoborus angolensis*) crammed into small cages in the back seat of his car.

Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries, September 8, 2022.<sup>37</sup>



**CENTRAL ASIA**

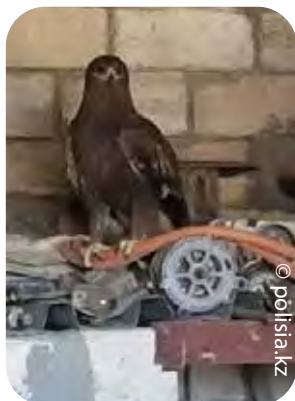
**KAZAKHSTAN**

**September 3, 2022**

**Tupkaragan District, Mangystau Region, Kazakhstan**

Seizure of a golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*, Appendix II) kept in captivity by a resident.

Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, September 7, 2022.<sup>38</sup>



**KYRGYZSTAN**

**July 13, 2022**

**Cholpon-Ata, Issyk-Kul Region, Kyrgyzstan**



Children offer tourists at the resort to have their picture taken with falcons (*Falco* spp., Appendix I or II), golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*, Appendix II) and long-legged buzzards (*Buteo rufinus*, Appendix II). After verification, it appears that the falcons are accompanied by legal documents. However, child labour is still prohibited. The eagles and buzzards were released into the wild and the parents were reminded of the law. If their offspring offend again, they will be punished.

Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision, July 13, 2022; 24.kg, July 14 and 16, 2022.<sup>39</sup>

**July 15, 2022**

**Teploklyuchenka, Issyk-Kul Region, Kyrgyzstan**

Thanks to an anonymous source, a peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I) was seized from the home of a 22-year-old resident. The bird was handed over to a rescue centre.

24.kg, July 15, 2022; Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, July 15, 2022.<sup>40</sup>

**July 30, 2022**

**Sary-Bulun, Issyk-Kul Region, Kyrgyzstan**

Seizure of a steppe eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*, Appendix II) from a 61-year-old man. The bird was handed over to a zoo located 490 km away.

24.kg, July 30, 2022.<sup>41</sup>



**August 25, 2022**  
**Karakol State Nature Park, Issyk-Kul Region,**  
**Kyrgyzstan**



Release of 3 peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I). At the time of their seizure from poachers in 2018, they were exhausted, with broken beaks and legs. They were patiently restored to health over a period of 4 years.

Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision, August 26, 2022.<sup>42</sup>

**September 5, 2022**  
**Bishkek, Chüy Region, Kyrgyzstan**

Residents of Jalal-Abad fined for trying to sell 2 Eurasian sparrowhawks (*Accipiter nisus*, Appendix II) for the equivalent of 5,000 US\$, authorities say. Kaktus, September 6, 2022.<sup>43</sup>



**September 12, 2022**  
**Ak-Sai Valley, Naryn Region, Kyrgyzstan**

Arrest of 5 smugglers who were carrying in their car a peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I) and 5 pigeons (genus *Columba*). They tried to disappear into the steppe, in vain.

Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision, September 13, 2022.<sup>44</sup>

## UZBEKISTAN

**September 9 and 14, 2022**  
**Tashkent Region, Uzbekistan**

Seizure and immediate release of 7 saker falcons (*Falco cherrug*, Appendix II).

Ministry of Natural Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan, September 15, 2022.<sup>45</sup>

## EASTERN ASIA

### CHINA

**August 17, 2022**  
**Hengqin Checkpoint, Zhuhai Prefecture,**  
**Guangdong Province, China**



On the same day, customs seized bird's nests in 2 buses. A total of 30 packages of 400 grams each were found in a central armrest and in a spare wheel.

Gongbei Customs, August 22, 2022.<sup>46</sup>

## SOUTHEASTERN ASIA

### INDONESIA

**July 7, 2022**  
**Kalianda, South Lampung Regency,**  
**Lampung Province, Sumatra Island,**  
**Indonesia**



Alfonso A. Kollho, 42 years old, is sentenced to 2 years in prison and 100 million Indonesian rupiahs (6,736 US\$) in fines or in case of non-payment to 3 months in prison for his involvement in the smuggling of 2,452 birds, including 1,200 Javan mynas (*Acridotheres javanicus*), 510 yellow-vented bulbuls (*Pycnonotus goiavier*), 300 white-eyes (family *Zosteropidae*), 300 bar-winged prinias (*Prinia familiaris*), 275 munias (genus *Lonchura*), 180 purple-throated sunbirds (*Leptocoma sperata*), 60 chestnut-capped laughingthrushes (*Garrulax mitratus*), 45 ashy drongos (*Dicrurus leucophaeus*), 41 blue-masked leafbirds (*Chloropsis venusta*), 20 common flamebacks (*Dinopium javanense*), 15 black-naped orioles (*Oriolus chinensis*), 7 blue-winged leafbirds (*Chloropsis cochinchinensis*), 2 Javan scimitar babblers (*Pomatorhinus montanus*) and a rufous-browed flycatcher (*Anthipes solitaris*). Alfonso A. Kollho was caught on February 1, 2022 driving a Toyota Innova in the port of Bakauheni with the birds packed in 85 white plastic crates and 15 small cardboard boxes.

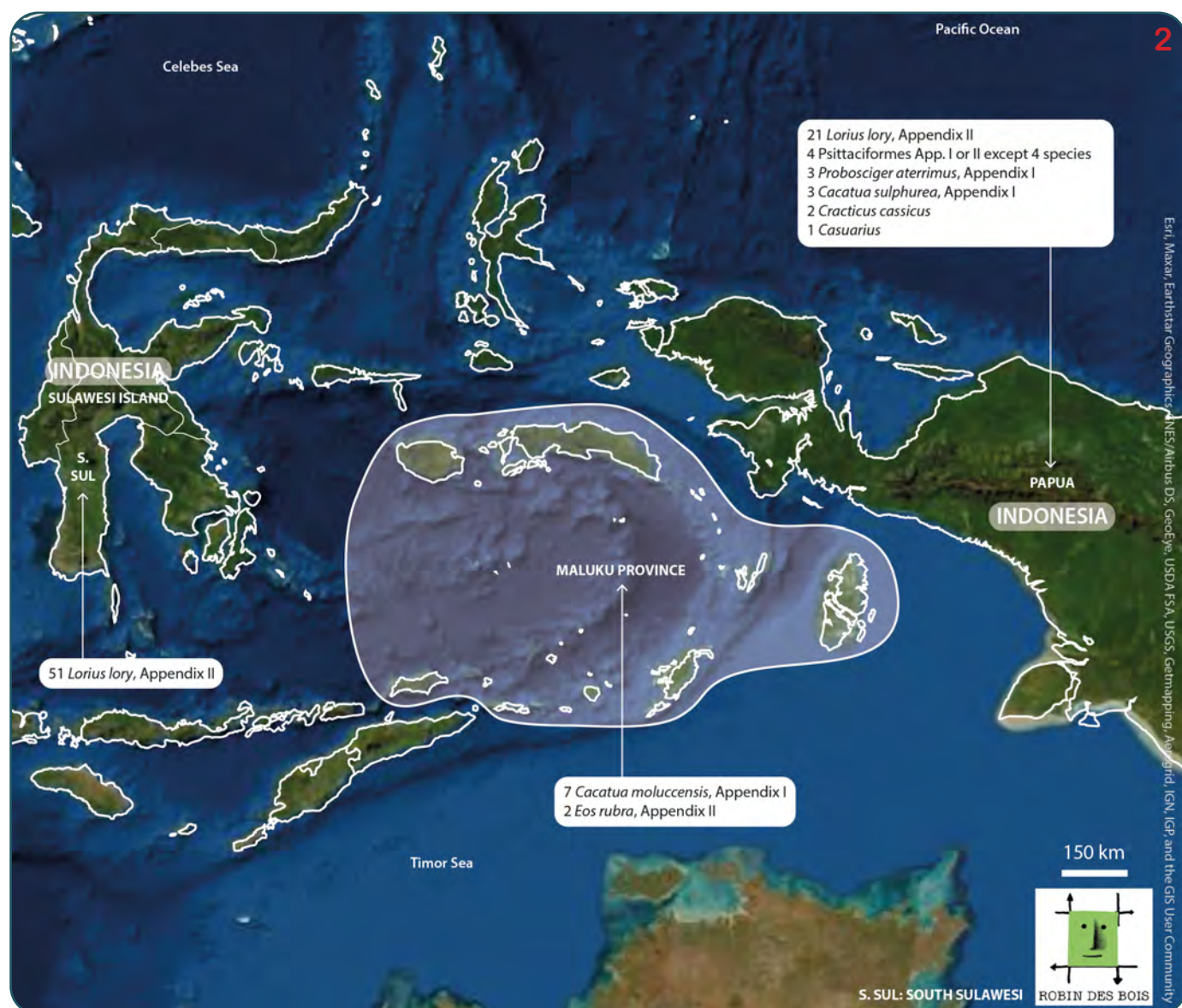
Directory of Decisions - Supreme Court of the Republic of Indonesia, July 7, 2022; FLIGHT – Protecting Indonesia's Birds, July 8, 2022.<sup>47</sup>

## Indonesia. Seizure of 13,002 birds between July 1 and September 30, 2022



Maps sources see page 234, details see page 128





### 13,002 birds seized in Indonesia Map details

2971 purple-throated sunbirds (*Leptocoma sperata*)  
 975 Javan mynas (*Acridotheres javanicus*)  
 886 lesser green leafbirds (*Chloropsis cyanopogon*)  
 855 yellow-vented bulbuls (*Pycnonotus goiavier*)  
 796 greater green leafbirds (*Chloropsis sonnerati*)  
 785 streaked weavers (*Ploceus manyar*)  
 630 bar-winged prinias (*Prinia familiaris*)  
 621 blue-masked leafbirds (*Chloropsis venusta*)  
 582 blue-winged leafbirds (*Chloropsis cochinchinensis*)  
 535 white-eyes (family Zosteropidae)  
 507 ashy tailorbirds (*Orthotomus ruficeps*)  
 310 Java sparrows (*Lonchura oryzivora*, Appendix II)  
 256 cinereous tits (*Parus cinereus*)  
 240 green leafbirds (*Chloropsis cyanopogon* or *C. sonnerati*)  
 219 Sangkar white-eyes (*Zosterops melanurus*)  
 178 long-tailed shrikes (*Lanius schach*)  
 134 hanging parrots (*Loriculus* spp., Appendix II)  
 126 zebra doves (*Geopelia striata*)  
 126 hill mynas (*Gracula religiosa*, Appendix II)  
 108 baya weavers (*Ploceus philippinus*)  
 100 crimson sunbirds (*Aethopyga siparaja*)  
 95 blue-crowned hanging parrot (*Loriculus galgulus*, App. II)  
 87 olive-winged bulbuls (*Pycnonotus plumosus*)  
 82 black-capped lorries (*Lorius lory*, Appendix II)  
 75 fulvous-chested jungle flycatchers (*Cyornis olivaceus*)  
 75 crested jays (*Platylophus galericulatus*)  
 70 orange-headed thrushes (*Geokichla citrina*)

63 Malayan black magpies (*Platysmus leucopterus*)  
 60 black-naped orioles (*Oriolus chinensis*)  
 54 Asian fairy-bluebirds (*Irena puella*)  
 40 flycatchers (family Muscipidae)  
 40 Javan scimitar babblers (*Pomatorhinus montanus*)  
 32 mangrove blue flycatchers (*Cyornis rufigastra*)  
 31 white-rumped shamas (*Copsychus malabaricus*)  
 30 olive-backed sunbirds (*Cinnyris jugularis*)  
 30 Sunda laughingthrushes (*Garrulax palliatus*)  
 22 tailorbirds (genus *Orthotomus*)  
 20 sunbirds (family Nectariniidae)  
 20 magpie-robins (genus *Copsychus*)  
 17 Oriental magpie-robins (*Copsychus saularis*)  
 15 drongos (family Dicuridae)  
 15 Sunda bulbuls (*Ixos virescens*)  
 13 yellow-crested cockatoos (*Cacatua sulphurea*, App. I)  
 13 palm cockatoos (*Probosciger aterrimus*, Appendix I)  
 11 chestnut-crested yuhinas (*Yuhina everetti*, syn. *Staphida everetti*)  
 10 eclectus parrots (*Eclectus roratus*, Appendix II)  
 10 Van Hasselt's sunbirds (*Leptocoma brasiliana*)  
 10 birds of paradise (Paradisaeidae, Appendix II)  
 7 salmon-crested cockatoos (*Cacatua moluccensis*, App. I)  
 5 sooty-headed bulbuls (*Pycnonotus aurigaster*)  
 4 psittaciformes (Appendix I or II except 4 species)  
 2 hooded butcherbirds (*Cracticus cassicus*)  
 2 red lorries (*Eos rubra*, Appendix II)  
 1 brown-cheeked bulbul (*Alophoixus bres*)  
 1 cassowary (genus *Casuarius*)





34 birds including 3 palm cockatoos (*Probosciger aterrimus*, Appendix I), 21 black-capped lorries (*Lorius lory*, Appendix II) and 3 yellow-crested cockatoos (*Cacatua sulphurea*, Appendix I). July 26, 2022. Port of Jayapura, Papua Province, New Guinea Island. Border with Papua New Guinea.



7 salmon-crested cockatoos (*Cacatua moluccensis*, Appendix I) including a dead one. September 14, 2022. Yos Sudarso Port, Ambon, Maluku Province, Maluku Archipelago



420 birds including sangkar white-eyes (*Zosterops melanurus*). August 13, 2022. Port of Banyuwangi, Banyuwangi Regency, East Java Province, Java Island

July 11, 2022

**Cyclops Mountains and near Nimboran, Papua Province, New Guinea Island, Indonesia**

- Release in the Cyclops Mountains of 3 palm cockatoos (*Probosciger aterrimus*, Appendix I), 2 black-capped lorries (*Lorius lory*, Appendix II), 2 magnificent riflebirds (*Ptiloris magnificus*, Appendix II) and 4 lesser birds-of-paradise (*Paradisaea minor*, Appendix II).



Lesser bird-of-paradise

- Release near Nimboran of 2 twelve-wired birds-of-paradise (*Seleucidis melanoleucus*, Appendix II). All these birds had been seized on May 23, 2022. Antara News, July 11, 2022.<sup>48</sup>



Twelve-wired bird-of-paradise

July 22 and September 27, 2022

**Port of Bakauheni, South Lampung Regency, Lampung Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia**



Reza Fahlepi, 35, and Rizki Efendi, 21, were sentenced to 2 years in prison and fined 10 million Indonesian rupiahs (675 US\$) for attempting to smuggle 587 birds, including lesser green leafbirds (*Chloropsis cyanopogon*), blue-masked leafbirds (*Chloropsis venusta*) and ashy tailorbirds (*Orthotomus ruficeps*), to Java Island. The birds were packed into 12 white plastic crates and 10 small cardboard boxes in a Suzuki. Reza and Rizki Efendi were paid 1.4 million Indonesian rupiahs (93 US\$) for the transport to Cikande, 88 km away. The birds were reportedly released on the day of the seizure. FLIGHT – Protecting Indonesia's Birds, July 24, 25 and October 3, 2022; SINDOnews, July 31, 2022.<sup>49</sup>

August 6 and October 25, 2022

**North Tapanuli Regency, North Sumatra Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia**



Sulaiman was arrested in possession of a very special package. It contained 10 helmeted hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*, Appendix I) beaks with an estimated total value of 500 million Indonesian rupiahs or 33,500 US\$. He was sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment and a fine of one million Indonesian rupiahs (66 US\$) or, in case of non-payment, an additional month in jail.

FLIGHT – Protecting Indonesia's Birds, August 9 and November 1, 2022; The Jakarta Post, August 10, 2022; Directory of Decisions - Supreme Court of the Republic of Indonesia, October 25, 2022.<sup>50</sup>

August 29, 2022

**Baluran National Park, Situbondo Regency, East Java Province, Indonesia**

Release of 8 green peafowls (*Pavo muticus*, Appendix II) seized or handed over to authorities. Tribun Jogja, August 30, 2022.<sup>51</sup>

September 8, 2022

**Tahura Sultan Adam Forest, Banjar Regency, South Kalimantan Province, Indonesia**

Release of 486 birds rescued from wildlife trafficking: 306 greater green leafbirds (*Chloropsis sonnerati*), 13 blue-crowned hanging parrots (*Loriculus galgulus*, Appendix II), 2 crested jays (*Platylophus galericulatus*), 19 lesser green leafbirds (*Chloropsis cyanopogon*), 102 hill mynas (*Gracula religiosa*, Appendix II), 19 olive-winged bulbuls (*Pycnonotus plumosus*), a mangrove blue flycatcher (*Cyornis rufigastra*), 3 white-rumped shamas (*Copsychus malabaricus*, Appendix II), 11 Oriental magpie-robins (*Copsychus saularis*), 9 chestnut-crested yuhinas (*Yuhina everetti*, synonymous with *Staphida everetti*) and an Asian fairy-bluebird (*Irena puella*). The seizure took place in the port of Tanjung Perak on the island of Java.

Directorate General of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Conservation, September 15, 2022; Antara News, September 16, 2022.<sup>52</sup>



## PHILIPPINES

**June 13 and August 3, 2022**

**Kiamba, Province of Sarangani, Philippines**

- In January 2021, a Philippine eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*, Appendix I) with a severe gunshot wound was rescued. On June 13, 2022, it was released with a GPS collar in the Busa Mountains.

- A juvenile crested serpent eagle (*Spilornis cheela*, Appendix II) was extracted from a trap by a local resident, handed over to the authorities, examined by vets and released the same day.

Province of Sarangani, June 15, 2022; Philippine News Agency, August 3, 2022.<sup>53</sup>



Crested serpent eagle

## THAILAND

**REPEATED OFFENCE**

**July 24, 2022**

**Bangkok, Thailand**



Seizure of 575 red-whiskered bulbuls (*Pycnonotus jocosus*), 2 black-collared starlings (*Gracupica nigricollis*) and 3 white-crested laughingthrushes (*Garrulax leucolophus*) crammed into boxes in a truck in the bus station car park. The driver confessed to regularly carrying out convoys on behalf of M.A. and to being paid an average of 3,000 baht (85.4 US\$). In May, he had already been arrested.

Matichon, July 24, 2022.<sup>54</sup>

**August 31, 2022**

**Bangkok, Thailand**

The public park on Kamphaeng Phet 2 Road is a hot spot for wildlife trafficking. The authorities checked the van of Mr. Anuwat Sangwiset parked nearby. Under the plastic sheeting, there were 5 boxes containing 270 red-whiskered bulbuls (*Pycnonotus jocosus*).

Nation Online, August 31, 2022.<sup>55</sup>

## VIET NAM

**End of July 2022**

**Thanh Hoa Province, Viet Nam**

The crested serpent eagle (*Spilornis cheela*, Appendix II) had been bought by a kind soul from a street vendor who then handed it over to the competent authorities. The raptor was released into the Pu Hu Nature Reserve.

ENV, July 25, 2022.<sup>56</sup>

**August 3, 2022**

**Phu Tho Province, Viet Nam**

ENV's awareness campaign on television was successful. After an alert on the hotline, the Forest Protection Department went to the scene and found a crested serpent eagle (*Spilornis cheela*, Appendix II) tied to its perch by a rope. It was released.

ENV, August 3, 2022.<sup>57</sup>

## SOUTHERN ASIA

### AFGHANISTAN

**September 1, 2022**

**Herat Province, Afghanistan**

Seizure of 59 birds at a market, including falcons (*Falco* spp., Appendix I or II), northern goshawks (*Accipiter gentilis*, Appendix II), European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine), bimaculated larks (*Melanocorypha bimaculata*), mynas (family Sturnidae) and corvids (family Corvidae). They were released into the wild with the cooperation of local people.

National Environmental Protection Agency, September 1, 2022.<sup>58</sup>

**September 7, 2022**

**Bamyan Province, Afghanistan**

Release of 2 falcons (*Falco* spp., Appendix I or II) by a delegation of the National Environmental Protection Agency.

National Environmental Protection Agency, September 7, 2022.<sup>59</sup>

**September 15, 2022**

**Band-e Amir National Park, Bamyan Province, Afghanistan**

Arrest of 8 poachers in possession of 10 live falcons (*Falco* spp., Appendix I or II).

National Environmental Protection Agency, September 15, 2022.<sup>60</sup>



September 17, 2022  
Jowzjan Province, Afghanistan



Release of 51 falcons (*Falco* spp., Appendix I and II) rescued from trafficking. National Environmental Protection Agency, September 17, 2022.<sup>61</sup>

## BANGLADESH

July 22, 2022  
Dhaka, Dhaka District, Dhaka Division, Bangladesh



A hill myna (*Gracula religiosa*, Appendix II), a black-winged kite (*Elanus caeruleus*, Appendix II), 32 rose-ringed parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*), 17 common mynas (*Acridotheres tristis*) and 9 doves (family Columbidae) were released in the National Botanical Gardens on the same day they were seized from the Mirpur bird market. The Daily Star (Bangladesh), July 22, 2022.<sup>62</sup>

## INDIA

August 18, 2022  
Hinganghat, Wardha District, State of Maharashtra, India



The Ganesh Chaturthi festival is approaching and feather sales are exploding. A tip-off from local naturalists led to the seizure of more than 2,000 Indian peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*, Appendix III in Pakistan) feathers sold by a young man from Agra, 1,000 km from the festival. In 2019, an investigation had already brought to light the smuggling network of feathers from peafowls poached with poisoned seeds between Agra and Nagpur, 75 km from Hinganghat. Loopholes in regulation facilitate this trafficking. Indian peafowl is a Schedule-I bird under the Wildlife Protection Act (WPA) 1972, but the law provides exemptions. Killing a peafowl is therefore prohibited, but collecting, transporting, trading and possessing their feathers is not. There is no traceability of "collected" feather stocks and this allows the laundering of poached peafowl's feathers.

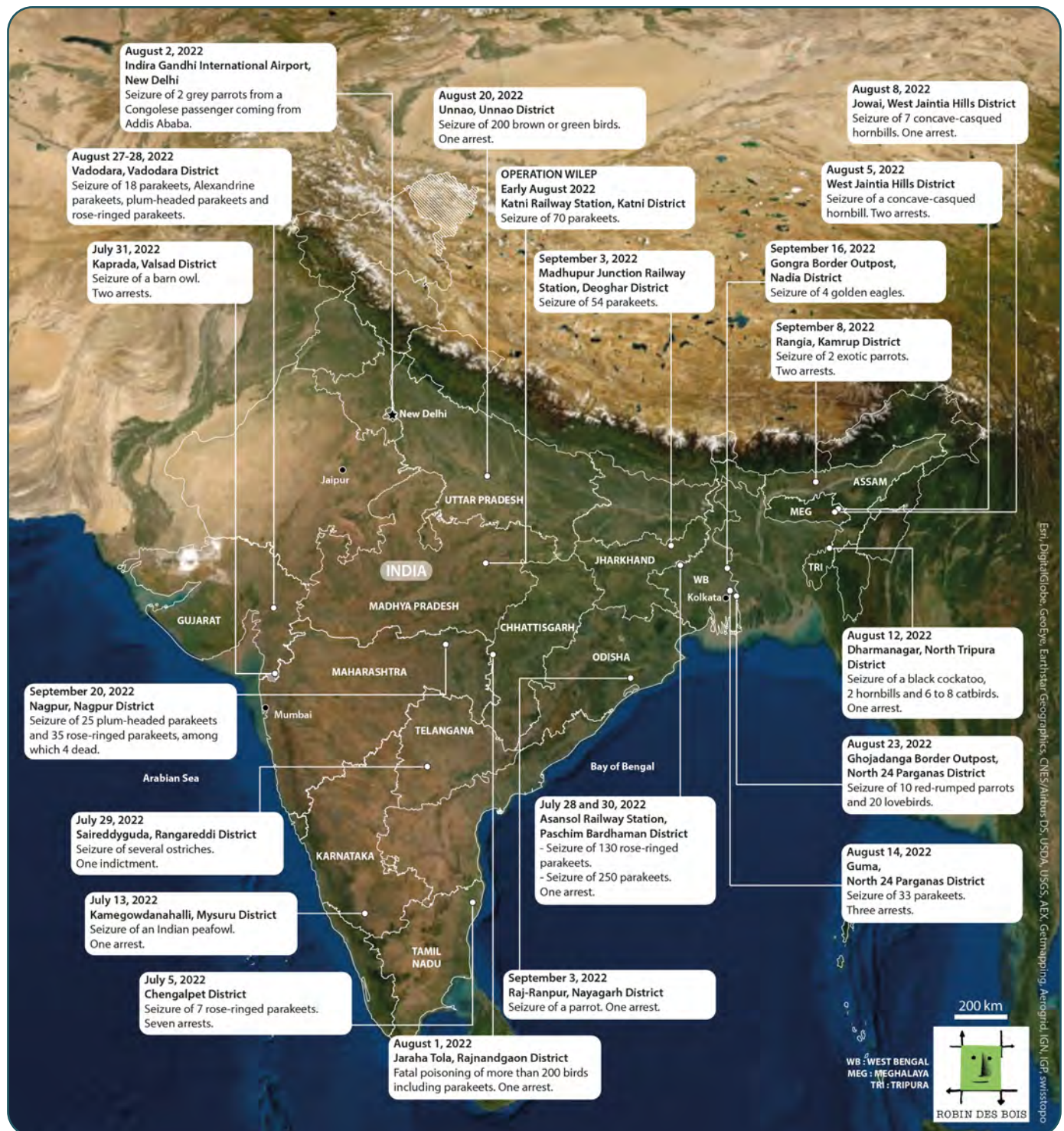
The Times of India, August 20, 2022.<sup>63</sup>

### Poaching and seizures of birds in India Map details

470 parrots or parakeets (*Psittaciformes*, Appendix I or II except 4 species)  
182 rose-ringed parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*)  
29 plum-headed parakeets (*Psittacula cyanocephala*, Appendix II)  
20 lovebirds (*Agapornis* spp., Appendix II except *Agapornis roseicollis*)  
10 red-rumped parrots (*Psephotus haematonotus*, Appendix II)  
8 concave-casqued hornbills (*Buceros bicornis*, Appendix I)  
4 golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*, Appendix II)  
4 Alexandrine parakeets (*Psittacula eupatria*, Appendix II)  
3 ostriches (*Struthio camelus*, Appendix I in 12 countries)  
2 grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*, Appendix I)  
2 hornbills (family Bucerotidae)  
1 cockatoo (Cacatuidae, Appendix I or II)  
1 barn owl (*Tyto alba*, Appendix II)  
1 Indian peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*, Appendix III in Pakistan)  
200 unidentified birds



## India. Poaching and seizures of birds between July 1 and September 30, 2022



Sources, see page 234, details, see page 132.



## IRAN

### Beginning of August 2022

#### Rudbar, Gilan Province, Iran

A poacher was arrested in possession of 3 European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine), cages and nets. The birds were released. Irib News Agency, August 9, 2022.<sup>64</sup>

### September 2022

#### Semirom, Isfahan Province, Iran

- Arrest of 2 poachers with 4 falcons (*Falco* spp., Appendix I or II) that they wanted to sell in Middle Eastern countries for more than one billion rials (23,810 US\$) each.

- Arrest of 14 poachers and accomplices and seizure of 13 European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine) and hunting weapons. Fars News Agency, September 23, 2022.<sup>65</sup>

## PAKISTAN

### July 4, 2022

#### Baidara, Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan

During a police check at a road junction, a black kite (*Milvus migrans*, Appendix II) was seized from a vehicle.

UrduPoint, July 4, 2022.<sup>66</sup>

### July 27, 2022

#### Abbottabad, Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan

Arrest of a smuggler in possession of a peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I) and sentencing to a fine of 110,000 rupees (529 US\$).

The Express Tribune (with AAP), July 28, 2022.<sup>67</sup>



### Mid-August 2022

#### Karachi, Province of Sindh, Pakistan

Seizure of 75 parakeets (*Psittacidae*, Appendix I or II except 4 species) from a vehicle checked at a toll booth. They were allegedly caught with a net heading towards Bahawalpur, more than 800 km away. The trader has been taken into custody. Three species of parakeets live in Pakistan: plum-headed parakeets (*Psittacula cyanocephala*), Alexandrine parakeets (*Psittacula eupatria*) and slaty-headed parakeets (*Psittacula himalayana*), all of which are listed in CITES Appendix II.

The Express Tribune, August 21, 2022.<sup>68</sup>

### August 21, 2022

#### Dera Ismail Khan, Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan

During a control of vehicles at the Indus bridge checkpoint between Dera and Darya Khan, 15 laggar falcons (*Falco jugger*, Appendix I) were seized. They were coming from Punjab 220 km away. Muhammad Kabir, resident of Malakhel, will have to answer for his actions in court. The birds have been handed over to the city's wildlife park pending their hoped release.

UrduPoint, August 22, 2022.<sup>69</sup>

### August 25, 2022

#### Torkham Border Post, Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. Border with Afghanistan.



A foiled smuggling attempt: 4 falcons (*Falco* spp., Appendix I or II) were seized from the luggage of a pedestrian wishing to travel to Afghanistan. He was released after paying a fine. Ahmadnabishinwari's Blog, August 26, 2022; The Nation (Pakistan), August 26, 2022.<sup>70</sup>

### September 1, 2022

#### Torkham Border Post, Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. Border with Afghanistan.



Customs arrest of Ghulam Mustafa, a truck driver. He was trying to smuggle 7 falcons (*Falco* spp., Appendix I or II) into Afghanistan, destination Kabul.

Ahmadnabishinwari's Blog, September 3, 2022.<sup>71</sup>

### September 2022 Pakistan

Continuation of the dramatic case of the torture and murder of Nazim Jokhio, a young activist opposed to the poaching of houbara bustards (*Chlamydotis undulata*, Appendix I) and to the privileges offered to the notables of the Persian Gulf (see "On the Trail" n°34 p. 8 and n°35 p. 131). MP Jam Awais, his guards and servants (Haider Ali, Meer Ali, Muhammad Mairaj, Mohammad Saleem Salar, Mohammad Doda Khan, Ahmed Khan Shoro and Mohammad Soomar) were booked and detained before being released on bail. But the chances of the influential politician being convicted are receding. The court objected to the hearing of a key witness, who received a WhatsApp voicemail from his friend Nazim that he had been kidnapped and was being held at the MP's home. The widow's lawyer confirms that she "had already reached an out-of-court settlement with the MPA [...] and did not have objection if he was acquitted and released in the case". Dawn, September 5, 2022.<sup>72</sup>



**Beginning of September 2022**  
**District of Sialkot, Province of Punjab,**  
**Pakistan. Border with India.**



Arrest of 3 poachers and fine of 50,000 rupees (230 US\$) for Anwar Haq, Farid Ahmed and Ishaq. They were poaching migratory birds with nets on the banks of the Chenab River and had already captured 5 falcons (*Falco* spp., Appendix I or II). The birds of prey were released. Dawn, September 11, 2022.<sup>73</sup>

**Mid-September 2022**  
**Province of Punjab, Pakistan**

In one week, 123 poachers of falcons (Falconidae, Appendix I or II), pigeons and quails were fined. However, poaching is on the increase and some wildlife officers are said to be key links in networks. The low fines are not a deterrent, while the value of a falcon is reaching 45,000 US\$ in Qatar and neighbouring countries. The Express Tribune, September 24, 2022.<sup>74</sup>

**WESTERN ASIA**

**CYPRUS**

**September 4, 2022**  
**Pyla, Larnaca District, Cyprus**



Greek Cypriot arrested and released on bail. He had been caught retrieving a Eurasian blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*, Appendix III in Ukraine) caught in one of his nets. Nearby, police also found a decoy and 9 recently killed blackcaps. Cyprus Mail, September 8, 2022.<sup>75</sup>

**REPEATED OFFENCE**  
**Beginning of September 2022**  
**Famagusta District, Cyprus**



Two indictments in a few days.  
 - A woman was setting limesticks. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time she has been caught.  
 - A man was about to kill a warbler trapped by lime. To attract his victims, he used an electronic decoy. Committee Against Bird Slaughter, September 12, 2022.<sup>76</sup>



**REPEATED OFFENCE**  
**September 19, 2022**  
**Ayia Napa, Famagusta District, Cyprus**



The repeat poacher was in the Committee Against Bird Slaughter's sights. The high intensity electronic decoy on the roof of his house did not go unnoticed. Officers were alerted and found 18 limesticks in his garden, a carpet of feathers on the ground and 2 freshly killed willow warblers (*Phylloscopus trochilus*). The man faces a 2,000 € fine. Committee Against Bird Slaughter, September 20, 2022.<sup>77</sup>

**September 2022**  
**Soros Lake, Meneou, Larnaca District, Cyprus**



An increasing number of protected birds are being injured or shot around the lake, such as Eurasian hobbies (*Falco subbuteo*, Appendix II), Eurasian golden orioles (*Oriolus oriolus*, Appendix III in Ukraine), crested larks (*Galerida cristata*, Appendix III in Ukraine), European rollers (*Coracias garrulus*) and bee-eaters (family Meropidae). BirdLife and CABS are calling on the authorities to close the site to all hunting. The NGOs also point to the contamination of the wetland by lead from the cartridges and the presence of a residential area nearby. BirdLife Cyprus, September 27, 2022.<sup>78</sup>

## ISRAEL

**August 14, 2022**

### **Hadera, Haifa District, Israel**

The search of the home of a young man suspected of illegally keeping wild animals led to the seizure of a short-toed eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*, Appendix II) shut up in a cage. It could be released after veterinary examination.

Israel Nature and Parks Authority, August 14, 2022.<sup>79</sup>

## LIBAN

**August 2022**

### **South Lebanon**

Seizure of 3 Egyptian vultures (*Neophron percnopterus*, Appendix II) illegally held in a zoo. If their rewilding goes well, they will be released.

Flight for Survival, August 24, 2022.<sup>80</sup>

**September 14, 2022**

### **Near Dakoue, Beqaa Governorate, Lebanon**

The information received was good. The authorities apprehended 2 falcon (*Falco* spp., Appendix I or II) poachers in the act. They were trapping them with decoys such as live pigeons. Three falcons were rescued.

Committee Against Bird Slaughter, September 15, 2022.<sup>81</sup>



**September 17, 2022**

### **Aghbeh, Mount Lebanon Governorate, Lebanon**

In this peak migration period, patrols are chasing poachers and often arrive too late. The remains of about 20 honey buzzards (*Pernis apivorus*, Appendix II) were found in the wake of a group of fugitives, electronic calls for Eurasian blackcaps (*Sylvia atricapilla*, Appendix III in Ukraine) and bee-eaters (family Meropidae) in the wake of 2 other groups.

Committee Against Bird Slaughter, September 18, 2022.<sup>82</sup>

**September 21, 2022**

### **Near Memnaa, Akkar Governorate, Lebanon**

Arrest of 3 poachers in possession of 40 dead birds, including lesser-spotted eagles (*Aquila pomarina*, Appendix II), honey buzzards (*Pernis apivorus*, Appendix II), levant sparrowhawks (*Accipiter brevipes*, Appendix II), kestrels (*Falco* spp., Appendix I or II) and common buzzards (*Buteo buteo*, Appendix II). The police had been alerted by CABS (Committee Against Bird Slaughter), SPNL (Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon) and MESHC (Middle East Sustainable Hunting Center) with video evidence.

Committee Against Bird Slaughter, September 22, 2022.<sup>83</sup>

**End of September 2022**

### **Ras Baalbek, Baalbek-Hermel Governorate, Lebanon. Border with Syria.**

Arrest of 3 men who had set 150 limesticks and electronic decoys. They had already killed 227 Spanish sparrows (*Passer hispaniolensis*). About 50 survivors were released. On the black market, the sparrows sell for between 15 and 20 US\$ per 20 birds.

Committee Against Bird Slaughter, September 30, 2022.<sup>84</sup>





## UNITED KINGDOM (CYPRUS)

**September 14 and 21, 2022**

**Sovereign Base Area of Dhekelia, Cyprus Island, United Kingdom**

In one week, 7 individuals were arrested for illegal bird trapping, 3 of them with 22 dead birds and trapping devices in a field, 4 with 27 dead birds and trapping devices in an orchard. Cyprus Mail, October 6, 2022.<sup>85</sup>



## NORTHERN EUROPE

### IRELAND

**July 11, 2022**

**Carlow, County Carlow, Ireland**

Mr. Christopher Thomas Noel Doyle, a farmer, was found guilty of poisoning a sheep carcass with carbofuran, causing the death of at least 2 common buzzards (*Buteo buteo*, Appendix II) and a common raven (*Corvus corax*). A forest ranger had discovered the carcasses near a fox den. Doyle's advanced age saved him from prison. He will have to pay a fine of 500 € (525 US\$) and court costs of 1,500 € (1,575 US\$) within 4 months. National Parks and Wildlife Service, July 13, 2022; The Irish Times, July 13, 2022.<sup>86</sup>



## UNITED KINGDOM

**July 15, 2022**

**County of Merseyside, England, United Kingdom**

Seizure of a peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I) in an aviary. Raptor Persecution UK, July 17, 2022.<sup>87</sup>

**July 22, 2022**

**Alton, Hampshire County, England, United Kingdom**

An investigation was launched following the discovery of 2 dead birds of prey with broken necks. At first glance, they appear to be either common buzzards (*Buteo buteo*, Appendix II) or red kites (*Milvus milvus*, Appendix II). Alton Herald, July 27, 2022.<sup>88</sup>

**August 10, 2022**

**Hastings, East Sussex County, England, United Kingdom**

Tyler Earwaker, age 22, was banned for life from dealing in, keeping, transporting, or arranging transport for any type of bird or wildfowl. He was also sentenced to 100 hours community service, fined 95 £ (115 US\$) and ordered to pay 85 £ (100 US\$) court costs. He is prohibited from entering private land without the owner's written permission. On January 23, 2022, the Rural Crime Team discovered a caged European goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine) at his home. Despite veterinary treatment, the bird died 10 days later. Sussex Police, August 15, 2022.<sup>89</sup>



**August 2022**

**Bridgend, Bridgend County Borough, Wales, United Kingdom**

The poisoning of a pigeon carcass with bendiocarb caused the death of 2 common buzzards (*Buteo buteo*, Appendix II). The authorities issued a statement 7 months after the event.

Raptor Persecution UK, March 9, 2023.<sup>90</sup>



**September 3, 2022**

**Stapleford Abbots, Essex County, England, United Kingdom**

A red kite (*Milvus milvus*, Appendix II) is in care. It was shot in Epping Forest. Raptor Persecution UK, September 7, 2022.<sup>91</sup>

**September 20, 2022**

**Reading, Berkshire County, England, United Kingdom**



The 5-year-old pair of blue-and-yellow macaws (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II) were domesticated but sometimes flew freely up to 40 km from their "home" before returning. The female never returned. It was shot with a pellet rifle or shotgun. Reading Chronicle, September 29, 2022.<sup>92</sup>



## WESTERN EUROPE

### GERMANY

#### Beginning of July 2022

##### Saxony State, Germany

European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine) for sale on Ebay. The authorities were alerted, and a complaint was filed. Ebay facilitates wildlife trafficking.

Committee Against Bird Slaughter, July 12, 2022.<sup>93</sup>

ebay

#### Beginning of August 2022

##### Soest, North Rhine-Westphalia State, Germany

Poisoning of an adult female red kite (*Milvus milvus*, Appendix II) with parathion, one of the most dangerous organophosphate insecticides.

Committee Against Bird Slaughter, October 5, 2022.<sup>94</sup>



#### September 10, 2022

##### Rheine, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. Border with the Netherlands.

At 10:30 p.m., a Turkish-registered van is inspected on Autobahn 30 at the Rheine-Kanalhafen junction. On board were 33 crates with 112 birds, including white cockatoos (*Cacatua alba*, Appendix II) and roseate cockatoos (*Eolophus roseicapilla*, Appendix II) and 4 squirrels (genus *Sciurus*). 55 birds are believed to have certificates of origin. An investigation has been opened against the 2 Turkish smugglers, aged 41 and 57. The birds have been entrusted to 2 animal rescue centers.

Bad Bentheim Federal Police Inspectorate, September 12, 2022.<sup>95</sup>

#### Mid-September 2022

##### Neustadt (Wied), Rhineland-Palatinate State, Germany

A poultry farmer attacked a goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*, Appendix II) by beating it with a shovel in his garden before asking his 10-year-old son to finish it off. A hunter interrupted the inter-generational carnage and took the raptor to a rescue center. It had to be finished off.

Committee Against Bird Slaughter, September 19, 2022.<sup>96</sup>



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#### End of September 2022

##### Leutershausen, Bavaria State, Germany

New discovery of a red kite (*Milvus milvus*, Appendix II) poisoned with pentobarbital. A similar case was reported less than 40 km away in April 2022 (see "On the Trail" n° 36 p. 145). Landesbund für Vogel- und Naturschutz Ansbach, September 29, 2022.<sup>97</sup>



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#### September 2022

##### Lower Bavaria District, Bavaria State, and Baden-Württemberg State, Germany

New poisoning of a northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*, Appendix II) and several other raptors (Falconiformes, Appendix I or II). Committee Against Bird Slaughter, October 5, 2022.<sup>98</sup>



### AUSTRIA

#### Beginning of September 2022

##### Guntersdorf, Lower Austria State, Austria

A maniac or a gang of inebriated hunters defied the all-season ban on shooting birds of prey. On a few hectares of meadow, the rescuers picked up 12 dead or wounded birds of prey, 6 common buzzards (*Buteo buteo*, Appendix II), 5 marsh harriers (*Circus aeruginosus*, Appendix II), and a Montagu's harrier (*Circus pygargus*, Appendix II).

BirdLife Österreich, November 22, 2022; ORF, November 22, 2022.<sup>99</sup>

### FRANCE

#### July 14 2022

##### Bar-sur-Seine, Department of Aube, France

Discovery of a vandalized nest of Montagu's harrier (*Circus pygargus*, Appendix II). Four chicks were trampled to death in the field. A second nest is empty. The LPO, whose volunteers had been monitoring these nests for weeks, has lodged a complaint and reminds us that hen harriers are invaluable crop auxiliaries. A family with 4 chicks consumes between 700 and 900 voles in a single breeding season.

L'Est Eclair, July 16, 2022.<sup>100</sup>

**August 3, 2022**

**Waller- Arenberg, Departement of Nord, France**

Successful OFB search: seizure of 8 European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine) and one arrest.

L'Avenir de l'Artois, August 5 and 8, 2022.<sup>101</sup>

**August 17, 2022**

**Montpellier, Department of Hérault, France**

During a coordinated operation by the municipal, national and air and border police against drug trafficking and tobacco smuggling, officers seized 3 European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine) from a fast-food restaurant. Métropolitain, August 18, 2022; Midi Libre, August 18, 2022.<sup>102</sup>

**August 22, 2022**

**Department of Isère, France**

A short-toed eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*, Appendix II) was wounded by lead shot and taken in by Le Tichodrome wildlife center. The provisional balance of protected birds collected in 8 months of 2022 equals that of the whole of 2021.

Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux, August 26, 2022.<sup>103</sup>

## **FAMILY AFFAIRS**

**September 21, 2022**

**Troyes, Department of Aube, France**

Kévin S. sentenced to an 8-month suspended prison sentence and Beverly C. to 140 hours of community service for having captured great tits (*Parus major*) and Eurasian blue tits (*Cyanistes caeruleus*) near a travellers' camp at Le Trou-aux-Chênes in Romilly-sur-Seine, using mist nets purchased on the Internet. Next to their caravan, a common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*, Appendix II) with its legs bound was seized. The operation is credited to the OFB.

L'Est Eclair, September 24, 2022.<sup>104</sup>

**September 26, 2022**

**Châteauroux, Department of Indre, France**

A farmer in the commune of Villegouin was sentenced to a suspended fine of 1,000 €. He had refused to install protection around 2 Montagu's harriers (*Circus pygargus*, Appendix II) nests before harvesting one of his fields (see "On the Trail" n°33 p.177). He then informed the OFB of the discovery of 3 dead chicks.

Montagu's Harrier in France, see also "On the Trail" n°36, p.148.

La Nouvelle République, September 30, 2022.<sup>105</sup>

**September 26, 2022**

**Toulon, Department of Var, France**

Max A., age 77, retired farmer, was sentenced in the first instance to a 6-month suspended prison sentence, a heavy fine of 25,000 € (25,090 US\$), a ban on possessing weapons, confiscation of all seals and publication of the court decision in the magazine Le Chasseur Français. Max A. was also ordered to pay each of the 4 associations for the protection of nature that had joined the civil action the sum of 3,000 € (3,010 US\$) for non-material damage.

An anonymous letter had alerted the authorities, naming him as "one of the biggest bird poachers in the Var". "He was said to have 3 500-liter freezers filled with 45,000 birds. OFB agents therefore organised several surveillance operations in Revest-les-Eaux between October 2021 and January 2022, and located 4 trapping zones. His main victims, European robins (*Erithacus rubecula*, Appendix III in Ukraine) and other small passerines, were baited with flying ants and killed with small leghold traps. The diabolically effective technique was apparently passed on to him by his grandfather. Investigators estimated the number of birds caught per day at 160, i.e. between 5,000 and 12,800 per year. When his home was searched on February 3, 2022, dozens of traps were seized, along with some 50 frozen European robins. The pensioner claims it's for personal consumption but doesn't convince anyone. The local tradition of eating "rigaou" (Provençal name for robin) during the festive season is long-lived. A skewer of 6 can be sold for the princely sum of 30 € (30.1 US\$).

Var-Matin, September 27, 2022; French Biodiversity Agency, September 29, 2022; ASPAS, October 5, 2022.<sup>106</sup>

## **THE NETHERLANDS**

**August 11 and 24, 2022**

**Eemsdelta, Province of Groningen, The Netherlands**

Two people fined 500 € (505 US\$). They had set up a large cage trap and baited the birds of prey with dead pigeons. Seizure of 2 common buzzards (*Buteo buteo*, Appendix II). The survivor was released, and the trap destroyed.

District Officer Alwin Siegersma, August 11, 2022.<sup>107</sup>



© Wijkagent Alwin Siegersma



## SOUTHERN EUROPE

### CROATIA

**September 5, 2022**

#### **Novalja, Lika-Senj County, Croatia**

A 58-year-old man is charged with the capture of 16 European goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine) between November 2021 and February 2022. Most of the birds were released back into the wild.

01Portal, September 5, 2022; Lika-Senj Police Department, September 5, 2022.<sup>108</sup>

**September 22, 2022**

#### **Dubrovnik, Dubrovnik-Neretva County, Croatia**



Young people offer tourists to show off with an owl (Strigidae, Appendix I or II) in hands in exchange for money. Easy dupes go back with a souvenir photo. Despite several reports, the police failed to catch them, while a local journalist immortalized the encounter.

DuList, September 22, 2022.<sup>109</sup>

### SPAIN

#### **OPERATION ADALMILVUS REPEATED OFFENCE**

**Beginning of July 2022**

#### **Province of Cuenca, Autonomous Community of Castilla-La Mancha, Spain**

On February 22, 2022, 3 Iberian imperial eagles (*Aquila adalberti*, Appendix I) and 2 red kites (*Milvus milvus*) were discovered poisoned. Autopsies revealed the use of carbofuran. The discovery of traces of carbofuran in a hunting cabin led to the arrest of a gamekeeper and 6 hunters, aged between 50 and 62, including a seasoned poacher.

Europa Press, July 15, 2022.<sup>110</sup>



**End of July 2022**

#### **Lorca, Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia, Spain**

A poacher was caught red-handed capturing European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine). The police had stumbled across his 3 x 1.5 m nets and cages of decoys and decided to trap the suspect in turn by placing the site under surveillance. As a result, the 6 freshly captured goldfinches were released and the 3 that had served as decoys were handed over to a rescue center.

Cadena SER, July 27, 2022.<sup>111</sup>



**End of July 2022**

#### **Valencia, Province of Valencia, Autonomous Community of Valencia, Spain**

A poacher is caught red-handed capturing passerines with 10 m long nets. Release of 8 European goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine), 2 serin (*Serinus serinus*, Appendix III in Ukraine) and 2 Eurasian tree sparrow (*Passer montanus*).

Committee Against Bird Slaughter, July 28, 2022.<sup>112</sup>



**August 7, 2022**

#### **Province of Valencia, Valencian Community, Spain**

"Another sting against illegal bird trapping." Discovery of 2 large aviaries. Over 200 birds seized and immediately released, including 120 European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine), 40 Eurasian siskin (*Carduelis spinus*, synonymous with *Spinus spinus*, Appendix III in Ukraine), 50 serins (*Serinus serinus*, Appendix III in Ukraine), 25 European greenfinches (*Chloris chloris*), several chaffinches (*Fringilla coelebs*), a common starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), 5 European turtle doves (*Streptopelia turtur*), and 3 partridges. Several hundred limesticks were subsequently seized.

Committee Against Bird Slaughter, August 9, 2022.<sup>113</sup>





September 1, 2022

Torelló, Province of Barcelona, Autonomous Community of Catalonia, Spain



Police stop a car on the access road to Torelló. Seizure of 12 chaffinches (*Fringilla coelebs*), 7 European goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine), and a European greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*) intended to be sold.

Nació Digital, September 2, 2022.<sup>114</sup>

Beginning September 2022

Liria, Province of Valencia, Valencian Community, Spain



- Seizure of 220 birds during an operation in Liria, 110 European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine), 38 common linnets (*Carduelis cannabina*, synonymous with *Linaria cannabina*, Appendix III in Ukraine), 30 European greenfinches (*Chloris chloris*), 27 rufous-bellied thrushes (*Turdus rufiventris*), 10 Eurasian siskins (*Carduelis spinus*, synonymous with *Spinus spinus*, Appendix III in Ukraine), 4 Eurasian collared doves (*Streptopelia decaocto*), a red-legged partridge (*Alectoris rufa*) and a common starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*). Arrest of a 54-year-old man.

- Seizure in a second operation in Riba-Roja de Turia of 6 European goldfinches, a house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), a serin (*Serinus serinus*, Appendix III in Ukraine), and a canary hybrid. Arrest of a 60-year-old man.

Release of the birds seized during these 2 operations.

Guardia Civil, September 4, 2022.<sup>115</sup>

## GREECE

End of August 2022

Lake Karla, Region of Thessaly, Greece

The hunting season opened on August 20 and forest rangers have already found a short-toed eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*, Appendix II) with a bullet wound. It was transferred to the rescue centre of the NGO ANIMA in Kallithea and resumed its flight on September 14.

Anima, August 29 and September 15, 2022.<sup>116</sup>



September 12, 2022

Island of Kefalonia, Region of Ionian Islands, Greece

A short-toed eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*, Appendix II) was found riddled with pellets and was rushed to the Anima rescue centre. It died 3 days later.

Anima, September 15, 2022.<sup>117</sup>

September 25, 2022

Archanes, Region of Crete, Greece

At the foot of Mount Juktas, home to a large colony of griffon vultures (*Gyps fulvus*, Appendix II), 52 poisoned meat baits were found thanks to a canine brigade. The poisoners were primarily targeting red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) and weasels (*Martes foina*). Major carnage was avoided. LIFE Against Poison Crete, September 26, 2022; Zoos.gr, September 26, 2022.<sup>118</sup>



## ITALY

### Birds poached or seized - Map details

96 European pied flycatchers (*Ficedula hypoleuca*)  
87 European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine)  
75 chaffinches (*Fringilla coelebs*)  
53 European robins (*Erithacus rubecula*, Appendix III in Ukraine)  
50 European greenfinches (*Chloris chloris*)  
50 hawfinches (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*)  
42 dunnocks (*Prunella modularis*)  
37 tree pipits (*Anthus trivialis*)  
29 Eurasian wrens (*Troglodytes troglodytes*, Appendix III in Ukraine)  
25 bramblings (*Fringilla montifringilla*)  
25 sparrows (genus *Passer*)  
19 redstarts (genus *Phoenicurus*)  
6 serins (*Serinus serinus*, Appendix III in Ukraine)  
5 marsh harriers (*Circus aeruginosus*, Appendix II)  
5 honey buzzards (*Pernis apivorus*, Appendix II)  
1 Sicilian rock partridge (*Alectoris graeca whitakeri*)  
1 golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*, Appendix II)  
1 falcon (Falconiformes, Appendix I or II)  
1 peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I)  
30 unidentified birds

## Italy. Poaching and seizures of birds between July 1 and September 30, 2022



Sources, see page 234.



## MALTA

**August 22 and 23, 2022**

### **Mtarfa and Mgarr, Northern Region, and Gozo Region, Malta**

Hunters shot 40 black kites (*Milvus migrans*, Appendix II) in 2 days with impunity, leaving few survivors among the 2 passing swarms of migratory birds. The police say they lack the resources to combat this calamity.

BirdLife Malta, August 24, 2022.<sup>119</sup>

**September 1 to 3, 2022**

### **Gozo Region, Malta**



Hunting has been open for 2 days. Three protected birds are found with gunshot wounds: a greater flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*, Appendix II), a black-crowned night heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), and a Eurasian collared dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*). The birds are in the hands of veterinary surgeons. BirdLife Malta, September 3, 2022.<sup>120</sup>

**Mid-September – 12 October 2022**

### **Ghaxaq, Southern Region, Malta**

Thanks to information from CABS (Committee Against Bird Slaughter), the environmental police seized what is possibly the largest private collection of wild birds from the archipelago; 12 common linnets (*Carduelis cannabina*, synonymous with *Linaria cannabina*, Appendix III in Ukraine), Eurasian siskin (*Carduelis spinus*, synonymous with *Spinus spinus*, Appendix III in Ukraine), 5 serins (*Serinus serinus*, Appendix III in Ukraine), a European goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine), 16 European greenfinches (*Chloris chloris*), 8 chaffinches (*Fringilla coelebs*), 2 Eurasian tree sparrows (*Passer montanus*), a yellow wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) and a red-throated pipit (*Anthus cervinus*) in the songbird camp. In the wader camp, 16 green sandpipers (*Tringa ochropus*), 16 redshanks (*Tringa glareola*), 16 spotted sandpipers (*Actitis hypoleucos*), 13 wood sandpipers (*Charadrius dubius*), 9 little stints (*Calidris minuta*), 5 common ringed plovers (*Charadrius hiaticula*), 3 black-winged stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*), 2 Temminck's stints (*Calidris temminckii*) and a common greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*).



One man on his estate captured birds and held them captive at the same time. Nets and stuffed herons (family Ardeidae) used as decoys were also seized. The birds were walking or hopping on a thick carpet of dried excrement. The survivors were released a month later.

Times of Malta, September 22, 2022; Committee Against Bird Slaughter, October 12, 2022.<sup>121</sup>

**September 2022**

### **Mgarr, Northern Region, Malta**

Arrest of a man caught poaching 2 red-throated pipits (*Anthus cervinus*) in a field.

Committee Against Bird Slaughter, September 17, 2022.<sup>122</sup>

**September 17-27, 2022**

### **Rabat, Mtahleb and Mtarfa, Northern Region, Birzebugga, Luqa and Santa Lucija, Southern Region, Fort Delimara, South Eastern Region, and Nadur, Gozo Region, Malta**



Intermediate inventory of raptors targeted by firearms since the opening of hunting on September 1:

- September 17, Rabat: one Eurasian hobby (*Falco subbuteo*, Appendix II) shot dead.
- September 19, Mtahleb: one honey buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*, Appendix II) targeted.
- September 19, Birzebugga: one kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*, Appendix II) shot dead.
- September 21, Mtarfa: one Eurasian hobby shot and wounded.
- September 22, Luqa: one Eurasian hobby shot dead.
- September 23, Santa Lucija: one honey buzzard targeted.
- September 24, Nadur: one kestrel shot and wounded.
- September 27, Fort Delimara: one honey buzzard shot and wounded.

BirdLife Malta, October 6, 2022.<sup>123</sup>



**September 26, 2022**

**Valletta, South Eastern Region, Malta**

Sentence at first instance of one year's imprisonment and a lifetime ban on hunting for the 24-year-old man who shot dead 4 greater flamingos (*Phoenicopaterus roseus*, Appendix II) at Qawra Point on October 2, 2021. The judges based their verdict on the testimony of an ornithologist, a conclusive video, and the recovery of the carcasses at sea by the authorities. Qawra Point has since been classified as a protected nature reserve.

The Malta Police Force, September 26, 2022; BirdLife Malta, September 27, 2022.<sup>124</sup>



**SERBIA**

**July 8, 2022**

**Prokuplje, Toplica District, Serbia**

Discovery of 4 European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine) and a trap cage at the home of a 54-year-old man. The birds were released. 021, July 8, 2022; Juzne Vesti, July 8, 2022.<sup>125</sup>

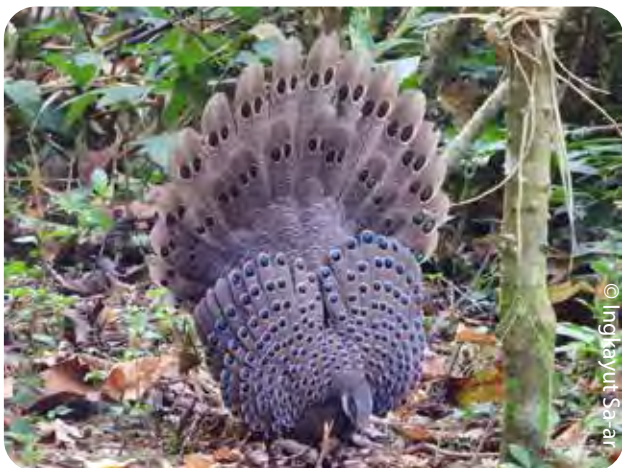


**September 21, 2022**

**Gradinje, Pirot District, Serbia. Border with Bulgaria.**

Seizure in the luggage hold of a bus from Dortmund, Germany, to Istanbul, Turkey, of 19 birds in 9 boxes: a grey-peacock pheasant (*Polyplectron bicalcaratum*, Appendix II), 5 satyr tragopans (*Tragopan satyra*, Appendix III in Nepal), and 13 pigeons (family *Columbidae*).

Customs Administration of the Republic of Serbia, September 22, 2022.<sup>126</sup>



Grey-peacock pheasant

**EASTERN EUROPE**

**BULGARIA**

**Mid-September 2022**

**Dzhebel, Kardzhali Province, Bulgaria**

The first Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*, Appendix II) born in captivity in Prague in the Czech Republic in 2017 was donated to Bulgaria to become part of the program to strengthen the population of the species in the Balkan Eastern Rhodopes. In 3 years, he had flown over 20 countries in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. On its return to Bulgaria, it was riddled with lead pellets. Its body was found thanks to signals from its GPS collar and a dog. Egyptian Vulture - New LIFE Project, September 21, 2022; Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds, October 18, 2022.<sup>127</sup>

**September 15, 2022**

**Sofia International Airport, Sofia City Province, Bulgaria**

Customs seizure of 2 Elliot's pheasants (*Symaticus ellioti*, Appendix I), 2 Swinhoe's pheasants (*Lophura swinhoii*, Appendix I) and 2 satyr tragopans (*Tragopan satyra*, Appendix III in Nepal). Their destination was the United Arab Emirates. They were entrusted to the city zoo.

Elliot's pheasant, endemic to the mountains of southeast China, lives at low and medium altitudes, in wooded and shrubby areas. The male is polygamous. It is hunted for its meat.

The Swinhoe's pheasant, endemic to Taiwan, lives at medium altitude at the edge of wooded areas. Outside the breeding season, it lives alone and is fairly routine in its movements.

The tragopan satyr lives in the high mountains of Asia, in forested areas. They live in isolated pairs. The male is vocal at dawn, sometimes calling for 30 minutes.

National Customs Agency, September 22, 2022.<sup>128</sup>

**HUNGARY**

**Beginning of August 2022**

**Szolnok, Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok County, Hungary**

Indictment of a 64-year-old man. On October 23, 2021, at around 10 a.m., he was caught red-handed capturing a Eurasian bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*, Appendix III in Ukraine) on the banks of the Zagyva river in Malomzug. Szoljon.hu, August 3, 2022.<sup>129</sup>



## POLAND

**Beginning of July 2022**

**Korczowa Border Post, Subcarpathian Voivodeship, Poland. Border with Ukraine.**



Seizure of a grey parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*, Appendix I) from the car of a 38-year-old Estonian man who was about to leave the country. The parrot was handed over to Zamość Zoo.

Tax Administration Chamber in Rzeszów, July 5, 2022; Naszemiasto.pl, July 5, 2022.<sup>130</sup>

**Beginning of August 2022**

**Szczecin, West Pomeranian Voivodeship, Poland**

Several feathers of Andean condor (*Vultur gryphus*, Appendix I), griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*, Appendix II) and bearded vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*, Appendix II), each about 10 cm long, were seized in a parcel coming from Serbia and bound for Koszalin. The package's light weight caught the customs officers' attention.

West Pomeranian Customs and Excise Office in Szczecin, August 16, 2022.<sup>131</sup>

**September 8, 2022**

**Dobrzany, West Pomeranian Voivodeship, Poland**

Search of a private property. Illegal bird breeding suspected. 150 birds were seized, including barnacle geese (*Branta leucopsis*), common shelducks (*Tadorna tadorna*), ruddy shelducks (*Tadorna ferruginea*), Egyptian geese (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*) and Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*). They were entrusted to a care center in Szczecin.

County Police Headquarters in Stargard, September 9, 2022.<sup>132</sup>

## RUSSIA

**End of June to mid-August 2022**

**Krasnoyarsk, Krasnoyarsk Krai, Russia**

Online sale of 5 kestrel chicks (*Falco tinnunculus*, Appendix II). The seller was arrested, and the chicks were released.

Krasnoyarskiy Rabo-chiy, August 17, 2022.<sup>133</sup>



**July 11, 2022**

**Peno, Tver Oblast, Russia**

The prosecutor's office identified sales of Ural owls (*Strix uralensis*, Appendix II) on 4 websites and had the court recognize the illegality of these online sales.

Afanasy-Business, July 11, 2022.<sup>134</sup>



**End of July 2022**

**Makushino, Kurgan Oblast, Russia**

The prosecutor's office has initiated legal proceedings against a Makushinsky resident who poached a white-headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*, Appendix II) in August 2021 in a Kazarkinsky hunting reserve.

Kurgan i Kurgantsy, July 27, 2022.<sup>135</sup>



White-headed duck

**July 28, 2022**

**Federal City of Moscow, Russia**

Arrest of a photographer who offered to pose with a tawny owl (*Strix aluco*, Appendix II) for money. The mistreated owl is in care.

Vechernyaya Moskva, July 28, 2022.<sup>136</sup>



**August 5, 2022**

**Krasnoselkup, Yamal-Nenets Autonomous District, Russia**



The man is violent. He reported his wife missing after breaking her arm and beating her. When the police arrived at his home to take his statement, they noticed a white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*, Appendix I) chained to a radiator. The individual claimed to have picked it up as a chick in the forest the previous summer, and then to "educate and train" it, beaten it to the point of an open wing fracture. The eagle was rushed to the Holzan health center. The man was given a 4-year suspended sentence and fined 214,000 rubles (3,515 US\$) for the animal abuse. Krasny Sever, August 5, 2022; New Day, August 5, 2022.<sup>137</sup>

**August 17, 2022**

**Trans-Baikal Krai, Russia**

The locals are determined to protect the 4 Siberian cranes (*Grus leucogeranus*, Appendix I) that have settled in a marsh for the summer. Two of them intervened when they saw a white jeep with poachers on board. Chita.ru, August 20, 2022.<sup>138</sup>

**August 17, 2022**

**Moscow Federal City, Russia**

A tawny owl (*Strix aluco*, Appendix II) was seized from a photographer who was offering visitors to the Skazka amusement park to pose with it for money. Moscow Municipal Economic Complex, July 17, 2022.<sup>139</sup>

**August 26, 2022**

**Moscow Federal City, Russia**



Another tawny owl (*Strix aluco*, Appendix II) victim of street photographers was seized by police on Kosygin Street. Vechernyaya Moskva, August 26, 2022.<sup>140</sup>

**August 2022**

**Moscow Federal City, Russia**

The "Ornitarium" received a warning for defects in veterinary documents and the absence of a licence to keep animals for cultural and entertainment purposes. "The Ornitarium, which is open to visitors, specializes in falconry. It holds Eurasian hobbies (*Falco subbuteo*, Appendix II), honey buzzards (*Pernis apivorus*, Appendix II), Eurasian sparrowhawks (*Accipiter nisus*, Appendix II), and owls (*Strix* spp., Appendix II). Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance, September 30, 2022.<sup>141</sup>

**September 30, 2022**

**Orenburg, Orenburg Oblast, Russia**



Administrative fine of 15,000 rubles (250 US\$) for the organiser of a bird show in the shopping center. He did not have a permit allowing him to hold and transport the Eurasian eagle-owl (*Bubo bubo*, Appendix II). Orenburg Oblast Prosecutor's Office, September 30, 2022.<sup>142</sup>

**SLOVAKIA**

**September 28, 2022**

**Zilina, Zilina Region, Slovakia**



Seizure by postal customs officials of a parcel from the United States of America containing 60 feathers of the Indian peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*, Appendix III in Pakistan). The feathers will be used by the administration "for educational purposes." Financial Directorate of the Slovak Republic, September 28, 2022.<sup>143</sup>

## CZECHIA

### Beginning of July 2022

#### Břeclav District, South Moravian Region, Czechia

A 15-month investigation led to the arrest of a man suspected of poisoning animals with carbofuran. In April 2021, the first dead bird of prey was found, a red kite (*Milvus milvus*, Appendix II).



Over the following months, several poisoned animals were discovered within a radius of one kilometer. The net was tightened. A hunting enthusiast and pigeon breeder was the number 1 suspect. A search of his home uncovered poisoned bait. He has confessed to the crime. He claims he wanted to kill the weasels and foxes that were attacking his pigeons.

Since the beginning of the year, the 2 Chesapeake retrievers of the Czech Ornithological Society (CSO) dog brigade have discovered a common otter (*Lutra lutra*, Appendix I), a white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*, Appendix I), 19 common buzzards (*Buteo buteo*, Appendix II), a northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*, Appendix II), a marsh harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*, Appendix II), 11 red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), 3 beech martens (*Martes foina*), 10 common ravens (*Corvus corax*), and 3 dogs, all of them poisoned to death.

Ekolist.cz, July 4, 2022; Czech Police, July 4, 2022; Enviweb, July 16, 2022.<sup>144</sup>

### August 7, 2022

#### Sudkovice, South Bohemia Region, Czechia



A man brought a northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*, Appendix II) trapped in a snare to the authorities. It had to be finished off. Strakonice Municipal Police, September 6, 2022.<sup>145</sup>



### August 11, 2022

#### Hrubá Vrbka, South Moravian Region, Czechia



A young female imperial eagle (*Aquila heliaca*, Appendix I) was found by farm workers still alive but weakened. It is believed to have been poisoned with carbofuran. Ekolist.cz, August 12, 2022.<sup>146</sup>



## AMERICA

### COLOMBIA

**Beginning of July 2022**

**Cali, Department of Valle del Cauca, Colombia**

The United States of America is seeking the extradition of Nancy Teresa González de Barberi, fashion designer and owner of the eponymous brand whose handbags and dog leashes are sold from Seoul to Toronto and promoted in series such as Gossip Girl and Sex and the City. Mrs. González and 2 associates used the same method as cocaine traffickers to develop an underground market in the United States. Local residents were recruited as "mules" and regularly flew to Miami or New York with handbags made of caiman skin (*Caiman* spp., Appendix I or II), particularly spectacled caiman (*Caiman crocodilus*, Appendix I or II), and snakeskin. When questioned by customs, they declared that these luxury items were gifts for relatives or friends. In reality, the items were smuggled in and "laundered" in luxury boutiques and displayed on the catwalks of New York Fashion Week without being screened for CITES certificates or invoices. González's mules were paid a commission of 600 US\$ per trip. Bags from the Colombian jungle sell for up to 4,000 US\$. South America's most famous designer sells 40,000 bags a year.

The chief curator in charge of contemporary fashion and textile collections at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris celebrated her in 2010 in the book "Nancy González. Colombia-New York" published by Assouline.

Office of the Attorney General of Colombia, July 8, 2022; Infobae, July 8, 2022.<sup>1</sup>



### ECUADOR

**End of September 2022**

**Santa Elena, Santa Elena Province, Ecuador**



Sentencing to one year's imprisonment of 3 of the crewmen of the tourist boat aboard which, at the end of June 2022, the Ecuadorian navy had seized 84 Galapagos giant tortoises (*Chelonoidis niger*, Appendix I) and 5 juvenile Galapagos land iguanas (*Conolophus subcristatus*, Appendix II) (see "On the Trail" n°36 p. 160). Contrary to initial statements by the authorities, the defectors from the archipelago have not returned. They have been entrusted to the Valdivia Marine Park on the mainland.

State Prosecutor's Office, September 30, 2022.<sup>2</sup>



### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**Mid-July 2022**

**Gainesville, State of Florida, United States of America**

Following a report, an officer went to a man's home. He was allegedly housing turtles in poor conditions. There were indeed 2 yellow-bellied sliders (*Trachemys scripta scripta*) in poorly maintained cages, but also a green iguana (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II) and a tegu (family Teiidae or Gymnophthalmidae), all held without authorisation. The animals were handed over to the Mystic Jungle Educational Facility in Live Oak.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, July 21, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

**August 1, 2022**

**Little Rock, State of Arkansas, United States of America**

Jackson Roe, age 27, "passionate" about reptiles (see "On the Trail" n°34 p.214) has been sentenced to 3 years of probation and 150 hours of community service for reptile trafficking. In August 2015, thanks to an anonymous source, wildlife inspectors intercepted one of his packages from China with 2 Chinese giant salamanders (*Andrias davidianus*, Appendix I). Then, in August 2017, searches of his and his parents' home led to the conviction that he had purchased 6 Chinese giant salamanders, an Indian roofed turtle (*Pangshura tecta*, Appendix I), a big-headed turtle (*Platysternon megacephalum*, Appendix I), and a black-breasted leaf turtle (*Geoemyda spengleri*, Appendix II) online from a Hong Kong website. He also held a Nile crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*, Appendix I or II), a Morelet's crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletii*, Appendix I or II), and an American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II). In November 2019, a new search revealed the presence of several wild animals at his home, including 2 live and 4 dead Chinese giant salamanders.

US Department of Justice, August 2, 2022; Environmental Crimes Monthly Bulletin, September 2022.<sup>4</sup>

**August 3, 2022**

**Hidalgo Port of Entry, State of Texas, United States of America. Border with Mexico.**

Jonathan Roberto Rojas-Casados, age 32, was driving a white Ford Econoline with Roberto Angel Roman-Alvarez, age 27, in the passenger's seat. They were followed by a red Ford van driven by Roberto Rojas-Ramirez, age 50. Customs intercepted the 2 vehicles and found 2 boxes containing 160 animals, including 10 royal pythons (*Python regius*, Appendix II), 3 brown rainbow boas (*Epicrates maurus*, Appendix II), 2 black-and-white tegus (*Salvator merianae*, Appendix II), 6 green iguanas (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II), 5 Limpopo girdled lizards (*Cordylus jonesii*, Appendix II), 8 Jackson's three-horned chameleons (*Trioceros jacksonii*, Appendix II), 2 Horsfield's tortoises (*Testudo horsfieldii*, Appendix II), 10 red-eyed treefrogs (*Agalychnis callidryas*, Appendix II), 6 green and black poison frogs (*Dendrobates auratus*, Appendix II), 6 dyeing poison frogs (*Dendrobates tinctorius*, Appendix II), 10 curly-hair tarantulas (*Brachypelma albopilosum*, Appendix II), 10 emperor scorpions (*Pandinus imperator*, Appendix II), and Chinese water dragons (*Physignathus cocincinus*). The animals have been turned over to the USFWS (United States Fish and Wildlife Service), which is conducting the investigation.

US Customs and Border Protection, August 8, 2022; US Department of Justice, August 23, 2022; Environmental Crimes Monthly Bulletin, September 2022.<sup>5</sup>



ASIA

**CAMBODIA**

**August 2022**

**Phnom Penh Autonomous Municipality, Cambodia**

Seizure of 6 live Malayan snail-eating turtles (*Malayemys macrocephala*, Appendix II), 2 live snakes and a dead Bengal monitor lizard (*Varanus bengalensis*, Appendix I). The snakes were released. The turtles were handed over to the National Aquaculture Research and Development Institute. Wildlife Alliance Cambodia, August 16, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

**INDIA**

**August 23, 2022**

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

The youtuber, Ramchandra Rana, age 31, followed on his channel by 100,000 subscribers, was arrested for illegal trafficking. He posted videos of snakes and chameleons being captured. He claims to have released them, but during a search of his home, 6 snakes including 3 cobras (family Elapidae), and 4 chameleons (family Chamaeleonidae) were seized. Odisha TV, August 24, 2022; The New Indian Express, August 24, 2022.<sup>7</sup>



**PAKISTAN**

**Beginning of August 2022**

**Quaidabad, Province of Punjab, Pakistan**

Abdul Ghaffar was arrested for the illegal sale of 75 spiny-tailed lizard (*Uromastyx* spp., Appendix II), 2 cobras (genus *Naja*), and 2 sand boas (*Eryx* spp., Appendix II) near a dispensary suspected of manufacturing drugs from reptiles. The lizards have been released in Kirthar National Park, and the snakes should be soon. Dawn, August 7, 2022.<sup>8</sup>



## PHILIPPINES

August 30, 2022

Glan, Province of Sarangani, Philippines



At night, 4 men on a traditional fishing boat were coming from Balut Island (54.77 km<sup>2</sup>), some 20 km from Glan, in the extreme south of the Philippines. They were approached and boarded by the Philippine Coast Guard. On board were 108 wild animals captured in the Indonesian province of Papua, Papua New Guinea, and possibly Australia. The archaic fishing boat had obviously not crossed the Celebes (or Sulawesi) Sea. It was the last link in the international trafficking scheme. The fishermen would have received 10,000 pesos (180 US\$) for the last few nautical miles. The 23 green iguanas (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II), the blue tree monitor (*Varanus macraei*, Appendix II), the 3 emerald monitors (*Varanus prasinus*, Appendix II), the 3 quince monitors (*Varanus melinus*, Appendix II), the 4 black-and-white tegus (*Salvator merianae*, Appendix II), the giant blue-tongued skink (*Tiliqua gigas*), the 11 eastern blue-tongued lizards (*Tiliqua scincoides*), the 3 red-footed tortoises (*Chelonoidis carbonarius*, Appendix II), the 6 leopard tortoises (*Stigmochelys pardalis*, Appendix II), the 45 Asian giant tortoises (*Manouria emys*, Appendix II), the 2 pig-nosed turtles (*Carettochelys insculpta*, Appendix II), the 8 other Mediterranean tortoises (*Testudo* spp., Appendix I or II), and the 3 cobras (genus *Naja*) were first transferred to the BelMar Ecopark before moving on to the Lutayan wildlife refuge 150 km from Glan. Three brown turtles, a common iguana, and a monitor lizard that had not survived were buried to prevent zoonosis.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources, September 1, 2022; Manila Bulletin, September 1, 2022; Traffic, September 14, 2022.<sup>9</sup>



On the Trail n°37. Robin des Bois

Mid-September 2022

City of Pasay, National Capital Region, Philippines

A police operation led to the arrest of a seller of protected species, including 4 royal pythons (*Python regius*, Appendix II) and 2 leopard geckos (*Eublepharis macularius*).

GMA Network, September 21, 2022.<sup>10</sup>

## VIET NAM

July 24, 2022

Long Binh Border Post, An Giang Province, Viet Nam. Border with Laos.



In the middle of the night, a border guard patrol spotted 3 human forms. They were getting off a suspicious motorboat. On board, 52 monitor lizards (*Varanus* spp., Appendix I or II) and 42 turtles weighing a total of 335 kg were seized.

VietnamPlus, July 26, 2022; ENV, August 10, 2022.<sup>11</sup>

Beginning of August 2022

Dak Lak Province, Viet Nam

Seizure of 2 green iguanas (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II) and 2 yellow-headed tortoises (*Indotestudo elongata*, Appendix II) in cages at the entrance to a so-called "ecotourism park". They were there to attract customers.

ENV, August 9, 2022.<sup>12</sup>

## EUROPE

### SPAIN

September 17, 2022

Madrid, Community of Madrid, Spain

During the 57th Expoterraria fair, police deployed drones to fly over the parking lot. Suspicious activity was spotted. Several individuals were gathered around a car. The raid resulted in the seizure of 19 reptiles, snakes, and chameleons in plastic boxes. The seller was arrested.

Gaceta Madrid, September 23, 2022; Noticias para Municipios, September 23, 2022.<sup>13</sup>

## POLAND

**July 14 and October 4, 2022**

**Olsztyn, Warmian–Masurian Voivodeship, Poland**



Emil K. was sentenced to 8 months' suspended imprisonment, 3 years' probation, ordered to pay 20,000 zlotys (4,490 US\$) to the NGO Epicrates, and a 3-year ban on keeping animals. This is because he mistreated 6 Madagascar giant day geckoes (*Phelsuma grandis*, Appendix II) and a veiled chameleon (*Chamaeleo calytratus*, Appendix II) in Olsztyn and Unieszewo and attempted to sell them via the OLX portal. He also mistreated 2 green iguanas (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II), 7 Horsfield's tortoises (*Testudo horsfieldii*, Appendix II), an ocelot gecko (*Paerodua picta*), a leopard gecko (*Eublepharis macularius*), a giant forest dragon (*Gonocephalus grandis*), a brown basilisk (*Basiliscus vittatus*), a brown anole (*Anolis sagrei*), and a Chinese water dragon (*Physignathus cocincinus*). Epicrates helped the police identify the species and collected the surviving reptiles. Super Express, July 20, 2022; TVN24, July 20, 2022; Gazeta Olsztynska, October 7, 2022.<sup>14</sup>

## UNITED KINGDOM

**July 31, 2022**

**Normandy, Surrey County, England, United Kingdom**

The "reptile breeders' meeting" on July 31 caused such a stir that the "meeting" scheduled for October 15 was cancelled at the request of Guildford Borough Council. The Surrey Reptile and

Amphibian Society (SRAS) had done everything in its power to avoid controversy. It was forbidden to take photos or videos in the Normandy Hall on July 31, or else face eviction. To avoid any incidents with the snakes and turtles, children were advised not to visit. The director of the Animal Protection Agency is delighted that the October "encounter" has been cancelled. The way reptiles are treated at these fairs is likened by scientists to animal abuse. "If dogs and cats were subjected to such appalling conditions and treated like inanimate objects, public disapproval would be unanimous." According to World Animal Protection, "local authorities throughout the UK should be wary of these reptile fairs, which not only cause animals to suffer, but are also sure to be an opportunity for illegal trafficking."

Animal Protection Agency Foundation, October 11, 2022.<sup>15</sup>

## RUSSIA

**September 19, 2022**

**Domedovo International Airport, Moscow Oblast, Russia**

Customs seized 33 fragments of crocodilian (Crocodylia, Appendix I or II) and python (Pythonidae, Appendix I or II) skins from the luggage of a Russian passenger travelling from Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. The lot is valued at 628,610 rubles (10,520 US\$).

News of Moscow Region, September 19, 2022.<sup>16</sup>

# TORTOISES AND FRESHWATER TURTLES

## Most important seizures of the quarter:

10,802 yellow-headed sideneck eggs (*Podocnemis unifilis*, Appendix II)  
2,159 Indian star tortoise (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix I)

## AFRICA

### MADAGASCAR

**July 12, 2022**

**Mahajanga, Boeny Region, Madagascar**

Customs officers seized 36 radiated tortoises (*Astrochelys radiata*, Appendix I) from 2 cabins on the vessel Simacom 2. The 4 deckhands, the boatswain, and the ship's captain were taken into custody.

Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), July 2022; Malagasy Customs, July 13, 2022.<sup>1</sup>



### UNION OF THE COMOROS

**August 3 and September 26, 2022**

**Prince Said Ibrahim International Airport, Mbaleni, Grande Comore Island, Union of the Comoros**



An Egyptian returning to his country was apprehended by Comorian customs with 2 coolers containing 87 radiated tortoises (*Astrochelys radiata*, Appendix I). The 48 surviving turtles were sent back to Madagascar.

Comores-infos, August 3, 2022; Linfo.re, September 29, 2022; Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Madagascar), September 29, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

## NORTHERN AMERICA

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**Beginning of August 2022**

**State of Florida, United States of America**



Release of 34 native turtles including musk turtles (*Sternotherus odoratus* or *Sternotherus minor*, Appendix II from February 23, 2023), Florida mud turtles (*Kinosternon steindachneri*, Appendix II from February 23, 2023), and striped mud turtles (*Kinosternon baurii*, Appendix II from February 23, 2023). They had been seized from a trafficker and then cared for in a refuge. The operation is credited to the USFWS and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Unfortunately, the turtles are now marred by the attachment of a transmitter that will send a location signal every 5 seconds. Biologists say that this equipment does not interfere with the turtles' mobility or swimming ability. But given the length of the antenna, this is questionable.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, August 3, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

**End of August 2022**

**Santa Rosa County, State of Florida, United States of America**

Indictment. The "fisherman" admits to having shot an alligator snapping turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*, Appendix III in the United States of America) which had bitten on his hook.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, September 1, 2022.<sup>4</sup>



**Beginning of September 2022  
Wapakoneta, State of Ohio, United  
States of America**

An individual was fined 250 US\$ for capturing 3 snapping turtles (*Chelydra serpentina*, Appendix III in the United States of America). The turtles were released.  
Ohio Division of Wildlife, September 14, 2022.<sup>5</sup>



**FAMILY AFFAIRS  
September 19 and 29, 2022  
New York, State of New York, United  
States of America**

Chu Sen Guan was sentenced to one year's imprisonment, one year's probation and a 15,000 US\$ fine.

Conviction of his brother Chu Wei Guan to 2 prison sentences of one year and one day - the 2 sentences are combined - and a 10,000 US\$ fine.

From November 2017 to August 2018, they had fraudulently and cruelly shipped to Hong Kong by parcel post at least 635 turtles, including Eastern box turtles (*Terrapene carolina carolina*, Appendix II), Florida box turtles (*Terrapene carolina bauri*, Appendix II), and wood turtles (*Glyptemys insculpta*, Appendix II). They were threaded into socks, immobilized with adhesive tape, and declared to be "clothing" or "toys."

Chu Sen Guan and Chu Wei Guan were involved in organised trafficking. Among their suppliers was Jesse James Freeman, a relentless collector of turtles in North Carolina (see "On the Trail" n°36 p.164), and among their buyers in Hong Kong was Kang Juntao. In 2020, he was extradited to the USA and severely convicted (see "On the Trail" n°31 p.149).  
USFWS, September 29, 2022.<sup>6</sup>



**Week of September 26, 2022  
West Warwick, State of Rhode Island, United  
States of America**



Seizure of 16 common musk turtles (*Sternotherus odoratus*, Appendix II from February 23, 2023) from a private individual. He was trying to sell them via Craigslist and Facebook. They were transferred to the Roger Williams Zoological Park, awaiting release after a health check and a few weeks' growth. Natural predators of musk turtles and their eggs include raccoons (*Procyon lotor*), grey foxes (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), North American river otters (*Lontra canadensis*, Appendix II), bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, Appendix II), snapping turtles (*Chelydra serpentina*, Appendix II), and American bullfrogs (*Lithobates catesbeianus*). At the forefront of anthropogenic predation are cars that run them over, poachers who track them, and wetlands that are drained and fragmented. If friends of musk turtles, other reptiles and amphibians seek to see them without harming them, Rhode Island's environmental services recommend disabling geolocation when sharing photos of their cautious encounters to avoid informing poachers.

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, September 28, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

## LATIN AMERICA

### BRAZIL

**August 26, 2022**

**Nova Crixás, State of Goiás, Brazil**

Seizure of 20 turtles on the port docks and 11 more at the home of one of the 2 suspects. The river turtles (*Podocnemis* spp., Appendix II) were released into the Rio Araguaia.

G1 Goiás, August 29, 2022.<sup>8</sup>

### COLOMBIA

**Mid-August 2022**

**Department of Amazonas, Colombia**

A Peruvian-registered boat attempted to dock in the Colombian port of Leticia in the Upper Amazon Basin. Authorities found aboard and seized 12 tortoises and turtles including red-footed tortoises (*Chelonoidis carbonarius*, Appendix II), South American river turtles (*Podocnemis expansa*, Appendix II), yellow-headed sidenecks (*Podocnemis unifilis*, Appendix II), 72 eggs, and a sloth (suborder Folivora). Further seizure of 41 cubic meters of espavé wood (*Anacardium excelsum*) with an estimated value of 12 million pesos (2,690 US\$), corresponding to 1.5 hectares of forest. Arrest of 2 Peruvian citizens.

Infobae, August 17, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

### COSTA RICA

**Beginning of August 2022**

**Los Chiles, Province of Alajuela, Costa Rica. Border with Nicaragua.**

The man on horseback came from Costa Rica and was returning to his home in Nicaragua via a side road. He was stopped by a military patrol. Hanging from the saddle was a black wood turtle (*Rhinoclemmys funerea*, Appendix II) probably captured on the shores of Lake Cocibolca.

Nicaragua Investiga, August 12, 2022.<sup>10</sup>



## PERU

**September 12, 2022**

**District of La Banda de Shilcayo, Province of San Martín, Department of San Martín, Peru**



Police operation on the road between Yurimaguas and Tarapoto. 10,802 yellow-headed sideneck eggs (*Podocnemis unifilis*, Appendix II) were seized in 15 "buckets of salted fish." According to the owner of the vehicle, Wilson Arévalo Cabrera, the "cargo" belonged to Tita Goles Torres. The investigation will determine who is responsible for what.

VIA Televisión, September 14, 2022; Public Prosecutor's Office of the Nation, September 15, 2022.<sup>11</sup>

## ASIA

### CAMBODIA

**Beginning of September 2022**

**Srae Ambel District, Kaoh Kong Province, Cambodia**

A fisherman allegedly accidentally caught and then intentionally kept a Southern river terrapin (*Batagur affinis*, Appendix I). The 14 kg female had been released last year. It has been handed over to the WCS, which is due to re-release it following an assessment of its health.

The Phnom Penh Post, September 10, 2022.<sup>12</sup>

### CHINA

**September 13, 2022**

**Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China**

Two speedboats with all the lights off leave Victoria harbor. Customs officers give chase. The fugitives accelerate and throw packages overboard. One boat is boarded. Two smugglers jump into the water and vanish. 21 packages are seized. They contained live turtles, medicines, food supplements, second-hand cell phones, and electronic tablets. Fifteen packages were recovered from the sea. The contraband was destined for mainland China.

Hong Kong Customs, September 14, 2022; South China Morning Post, September 14, 2022.<sup>13</sup>



## INDIA

**July 1, 2022**

**Nadhodi, Fatehabad District, State of Haryana, India**

Villagers intercepted 6 suspicious women heading towards Bhuna and discovered 5 Indian flapshell turtle (*Lissemys punctata*, Appendix II) and stolen items in a house. They filed a complaint.

News 18, July 2, 2022; PiPa News, July 2, 2022.<sup>14</sup>



**July 14, 2022**

**Kolkata, Kolkata District, State of West Bengal, India**

Movement in travel bags alerted passengers waiting for the bus. When the police arrived, 509 Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix I) were discovered and seized. Dinesh Kumar Velappan, age 21, and A.D. Moheshraj, age 24, were taking them to Siliguri, 600 km away. The final destination was to be Thailand. A star tortoise sells for between 2,000 and 5,000 rupees (25 to 63 US\$) on the local market, depending on its age and size.

The Telegraph India, July 15, 2022.<sup>15</sup>

### OPERATION WILEP

**July 17, 2022**

**Kolkata, Kolkata District, State of West Bengal, India**

17 juvenile turtles - either Indian softshell turtles (*Nilssonia gangetica*, Appendix I) or Indian flapshell turtles (*Lissemys punctata*, Appendix II) - were found in an abandoned jute bag on board the 15050 express train from Gorakhpur (State of Uttar Pradesh) to Kolkata. The reptiles, with a total estimated value of 10,000 rupees (121 US\$ or 7.1 US\$/piece) in the food market, were handed over to the Bidhan Nagar Forest Department for release in the large wetland area on the edge of the mega-city.

Railway Protection Force, July 18, 2022.<sup>16</sup>

**July 23, August 3, and the beginning of October 2022**

**Panvel, Raigad District, Pune, Pune District, and Mumbai, State of Maharashtra, India**



Fine of 20,000 rupees (245 US\$) for Aishwarya Sri-dhar. She had transported an injured Indian star tortoise (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix I) from Panvel to the Resq refuge in Pune (115 km), without authorization. The animal filmmaker had filmed at Resq a month earlier for the purposes of a documentary. She was unable to give the investigators a precise explanation of the turtle's origin.

Mid-Day, August 22, and October 11, 2022.<sup>17</sup>

### OPERATION WILEP

**July 26, 2022**

**Ballia, Ballia District, State of Uttar Pradesh; Chhapra, Saran District, State of Bihar, India**

Operation Wilep, under the patronage of the Ministry of Railways, is implemented by the RPF (Railway Protection Force). Its aim is to combat wildlife smuggling by rail.

Seizure of 89 Indian softshell turtles (*Nilssonia gangetica*, Appendix I) and Indian flapshell turtles (*Lissemys punctata*, Appendix II) on express train 13138 going from Azamgarh (Uttar Pradesh) to Kolkata (West Bengal). Two arrests. A smuggler is paid 15,000 rupees (190 US\$) per delivery.

On its Twitter account, RPF reminds us that, "species must roam free and thrive, not to be confined, killed, or sold," and that, "we share this mother earth with all the flora and fauna. They have an equal right to live and thrive as us. Trafficking in wildlife is crime against nature."

Newstrack, July 26, 2022; Railway Protection Force, July 27, 2022.<sup>18</sup>

### OPERATION WILEP

**July 27, 2022**

**Sealdah, Kolkata District, State of West Bengal, India**

Statement by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) informing of the seizure of 15 turtles in a cage. They have been transferred to the Forest Department.

Railway Protection Force, July 28, 2022.<sup>19</sup>

### OPERATION WILEP

**July 27, 2022**

**Chittaranjan, Jamtara District, State of Jharkhand, India**

20 Indian flapshell turtles (*Lissemys punctata*, Appendix II) detected and seized by Railway Protection Force (RPF) officers, again on board the 13138 express train from Azamgarh (Uttar Pradesh) to Kolkata (West Bengal). The federal operation WILEP is not letting up. It targets wildlife trafficking on trains and in stations throughout the Indian network.

Railway Protection Force, July 28, 2022.<sup>20</sup>



## OPERATION WILEP

July 27, 2022

**Suraimanpur, Ballia District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India**

71 Indian softshell turtles (*Nilssonia gangetica*, Appendix I) of all sizes seized on board the Purvanchal Express from Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh) to Kolkata (West Bengal). They were packed in 2 jute bags. No arrests were reported. The Purvanchal Express provides passenger and postal transport.

Railway Protection Force, July 28, 2022.<sup>21</sup>

July 28, 2022

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

Suresh and Saravanan were caught selling 2 Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix I) under a bus shelter.

Star of Mysore, July 29, 2022.<sup>22</sup>

Beginning of August 2022

**Kalyan, Thane District, State of Maharashtra, India**

A raid on 2 pet shops led to the seizure of 4 Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix I) from Ajay Sharma and 3 Indian tent turtles (*Pangshura tentoria*, Appendix II) from Sanjay Gajdhane.

IG News, August 4, 2022.<sup>23</sup>

August 7, 2022

**Banthra Sikander Pur, Lucknow District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India**

Arrest in a bus by an STF team of Mohammed Wasim in possession of 295 Indian tent turtles (*Pangshura tentoria*, Appendix II). He confessed to being part of a gang that captures turtles in the districts of Gonda, Bahraich, Lakhimpur Kheri, and Unnao (State of Uttar Pradesh) in order to send them by train to West Bengal, some 900 km away. The journey doesn't end there for these turtles, which are then sent internationally to China, Hong Kong, and Malaysia via Bangladesh and Myanmar. There, they are prized for their meat, feng shui practices, and alleged aphrodisiac virtues. According to the authorities: "the smugglers' network is comprised of local fishermen who trap turtles, 'collectors' who buy the reptiles from them, 'couriers' who transport them to transit points, and 'traders' who ship the consignments to Southeast Asian countries". "The turtle hunting season reaches its peak in the post-monsoon months of September and October. From November to January, turtles are transported to Kolkata from local hideouts." "As many as 20,000 turtles were being smuggled from UP every year."

Hindustan Times, August 7, 2022; The Times of India, August 7 and 8, 2022; WCCB, August 8, 2022.<sup>24</sup>

Mid-August 2022

**Ambattur, Chennai District, State of Tamil Nadu, India**



Seizure of Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix I) in a pet shop.

After paying a fine, the manager, a man named Tamizh, was released. This appears to be a compoundable offence that can be settled out of court. The Hindu, September 7, 2022; The Times of India, September 8, 2022.<sup>25</sup>

## OPERATION WILEP

Mid-August 2022

**Chandauli District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India**



Seizure of 19 softshell turtles (family Trionychidae) from a caboose of the Doon Express n°13010 from Howrah (West Bengal) to Rishikesh (Uttarakhand). Railway Protection Force, August 14, 2022.<sup>26</sup>

August 2022

**Secunderabad Railway Station, Hyderabad District, State of Telangana, India**

Rangers seized around 70 Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix I).

The Times of India, August 19, 2022.<sup>27</sup>

## **OPERATION WILEP**

**August 19 and 20, 2022**

**Ghazipur Railway Station, Ghazipur District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India**

Seizure of 626 juvenile turtles transported by 2 women accompanied by a child. They were travelling from Sultanpur to Siliguri in West Bengal, a journey of over 20 hours. In the districts of Sultanpur and Lucknow, poachers capture Indian softshell turtles (*Nilssonina gangetica*, Appendix I), and Indian flapshell turtles (*Lissemys punctata*, Appendix II), as well as Indian roofed turtles (*Pangshura tecta*, Appendix I), Indian peacock softshell turtles (*Nilssonina hurum*, Appendix I), Indian narrow-headed softshell turtles (*Chitra indica*, Appendix II), Indian tent turtles (*Pangshura tentoria*, Appendix II), crowned river turtles (*Hardella thurjii*, Appendix II), and Indian eyed turtles (*Morenia petersi*, Appendix II). On its Twitter account, RPF reminds us that, "all creatures deserve a life free from pain and fear."

Railway Protection Force, August 19, 2022; Press Trust of India, August 20, 2022.<sup>28</sup>

## **OPERATION WILEP**

**August 20, 2022**

**Kishanganj, Kishanganj District, State of Bihar, India**

Seizure of 90 turtles, 79 alive and 11 dead, in sleeper car no5 of the Garib Nawaz Express, which runs over 1,500 km from Ajmer in Rajasthan to Kishanganj in Bihar. From Ajmer, Indian softshell turtles (*Nilssonina gangetica*, Appendix I) are heavily trafficked (see "On the Trail" n°32 p.206) to Siliguri and other major cities in West Bengal, or to Bangladesh. Siliguri is 100 km from Kishanganj and the border with Bangladesh some 20 km away. On its Twitter account, the RPF reminds us that "transporting and selling mute animals is unforgivable."

Dainik Jagran, August 20, 2022; Outlook India (with PTI), August 20, 2022; The Print (with PTI), August 20, 2022; Railway Protection Force, August 22, 2022.<sup>29</sup>

## **OPERATION WILEP**

**August 23, 2022**

**Ballia District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India**

During a check on board express train 13138 from Azamgarh (Uttar Pradesh) to Kolkata (West Bengal), 60 Indian flapshell turtles (*Lissemys punctata*, Appendix II) were found in an "ownerless" bag under a seat. It is estimated that the total value of these turtles is 300,000 rupees (3,760 US\$ or 62.6 US\$/specimen).

Amar Ujala, August 24, 2022; Railway Protection Force, August 24, 2022.<sup>30</sup>

**August 24, 2022**

**Mv 65 Village, Malkangiri District, State of Odisha, India**

Seizure of 350 Indian softshell turtles (*Nilssonina gangetica*, Appendix I). It is not certain that they are all alive. The 20 bags were transferred to the Kalimela Forest Department. All the suspects fled. Indian softshell turtles are listed in Appendix I of CITES and Class I species of aquatic animals to be protected in India. Poachers and traffickers are not eligible for bail.

India Today, August 24, 2022; Pragativadi, August 24, 2022.<sup>31</sup>

**August 26, 2022**

**Cheyru, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Konaseema District, State of Andhra Pradesh, India**

Collision between a truck and a car. The 2 passengers were taken to hospital. They were soon visited by the police. The vehicle contained 300 Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix I).

The Hindu, August 26, 2022; Deccan Chronicle, August 27, 2022.<sup>32</sup>

**August 27, 2022**

**Kempegowda International Airport, Devanahalli, Bengaluru Rural District, State of Karnataka, India**

A 32-year-old man from Uttara Kannada was due to fly to Bangkok with a friend on Thai Airways flight FD138. During baggage checks, 60 Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix I) were found in his hand luggage. This is the first case of smuggling at this airport in 4 years. According to experts, the turtles come from the Podili region because of over-exploitation of the coastal regions of Karnataka.

The Times of India, September 1, 2022.<sup>33</sup>

## **REPEATED OFFENCE**

**September 4, 2022**

**Sangareddy District, State of Telangana, India**

Balaraj had long been spotted by the Animal Warriors Conservation Society (AWCS). He captures softshell turtles (family Trionychidae) in lakes and other water bodies and buys them from fishermen. He sells them on the public highway. On Saturday evening, the AWCS was informed that he was exhibiting 5 of them near a temple. By the time the warriors arrived on the scene, he had sold 3 at a price of 750 rupees (9.5 US\$ per specimen). He was arrested on Sunday. Sangareddy District is a suburb of Hyderabad (9 million inhabitants).

Telangana Today, September 4, 2022.<sup>34</sup>



**September 4, 2022**

**Talwandi Nipala, Ferozepure District, State of Punjab, India**

Seizure from a private individual of 25 live turtles captured in the Harike wildlife sanctuary. Covering an area of over 80 km<sup>2</sup>, it is home to 7 species of turtles, including Indian softshell turtles (*Nilssonina gangetica*, Appendix I), spotted pond turtles (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*, Appendix I), Indian flapshell turtles (*Lissemys punctata*, Appendix II), Indian narrow-headed softshell turtles (*Chitra indica*, Appendix II), crowned river turtles (*Hardella thurjii*, Appendix II), and brown river turtles (*Pangshura smithii*, Appendix II). In the winter, the sanctuary serves as a migratory stopover for thousands of birds from the Arctic and Siberia.

The Tribune (India), September 6, 2022.<sup>35</sup>

**September 5, 2022**

**Bengaluru, Bengaluru Urban District, State of Karnataka, India**

Arrest of 4 poachers with 1,132 Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix I) which were handed over to a city rescue center. S. Kalyan, age 21, M. Simhadri, age 19, S. Ishak, age 19, and Paramesh, age 47, admitted to capturing the turtles in the forests of Adoni, in the State of Andhra Pradesh, 350 km away. They had already sold 500 turtles in Chennai and Mumbai earlier this year.

The Hindu, September 5, 2022; Deccan Herald, September 11, 2022; The Times of India, September 11, 2022.<sup>36</sup>

**September 7, 2022**

**Chalanti, Baleswar District, State of Odisha, India**

Blockage of a fully loaded motorcycle at night on a freeway slip road, heading for West Bengal. Seizure of 87 Indian softshell turtles (*Nilssonina gangetica*, Appendix I). Debabrata Dey says he doesn't know the exact destination, nor that there were turtles in the bags. He says he was recruited by "a handicapped man" unable to drive a motorcycle. Apparently he was agile enough to flee into the night.

Odisha Bytes, September 7, 2022; Odisha TV, September 7, 2022.<sup>37</sup>

**OPERATION WILEP**

**September 7, 2022**

**Deoria Sadar Railway Station, Deoria District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India**

Seizure by the RPF (Railway Protection Force) of 520 softshell turtles (family Trionychidae) hidden in 29 bags of second-hand clothes. The lot is valued at 500,000 rupees (6,290 US\$ or 12 US\$) per specimen. The "mules" fled as the Railway Protection Force approached.

Railway Protection Force, September 7, 2022; Special Coverage News, September 7, 2022; Firstpost, September 8, 2022.<sup>38</sup>

**September 11, 2022**

**Motu, Malkangiri District, State of Odisha, India**

Seizure of 77 Indian softshell turtles (*Nilssonina gangetica*, Appendix I), including 25 dead ones. Arrest of 4 people.

Argus News, September 11, 2022; Odisha Bytes, September 11, 2022.<sup>39</sup>

**REPEATED OFFENCE**

**September 19, 2022**

**Hyderabad, Hyderabad District, State of Telangana, India**

Volunteers from the NGO Dhruvansh who were cleaning the Neknampur Lake intercepted 3 poachers who were capturing turtles. The lake is home to Indian flapshell turtles (*Lissemys punctata*, Appendix II), Indian black turtles (*Melanochelys trijuga*, Appendix II), and red-eared sliders (*Trachemys scripta elegans*). They are believed to belong to a 50-strong poaching gang known for its trading of monitor lizards (*Varanus* spp., Appendix I or II).

The Times of India, September 20, 2022.<sup>40</sup>

**INDONESIA**

**July 22, 2022**

**Sakeang, Maros Regency, South Sulawesi Province, Sulawesi Island, Indonesia**

The 149 South Asian box turtles (*Cuora amboinensis*, Appendix II) had been seized on June 29, 2022 on the *Dobonsolo* at Tanjung Perak, Java Island. The car ferry had come from Makassar, on the island of Sulawesi. A month later, they boarded a Citilink plane bound for Makassar. They were then released in a forest near Sakeang, 26 km from Makassar, their point of departure. The seizure and release are to the credit of the BKSDA agencies.

Darilaut.id, July 26, 2022.<sup>41</sup>

**THAILAND**

**July 4, 2022**

**Suvarnabhumi International Airport, Bangkok, Thailand**

Ukrainian Olga Kryshchtopa was caught red-handed attempting to smuggle 14 radiated tortoises (*Astrochelys radiata*, Appendix I), 98 pancake tortoises (*Malacochersus tornieri*, Appendix I), and 4 Aldabra giant tortoises

(*Aldabrachelys gigantea*, Appendix II), worth a total of 900,000 baths (25,634 US\$). The turtles are said to have survived the 20-hour journey from Dar es Salam, Tanzania, with a stopover in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

3Plus, July 5, 2022; The Thaiger, July 5, 2022.<sup>42</sup>



July 5, 2022

**Suvarnabhumi International Airport, Bangkok, Thailand**



Seizure of 81 Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix I) with an estimated value of 810,000 baht (23,070 US\$ or 285 US\$/specimen). The owner of the luggage from Chennai, India, was arrested.

Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, July 5, 2022.<sup>43</sup>

July 18, 2022

**Suvarnabhumi International Airport, Bangkok, Thailand**

Customs seized 7 Madagascar radiated tortoises (*Astrochelys radiata*, Appendix I) from the luggage of 2 passengers. Mr. Alongkron, age 27, was carrying 2 specimens worth 200,000 baht (5,700 US\$) from Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam (1h25 flight). Mr. Pichitphon, age 29, was transporting 5 specimens worth 500,000 baht (14,240 US\$ or 2,848 US\$/specimen) from Muscat, Oman (6h10 non-stop flight). Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, July 18, 2022.<sup>44</sup>

## PAKISTAN

August 3, 2022

**Islamabad, Islamabad Capital Territory, Pakistan**

Officers from the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board seized an Indian roofed turtle (*Pangshura tecta*, Appendix I), a spotted pond turtle (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*, Appendix I), a crowned river turtle (*Hardella thurjii*, Appendix II), an Indian flapshell turtle (*Lissemys punctata*, Appendix II), and an Indian soft-shell turtle (*Nilssonina gangetica*, Appendix I) from a pet shop. They were released into the Indus River. Dawn (with APP), August 3, 2022.<sup>45</sup>

## VIET NAM

July 2, 2022

**Nghe An Province, Viet Nam**

Three yellow-headed tortoises (*Indotestudo elongata*, Appendix II) are handed over to the authorities by a man who had bought them a few months earlier.

ENV, July 2, 2022.<sup>46</sup>

Beginning of July 2022

**Quang Binh Province, Viet Nam**

Seizure of 3 impressed tortoises (*Manouria impressa*, Appendix II) in a restaurant. The restaurant offered bamboo rat (subfamily Rhizomyinae) and civet (family Viverridae) on the menu. The Forest Protection Department reminds people that it is forbidden to sell wild animal meat.

ENV, July 12, 2022.<sup>47</sup>

July 2022

**Da Nang Municipality, Viet Nam**

ENV has been keeping an eye on the Da Nang market where turtles were seized in June 2019 (see "On the Trail" n°25 p. 28) and regularly visits the market to ensure that no wildlife is sold there. This time the catch was good. They discovered 7 Chinese stripe-necked turtles (*Mauremys sinensis*, Appendix III in China) for sale on a stall. They were seized.

ENV, July 26, 2022.<sup>48</sup>



August 2 and 7, 2022

**Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam**

Dialogue between the forestry services and the monks of 2 pagodas led to the voluntary release of 4 yellow-headed temple turtles (*Heosemys annandalii*, Appendix II), 14 giant Asian pond turtles (*Heosemys grandis*, Appendix II), 3 Mekong snail-eating turtles (*Malayemys subtrijuga*, Appendix II), 4 Asian box turtles (*Cuora* spp., Appendix I or II) and 3 Chinese stripe-necked turtles (*Mauremys sinensis*, Appendix III in China). The forestry services had been alerted by ENV's "mission" pagodas and other religious establishments.

ENV, August 2 and 7, 2022.<sup>49</sup>

August 19, 2022

**Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam**

Seizure of 10 yellow-headed temple turtles (*Heosemys annandalii*, Appendix II) in a pond at Phung Son pagoda following a new alert from ENV's pagoda "mission."

ENV, August 19, 2022.<sup>50</sup>

**August 23, 2022**

**Hanoi Municipality, Viet Nam**

Following the seizure of around a hundred turtles, including Southern Vietnam box turtle (*Cuora picturata*, Appendix I), big-headed turtles (*Platysternon megacephalum*, Appendix I), and Annam leaf turtles (*Mauremys annamensis*, Appendix I) (see "On the Trail" n°35 p.156) in the Bac Tu Liem District, the supplier was sentenced to 9 years' imprisonment and the seller to 3 years' suspended sentence and 5 years' probation. ENV, August 24, 2022.<sup>51</sup>



**August 26, 2022**

**Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam**

Within 30 minutes, the yellow-headed temple turtle (*Heosemys annandalii*, Appendix II), that was reported for sale at the roadside to the authorities by ENV, had been seized. ENV, August 26, 2022.<sup>52</sup>

**August 28, 2022**

**Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam**

The man who found a yellow-headed temple turtle (*Heosemys annandalii*, Appendix II) in his garden asked ENV for help to move it to a more suitable location. So far, so good. Except that the turtle had been stamped with yellow paint... ENV, August 28, 2022.<sup>53</sup>



**September 23, 2022**

**Viet Quang, Ha Giang Province, Viet Nam**

Seizure of a big-headed turtle (*Platysternon megacephalum*, Appendix I). Nguyen Ba D. had bought it from an orchid seller. On May 26, 2022, D. set off on his Yamaha motorcycle with the turtle, intent on selling it at a very good price. The turtle was wrapped in a blue plastic bottle, and on the Viet Quang side of the border, he was stopped by a highway patrol who found the bottle and the 300-gram turtle. In view of D.'s repentance, the fact that he had never had any dealings with the law, the difficulties of bringing up 2 children in this Covid-19 pandemic, and his respect for the laws and policies of the State,



this misdemeanour set aside, the trial court granted him the benefit of extenuating circumstances and did not deem it necessary to deprive him of his social life. He was sentenced to a 12-month suspended prison sentence with 24 months of probation. Thư viện pháp luật, September 23, 2022.<sup>54</sup>

**EUROPE**

**BULGARIA**

**August 29, 2022**

**Pleven Oblast, Bulgaria**

Seizure of 7 Hermann's tortoises (*Testudo hermanni*, Appendix II). They were released in a holm oak forest. Ministry of Environment and Water, August 30, 2022.<sup>55</sup>

**SPAIN**

**REPEATED OFFENCE**

**End of August 2022**

**Aznalcóllar, Province of Sevilla, Autonomous Community of Andalusia, Spain**

In the pile of items for sale on the website, there was a Mediterranean turtle (*Mauremys leprosa*). A man has been charged. He runs a pet shop. His criminal record already includes several wildlife offences. Mediterranean turtles are victims of water pollution and drought. Their habitats are almost dry. Diario de Sevilla, August 27, 2022.<sup>56</sup>

**ITALY**

**July 4, 2022**

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

When the car ferry Majestic disembarked from Tunisia, an atypical immigrant tried to enter Italy in a car. The customs officers discovered and seized it. It was a Greek tortoise (*Testudo graeca*, Appendix II). The driver has been charged. PalermoToday, July 4, 2022.<sup>57</sup>

**July 25, 2022**

**Novara, Province of Novara, Region of Piedmont, Italy**

August is the worst month for pets, but sometimes they get a bargain. 22 Hermann's tortoises (*Testudo hermanni*, Appendix II) abandoned in a corner of a public garden were reported by a walker and brought to safety thanks to the local police and the help of Anpana, an association for the rescue and protection of wild and domestic animals. La Stampa, July 26, 2022; NovaraToday, July 27, 2022.<sup>58</sup>



## Beginning of August 2022

### Venice, Metropolitan City of Venice, Region of Veneto, and Modena, Province of Modena, Region of Emilia-Romagna, Italy

Several generations of Hermann's tortoises (*Testudo hermanni*, Appendix II) have been rescued from abandonment in the garden of a deceased elderly woman who had engaged in their clandestine breeding and possibly their trade. The oldest is over 30 years old, the youngest less than a year old. The 54 turtles were transferred to the Il Pettirosso refuge, which boasts a 6-hectare forest with springs dedicated to Hermann's turtles. Radio Venezia, August 3, 2022.<sup>59</sup>

## September 9, 2022

### Port of Genoa, Metropolitan City of Genoa, Region of Liguria, Italy

Seizure of 12 Greek tortoises (*Testudo graeca*, Appendix II) in the false compartments of a vehicle disembarking from a car ferry from Tunisia. The driver is charged with possession of a protected species and animal abuse.

Customs and Monopolies Agency, September 9, 2022; Dire, September 9, 2022.<sup>60</sup>



## NORWAY

## FAMILY AFFAIRS

### September 26, 2022

#### Oslo, Eastern Norway Region, Norway

Seizure of 2 Hermann's tortoises (*Testudo hermanni*, Appendix II) that a family had brought back from their holiday in Copenhagen. They were handed over to the Danish veterinary authorities pending the possible issuance of a permit to their "owners". Norwegian Customs, September 26, 2022.<sup>61</sup>

## THE NETHERLANDS

### August 2022

#### The Netherlands

Seizure of an undocumented shell of a red-footed tortoise (*Chelonoidis carbonarius*, Appendix II) in a package from Suriname.

Waterkant, August 20, 2022.<sup>62</sup>

## POLAND

### July 8, 2022

#### Korcowa Border Post, Subcarpathian Voivodeship, Poland. Border with Ukraine.



Seizure of a Horsfield's tortoise (*Testudo horsfieldii*, Appendix II) travelling on the passenger seat of an incoming vehicle driven by a Ukrainian citizen. It was handed over to the Zamość Zoo.

Tax Administration Chamber in Rzeszów, July 8, 2022.<sup>63</sup>

## SERBIA

### July 1, 2022

#### Bujanovac, Pčinja District, Serbia



Seizure of 281 Hermann's tortoises (*Testudo hermanni*, Appendix II) from a car. Three Albanians were arrested. The majority of Bujanovac's inhabitants are Albanian. Hermann's tortoises (*Testudo hermanni*, Appendix II) and Greek tortoises (*Testudo graeca*, Appendix II) are found in Serbia.

The Government of the Republic of Serbia, July 1, 2022.<sup>64</sup>



Rhinoceros viper (*Bitis nasicornis*). Photo Thijs Valkenburg

## AFRICA

### SOUTH AFRICA

#### Beginning of August 2022

##### Johannesburg, Gauteng Province, South Africa

Release of a Southern African python (*Python natalensis*, Appendix II) recently admitted to the clinic. It had superficial bite marks. According to the vets, it was probably injured in captivity by a live animal that its "owner" had offered it as a meal. Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary Hospital, August 8, 2022.<sup>1</sup>



## CAMEROON

#### September 2022

##### Idenau, South-West Region, Cameroon

Release of a rhinoceros viper (*Bitis nasicornis*) poached and seized. Rhinoceros vipers are sought after for the international pet market, but also for their meat and skin.

Limbe Wildlife Centre, October 23, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

## KENYA

#### August 7, 2022

##### Amboseli National Park, Kajiado County, Kenya

Arrest of 2 suspects in possession of a python (*Python* spp., Appendix II) skin.

Big Life Foundation, August 7, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

## NAMIBIA

#### September 5, 2022

##### Otjiwarongo, Otjozondjupa Region, Namibia

Fresh python skin (*Python* spp., Appendix II) seized from the bag of Ben Katijhunda, a 45-year-old traditional healer. The 2.5-meter-long skin was valued at 15,000 Namibian dollars (890 US\$). The suspect was released on bail for 2,000 Namibian dollars (120 US\$).

Namibia News Digest, September 6 and 7, 2022; New Era, September 7, 2022.<sup>4</sup>



## NORTHERN AMERICA

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**July 11, 2022**

**Sioux City, State of Iowa, United States of America**

Parker Moos had left the care of his 50 boa constrictors (*Boa constrictor*, Appendix I or II) and royal pythons (*Python regius*, Appendix II) to his younger brother. A runaway snake had gotten into the neighbour's garage, and the panic-stricken neighbour killed it. The police transferred the snakes to an approved shelter. In his defense, Moos says the snakes were not dangerous, as they were mainly juveniles not exceeding 1.8 meters in length.

KTIV, July 12, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

**August 14, 2022**

**State of New Jersey and Long Island, State of New York, United States of America**

The undercover purchase of a yellow anaconda (*Eunectes notaeus*, Appendix II) on Craigslist enabled authorities to arrest the seller. He also turned over to authorities a 1m20 Burmese python (*Python bivittatus*, Appendix II) and a 1m50 reticulated python (*Python reticulatus*, Appendix II) illegally held in his home.

Department of Environmental Conservation, August 17, 2022; New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, August 20, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

**End of September 2022**

**Williamson County, State of Illinois, United States of America**

Seizure of 2 western diamond-backed rattlesnakes (*Crotalus atrox*) and a western barred spitting cobra (*Naja nigricincta*) from southern Africa in a private home. Their "owner" is indicted.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources, September 30, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

## LATIN AMERICA

### BRAZIL

**August 7, 2022**

**Santa Cruz Cabrália, State of Bahia, Brazil**

The environmental authorities are looking for the fisherman and his neighbour. They filmed themselves skinning a 5-meter-long anaconda (*Eunectes* spp., Appendix II).

Acorda Cidade, August 9, 2022.<sup>8</sup>



## ASIA

### CHINA

**Beginning of July 2022**

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

Another erhu with a sound box made of python (*Pythonidae*, Appendix I or II) skin. Seizure. Chinese Customs, July 15, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

**July 2022**

**Hefei, Hefei Prefecture, Anhui Province, China**



Seizure of 5.4 kg of reticulated python (*Python reticulatus*, Appendix II) gall bladders from a parcel. Chinese Customs, August 1, 2022.<sup>10</sup>

**August 2022**

**Shanghai Pudong International Airport, Shanghai Autonomous Municipality, China**



New seizure of an erhu that's sound box is made of a Burmese python (*Python bivittatus*, Appendix II) skin.

The Paper, August 17, 2022.<sup>11</sup>

**September 2022**

**Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, China**

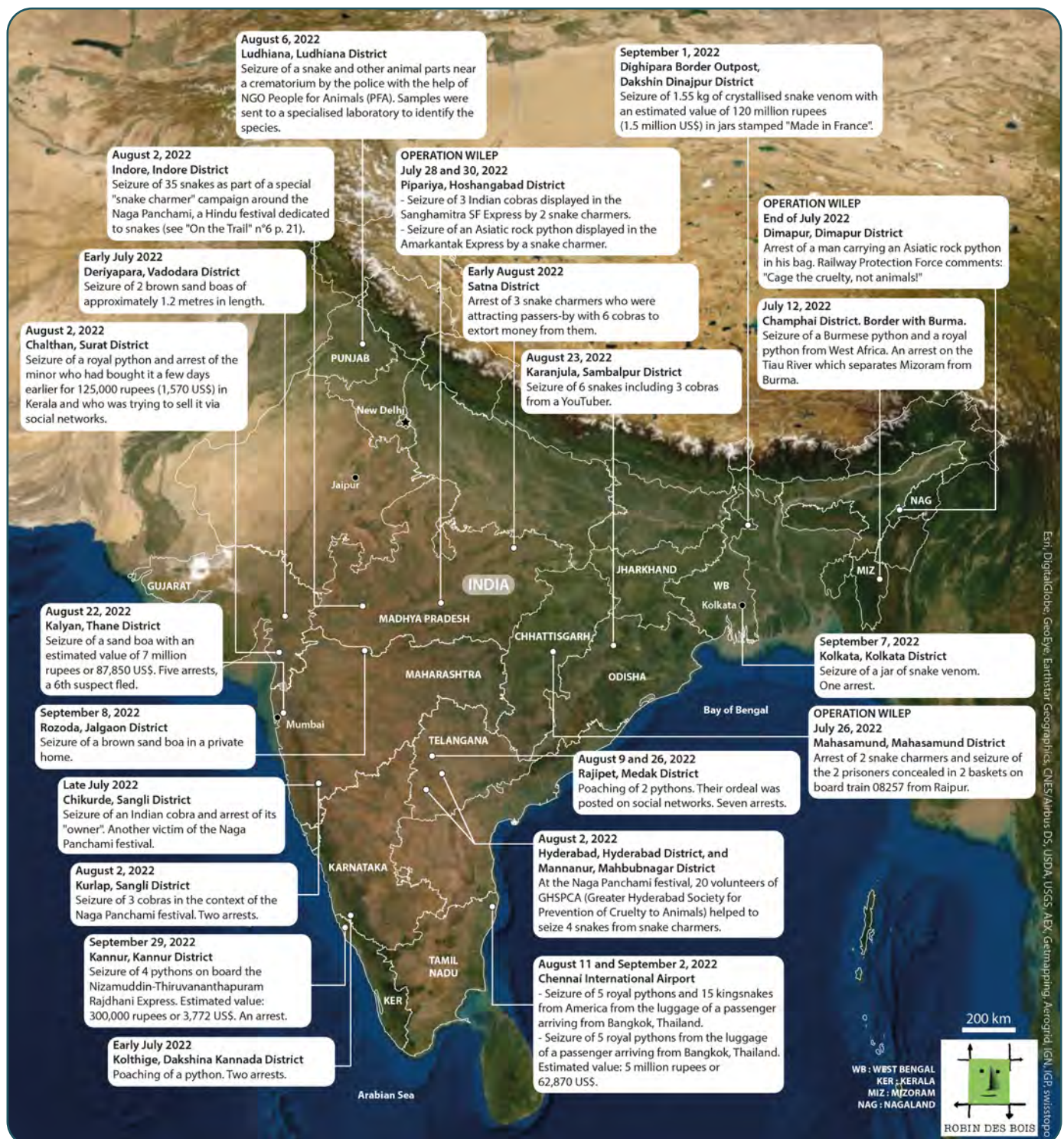
In the incoming mail, another 3 erhus with a sound box made of python (*Pythonidae*, Appendix I or II) skin.

Chinese Customs, September 27, 2022.<sup>12</sup>



## INDIA

### Poaching and trafficking of snakes or venom between July 1 and September 30, 2022



Sand boa (*Eryx spp.*, Appendix II)

Rown sand boa (*Eryx johnii*, Appendix II)

Cobra (family Elapidae)

Indian cobra (*Naja naja*, Appendix II)

Python (*Python spp.*, Appendix I or II). Three species of pythons live in India : *Python bivittatus*, *Python brongersmai* and *Python molurus*

Asiatic rock python (*Python molurus*, Appendix II)

Burmese python (*Python bivittatus*, Appendix II)

Royal python (*Python regius*, Appendix II)

Kingsnake (genus *Lampropeltis*)

Sources, see page 234.

**July 2022**

**Alipurduar, Alipurduar District, State of West Bengal, India**

Sentence of 5 years' imprisonment and a fine of 10,000 rupees (125 US\$) for the trafficker arrested in April with 3 Indian cobras (*Naja naja*, Appendix II).

West Bengal Forest Department, July 18, 2022; MillenniumPost, July 25, 2022.<sup>13</sup>



**September 29, 2022**

**Pazhayangadi, Kannur District, State of Kerala, India**

Indian Railways has fined Mr. Muhammad Isham 500 rupees (6.3 US\$) for shipping snakes in an air-conditioned carriage of the Rajdhani Express. This 20-year-old student buys and resells African snakes to "pay for his studies." "The highest price I've obtained for a snake is 120,000 rupees (1,509 US\$). I make a profit of 5,000 to 20,000 rupees (63-251 US\$) on each sale." This time, he had bought 4 baby royal python (*Python regius*, Appendix II) for 300,000 rupees (3,772 US\$). A courier company had decided to ship them by train. She arranged with an Indian Railways employee, Kamalkanth Sharma, age 40, to transport them in plastic boxes.

Mathrubhumi, September 30 and October 1, 2022; Mirror Now, October 1, 2022; The New Indian Express, October 22, 2022.<sup>14</sup>



## PAKISTAN

**July 30, 2022**

**Shah Maqsood, Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan**

A group of smugglers from Rawalpindi were arrested while transporting snake skins to Muzaffarabad, 150 km away.

The Express Tribune, July 30, 2022.<sup>15</sup>

**September 2, 2022**

**Chitterpari, Province of Azad Kashmir, Pakistan**

Mohammad Faisal, a shepherd, calls for help. One of his goats would have been swallowed by an Asiatic rock python (*Python molurus*, Appendix I). The villagers beat the reptile with sticks until it died, then buried it. Lynching has been made public through numerous videos and photos posted on social media.

Dawn, September 4, 2022.<sup>16</sup>

## VIET NAM

**Beginning of July 2022**

**Chau Duc District, Ba Ria Province, Viet Nam**

Seizure of a python (Pythonidae, Appendix I or II) displayed in a shop selling ornamental birds.

ENV, July 7, 2022.<sup>17</sup>

**August 17, 2022**

**Sop Cop District, Son La Province, Viet Nam. Border with Laos.**

Lo Van S. sentenced to 18 months' suspended imprisonment and 36 months' probation, Lo Van U. sentenced to 14 months' suspended imprisonment and 28 months' probation, and Seo Van sentenced to 16 months' suspended imprisonment and 32 months' probation for capturing a king cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*, Appendix II) which had just crossed the road and taken refuge in a dead tree, and then having attempted to sell it for one million dong (48 US\$). Considering that the thieves and the seller of the king cobra belong to an ethnic minority in social and family difficulties, the court exempted them from paying legal fees. The Muong Lan People's Committee is responsible for supervising and educating the 3 men during the probation period.

Thư viện pháp luật, August 17, 2022.<sup>18</sup>



**September 14, 2022**

**Yen Bai, Yen Bai Province, Viet Nam**

On April 29, 2022, Nguyen Thi Thu was caught transporting a king cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*, Appendix II) in an iron cage on the back of his motorcycle. He was preparing to sell it for 3 million dong (131 US\$). In the first instance, he was sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment. The appeal court sentenced him to 6 months' suspended imprisonment and 3 years' probation. His family is responsible for coordinating his education and supervision with his village's People's Committee.

Thư viện pháp luật, September 14, 2022.<sup>19</sup>



**September 15, 2022**

**Municipality of Hanoi, Viet Nam**

Conviction of Trang A. S. and Thao A. Q. to 16 months' suspended imprisonment and 32 months' probation for having captured a 2.5-meter-long, 3 kg king cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*, Appendix II) in the forest and agreed to sell it on social media for 6 million dong (256 US\$) and a further million (43 US\$) for shipping costs to Hanoi. Here again, the court considered that the poachers were members of an ethnic community with social difficulties and that they were illiterate, which in a way prevented them from assimilating the regulatory statute on wildlife protection. They therefore benefited from extenuating circumstances. They may not be able to read, but they can count.

Thư viện pháp luật, September 15, 2022.<sup>20</sup>





## EUROPE

### FRANCE

**July 8, 2022**

**Sainte-Suzanne-et-Chammes, Department of Mayenne, France**

July, the month of abandonment. Firefighters capture 2 royal pythons (*Python regius*, Appendix II) in the woods. They were placed in quarantine.

Refuge de l'Arche, July 20, 2022.<sup>21</sup>

## CZECHIA

**End of July 2022**

**Havirov, Moravia-Silesia Region, Czechia**

Indictment of a 25-year-old man. He was keeping reptiles, including a python (Pythonidae, Appendix I or II), white mice for food, and spiders in deplorable and illegal conditions. It was the appalling smell emanating from his apartment that led neighbours to contact the police. They thought the young man was dead.

Blesk.cz, July 29, 2022; Ekolist.cz, August 5, 2022.<sup>22</sup>

## MONITOR LIZARDS, GECKOS, CHAMELEONS, IGUANAS...



Hardwick's spiny-tailed lizard (*Saara hardwickii*). Photo Avinash Bhagat

## AFRICA

### SOUTH AFRICA

**End of July 2022**

**Johannesburg, Gauteng Province, South Africa**

Arrival of a freshly confiscated white-throated monitor (*Varanus albigularis*, Appendix II) at the veterinary hospital.

Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary Hospital, August 25, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

## NORTHERN AMERICA

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**August 27, 2022**

**Port Chester, State of New York, United States of America**

A package containing live iguanas (family Iguanidae) and other small lizards was delivered to the wrong address. The police recovered them. They were entrusted to Animal Nation and underwent an emergency veterinary examination. The NGO is outraged: "There must be reform in the breeding, sale, and shipment of live animals."

Port Chester Police Department, August 27, 2022; Miami Herald, August 31, 2022.<sup>2</sup>



## LATIN AMERICA

### SURINAME

**July 10, 2022**

**Meerzorg, Commewijne District, and Highway, Wanica District, Suriname**

Release of 29 green iguanas (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II) after their seizure on the Martin Luther King Highway. They were being transported by young people on motorcycles who fled the scene. Department of Nature Conservation (Suriname), July 12, 2022; Surinamese Government, July 13, 2022.<sup>3</sup>



## ASIA

### INDIA

**July 1, 2022**

**Atmakur Mandal, Warangal District, State of Andhra Pradesh, India**

Police arrest Kota Yadagiri, resident of Balaji Nagar, with 7 Bengal monitor lizards (*Varanus bengalensis*, Appendix I), 2 of them dead, allegedly captured by him and 2 others in the hills near the village of Pattipaka. The lizards are sold for between 2,000 and 5,000 rupees apiece (25 to 63 US\$) for their alleged aphrodisiac virtues. The future of the monitor lizards is threatened by poachers and even by forest officials. After the seizure, some of them offered to eat 2 of them. The present status of the Bengal monitor lizards is poorly understood. Telangana Today, July 6, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

**July 26, 2022**

**Chacha, Jaisalmer District, State of Rajasthan, India**

Four poachers were intercepted on their moped with weapons and 20 Hardwick's spiny-tailed lizard (*Saara hardwickii*, Appendix II). They were still alive, but their backs had been broken to prevent them escaping. Their meat or fat (obtained by burning them alive) is considered an aphrodisiac (see "On the Trail" n°3 p.17, n°28 p.130 and n°30 p.142). The Times of India, July 27 and August 20, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

**August 19, 2022**

**Hameeron Ki Basti, Jaisalmer District, State of Rajasthan, India**

Authorities seized 31 Hardwick's spiny-tailed lizard (*Saara hardwickii*, Appendix II), this time the poachers managed to escape. The Times of India, August 20, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

## FAMILY AFFAIRS / REPEATED OFFENCE

**August 29, 2022**

**Bhubaneswar, Khordha District, State of Odisha, India**



Arrest of Khirod Mohanty and Rashmi Ranjan Das, a grandfather and grandson, for attempted sale of an Indian chameleon (*Chamaeleo zeylanicus*, Appendix II), for 150,000 rupees (1,880 US\$). They were caught in the Shyma Prasad Mukherjee Park. Odisha Bytes, August 29, 2022; Ommcom News, August 29, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

**September 2, 2022**

**Thane, Thane District, State of Maharashtra, India**

Vicky Ganpat Lad, age 41, intervened in his village as a self-proclaimed "snake rescuer" to move away a monitor lizard (*Varanus* spp., Appendix I or II) that had entered his neighbour's house. After capturing it, he cooked and ate it at home. When the police arrived, they found only the remains in the refrigerator. They proceeded to arrest the impostor. The Times of India, September 3, 2022.<sup>8</sup>

**September 3, 2022**

**Srisaillam, Nandyal District, State of Andhra Pradesh, India**

Seizure of 146 monitor lizard (*Varanus* spp., Appendix I or II) hemipenises from 2 stores and 2 arrests.

WCCB, September 5, 2022.<sup>9</sup>



**September 10, 2022**

**Topatoli, Kamrup Metropolitan District, Assam State, India**

At the border with Meghalaya, undercover policemen arrested Ruochan Ali and Ali Ahmed. They were trying to sell a tokay gecko (*Gekko gecko*, Appendix II).

Guwahati Plus, September 12, 2022.<sup>10</sup>

**OPERATION WILEP**

**September 13, 2022**

**Siliguri Junction Railway Station, Darjeeling District, State of West Bengal, India**

On the Capital Express, the railway brigade notices a suspicious bag in car D-1. It contained 3 tokay geckos (*Gekko gecko*, Appendix II).

Railway Protection Force, September 14, 2022; Siliguri Times, September 14, 2022.<sup>11</sup>

**September 14 and 15, 2022**

**Aksa, Mumbai-Suburban District, State of Maharashtra, India**

A lifeguard on his beach spots and reports a man carrying a Bengal monitor lizard (*Varanus bengalensis*, Appendix I) in a plastic bag. Gorakh Chakhoji Jadhav was arrested. He wanted to both eat the monitor and recover its fat to treat joint problems.

Mid-Day, September 21, 2022.<sup>12</sup>

**September 27, 2022**

**Guwahati, Guwahati District, State of Assam, India**



Arrest of Pranab Ranghang in possession of a tokay gecko (*Gekko gecko*, Appendix II). He is suspected of being a long-time trafficker.

Northeast Now, September 27, 2022; Praditin Time, September 27, 2022.<sup>13</sup>

**OPERATION WILEP**

**September 29, 2022**

**Kharagpur Railway Station, Paschim Medinipur District, State of West Bengal, India**

Seizure of 2 Bengal monitor lizards (*Varanus bengalensis*, Appendix I) tied up and shut up in 2 bags in the local train n°38817 from Howrah (Howrah district) to Midnapore (Paschim Medinipur district).

Railway Protection Force, September 30, 2022; Railway Protection Force South Eastern Railway, September 30, 2022.<sup>14</sup>



## UZBEKISTAN

**August 31, 2022**

### **Tashkent International Airport, Tashkent Independent City, Uzbekistan**

A passenger from Egypt, YaJ., is checked by customs. In a plastic container among his belongings are 10 common chameleons (*Chamaeleo chamaeleon*, Appendix II) or veiled chameleons (*Chamaeleo calyptratus*, Appendix II) with an estimated value of 54,700,000 soums (5,000 US\$ or 500 US\$/chameleon). They were handed over to the Tashkent Zoo, where 6 of them died as a result of their poor health.

State Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, August 31, 2022; Gazeta.uz, September 8, 2022; UzReport, October 13, 2022.<sup>15</sup>

## PAKISTAN

**Beginning of August 2022**

### **District of Abbottabad, Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan**

Authorities foiled a trafficking operation involving 6 geckos (family Gekkonidae) between Taxila and Torgar (200 km away). The 3 poachers have been arrested and the geckos are due to be released.

UrduPoint, August 15, 2022.<sup>16</sup>

**Beginning of August 2022**

### **Dalepur, Province of Punjab, Pakistan**

Seizure of a "rare lizard" in a car controlled by the police. The authorities did not specify the species, but its value was estimated at 500,000 rupees (2,160 US\$). Two individuals were arrested and fined 53,000 rupees (230 US\$).

The Express Tribune, August 16, 2022.<sup>17</sup>



## VIET NAM

**July 16, 2022**

### **Huế, Thua Thien Hue Province, Viet Nam**

On his way home from work, Mr. Tran Van Son comes across some teenagers manhandling a Bengal monitor lizard (*Varanus bengalensis*, Appendix I). He buys it and entrusts it to the authorities with a view to releasing it back into the wild. The healthy animal weighs 5kg.

Toquoc Online, July 16, 2022.<sup>18</sup>



## EUROPE

## GERMANY

**July 19, 2022**

### **Mettmann District, North Rhine-Westphalia State, Germany**



A farmer discovered an 80 cm long savannah monitor (*Varanus exanthematicus*, Appendix II) in his field. It was first entrusted to the Hilden refuge, then to the Frankfurt am Main Zoo.

Rheinische Post, July 20, 2022; Bild, August 2, 2022; WDR, September 13, 2022.<sup>19</sup>

**July 29, 2022**

### **Düsseldorf International Airport, North Rhine-Westphalia State, Germany**



The package is inspected by customs officials. They discover a savannah monitor (*Varanus exanthematicus*, Appendix II) in smoke. The parcel was from Nigeria. It also contained hairpieces, spices, and fabrics. The consignee was a resident of Wuppertal.

German Customs, August 5, 2022.<sup>20</sup>



# ALLIGATORS, CROCODILES AND CAIMANS



American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*). Photo Jeffrey Gammon

## AFRICA

### UGANDA

July 1, 2022

Tetugu, Northern Region, Uganda



The nephew of former president Milton Obote, a 45-year-old farmer named Napoleon Obote, was arrested at his home. He was trafficking in Nile crocodile skins (*Crocodylus niloticus*, Appendix II). The authorities seized 3 skins. He admits to hunting, eating the flesh, and selling the skins for 7 years. Natural Resource Conservation Network, July 2, 2022; The Cooperator News, July 5, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

## ZIMBABWE

August 2022

Chitungwiza, Mashonaland East Province, Zimbabwe

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, bushmeat has been sold openly in butchers' shops. Problican Quality Meat offers Nile crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*, Appendix II) for 3 US\$/kg, and in the stalls of Koala Park Butchery and Abbatoir, various bushmeats are sold for 4 US\$/kg.

The Independent, August 20, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

## NORTHERN AMERICA

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

July 5 and the beginning of August 2022

Frapp and Hilton-Head Islands, State of South Carolina, United States of America



Abuse of American alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II) increases. Two videos show alligator abuse. Three "bored" teenagers captured an alligator and tied it up with nylon ropes in their vacation home. The police set the reptile free. They were fined 260 US\$ each and their parents were informed.

The Island Packet, August 11, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

**July 17, 2022**

**Rockledge, State of Florida, United States of America**

Arrest of Peyton Anderson, age 20, for firing a pellet gun at an American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II) swimming in a stream behind his house. The individual admitted the facts. The alligator posed no immediate danger. Anderson had to post 2,500 US\$ bail to regain his freedom.

Florida Today, July 19, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

**End of July 2022**

**Hillsborough County, State of Florida, United States of America**

After shots were fired on a golf course, police finally discovered the cause. A man with an outstanding arrest warrant was carrying 4 firearms and a freshly killed American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II) in his pick-up truck.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, July 28, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

**OPERATION GAME THIEF**

**July 30, 2022**

**Calhoun County, State of Texas, United States of America**

Discovery of 4 American alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II), 1.8 to 3 meters long, decapitated.

Operation Game Thief (Texas), August 10, 2022.<sup>6</sup>



**End of July and August 3, 2022**

**Islip and Smithtown, State of New York, United States of America**

For several weeks, environmental police monitored a house where an alligator (*Alligator spp.*, Appendix I or II) was believed to be kept. The occupants at first denied it, then confessed. They are being prosecuted. In the USA, the lie is often more serious than the act itself. The 9-year-old alligator, measuring between 1.2 and 1.5 meters long, was entrusted to a shelter in Massachusetts, 350 km away.

Department of Environmental Conservation, August 17, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

**August 1, 2022**

**Deltona, State of Florida, United States of America**

Several people posted photos of a 1.5-meter American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II) swimming with a meat cleaver between its eyes. Authorities captured it in a pond behind a Subway and had to finish it off.

WKMG-TV News 6, August 1, 2022; Cable News Network, August 13, 2022.<sup>8</sup>

**August 12, 2022**

**Albuquerque, State of New Mexico, United States of America**

In search of a tiger (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I) whose photo they had received, NMDGF (New Mexico Department of Game & Fish) agents searched a Mountain Road residence, with police backup. They found a one-meter-long American alligator (*Alligator spp.*, Appendix I or II), 0.9 kg of heroin, 4.75 kg of cocaine, 13 kg of marijuana, fentanyl tablets, 197 bottles of cannabis oil, an AK-47, 2 other firearms and over 40,000 US\$ in cash. A man was arrested, and the tiger was actively searched for at another of his residences, but police and wildlife officers "only" got their hands on 14 firearms, Xanax tablets, and marijuana. The alligator was returned to the Albuquerque Zoological Park. It is currently undergoing detoxification.

Police of the City of Albuquerque, September 8, 2022; New Mexico Department of Game & Fish, September 10, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

**Mid-August 2022**

**Washington County, State of Florida, United States of America**

The start of the hunting season on August 15 for American alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II) is causing a stir. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officers are on the front line to restrain the tide of hunters trying to circumvent the law.

Inspection of a boat returning from a hunt. The 2 men admitted to hunting outside the area covered by their permits. In addition, their companion did not have the required trapping "agent" licence to take part in the hunt. Finally, their boat had several non-conformities. They left free after being issued the appropriate citations.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, August 18, 2022.<sup>10</sup>

**Mid-August 2022**

**Brevard County, State of Florida, United States of America**

- As a result of a tip-off, a man who shot an American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II) in a canal from his boat was located and his victim confiscated.

- A suspect who placed American alligator bait before the authorised date and without using the appropriate device was issued a citation.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, August 25, 2022.<sup>11</sup>



### Mid-August 2022

#### Orange County, State of Florida, United States of America

- On the shore, 3 men are struggling with a 3.2 metre long American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II). The fight ends with a shotgun blast. An officer immediately intervenes and finds another dead alligator in their boat. One of the suspects has an alligator hunting licence but for another area. The carcass is seized.

- Five hunters are caught dragging a live alligator by boat to a licenced hunting area. They are in possession of 3 CITES hunting tags that do not cover the area they are in. The alligator is released.

- Another boat is active in the area. This time the owner has a permit, but it does not allow him to hunt alligators so early in the season.

All suspects are being prosecuted.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, August 25, 2022.<sup>12</sup>

### Mid-August 2022

#### Fort McCoy, State of Florida, United States of America

Vehicles on the dock at the Eureka West Recreation Area attract the attention of an inspector. The individuals are found to be in illegal possession of the carcass of an American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II).

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, August 25, 2022.<sup>13</sup>

### OPERATION GAME THIEF

#### August 17 and 29, 2022

#### Slocum, State of Texas, United States of America



Discovery of an American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II) with its head and legs amputated in Squirrel Creek. Twelve days later, the 1,000 US\$ reward offered to anyone who could provide useful information on the matter paid off: the alligator's head, meat and bones were found in a private home and a suspect was indicted. Operation Game Thief (Texas), August 18 and September 2, 2022.<sup>14</sup>

### End of August 2022

#### Lake Dora, State of Florida, United States of America

Two suspects were arrested for poaching a 2.75 metre long American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II) in an area where hunting is prohibited. The alligator was released.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, August 25, 2022.<sup>15</sup>

### End of August 2022

#### Flagler County, State of Florida, United States of America

A small light shines at the shoreline. Intrigued, an officer from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission approaches and searches the boat. Clearly, the people on board are there to prey on American alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II), but they are a little ahead of the date on the permit.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, August 25, 2022.<sup>16</sup>

### End of August 2022

#### Calhoun County, State of Florida, United States of America

An individual was charged with illegal possession of an American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II). The animal, still a juvenile, was seized in his bathtub.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, September 1, 2022.<sup>17</sup>

### August 2022

#### Surf City, State of North Carolina, United States of America

A female American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II) aged between 10 and 12 years and measuring 1.7 meters long was shot in the head. The carcass was discovered in a marsh at the end of the 6th Avenue canal. To explain this upsurge in alligator mortality, experts point to 2 contradictory causes: the harmful behavior of people who feed alligators and encourage them to seek human proximity, and conversely the irrational fear of alligators.

Wilmington StarNews, September 3, 2022.<sup>18</sup>

### Beginning of September 2022

#### Ozello, State of Florida, United States of America

He claimed self-defence. The 90 cm-long American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II) had attacked him while he was kayaking. However, inconsistencies in his testimony have come to light, and he is now facing trial for illegal possession of an alligator carcass.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, September 8, 2022.<sup>19</sup>

**Beginning of September 2022**  
**Indian River County, State of Florida, United States of America**

- An officer noticed a boat with all lights off. A search of the boat revealed that his occupant was hunting American alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II), although it was more than 6 km from the management unit.  
- The same officer noticed another boat that was shining a light in front of him at night. His search revealed the presence of a 2.4-metre-long American alligator without harvest tag.  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, September 8, 2022.<sup>20</sup>

**Beginning of September 2022**  
**Broward County, State of Florida, United States of America**

- Arrest of an individual hunting American alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II). He was not in the area covered by his permit.  
- Arrest of a suspect vehicle. The carcass of an alligator without harvest tag was found inside.  
- Arrest of an alligator poacher.  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, September 8, 2022.<sup>21</sup>

**OPERATION GAME THIEF**

**September 11, 2022**  
**Liberty, State of Texas, United States of America**

An American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II) found near a wharf, shot in the head and missing part of its tail.

Operation Game Thief (Texas), September 14, 2022.<sup>22</sup>



**Beginning of September 2022**  
**Daniels Lake, State of Florida, United States of America**

Two people were arrested on the quay. They were in possession of an American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II) without harvest tag and a number of catfish (order Siluriformes) exceeding the authorised quota. The inspection of their boat also revealed 2 boating safety violations.  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, September 15, 2022.<sup>23</sup>

**Beginning of September 2022**  
**Newnans and Lochloosa Lakes, State of Florida, United States of America**

- Arrest of several people who admitted to poaching American alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II).  
- Arrest of a man who presented an alligator hunting permit in the name of another person and valid in another county.  
- Arrest of an individual in possession of an alligator carcass when his licence did not authorise him to hunt in this area.  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, September 15, 2022.<sup>24</sup>

**Beginning of September 2022**  
**DePuis Wildlife Management Area, State of Florida, United States of America**

Poacher of American alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II) caught outside the authorised area.  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, September 15, 2022.<sup>25</sup>

**LATIN AMERICA**

**FRANCE (FRENCH GUIANA)**

**End of August 2022**  
**Matoury, Territorial Collectivity of Guiana, France**

The authorities were alerted. They arrested a woman selling 1,400 kg of caiman meat. In French Guiana, there are 4 species of caiman: the black caiman (*Melanosuchus niger*, Appendix I), the spectacled caiman (*Caiman crocodilus*, Appendix II), the Cuvier's smooth-fronted caiman (*Paleosuchus palpebrosus*, Appendix II), and the Schneider's smooth-fronted caiman (*Paleosuchus trigonatus*, Appendix II).

French Biodiversity Agency in Guiana, November 2022.<sup>26</sup>

**THE CARIBBEAN**

**TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

**End of July 2022**  
**Trinidad and Tobago**

Just in time rescue of a female spectacled caiman (*Caiman crocodilus*, Appendix II) that construction workers were trying to catch for a meal. It can thank the security guards for alerting the El Socorro wildlife centre. It was released in a less frequented area.

El Socorro Center for Wildlife Conservation, July 31, 2022.<sup>27</sup>



## ASIA

### CHINA

**August 29, 2022**

**Changsha Huanghua International Airport, Changsha Prefecture, Hunan Province, China**

Seizure of 3 crocodile (*Crocodylidae*, Appendix I or II) skins and 8 bags and 3 belts made of crocodile skin.

Chinese Customs, September 2, 2022.<sup>28</sup>

### INDIA

**July 3, 2022**

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

A 6-year-old, 3-meter-long mugger crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*, Appendix I) was beaten to death by angry Khatima villagers. It was caught in a net in the river after the disappearance of Bir Singh, a 13-year-old boy. An autopsy revealed that the crocodile had not killed him. The villagers will be investigated.

Hindustan Times, July 4, 2022.<sup>29</sup>



**July 12, 2022**

**Raghunathpur, Sheopur District, State of Madhya Pradesh, India**

Another falsely accused mugger crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*, Appendix I). Following the tragic disappearance of a 7-year-old boy who had gone swimming, villagers captured it with a fishing net. For over 7 hours, they pushed logs into his mouth, thinking he would vomit up the body, but to no avail. In the end, it was the sad discovery of the child's body in the river that put an end to the crocodile's martyrdom. If his condition permits, he will be released.

Hindustan Times, July 12, 2022.<sup>30</sup>

### UZBEKISTAN

**August 30, 2022**

**Tashkent International Airport, Tashkent Independent City, Uzbekistan**

Customs intercepted an attempt to smuggle 57-week-old Nile crocodiles (*Crocodylus niloticus*, Appendix II). They were found in plastic crates, wrapped in aluminum, among fruit and vegetables, belonging to M. S. who was returning from Cairo in Egypt (flight of at least 10 hours). The total value of the crocodiles is estimated at 918,500,000 soums (83,800 US\$ or 1,500 US\$/crocodile). They were entrusted in poor condition to the Tashkent Zoo, which was quick to deplore the death of one individual. The fate of the culprit and the crocodiles has not yet been decided.

State Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, August 31, 2022; Gazeta.uz, September 8, 2022; UzReport, October 13, 2022.<sup>31</sup>



## PAKISTAN

**August 5, 2022**

**Amil, Province of Sindh, Pakistan**

Flooding creates tension. Potentially dangerous reptiles find their way into homes. In this context, 3 crocodiles (*Crocodylidae*, Appendix I or II) were attacked by the inhabitants of Amil. A 2.4-meter-long specimen was killed. It was said to have tried to enter a house where children were staying.

Dawn, August 6, 2022.<sup>32</sup>

## EUROPE

### GERMANY

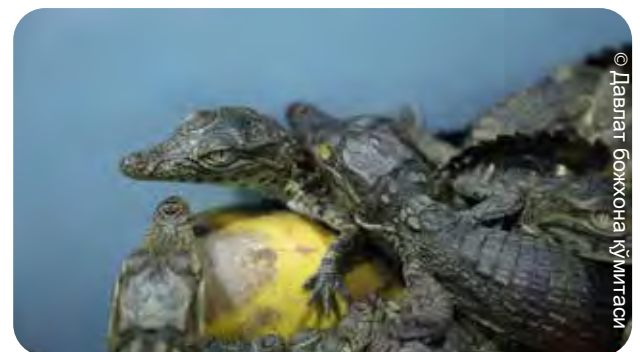
**September 25, 2022**

**Munich Franz Josef Strauß International Airport, Bavaria State, Germany**



Customs officers seized a one-meter-long alligator (*Alligator* spp., Appendix I or II) from the suitcase of a 42-year-old businessman. He was in transit between the United States (at least a 9-hour flight) and Singapore (at least a 12-hour flight). The albino alligator, very close to suffocation, was wrapped in cling film. It was placed in a reception center in Munich. According to experts, such a specimen could be worth between 50,000 US\$ and 75,000 US\$ in Asia. The individual had to give up his phone and pay a "5-figure" fine. He was then allowed to continue his journey. Criminal proceedings are in progress.

German Customs, October 13, 2022; TZ, January 31, 2023.<sup>33</sup>



## FRANCE

### FAMILY AFFAIRS

July 15, 2022

#### Etrechy, Department of Essonne, France

Sandra contacted Action Protection Animale (APA) to ask them to recover 2 African dwarf crocodiles (*Osteolaemus tetraspis*, Appendix I) and a caiman (Alligatoridae, Appendix I or II) which she had been caring for alone for 18 months, since her divorce. Her ex-husband was the legal guardian, but a court order forbade him access to the ex-couple's home. On site, the association discovered that "Mr. and Mrs. Crocodile", aged 45 and 30 and measuring almost 2 meters in length, had been living for 20 years in the basement in 2 undersized tanks. There's also "Sac à main" ("handybag") which lives in a terrarium upstairs. While the association tries to find them a place in a suitable shelter, the ex-husband tries to get them back legally. The authorities finally authorize the APA to organise the transfer. On September 1, after a 10-hour drive (900 km), they arrive at the specialized shelter in Munich.

Actu Essonne, July 15, 2022; Le Parisien, July 15 and September 2, 2022.<sup>34</sup>

## LITHUANIA

July 2022

#### Klaipėda, Klaipėda County, Lithuania



Individual charged with illegal reptile trade. He was betrayed by an online advertisement for the sale of a stuffed spectacled caiman (*Caiman crocodilus*, Appendix I or II). A search of his home led to the seizure of the former reptile.

Environmental Protection Department, July 28, 2022.<sup>35</sup>

## NORWAY

September 22, 2022

#### Oslo, Eastern Norway Region, Norway

Seizure of the alligator (*Alligator* spp., Appendix I or II) leather strap of a Patek Philippe watch brought by a passenger from Kiel, Germany. He claimed to have bought it from a watchmaker but had no supporting documents.

Norwegian Customs, September 22, 2022.<sup>36</sup>

## POLAND

July 28, 2022

#### Warsaw, Masovian Voivodeship, Poland

Seizure of a crocodilian (Crocodylia, Appendix I or II) skull in a package from China. The shipment was supposed to contain a skull worth only 1 US\$, which attracted the attention of customs officials.

Tax Office Warsaw-Wola, July 28, 2022.<sup>37</sup>

September 23, 2022

#### Medyka Border Post, Subcarpathian Voivodeship, Poland. Border with Ukraine.



Seizure of a juvenile American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II) head from a car. The 41-year-old driver had failed to declare it and did not have the necessary documentation.

Subcarpathian Customs and Excise Office in Przemyśl, September 23, 2022.<sup>38</sup>

# AMPHIBIANS



*Hoplobatrachus occipitalis*. Photo Lotanna Micah Nneji

## AFRICA

### NIGER

**August 20, 2022**

**Tara, Dosso Region, Niger. Border with Benin.**

A gang of 6 foreigners poisoned frog colonies in the Niger River with overdoses of Dichlorvos, a suspected carcinogenic organophosphate pesticide widely used in Niger under the name piya-piya. The frogs were then dried, boxed, and sold in Benin or Nigeria.



Crowned bullfrogs (*Hoplobatrachus occipitalis*) are caught in large quantities in Niger and increasingly consumed in West Africa.

"Exploitation of frogs - a review with a focus on West Africa", Salamandra 45(4), Meike Mohnke, Abiodun B. Onadoko and Mark-Oliver Rödel, 2009; Les Echos du Niger, August 22, 2022; Ministry of the Environment and the Fight against Desertification, August 22, 2022; Tadress24info, August 22, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

## ASIA

### BANGLADESH

**July 3, 2022**

**Tala Upazila, Satkhira District, Khulna Division, Bangladesh**

Two young men fined 2,000 takas (21 US\$) for capturing and torturing 60 frogs. They had amputated them alive and were preparing to sell the thighs. Bull frogs (*Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*, Appendix II) are found in the Satkhira District. They are victims of intensive poaching for food consumption.

The Business Standard, July 5, 2022.<sup>2</sup>



## CHINA

**July 2022**

**Nansan Border Post, Lincang Prefecture, Yunnan Province, China. Border with Myanmar.**

Seizure of 14 juvenile Chinese giant salamanders (*Andrias davidianus*, Appendix I) before they crossed the Myanmar border.

Chinese Customs, July 26, 2022.<sup>3</sup>



**August 2022**

**Xiling, Sichuan Province, China**

The Asiatic toad (*Bufo gargarizans*) is subjected to rampant capture in China. Its global range extends from the Russian Far East to the Korean peninsula and the Ryūkyū archipelago in Japan. IUCN estimates that, despite some localized declines, the overall population is stable. The IUCN believes that Asiatic toads are virtually adaptable to any habitat. According to the IUCN, it is a 4X4 batrachian. In China, its range extends from the southeast to the northeast. The Tibetan plateau is home to a few sub-populations at 4,300 meters altitude.

However, given the harvest of Asiatic toads in China to supply official and clandestine laboratories and self-medication, this optimism should be tempered. Their dried skin is recommended in various forms by traditional Chinese medicine to treat certain cancerous tumors and associated pain, cardiac ailments, hepatitis B, anthrax, boils... Skin scraping is considered an alternative technique to slaughter. However, according to the Chinese press, toads, after being scraped and stripped of some of their active ingredients, can die of skin infections and contaminate biodiversity after being released.

Li BJ, Tian HY, Zhang DM, Lei YH, Wang L, Jiang RW, Ye WC, "Bufadienolides with cytotoxic activity from the skins of *Bufo bufo gargarizans*", *Fitoterapia*, September 2015; Zhan, X., Wu, H., Wu, H., Wang, R., Luo, C., Gao, B., Chen, Z., Li, Q., "Natural active constituents of *Bufo bufo gargarizans cantor*: A review on pharmacological activity, toxicity and quality control", *Journal of Ethnopharmacology*, January 10, 2020; IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group, "*Bufo gargarizans*" (amended version of 2019 assessment), *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*, 2021; *People's Daily*, August 12, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

**August 2022**

**Ziliujing District, Zigong Prefecture, Sichuan Province, China**



Seizure in 4 storage and processing plants of 13.8 tonnes of Asiatic toad (*Bufo gargarizans*) in 967 crates. 17 arrests. The Asiatic toad gang has stored, transported, and sold 50 tonnes of toads since April 2022, with profits reportedly exceeding 2.2 million yuan (326,000 US\$). On the basis of 42 grams per toad, over 1.19 million specimens have been caught.

*Guangming Daily*, August 21, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

## ASIA

### CHINA

**Beginning of July 2022**

**Beijing Autonomous Municipality, China**



Seizure of 44 common green birdwings (*Ornithoptera priamus*, Appendix II), 21 males and 23 females, in a package from abroad. Chinese Customs, July 15, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

**July 11, 2022**

**Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, China**

Seizure of 16 beetles including *Dynastes hercules*, *Dorcus titanus*, *Mecynorhina torquata ugandensis*, *Protaetia speciosa jousseini* and *Megasoma pachecoi*.

Chinese Customs, July 19, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

**August 16, 2022**

**Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, China**

Seizure of 21 tarantulas (*Brachypelma* spp., Appendix II) in a postal package.

Chinese Customs, August 18, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

**September 5, 2022**

**Suzhou, Suzhou Prefecture, Jiangsu Province, China**

Seizure of 665 butterflies of 7 different species including *Morpho didius*, *Morpho peleides* and *Morpho rhetenor*, in the incoming mail.

Chinese Customs, September 6, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

**September 2022**

**Mohan Border Post, Mengla County, Yunnan Province, China. Border with Laos.**

61.9 kg of dried scorpions seized under the trailer of a truck.

Chinese Customs, September 24, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

**September 2022**

**Shanghai Autonomous Municipality, China**

Seizure of 6 beetles including an elephant beetle (*Megasoma elepha*) in 2 packages from abroad declared to contain "plastic toys". Total weight: 400 grams.

Chinese Customs, September 28, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

## PAKISTAN

**July 2022**

**Abbottabad, Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan**

The Wildlife Division dealt with a gang of tarantula (genus *Ornithothonus*) poachers operating between Khanpur d'Haripur and Battagram.

Pakistan News International (with APP), July 27, 2022; The Express Tribune (with APP), July 28, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

## PHILIPPINES

**September 22, 2022**

**Pasay, National Capital Region, Philippines**

Sentenced to 10 days in prison and fined 26,000 pesos (460 US\$) for attempting to smuggle 10 tarantulas (genus *Ornithothonus*). Customs had found them alive in plastic cases in a package declared to contain "origami" from Poland (see "On the Trail" n°34 p. 209). They were valued at 75,000 pesos (1,400 US\$).

Bureau of Customs, October 17, 2022.<sup>8</sup>



## EUROPE

### POLAND

**July 27, 2022**

**Lutno, Lodz Voivodeship, Poland**

A letter carrier targets an unusual parcel bound for Asia. It contained 40 tarantulas of various sizes in plastic tubes and packed in polystyrene boxes. The police seized them and handed them over to a veterinarian.

Lodz Police, July 28, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

**August 17, 2022**

**Warsaw, Masovian Voivodeship, Poland**



Seizure of a female Mexican redknee tarantula (*Brachypelma hamorii*, Appendix II) and a female Brazilian pink bloom tarantula (*Pamphobeteus platyomma*) in a package from the Netherlands said to contain a "gift". They were handed over to Warsaw Zoo.

Mazovian Customs and Excise Office in Warsaw, August 17, 2022.<sup>10</sup>

Events concerning among others elephants, rhinos, felines, bears or pangolins and their by-products are indicated by these pictograms:



Cases concerning exclusively pangolins and elephants, felines or rhinos see page 15; elephants and felines, see page 38; elephants and rhinos, see page 38.

## NORTHERN AFRICA

### EGYPT

**July 2022**

#### Alexandria, Governorate of Alexandria, Egypt

Following the seizure of a monkey (Primates, Appendix I or II) and a one-meter-long Nile crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*, Appendix II) from Sudan and their transfer to the El Nozha Zoological Park, the managers of a café were taken to court. There are 7 species of primates in Sudan: De Brazza's monkeys, grivet monkeys, tantalus monkeys, Patas monkeys, olive baboons, hamadryas baboons, and Central African red colobus, all listed in Appendix II of CITES. Elnabaa.net, July 20, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

## WESTERN AFRICA

### SENEGAL

#### REPEATED OFFENCE

**September 23 and October 5, 2022**

#### Tambacounda, Tambacounda Region, Senegal

Hôtel Le Virage. Mamadou Nabo is caught. He is carrying 2 leopard skins (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) and 2 crocodile skins (*Crocodylidae*, Appendix I or II). On the local market, they sell for 840 US\$, in Asia for 10 times more. Joint operation by the Central Police Station and the National Parks Department, with support from Eagle Sénégal. Nabo had already trafficked in the Niakolo-Koba National Park and got off scot-free.

Mamadou Nabo (or Nabou) was sentenced to 2 months in prison and ordered to pay damages of 240,000 CFA francs (355 US\$). The National Parks Department claimed 5 million.

Between 2020 and 2022, 25 leopard skins were seized in Senegal.

EAGLE, September 23, and September 2022; Dakaractu, September 27, 2022; EAGLE Sénégal, September and October 2022.<sup>2</sup>



© EAGLE Sénégal

## CENTRAL AFRICA

### REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

**July 28 and October 21, 2022**

#### Makabana and Mossendjo, Niari Region, Republic of the Congo

For the past 2 years, the "monkey lady" had been displaying her mandrill (*Mandrillus sphinx*, Appendix I) and 2 grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*, Appendix I) in her garden for all to see. We don't know if they were on display to entice amateurs. For her, a mandrill sells for 400 US\$.

She received a 2-year suspended prison sentence. According to PALF, "it's a disappointing decision, even though she spent more than 2 months behind bars while awaiting trial."

EAGLE, July 2022; PALF, July 30, July and October 2022.<sup>3</sup>



## EASTERN AFRICA

### UGANDA

**August 2022**

#### Karuma Wildlife Reserve, Murchison Falls National Park, Western Region, Uganda

During the month, the reserve's dog squad helped with the seizure of 69 kg of elephant ivory, 6 kg of pangolin scales, 3.5 kg of hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*, Appendix II) teeth and 155 kg of bush meat. Fifteen suspects were arrested. According to a wildlife expert in the country, "communities neighbouring protected areas get bush meat from forests and use it for magic and curing disease."

Monitor (Uganda), November 19, 2022.<sup>4</sup>





**End of September 2022**  
**Murchison Falls National Park,**  
**Northern and Western Regions,**  
**Uganda**

During a snare removal operation in the park, members of the joint GCF (Giraffe Conservation Foundation)/UWA (Uganda Wildlife Authority) veterinary unit released several animals including a pangolin, an elephant and a Nubian giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis camelopardalis*, Appendix II).

Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF), September 25, 2022.<sup>5</sup>



**ZAMBIA**

**Mid-August 2022**

**Itezhi Tezhi, Central Province, Zambia**

In February 2022, 4 men and a woman were transporting 810 kg of meat in a truck bound for Pontoon. They pretended it was cattle meat, but it was soon discovered that it was sable antelope (*Hippotragus niger*, *Hippotragus niger variani*, Appendix I, present in Zambia), hartebeest (*Alcelaphus buselaphus*), and dried hippopotamus meat (*Hippopotamus amphibius*, Appendix II). Adam Namilonga, age 57, said he couldn't stand life in prison, Evans Chikubulu that he was married with children and looked after his mother, Scever Chibomvu that his whole family depended on his work, Kasautu Shamaundu that he looked after orphaned children, and Lovenes Musakabatu that she looked after her children alone. The first 3 were sentenced to 5 years in prison, and the last 2 to a fine of 120,000 shillings (7,235 US\$), or, in default of payment, 3 years in prison.

Lusaka Times, August 15, 2022.<sup>6</sup>



**SOUTHERN AFRICA**

**NAMIBIA**

**September 6, 2022**

**Windhoek, Khomas Region, Namibia**

Final confiscation in favour of the State of the pick-up truck and Nissan Tiida which in August 2018 had been used as vectors for trafficking pangolins and pythons (*Python* spp., Appendix II) in the Grootfontein District (see "On the Trail" n°22 p.107).

The Namibian, September 7, 2022.<sup>7</sup>



**September 15, 2022**

**Windhoek, Khomas Region, Namibia**

The case has been dragging on since June 13, 2014, when 4 elephant tusks and 2 cheetah skins (*Acinonyx jubatus*, Appendix I) were seized. The prime suspect is Hou Xuecheng, a shady businessman. At his offices in Chinatown, Windhoek, 7 zebra skins (genus *Equus*, *Equus zebra hartmannae*, Appendix II, found in Namibia), one leopard skin (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) and one cheetah skin were seized a month later, and 4 shipping containers full of illegally cut timber were also taken. They were bound for the port of Walvis Bay. The shipper was New Force Logistics, run by Hou. While released on bail, Hou continued his dirty work. His trial was postponed 4 times (absence of a Mandarin interpreter, Covid-19, unavailability for medical reasons). On September 15, the trial was once again postponed (see "On the Trail" n°5 p.113, n°6 p.103 and n°20 p.115).

The Namibian, September 16, 2022; New Era, September 16 and 21, 2022.<sup>8</sup>



**NORTHERN AMERICA**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**FAMILY AFFAIRS**

**July 13, 2022**

**Bentley, State of Kansas, United States of America**

At 6 a.m., 6 city policemen, 10 county sheriff's officers, and a dog squad raided a house in a residential neighbourhood under a search warrant, taking maximum precautions. The occupants may have had firearms, and there may have been children with them. Initially, 4 firearms, natural and synthetic drugs were seized, along with the whole kit and caboodle to trade in. Two men and a woman were arrested, and experts from Kansas Wildlife and Parks were called in. In a tree in the property's garden hung several skulls and antlers of deer (genus *Odocoileus*), and feathers of red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*, Appendix II). Inside the talons, hawk skulls (*Accipitridae*, Appendix I or II), and owls (*Strigiformes*, Appendix I or II) were discovered along with wild animal skins. Harvey County Now, July 13, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

## REPEATED OFFENCE

July 20, 2022

**Anchorage, State of Alaska, United States of America**



Sentencing of Stephen Jeremy Hicks, a game warden residing in Anchorage, to 6 months in prison for wasting moose meat (*Alces alces*), baiting brown bears (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) in order to attract them to his clients and facilitate their slaughter, for using a Piper Super Cub aircraft and electronic communications to locate wildlife herds, for taking his clients on an unlicensed hunt for Dall's sheep (*Ovis dalli*) on federal lands, for repeatedly abandoning his clients in harsh weather conditions with only a filthy shack full of garbage and out-of-date food for shelter, even though his guide's licence was under surveillance and about to be revoked. The prison sentence is to be served in the federal prison in Sheridan, Oregon. Upon release, he will be placed on probation for 3 years, during which time he will be prohibited from flying a private aircraft or engaging in any commercial activity related in any way to hunting. Hicks was also ordered to forfeit his interest in a Piper Super Cub (N8126C) and to pay 13,460 US\$ in damages for selling the illegal Dall's sheep hunt. US Department of Justice, July 20, 2022; The Seattle Times, August 15, 2022.<sup>10</sup>

July 22, 2022

**Collier County, State of Florida, United States of America**



Adam Rodriguez Diaz was unlawfully detaining 2 white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and birds including a nonpareil passerine (*Passerina ciris*), an indigo passerine (*Passerina cyanea*), a rose-breasted grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*), and 8 Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*). Nets used to capture the birds were also seized. Florida News, July 23, 2022; Naples Daily News, August 2, 2022.<sup>11</sup>

August 1, 2022

**Fort Myers, State of Florida, United States of America**

Seizure at "Bad Attitude Everglades Exotics" of 200 animals including a ring-tailed lemur (*Lemur catta*, Appendix I), Nile crocodiles (*Crocodylus niloticus*, Appendix I or II), alligators (*Alligator* spp., Appendix I or II), tortoises (Testudinidae, Appendix I or II), venomous reptiles including a monocled cobra (*Naja kaouthia*, Appendix II), yellow anacondas (*Eunectes notaeus*, Appendix II), kinkajous (*Potos flavus*, Appendix III in Honduras), and a crested porcupine (*Hystrix cristata*). The FWC (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission) found 100 violations concerning the origin of the animals, the cages and enclosures, and sanitary conditions. Laquidera, the facility's director, considers himself the victim of a "vendetta." NBC2, August 16 and 20, 2022.<sup>12</sup>

Beginning of August 2022

**Cascade County and Great Falls, State of Montana, United States of America**

Ty Robert Lewis, age 18, and Richard Van Meter, age 20, are suspected of committing several felonies and misdemeanors in connection with wildlife poaching and vandalism. Evidence has been gathered of the decapitation of elk (*Cervus canadensis*), the poaching of at least one American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) and the lynching of a dozen trout in a Giant Springs Fish Hatchery Pond. Most of them were adults, weighing over 3 kg, making them essential to fry production. Great Falls Tribune, August 26, 2021 and August 3, 2022.<sup>13</sup>

End of August 2022

**Cayo Costa Island, State of Florida, United States of America**

Seizure of a sea turtle (Cheloniidae and Dermochelyidae, Appendix I), a gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*, Appendix II) shell and a bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*, Appendix II) skull in a private home. The owners stated that "they had picked them up" while walking on the beach. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, August 25, 2022.<sup>14</sup>

August 30, 2022

**Sandwich, State of Illinois, United States of America**

After a year-long investigation, environmental police with sheriff's support conducted a search at the home of a 33-year-old woman using a falsified wildlife rehabilitation certificate. They seized caged snakes, including 3 dead ones, 2 turtles, 12 raccoons (*Procyon lotor*), 7 Virginia opossums (*Didelphis virginiana*), 2 squirrels and a chipmunk (family Sciuridae), a skunk (family Mephitidae), and wildlife by-products the woman was trafficking. Illinois Department of Natural Resources, September 1, 2022.<sup>15</sup>

End of August 2022

**Curry County, State of Oregon, United States of America**



A man was arrested and his home was searched. Seizure of a firearm, an antlered deer skull (genus *Odocoileus*), and a compound bow. The man had been on the radar since the spring, and his tailing and social media activity revealed that he had just killed an American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) and a wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*), and had caught rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) illegally. Oregon State Police, September 2022.<sup>16</sup>

## FAMILY AFFAIRS

August 2022

Adams, Custer, Kootenai and Payette Counties, State of Idaho, United States of America



In the Phillips family, wild turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*) are hunted with electronic calls, and deer (genus *Odocoileus*) and pronghorns (*Antilocapra americana*, Appendix I in Mexico) are preyed upon in all seasons with a dedicated art of concealment, but not enough to escape the Idaho Fish and Game sleuths. Four family members were held accountable for their actions.

Todd A. Phillips was sentenced to a 6,900 US\$ fine, 12 years' probation, 12 years' suspension of his hunting licence (7 suspended), 100 hours' community service, and forfeiture of pronghorn trophies poached in 2020 and 2021. He was also banned from possessing weapons on hunting grounds, and ordered to pay 1,000 US\$ for deer hunting violations.

Darin Phillips was sentenced to a 6,300 US\$ fine, 10 years' probation, 10 years' suspension of his hunting licence (5 suspended) and 100 hours' community service.

Braeden T. Phillips was sentenced to a 3,970 US\$ fine, 6 years' probation, 9 years' suspension of his hunting licence (6 suspended), 60 hours' community service, and the forfeiture of an antelope trophy poached in 2021.

Jacob Phillips was sentenced to a 990 US\$ fine, 4 years' probation, 5 years' suspension of his hunting licence, and 50 hours' community service. Since he was under 21 at the time of the offence, he can get his hunting licence back after one year if he takes a hunting course.

Idaho Fish and Game, October 11, 2022.<sup>17</sup>

## LATIN AMERICA

### ARGENTINA

July 10, 2022

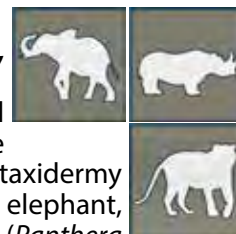
Paso Cordoba, Province of Río Negro, Argentina

Seizure in a Toyota Hilux of 105 kg of guanaco meat (*Lama guanicoe*, Appendix II), 3 Darwin's rheas (*Pterocnemia pennata*, Appendix I or II), 40 kg of horse meat, firearms, and hunting knives.

Río Negro, July 11, 2022.<sup>18</sup>

August 23, 2022

Municipality of Buenos Aires, Argentina



During an environmental inspection of a chocolate factory, a large collection of taxidermy was discovered and seized, an elephant, a black rhinoceros, a lion (*Panthera leo*, Appendix I or II), a leopard (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I), a puma (*Puma concolor*, Appendix I or II), a marsh deer (*Blastocerus dichotomus*, Appendix I), a pampas deer (*Ozotoceros bezoarticus*, Appendix I), a fallow deer (*Dama dama*, *Dama dama mesopotamica*, Appendix I), a Marco Polo argali (*Ovis polii*, Appendix II), a southern lechwe (*Kobus leche*, Appendix II), an African buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*), a warthog (genus *Phacochoerus*), a sitatunga (*Tragelaphus spekii*), a lesser kudu (*Tragelaphus imberbis*), a greater kudu (*Tragelaphus strepsiceros*), an oryx (genus *Oryx*), an eland (*Taurotragus oryx*), a waterbuck (*Kobus ellipsiprymnus*), an impala (*Aepyceros melampus*), a Himalayan tahr (*Hemitragus jemlahicus*), a Père David's deer (*Elaphurus davidianus*), a spotted deer (*Axis axis*), a water buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*), an ibex (genus *Capra*), a red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), a chamois (genus *Rupicapra*), a moose (*Alces alces*), a caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*) and a Dall's sheep (*Ovis dalli*). An investigation is underway to trace the origin of these specimens.

Tiempo Argentino, August 24, 2022; Zyri, August 24, 2022.<sup>19</sup>

September 22, 2022

Ministro Rivadavia, Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina

Seizure at an educational farm of over 60 illegally kept animals, including native species such as blue-fronted amazon (*Amazona aestiva*, Appendix II), great horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*, Appendix II), Brazilian teal (*Amazonetta brasiliensis*), Chaco chachalaca (*Ortalis canicollis*), black vulture (*Coragyps atratus*), nutria (*Myocastor coypus*), Hilaire's toadhead turtle (*Phrynops hilarii*) and painted turtle (*Chrysemys picta*), and exotic species such as fallow deer (*Dama dama*, *Dama dama mesopotamica*, Appendix I), blackbuck (*Antelope cervicapra*, Appendix III in Nepal and in Pakistan), red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), lovebird (*Agapornis* spp., Appendix II except *Agapornis roseicollis*), rose-ringed parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*), cockatiel (*Nymphicus hollandicus*), and red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*).

Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, September 22, 2022.<sup>20</sup>



## BRAZIL

**July 1, 2022**

### Brazil

According RENTAS (Rede Nacional de Combate ao Tráfico de Animais Silvestres, Brazilian Network for Combating Wild Animals Trafficking), IBAMA (Instituto brasileiro do meio ambiente e dos recursos naturais renováveis) fined Meta, the owner of Facebook and WhatsApp 10.5 million reais or 2 million US\$ for exposing the sale of wild animals. RENTAS, in cooperation with the University of Northumbria, UK, deciphered 1,000 advertisements and messages on Facebook and WhatsApp and counted 1,682 animals for sale. "When this pattern is applied to the 4 million advertisements contained within our archives, 12 million animal traffic victims are found." The majority are reptiles (44%) and birds (40%) some of them are exogenous. RENTAS monitors 800 groups specializing in animal trafficking on Facebook and WhatsApp and that produce 15,000 message exchanges daily. Meta says that they have not officially been made aware of the sanctions and that "its policy does not authorize content related to the buying, selling, trading, gifting, or offering of wildlife" and that it "deletes this content by combining human and technological monitoring"

Um Só Planeta, July 6, 2022.<sup>21</sup>



**July 11, 2022**

### Oswaldo Cruz, State of São Paulo, Brazil

Police seized several captive animals from a private home, including a yellow-faced amazon (*Amazona xanithops*, Appendix II), 3 tortoises (*Chelonoidis carbonarius* or *Chelonoidis denticulatus*, Appendix II), and a black-bellied slider (*Trachemys dorbigni*). The 52-year-old woman was fined 7,000 reais (1,329 US\$). G1 Presidente Prudente, July 11, 2022.<sup>22</sup>



**July 30 and October 26, 2022**

### Federal District, Brazil

A judge in Brasilia has ordered Google to remove all videos of wild animal hunting in Brazil from YouTube within 24 hours. Failure to comply would result in a daily fine of 10,000 US\$. This decision has now been revoked. On the one hand, responsibility for the publications would lie exclusively with the content creators and not with the platform, and on the other, some of the content shows legal hunting. G1 DF, August 13, and November 11, 2022.<sup>23</sup>



**August 2, 2022**

### Mairinque, State of São Paulo, Brazil

Search of the home of a woman suspected of wildlife trafficking via social networks. Seizure of 11 marmosets (*Callithrix* spp., Appendix I or II), a capuchin (*Cebus* spp., synonym of *Sapajus* spp., Appendix II), and a sugar glider (*Petaurus breviceps*). The animals were transferred to a rescue center 60 km away. G1 Sorocaba e Jundiaí, August 4, 2022.<sup>24</sup>



**August 10, 2022**

### Fortaleza and Maracanaú, State of Ceará, Brazil

Environmental police fined 3 people for illegally keeping parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II), toucans (family Ramphastidae), 3 turtles, and an armadillo. G1 CE, August 10, 2022.<sup>25</sup>



## OPERATION VELHO DO RIO

**August 23, 2022**

### Abaetetuba, State of Pará, Brazil

Seizure and destruction of 206 kg of meat from wild animals, including capybaras (*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*), caimans (*Caiman* spp., *Melanosuchus* spp. or *Paleosuchus* spp, Appendix I or II) and arapaimas (*Arapaima gigas*, Appendix II). Notícia Marajó, August 24, 2022.<sup>26</sup>

**August 24, 2022**

### Holambra, State of São Paulo, Brazil

Arrest of a man holding a yacare caiman (*Caiman crocodilus yacare*, Appendix II), a hooded siskin (*Spinus magellanicus*), a boa constrictor (*Boa constrictor*, Appendix II), 4 turtles (*Chelonoidis carbonarius* or *Chelonoidis denticulatus*, Appendix II), a parrot (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II), and a blue-fronted amazon (*Amazona aestiva*, Appendix II). He was fined 4,500 reais (854.50 US\$). G1 Campinas e Região, August 24, 2022.<sup>27</sup>



## OPERATION QUIMERA

September 6, 2022

### Sumaré, State of São Paulo, Brazil

Following the discovery of packages containing birds, spiders, snakes, and lizards at Viracopos International Airport, a search of the sender's home uncovered evidence of online sales.

G1 Campinas e Região, September 6, 2022.<sup>28</sup>

September 11, 2022

### Irapuazinho, State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

Military police arrested 7 individuals who had entered the owner's private property without authorization. In their vehicles, authorities seized a caiman (*Caiman* spp., *Melanosuchus* spp. or *Paleosuchus* spp, Appendix I or II), 2 armadillos (family Dasypodidae), a wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), weapons, and ammunition. The hunting dogs were examined by veterinarians, who noted mistreatment.

Portal OCorreio, September 11, 2022.<sup>29</sup>

September 17, 2022

### Marajá do Sena, State of Maranhão, Brazil

Police arrest of a man with a rifle on his shoulder and a backpack containing a bloody machete and the corpses of a margay (*Leopardus wiedii*, Appendix I) and a howler monkey (*Alouatta* spp., Appendix I or II).

G1 MA, September 19, 2022.<sup>30</sup>



September 30, 2022

### Nova Iguaçu, State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Federal police seized 2 blue-and-yellow macaws (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II), a parrot (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II) and a capuchin (*Cebus* spp., synonym of *Sapajus* spp., Appendix II) in captivity in the Tinguá district.

G1 Rio, September 30, 2022.<sup>31</sup>

## COLOMBIA

End of July 2022

Mosquera, Department of Cundinamarca, Medellín, Department of Antioquia, Cali, Department of Valle del Cauca, Magangué, Department of Bolívar and Piendamó, Department of Cauca and Bogotá, Colombia



Germán Eduardo Arango Gómez was convicted of illegally trading oncilli (*Leopardus tigrinus*, Appendix I), among other offences. He was a member of the "Naturales" wildlife trafficking network, which also sold macaws (*Ara* spp., Appendix I or II), parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II), spectacled caimans (*Caiman crocodilus*, Appendix I or II), monkeys (Primates, Appendix I or II), iguanas (family Iguanidae), turtles, snakes, and four-toed hedgehogs (*Atelerix albiventris*) online. By April, 23 members had been arrested and 1,000 animals seized (see "On the Trail" n°36 p.192). Agencia de Periodismo Investigativo, July 20, 2022.<sup>32</sup>

## COSTA RICA

August 19, 2022

### Colonia Virgen del Socorro, Alajuela Province, Costa Rica



Seizure by the Judicial Investigation Agency of a private collection of stuffed animals including 2 jaguars (*Panthera onca*, Appendix I), 2 pumas (*Puma concolor*, Appendix I), an ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*, Appendix I), a collared peccary (*Pecari tajacu*, Appendix II), a caiman (Alligatoridae, Appendix I or II), a white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*, *Odocoileus virginianus mayensis*, Appendix III in Guatemala), a tapir (*Tapirus* spp., Appendix I or II), a hummingbird (*Heliodoxa* spp., Appendix II), a white hawk (*Pseudastur albicollis*, Appendix II), an orange-fronted conure (*Aratinga canicularis*, Appendix II), a coyote (*Canis latrans*), a squirrel (family Sciuridae), an armadillo (family Dasypodidae), 11 Hercules beetles (*Dynastes hercules*), 2 beetles (family Scarabaeidae), a tree frog, a dead leaf mantis (order Mantodea), a snake (order Squamata), a raccoon (genus *Procyon*), a green ibis (*Mesembrinibis cayennensis*), a woodpecker (family Picidae), and a parula (genus *Parula*).

Teletica, August 19, 2022.<sup>33</sup>





## EL SALVADOR

August 19, 2022

Las Tunas, La Unión Department, El Salvador



Arrest of 3 poachers in possession of 120 parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II) including 3 yellow-naped amazons (*Amazona auropalliata*, Appendix I) and a capuchin (*Cebus* spp., synonym of *Sapajus* spp., Appendix II) transported in nylon bags, cardboard boxes, and plastic containers. The animals were transferred to a specialised shelter. California18, August 19, 2022; Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources, August 19, 2022.<sup>34</sup>

## FRANCE (FRENCH GUIANA)

September 2022

**Saint-Georges of Oyapock, Territorial Collectivity of Guiana, France. Border with Brazil.**

A joint customs and border police patrol intercepted a refrigerated van on its way out of town. It was carrying 14 kg of Schneider's smooth-fronted caiman (*Paleosuchus trigonatus*, Appendix II) meat (synonymous with grey caiman) and 4 grey-winged trumpeters (*Psophia crepitans*) for resale. The commercialization of these species is prohibited. Guiana National Police, September 22, 2022; France-Guyane, September 23, 2022.<sup>35</sup>



Grey-winged trumpeter

## GUATEMALA

Beginning of September 2022

**Department of Izabal, Guatemala**

Sentencing of Iris Odilia Castañeda Arana to 10 years in prison and a fine of 10,000 quetzals (1,300 US\$). At her home, 8 whistling ducks (genus *Dendrocygna*), 2 yellow-headed amazons (*Amazona oratrix*, Appendix I), 2 turtles, and 8 snakes had been discovered and seized.

Prensa Libre, September 7, 2022.<sup>36</sup>



## MEXICO

July 5, 2022

**Mexico City, Mexico**

L'AZCARM (Asociación de Zoológicos, Criaderos, y Acuarios de México) reported to Profepa that suffering tigers (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I), lions (*Panthera leo*, Appendix I or II), jaguars (*Panthera onca*, Appendix I), pumas (*Puma concolor*, Appendix II), 17 monkeys (Primates, Appendix I or II), and 2 coyotes (*Canis latrans*) were locked up on the premises of the Jaguar Negro-Tigre Blanco (Black Jaguar-White Tiger) registered in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, United States of America, under the name of Black Jaguar-White Tiger Foundation. The Board of Directors includes Héctor Emilio Ortega Celis, as an observer for the government. He is the private secretary to Mexico City's head of citizen security. Between 2014 and 2018, PROFEPA handed over 354 tracking survivors to the foundation such as, felines, falcons (*Falco* pp., Appendix I or II) golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*, Appendix II), toucans (Ramphastidae family), macaws (*Ara* spp., Appendix I or II). Although, there was not trace found of them at the time of the search. Eighty-six big cats were placed with UMA (Unidad de Manejo para la Conservación de la Vida Silvestre), PIMVS (Predio e Instalación que Maneja Vida Silvestre) and with other zoos. Ninety-one were still on the dilapidated site one month later. The foundation's 2020 tax return showed a total expenditure of 1,002,278 US\$ for maintenance and accommodation of the animals. The director was released on bail of 35,000 pesos or 1,740 US\$. The majority of the tigers, lions, and pumas were taken into circuses or abandoned at the time of bankruptcy.

Revista Proceso, July 5, 2022; Expansión Política, July 28, 2022.<sup>37</sup>





## PERU

**Beginning of July 2022**

**Puerto Miguel and Vista Alegre, Province of Requena, Department of Loreto, Peru**



Mexican youtuber Lusito Comunica has published a video of a village in the upper Amazon basin. Several inhabitants have wild animals in captivity, including a young jaguar (*Panthera onca*, Appendix I), monkeys (Primates, Appendix I or II), parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II), and sloths (order Folivora). After several comments from outraged Internet users, he reportedly gave precise information to the authorities. There is no indication that the animals have since been released or transferred to rescue and rehabilitation centers.

El Tiempo, July 6, 2022.<sup>38</sup>

**End of September 2022**

**District of Sandía, Province of Sandía, Department of Puno, Peru**

Following a new complaint filed by a citizen on the Alerta Serfor web platform, the authorities rescued a capuchin (*Cebus* spp., synonymous with *Sapajus* spp., Appendix II) and a military macaw (*Ara militaris*, Appendix I) captive in a private home. The individual was arrested for illegal possession of wild animals. He claimed to have found the capuchin in a piggery next to his home.

Radio Onda Azul, September 27, 2022.<sup>39</sup>

## EASTERN ASIA

### CHINA

**July 8, 2022**

**Longhu District, Shantou Prefecture, Guangdong Province, China**



Seizure in incoming mail of 740 grams of rhinoceros skin fragments and 300 grams of saiga (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II) horn plates.

Chinese Customs, July 14, 2022.<sup>40</sup>

**September 23, 2022**

**Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China**



Seizure of a live green iguana (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II), a live Spencer's monitor (*Varanus spenceri*, Appendix II), a live Chinese three-striped box turtle (*Cuora trifasciata*, Appendix II), and a stuffed grey parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*, Appendix I). Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, September 23, 2022.<sup>41</sup>

**September 2022**

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



Seizure of 3 carved ivories (110 grams) and 242 dried seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp., Appendix II) (250 grams) from the luggage of 2 passengers on a flight from Cairo. Chinese Customs, September 29, 2022.<sup>42</sup>



## MONGOLIA

**Mid-August 2022**

**Zed-Khantai-Buteel Mountain Reserve, Selenge District, Bulgan Province, Mongolia**



The locals speak ill of D. Bolorchuluun except when they are his servants and employees. The reserve manager hunts bears (*Ursus* spp., Appendix I or II), lynx (*Lynx lynx*, Appendix II), deer (family Cervidae), and Eurasian elk (*Alces alces*) in the company of high-ranking officials and former ministers. He has illegally built a vacation village where wealthy Russians come to relax and, above all, hunt in their Mongolian dachas. Shepherds, on the other hand, are punished when they graze their flocks in the meadows while hearing the chainsaws clearing the forest protected on paper only. They are also punished for collecting dead wood for heating. According to testimonies passed on to the Anti-Corruption Agency, top officials and high-flying cops from Erdenet and the Bulgan aimag also come to hunt and frolic in the hijacked animal and plant sanctuary. Bolorchuluun lives most of the time in Erdenet. He is said to have an interest in the Erdenet Mining Corporation, which boasts the world's fourth largest copper mine, with annual production of over 500,000 tonnes and associated production of over 4,000 tonnes of molybdenum.

iSee.mn, August 16, 2022; Arslan.mn, August 17, 2022.<sup>43</sup>

## TAIWAN

**Beginning of September 2022**

**Taiwan**

Indictment of Lee Tian-yi and Kuo Jen-chieh, 2 hosts from SET TV who are famous in the archipelago, and their friend Tony Lee who does business in Australia for having, via their company Pacific Image Ltd based in the Seychelles Islands, attempted to make 4 million US\$ profit off a nebulous transaction involving 18 giraffes (cf. "On the Trail" n°33 p. 118) and also rhinoceroses, zebras and antelopes from Eswatini (ex-Swaziland), the micro-State imbedded in South Africa. Eswatini officially recognizes Taiwan's independence and legitimacy. A lawyer and businessman from Johannesburg, Michael Sun is the subject of an arrest warrant issued by the Taipei Public Prosecutor's Office. The initial sales price for all the animals purchased by Wanpi Zoo from Eswatini was 397,000 US\$, including 2,500 US\$ per zebra and 6,500 US\$ per giraffe. After passing through Pacific Image's slot machine, the sale price increased more than tenfold to over 5 million US\$, including 54,000 US\$ per giraffe and 14,000 US\$ per zebra. Before the import was blocked by the Taiwanese authorities, Wanpi World Safari Zoo had transferred 2.73 US\$ million to South Africa, and 25,000 US\$ had been paid into the personal accounts of Lee Tian-yi and Kuo Jen-chieh.



The recent owner of Wanpi Zoo in the Syuejia district, 38 km from Tainan, is Chang Rong-hua, Managing Director of SET, Sanlih Entertainment Television, an audio-visual group operating several TV channels.

The Taipei Times, September 9, 2022.<sup>44</sup>

## SOUTHEASTERN ASIA

### CAMBODIA

**September 6, 2022**

**Toek Laak, Kaoh Khong Province, Cambodia**

Four poachers were intercepted by police. In their van, a monitor lizard (*Varanus* spp., Appendix I or II), a deer, a bag of wild meat, and firearms were seized. Srey Veasna, age 35, and Hong Ratan Mony, age 29, were arrested, but the other 2 managed to escape. Khmer Times, September 7, 2022.<sup>45</sup>

### MALAYSIA

**July 2 and August 9, 2022**

**Tongod District and Sandakan, State of Sabah, Malaysia**

Jesus A. Apolinario, a 49-year-old Filipino, was sentenced to 6 months in prison for the illegal possession of protected animal parts. At his home, a sambar deer (*Rusa unicolor*) head, 2 Indian muntjac (*Muntiacus muntjac*) antlers, and 245 hedgehog quills were seized. Daily Express, August 10, 2022.<sup>46</sup>



**July 4, 2022**

**Malaysia**

The 21 park rangers in the states of Pahang, Perak and Johor will now be able to make arrests for wildlife crimes. This decision reflects the country's determination to reduce poaching. It is coupled with a doubling of fines and a lengthening of prison sentences.

New Straits Times, July 4, 2022.<sup>47</sup>

**September 11, 2022**

**Kampung Tuawon, State of Sabah, Malaysia**

Sabah Wildlife Department officers searched the home of a 52-year-old man and seized 4 legs and 9 fangs of Malayan sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*, Appendix I), pangolin scales, a hornbill skull (family Bucerotidae), 12 pairs and 4 antlers of deer, 7 porcupine quills, 6 live blue-crowned hanging parrots (*Loriculus galgulus*, Appendix II), and 2 live turtles.

Daily Express, September 13, 2022.<sup>48</sup>



## THAILAND

**August 16, 2022**

**Suvarnabhumi International Airport, Bangkok, Thailand**



Abilash Annaduri, a 21-year-old Indian citizen, was arrested by customs while attempting to smuggle to Chennai (3-hour flight) a fennec fox (*Vulpes zerda*, Appendix II), 2 iguanas (family Iguanidae), 2 pythons (Pythonidae, Appendix I or II), 3 monitor lizards (*Varanus*, Appendix I or II), and 8 marmosets (Callitrichidae, Appendix I or II). The value of these 17 live animals is estimated at 98,000 baht (2,760 US\$). The Star, August 17, 2022.<sup>49</sup>

## VIET NAM

**July 2, 2022**

**Cuc Phuong National Park, Ninh Binh Province, Viet Nam**

The Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center has released 58 animals, including spotted linsangs (*Prionodon pardicolor*, Appendix I), king cobras (*Ophiophagus hannah*, Appendix II), keel-backed turtles (*Cuora mouhotii*, Appendix II), red-whiskered bulbuls (*Pycnonotus jocosus*), spotted doves (*Spilopelia chinensis*), great mynas (*Acridotheres grandis*), red-breasted parakeets (*Psittacula alexandri*, Appendix II), and Japanese white-eyes (*Zosterops japonicus*).

Lao Dong, July 2, 2022.<sup>50</sup>

**July 3, 2022**

**Kon Tum, Kon Tum Province, Viet Nam**

The narcotics brigade searched the home of Mr. Nguyen Minh Trong, age 51, and seized 3 monitor lizards (*Varanus* spp., Appendix I or II) weighing around 7.9 kg, 8 Chinese water dragons (*Physignathus cocincinus*) weighing 3.5 kg, a snake weighing 1.5 kg, 4 turtles weighing 6.7 kg, 3 soft-shelled turtles (family Trionychidae) weighing 5.5 kg, and a mustelid weighing 5.5 kg. He claims to have bought the animals from residents of nearby Toi commune for 4,800,000 dongs (206 US\$), with the intention of reselling them.

Ho Chi Minh City Law Journal, July 3, 2022.<sup>51</sup>

**July 14, 2022**

**Trang Bom, Dong Nai Province, Viet Nam**

Forest rangers discovered 119 illegally kept wild animals in the Cuc Phuong Quan pub belonging to Dang Ngoc Tien, age 28, including 2 oriental rat snakes (*Ptyas mucosus*, Appendix II), 4 Asian palm civets (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*, Appendix III in India), a mouse deer (family Tragulidae), 10 bamboo rats (family Rhizomyinae), 11 squirrels (family Sciuridae), 8 Chinese water dragons (*Physignathus cocincinus*), 63 red turtle doves (*Streptopelia tranquebarica*), and 17 spotted doves (*Spilopelia chinensis*).

Dong Nai, July 19, 2022.<sup>52</sup>

**July 25 and 28, 2022**

**Hanoi Municipality, Viet Nam**



Thanks to ENV's alert, police seized a concave-casqued hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*, Appendix I), an Indian peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*, Appendix III in Pakistan), 3 long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*, Appendix II), a rhesus macaque (*Macaca mulatta*, Appendix II), and 5 yellow-headed temple turtles (*Heosemys annandalii*, Appendix II).

ENV, August 1, 2022.<sup>53</sup>

**August 12, 2022**

**Ha Giang Province, Viet Nam. Border with China.**

Nguyen Thi Thu Ha, age 40, was fined 70,000,000 dongs (3,000 US\$) for promoting and selling bear bile (Ursidae, Appendix I or II), bear gall bladders, and tiger bone glue (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I) online.

ENV, September 6, 2022; Báo Hà Giang, September 7, 2022.<sup>54</sup>





**August 13, 2022**

**Huong Son Forest, Ha Tinh Province, Viet Nam**

The Hanoi Wildlife Rescue Center has released 169 trafficked animals, including 7 king cobras (*Ophiophagus hannah*, Appendix II), a leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*, Appendix II), 30 black-throated laughingthrushes (*Garrulax chinensis*), scaly-breasted munias (*Lonchura punctulata*), and common starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*).

VnExpress International, August 13, 2022; ENV, August 16, 2022; Tạp chí Môi trường và Cuộc sống, August 23, 2022.<sup>55</sup>



**August 27, 2022**

**Phu Quoc, Phu Quoc Island, Kien Giang Province, Viet Nam**

Restaurant owner fined 500,000,000 dongs (21,350 US\$). A search revealed the presence in his business of 7 kg of presumed dugong meat (*Dugong dugon*, Appendix I), 2.9 kg of wild boar meat and 3 live monitor lizards (*Varanus* spp., Appendix I or II).

ENV, August 27, 2022.<sup>56</sup>



**September 2, 2022**

**Na Sam, Long Son Province, Viet Nam. Border with China.**

Arrest of Luong Thi Duyen in possession of 2 bags containing a live king cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*, Appendix II) and 2 lorises (*Nycticebus* spp., Appendix I).

Báo Điện tử VOV, September 2, 2022.<sup>57</sup>

**Mid-September 2022**

**Hanoi Municipality, Viet Nam**

Seizure of over 100 bottles of rice wine decocted with python (*Pythonidae*, Appendix I or II), cobra (family *Elapidae*), and monitor lizard (*Varanus* spp., Appendix I or II) and deer parts. The 2 occupants of the apartment, Vu Quang Hien and Dao Quang Manh, sold each bottle for 350,000 to 3,000,000 dongs (15 to 130 US\$). The beverages were supposed to cure various ailments such as muscle and joint pain.

VnExpress International, September 14, 2022.<sup>58</sup>



**September 21, 2022**

**Thai Binh, Thai Binh Province, Viet Nam**

Provincial police have nabbed Wang Yuan Min. This Chinese national is a known wildlife trafficker. On June 15, 2022, Chinese customs in Nanning, 690 km from Thai Binh, had placed him in custody and he escaped.

VietnamPlus (with VNA), September 22, 2022.<sup>59</sup>

**SOUTHERN ASIA**

**INDIA**

**July 4, 2022**

**Nashik, Nashik District, State of Maharashtra, India**

The raid on Sukhlal Chandwadkar's herbal shop was, as expected, conclusive. Seizure of a Bengal monitor lizard (*Varanus bengalensis*, Appendix I), snake skins, sea fans (order *Alcyonacea*), horn sections, and leather amulets from species that were initially not identified.

ETV Bharat, July 6, 2022; The Times of India, July 6, 2022.<sup>60</sup>

**July 12, 2022**

**Moopparkadu, Nilgiris District, State of Tamil Nadu, India**



Electrocution of a male elephant, a sloth bear (*Melursus ursinus*, Appendix I) and a wild boar (*Sus scrofa*). The bodies were beginning to decompose. The death occurred a few days ago. The Hindu, July 12, 2022; DT Next, July 14, 2022.<sup>61</sup>



**July 29, 2022**

**Saireddyguda, Rangareddi District, State of Telangana, India**

At the home of Chikoti Praveen, operator of ephemeral casinos in Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Goa, attended by minor Bollywood celebrities and political underlings, forestry officials discovered a 10-hectare private zoo with chameleons (family *Chamaeleonidae*), ostriches (*Struthio camelus*, Appendix I in 12 countries), horses, and dogs of unknown origin. Financial, tax and wildlife investigations are underway. For the time being, the animals are sequestered on Praveen's property. Hindustan Times, July 30, 2022.<sup>62</sup>

**July 31, 2022**

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



Seizure of 6 teeth and other parts of tigers (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I), monitor lizards (*Varanus* spp., Appendix I or II), owl talons (*Strigiformes*, Appendix I or II), and black coral (*Antipatharia*, Appendix II) from a traditional practitioner's clinic. Two people were taken into custody for 14 days, their identities withheld so as not to compromise the investigation.

The Times of India, August 2 and 5, 2022.<sup>63</sup>

**August 5, 2022**

**Nava Bandar, Gir-Somnath District, State of Gujarat, India**



Three days in police custody for the 5 people who were selling wild animal blood and oil in conspiracy. In their "laboratory," the Gir forest conservators found the remains of monitor lizards (*Varanus* spp., Appendix I or II) and golden jackals (*Canis aureus*, Appendix III in India), other undetermined offal, and turtle mouths. The 5 men were day labourers. They were employed at a fish protein extraction workshop.

Divya Bhaskar, August 6, 2022; The Sentinel, August 7, 2022; The Times of India, August 7, 2022.<sup>64</sup>

**August 5, 2022**

**West Jaintia Hills District, State of Meghalaya, India**

This is the wildlife route. The car driven by 24-year-old Kormola Bru was travelling overnight from Mizoram to Guwahati, 630 km. It was intercepted 2/3 of the way along the route, with an assortment of exotic animals inside: 2 hoolock gibbons (*Bunopithecus hoolock*, Appendix I), 2 grey langurs (*Semnopithecus entellus*, Appendix I), a concave-casqued hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*, Appendix I), a Phayre leaf's monkey (*Trachypithecus phayrei*, Appendix II), and an otter (*Lutrinae*, Appendix I or II). Kormola Bru and his passenger are in extended custody.

The Meghalayan, August 6, 2022; Northeast Now, August 7, 2022.<sup>65</sup>

**FAMILY AFFAIRS**

**August 6, 2022**

**Mandi Dabwali, Sirsa District, State of Haryana, India**

In his store, Mukesh was selling religious and spiritual pieces made and monitor lizard hemipenes (*Varanus* spp., Appendix I or II), owl talons (*Strigiformes*, Appendix I or II), and golden jackal claws (*Canis aureus*, Appendix III in India) for 400 to 1,200 rupees (5 to 15 US\$). Tantric charlatans sell these attributes for magical ceremonies supposed to bring wealth and happiness to oneself and misfortune to one's enemies. Further seizures of the same type are likely to occur in other stores in the district.

Amar Ujala, August 27, 2022; Dainik Bhaskar, August 30, 2022.<sup>66</sup>

**Thursday, August 11, 2022**

**Chennai International Airport, State of Tamil Nadu, India**

Mohammed Shahiel arrived from Bangkok with a De Brazza's monkey (*Cercopithecus neglectus*, Appendix II), 2 Aldabra giant tortoises (*Aldabrachelys gigantea*, Appendix II), 5 royal pythons (*Python regius*, Appendix II), and 15 kingsnakes (genus *Lampropeltis*) in his accompanied luggage. After a health check and a snack for each, they were returned to Thailand on a Thai Airways flight on Friday evening. They will be taken in by Thailand's wildlife services and are expected to be released. Attempts to introduce exotic animals into India for the pet market are back in full swing after the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Times of India, August 13 and 14, 2022.<sup>67</sup>

**August 12, 2022**

**Dharmanagar, North Tripura District, State of Tripura, India. Border with Bangladesh.**

Arrest of a woman. She was carrying a cockatoo (*Cacatuidae*, Appendix I or II), 2 hornbills (family *Bucerotidae*), 6 to 8 mockingbirds (family *Mimidae*), and 307 juvenile iguanas (family *Iguanidae*). According to her version, a truck from Ahmedabad in Gujarat delivered her wildlife cargo (3,000 km by road) and her mission was to transport it from Dharmanagar to Agartala (150 km by road and 3 km from the border with Bangladesh). She is a member of the passenger train maintenance staff. She is originally from Rajasthan and now lives in Pune, 3,170 km from Dharmanagar. All the animals were in poor condition. A few iguanas were dead.

East Mojo, August 13, 2022.<sup>68</sup>

**REPEATED OFFENCE**

**August 16, 2022**

**New Jalpaiguri Junction Railway Station, Dabgram, Jalpaiguri District, State of West Bengal, India**



Seizure of one leopard skin (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) and 2 red panda skins (*Ailurus fulgens*, Appendix I). Arrest of Chandra Prakash Chemjong, age 35, Gobinda Samba Limbu, age 25, and Yakpu Sherpa, age 37, all Nepalese nationals. They came from Mikwakhola in the district of Taplejung, Nepal, via motorcycle with the "goods." Their plan was to cross the border into Bhutan at Jaigaon (Alipurduar District) and deliver them to Phuntsholing, Bhutan, in exchange for 3 million rupees (37,650 US\$). The supposed final destination was China.

Asian News International, August 17, 2022; Hindustan Times, August 17, 2022.<sup>69</sup>

## OPERATION WILEP

August 20, 2022

Unnao, Unnao District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India

Seizure of 174 Indian softshell turtles (*Nilssoniana gangetica*, Appendix I) or Indian flapshell turtles (*Lissemys punctata*, Appendix II) and 150 birds on the Jammu Tawi Express. Arrest of Mohammad Qamar. His plan was to reach Ludhiana in Punjab, 800 km from Unnao, and sell the animals to wildlife brokers with links to neighbouring countries. Railway Protection Force, August 20, 2022; The Times of India, August 20, 2022.<sup>70</sup>

August 24, 2022

Vairengte, Kolasib District, State of Mizoram, India

The 2 men in the van are aged 20 and 39. They were carrying 7 grey langurs (*Semnopithecus entellus*, Appendix I) and 2 capybaras (*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*) from South America. They were on their way from Myanmar to Assam. The Myanmar/Mizoram road is the route for exotic animals condemned to be pets and excite the curiosity of guests as attested by the event on 8 September opposite and the articles in "On the Trail" n°20 p.124, n°23 p.156, n°26 p.40, n°30 p.171, n°32 p.198 and p.246 and n°36 p.196 and 197.

Mizoram Police, August 25, 2022; Hindustan Times, August 26, 2022.<sup>71</sup>

August 27 to 28, 2022

Vadodara, Vadodara District, State of Gujarat, India

Alerted by the NGO Wildlife SOS-GSPCA, Forest Department officials seized over the weekend a young rhesus monkey (*Macaca mulatta*, Appendix II) tied by a rope to a balcony, 18 caged parakeets, including Alexandrine parakeets (*Psittacula eupatria*, Appendix II), plum-headed parakeets (*Psittacula cyanocephala*, Appendix II), and rose-ringed parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*). The Times of India, August 29, 2022; India Narrative, August 30, 2022.<sup>72</sup>

August 28, 2022

Hasimara, Alipurduar District, State of West Bengal, India. Border with Bhutan.



Seizure of the skin of a clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*, Appendix I), 4 bear gall bladders (Ursidae, Appendix I or II) weighing 76, 31, 25 and 15 grams, and 530 grams of "caterpillar fungus" (see "On the Trail" n°6 p.71, n°11 p.89, n°13 p.111, n°15 p.70, n°16 p.51 and n°35 p.71). Joy Vijay Roy was standing near a hotel on the edge of the n°48 expressway with a bag over his shoulder. He was on his way to Bhutan. Wildlife trafficking resumes after the closure of the border post with Bhutan due to Covid-19. The final destination of the plant and wildlife plunder would have been China. Waali News, August 29, 2022; PiPa News, August 29, 2022.<sup>73</sup>

## FAMILY AFFAIRS

September 3, 2022

Raj-Ranpur, Nayagarh District, State of Odisha, India



Seizure of leopard's teeth (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I), wild boar's teeth (*Sus scrofa*), a parrot (Psittaciformes, Appendix I or II except 4 species), and an Indian giant squirrel (*Ratufa indica*, Appendix II) from the Pradhan family. Mother Veena Pradhan is considered an accomplice, and her husband Vinod Pradhan is under arrest. Son Sanjay Pradhan is wanted by the police. The coalition was spotted selling wildlife by-products on WhatsApp. The sharp increase in poaching and trafficking is worrying and mobilizing the district's forestry services. A few days earlier, a leopard skin had already been seized nearby.

Odisha TV, September 3, 2022; Patrika, September 3, 2022.<sup>74</sup>

September 8, 2022

Rangia, Kamrup District, State of Assam, India

Interception of 2 SUVs 800 km from Mizoram and the Myanmar border, an entry point for exotic animals. The vehicles bore army markings, and the drivers Raghu Singh and Karthik, age 42 and 27 respectively, presented military passes at the time they were searched. 19 monkeys including slow lorises (*Nycticebus* spp., Appendix I), hoolock gibbons (*Bunopithecus hoolock*, Appendix I) and 2 chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*, Appendix I), 18 tortoises (Testudinidae, Appendix I or II) including 2 dead, 2 parrots (Psittaciformes, Appendix I or II except 4 species), and 2 kangaroos (family Macropodidae) were seized. Crowds gathered in front of the Rangia police station to take a close look at the animals from elsewhere, before they were transferred to Guwahati Zoo for further identification and health checks. The animals are said to be coming from Thailand.

India Today, September 8, 2022; The New Indian Express, September 8, 2022; The Print (with PTI), September 8, 2022; The Times of India, September 9, 2022.<sup>75</sup>

Mid-September 2022

Karanjei, Mayurbhanj District, State of Odisha, India



Arrest of 2 traffickers. They were selling musk deer (*Moschus* spp., Appendix I) teeth and canines, 4 tiger (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I) claws, and a pangolin scale. Shrigiri Sailu, age 76, and Srigiri Tirupati, age 45, come from Andhra Pradesh, more than 1,000 km away.

Argus News, September 21, 2022; Pragativadi, September 21, 2022.<sup>76</sup>



**September 18, 2022**

**Ballia, Ballia District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India**

Seizure of tiger claws, nails, and bones (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I), bear furs and claws (Ursidae, Appendix I or II), swamp deer (*Rucervus duvaucelii*, Appendix I), owl talons (Strigiformes, Appendix I or II), and corals in the backrooms of several stalls in the Chowk District. All these items used in witchcraft or alternative medicine were not directly accessible to customers.

Amar Ujala, September 29, 2022.<sup>77</sup>



**September 24, 2022**

**Saiphai, Kolasib District, State of Mizoram, India. Border with Bangladesh.**

Night interception of an SUV. Seizure of 6 gibbons (Hylobatidae, Appendix I), 3 small monkeys, and 10 exotic reptiles. Arrest of Birhan Uddin Laskar, age 24, Kamal Hussain, age 34, Abdul Ruf, age 25, and Niaz Hussain, age 21, all 4 from Assam.

Mizoram Police, September 25, 2022.<sup>78</sup>

### NORTHERN EUROPE

#### UNITED KINGDOM

**September 8, 2022**

**Northampton, Northamptonshire County, England, United Kingdom**

Lei Zheng was sentenced to a 6-month suspended prison sentence, 21 months' probation and 120 hours' community service for offering for sale via eBay and Amazon pangolin scales, musk deer preputial glands (*Moschus* spp., Appendix I or II), dried seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp., Appendix II), costus roots, tree ferns, orchids and "desert ginseng" (*Cistanche tubulosa*). What Zheng sold under the pseudonym Dr. T&T was most often presented as a catalyst for sexual activity. Zheng's business was in full swing. On his eBay page, he claimed 30,000 sales.

Northants Telegraph, September 10, 2022; Northamptonshire Police, September 21, 2022.<sup>79</sup>



amazon  
ebay

#### SWEDEN

**September 1, 2022**

**Helsingborg, Skane County, Sweden**

The Helsingborg "spider man" was sentenced to 10 months in prison. The forensic police had seized 289 tarantulas (family Theraphosidae) and other CITES-listed spiders from his home. He also sold snakes and lizards.

Helsingborgs Dagblad, July 15 and September 1, 2022; TV4, July 18, 2022; Svenska Dagbladet, September 1, 2022.<sup>80</sup>



### WESTERN EUROPE

#### FRANCE

**July 19, 2022**

**La Teste-de-Buch, Department of Gironde, France**

Fourteen zoo animals perished as a result of heat stress and smoke from the fires that ravaged the Bay of Arcachon: an orangutan (*Pongo* spp., Appendix I), a small-clawed otter (*Aonyx cinerea*, Appendix I), a squirrel monkey (*Saimiri* spp., Appendix I or II), a red-and-green macaw (*Ara chloropterus*, Appendix II), 2 tataric hornbills (*Penelopides panini*, Appendix II), 2 mitred conures (*Aratinga mitrata*, Appendix II), 2 capuchin monkeys (*Cebus* spp., synonymous with *Sapajus* spp., Appendix II), a scarlet ibis (*Eudocimus ruber*, Appendix II), a whistling duck (subfamily Dendrocygninae), and a penguin.

France Bleu Poitou, July 19, 2022; Sud Ouest, July 20, 2022; La Dépêche du Midi, July 21, 2022; Le Progrès, July 22, 2022.<sup>81</sup>

July 6, 2022

**The Netherlands**

Publication of the new list of mammals authorized as pets, effective January 1, 2024. It includes domestic dog (*Canis lupus familiaris*), domestic cat (*Felis catus*), horse (*Equus caballus*), common African dormouse (*Graphiurus murinus*), Asian garden dormouse (*Eliomys melanurus*), European polecat (*Mustela putorius*), ferret (*Mustela putorius furo*), domestic rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus domesticus*), Baluchistan gerbil (*Gerbillus nanus*), pale gerbil (*Gerbillus perpallidus*), pleasant gerbil (*Gerbillus amoenus*), greater Egyptian gerbil (*Gerbillus pyramidum*), Harrington's gerbil (*Taterillus harringtoni*), Mongolian jird (*Meriones unguiculatus*), Algerian gerbil (*Gerbillus garramantis*), brown rat (*Rattus norvegicus*), house mouse (*Mus musculus*), domesticated guinea pig (*Cavia porcellus*), striped dwarf hamster (*Cricetulus barabensis*), golden hamster (*Mesocricetus auratus*), alpaca (*Vicugna pacos*), Chinese water deer (*Hydropotes inermis*), donkey (*Equus asinus*), domestic goat (*Capra aegagrus hircus*), Bactrian camel (*Camelus bactrianus*), llama (*Lama glama*), domestic cattle (*Bos taurus*), domestic sheep (*Ovis aries*), pig (*Sus scrofa*, synonyme de *Sus domesticus*) and domestic water buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*).

Therefore the list excludes the caracal (*Caracal caracal*, Appendix I or II), the serval (*Leptailurus serval*, Appendix II), the meerkat (*Suricata suricatta*), and the sloth (suborder Folivora) who are in fashion in the country. However, some flexibility has been allowed. People owning an exotic mammal on January 1, 2024, that is not included in the list will be able to keep him until he dies under condition that he is registered and kept in accordance with the rules. Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, July 6, 2022.<sup>82</sup>

August 2022

**Oss, Province of North Brabant, The Netherlands**

Following an agreement with the public prosecutor's office, gemstone wholesaler Hans Timmer will have to pay 700,000 € (708,540 US\$). The fine is proportional to the profits made from prolific wildlife trafficking. Aware of the illegality of his system, from January 2014 to October 2016 he smuggled a whole procession of wildlife products from the Philippines, Indonesia, and China to the Netherlands. In 2016, the container of one of his associates, Erick Roer, was seized in the port of Rotterdam ("On the Trail" n°14 p.109, n°27 p.124) with coral, ivory jewelry, primate skulls (Primates, Appendix I or II), crocodile skins (Crocodylidae, Appendix I or II), monitor lizards (*Varanus* spp., Appendix I or II), snakes, and sawfish rostra (Pristidae, Appendix I). In 2020, Hans Timmer was sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment and fined 20,000 € (23,408 US\$) (see "On the Trail" n°31 p.186). He appealed against this. Netherlands Public Prosecution Office, August 23, 2022; Omroep Brabant, August 23, 2022.<sup>83</sup>



## CROATIA

**REPEATED OFFENCE**

July to August 2022

**Zadar, Zadar County, Croatia**

Photographers showing wild animals thrive in the city. They offer tourists exotic shots in exchange for money. Monkeys including a white-eared marmoset (*Callithrix jacchus*, Appendix II), a blue-and-yellow macaw (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II), a white cockatoo (*Cacatua alba*, Appendix II), an amazon parrot (*Amazona* spp., Appendix I or II), colored pigeons, owls, and snakes are reported on the waterfront. They are all mistreated. The authorities pass the buck between departments. The municipal police have a habit of narrowly missing suspects. However, on August 26, 3 foreign photographers were arrested with 2 barn owls (*Tyto alba*, Appendix II) from Czechia and a green monkey (*Chlorocebus sabaeus*, Appendix II) from the Ukraine.

Animal Friends Croatia, July 20 and August 25 & 26, 2022; RTL Danas, August 22, 2022.<sup>84</sup>

## GREECE

August 22, 2022  
Greece

Following numerous poisonings of vultures (Accipitridae, Appendix I or II), golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*, Appendix II), brown bears (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II), grey wolves (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II), and red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), and after several years of consultation between 4 ministries and 7 NGOs, special poison bait detection units have been set up. They are accompanied by specially trained Belgian sheepdog. Local authorities are encouraged to train their staff, intensify patrols, record all poisoning cases in a database, carry out autopsies and sampling, and warn the public.

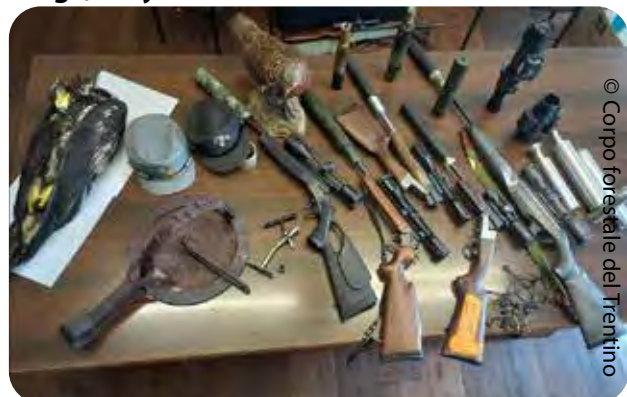
Dasarxeio.com, August 23, 2022; Kathimerini, August 23, 2022, Naftemporiki, August 23, 2022; Hellenic Ornithological Society, September 13, 2022; BalkanDetox LIFE project, October 19, 2022.<sup>85</sup>



## ITALY

**Beginning of August 2022**

**Province of Belluno, Region of Veneto, and  
Primiero San Martino di Castrozza, Autonomous  
Province of Trento, Region of Trentino-Alto  
Adige, Italy**



Forest rangers have dismantled a conspiracy of poachers operating between Trentino and Veneto, using clandestine and modified firearms. Several acts of poaching were reported on ungulates, western capercaillies (*Tetrao urogallus*), and golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*, Appendix II). Three people were arrested and 2 were charged. Golden eagles are threatened not only by poaching, but also by hikers and other troublemakers. Agenzia Nazionale Stampa Associata, August 10, 2022; Il Dolomiti, August 10, 2022; Autonomous Province of Trento, August 10, 2022; Il Gazzettino, August 15, 2022.<sup>86</sup>

## SERBIA

**July 28, 2022**

**Lazarevac, Belgrade City, and Subotica,  
North Backa District, Serbia**



Arrest of 2 people suspected of illegally trafficking protected species. Seizure of a royal python (*Python regius*, Appendix II) from a 36-year-old man. Seizure on the same day of a lion cub (*Panthera leo*, Appendix I or II) from the home of a 44-year-old man. He had bought him from the owner of the royal python. The 2-month-old cub was temporarily entrusted to Palić Zoo pending a final decision by the Ministry.

Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Serbia, August 23, 2022; Danas, August 24, 2022.<sup>87</sup>



## EASTERN EUROPE

### ROMANIA

**July 4, 2022**

**Mădrigești and Secaș, Judet d'Arad,  
Romania**



Seizure of 14 deer skulls (family Cervidae) with antlers, 12 deer antlers, 7 European roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) antlers, one lynx skull (*Lynx lynx*, Appendix II), wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) tusks and 12 hunting knives from undeclared hunting guides.

Romanian Police, July 4, 2022.<sup>88</sup>

### RUSSIA

**July 8, 2022**

**Pulkovo International Airport, Federal City of  
Saint Petersburg, Russia**

Seizure of 1,426 saiga antelope horns (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II), 120 carnivore legs and other wild animal parts, and by-products such as castoreum, the sebaceous excretion of glands placed under the tail of beavers (genus *Castor*). The items were found in a parcel bound for Viet Nam via Dubai that was declared to contain "cosmetic products."



Russian Customs Portal, July 8, 2022; St Petersburg format, July 8, 2022.<sup>89</sup>

**July 20, 2022**

**Kyakhta Border Post, Republic of Buryatia,  
Russia. Border with Mongolia.**

Customs seizure of a hedgehog (family Erinaceidae), 4 kittens, and 16 snake eggs that a Mongolian citizen was trying to take home.

Virtual Customs, July 22, 2022.<sup>90</sup>



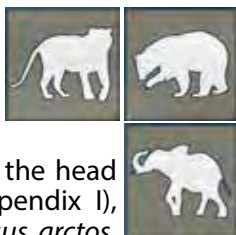
## CZECHIA

**September 21, 2022**

**Capital City of Prague, Czechia**

A 63-year-old man was arrested for illegal trading protected wildlife. Online, he was selling the head of a tiger (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I), the skin of a brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II), and a knife with a carved African elephant ivory handle. All these items were found during the search.

Police of the Czech Republic, September 21, 2022.<sup>91</sup>



## UKRAINE

**End of August 2022**

**City of Kyiv, Ukraine**

Kyiv cyber police and Obolon district investigators unmasked 2 traffickers. The 36-year-old woman and the 35-year-old man were selling the animals via the Internet. Searches of their hideouts and homes led to the seizure of around 400 animals, most of them mistreated, as well as numerous forged or blank veterinary documents. There were at least 3 tigers (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I), 2 caracals (*Caracal caracal*, Appendix I or II), primates including monkeys (*Chlorocebus* spp., Appendix II) and baboons (*Papio* spp., Appendix II), birds including grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*, Appendix I) and other parrots or parakeets (Psittaciformes, Appendix I or II except 4 species), reptiles including a Burmese python (*Python bivittatus*, Appendix II) and dragon lizards (family Agamidae), a raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) or raccoon dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*), and a red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*). The animals were transferred to Kyiv Zoo.

Ukrainian National Police in the city of Kyiv, August 30, 2022.<sup>92</sup>



## VARIOUS MARINE SPECIES

### ASIA

#### CHINA

**August 11, 2022**

**Guangzhou and Maoming, Guangdong Province, Baoshan and Dehong, Yunnan Province (border with Myanmar) and Chongqing Autonomous Municipality, China**

Seizure of dried fish swim bladders, sea cucumbers, shark fins, 16.6 tonnes in all, most of them allegedly from India. After being fraudulently imported into Myanmar, the marine animal by-products were packaged as ordinary products and exported to China. The total value is estimated at 50 million yuan (7.4 million US\$). Eleven arrests.

Chinese Customs, August 12, 2022; Zhanjiang Customs, August 17, 2022.<sup>1</sup>



## INDONESIA

August 2022

Belakang Padang Island, Batam, Riau Islands Province, Indonesia



Seizure of 2,258 fish and 473 corals, including stony coral (*Scleractinia*, Appendix II) and soft coral (order *Gorgonacea*) by sea and air police on the island of Belakang Padang. The 44-year-old fisherman-trafficker was on his way to Singapore. The smuggled fish were ornamental fish for aquariums including clownfish (*Amphiprion ocellaris*), butterflyfish (family *Chaetodontidae*), yellow coral gobies (*Gobiodon okinawae*), and marine angelfish (family *Pomacanthidae*). Endangered orange-spotted groupers (*Epinephelus coioides*) were destined for aquaculture. Alongside corals and ornamental fish, there was also the sea bunny (*Jorunna parva*), a species of sea slug that is very "decorative" and doesn't take up much space (2 cm long). Antara, August 26, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

## EUROPE

CROATIA

July 19 and 21, 2022

Split-Dalmatia, Šibenik-Knin and Zadar Counties, Croatia

Seizure of 19 tonnes of sea cucumbers, 6.35 kg of date mussels (*Lithophaga lithophaga*, Appendix II), 3,520 kg of sea urchins including violet sea urchins (*Sphaerechinus granularis*), and 62 kg of sea urchin roe poached between March and July. Arrest of 6 Croatians and 5 Italians. The ringleaders were Joško Škarica, Croatian, and Adamo Zingarelli, Italian. The seafood was transported across the border in Scania trucks belonging to Trasporti Dolfin, based in Rosolina (Veneto region). They were then sold in trattorias. Sea urchins were sold to a restaurant in Split.

The secret organisation didn't last more than 3 months, but the diversity of the trades involved is impressive. Divers, drivers, stockists, restaurateurs, and fish-mongers formed a large chain whose profits probably exceeded 100,000 US\$.

The black market in sea cucumbers is spreading throughout the Mediterranean. The Croatian side sold them to the Italian side for 4.2 US\$/kg. Sea urchin roe was traded for 110 US\$/kg.

Index, July 19, 2022; Slobodna Dalmacija, July 19, 2022; HINA, July 20, 2022; Jutarnji list, July 20 and 21, 2022; Večernji list, July 20, 2022; Chioggia Azzurra, August 26, 2022.<sup>3</sup>



*Jorunna parva*. Photo Rafi Amar

## FRANCE

**Mid-September 2022**

**Toulon, Department of Var, France**

Conviction and fine of 4,000 € (4,015 US\$) against a souvenir dealer who had more than 150 wildlife curiosities in his shop window and on his shelves, including sperm whale teeth (*Physeter macrocephalus*, Appendix I), giant clam shells (Tridacnidae, Appendix II), nautilus shells (Nautilidae, Appendix II), and dried seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp., Appendix II) (see "On the Trail" n°34 p.227). The conviction must be displayed in the store for 2 months.

French Biodiversity Agency, September 16, 2022.<sup>4</sup>



## OCEANIA

### AUSTRALIA

**September 5 and 6, 2022**

**Indian Ocean, Australia**

- Boarding of a "foreign" fishing boat. The authorities seized sea cucumbers and sharks and then let the 5 fishermen leave in their boat.

- Another "foreign" fishing boat is boarded. The authorities seize sea cucumbers and sharks and let the 5 fishermen go back on board their boat. The foreign fishermen boarded in Australian waters are mainly Vietnamese.

Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), September 14, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

# CORALS

## AMERICA

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**August 10, 2022**

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

Renaissance Aquatics Inc, a retailer, and Lim Aqua-Nautic Specialist Inc, a wholesaler of marine species, plead guilty. They illegally imported live stony corals (Scleractinia, Appendix II) from Viet Nam between 2007 and March 2013 by falsifying documents of origin. Renaissance Aquatics Inc concealed the corals among legal shipments. Aqua-Nautic provided funds and personnel to collect, unpack, store, and repack "the goods" at the airport. Aqua-Nautic is a multinational company with branches in Singapore and China.

US Department of Justice, August 10, 2022; Environmental Crimes Monthly Bulletin, September 2022.<sup>1</sup>



## ASIA

### CHINA

**July 5, 2022**

**Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China**

Inspection of a vessel from Cheung Chau Island and seizure of various contraband food products and live coral. Three sailors aged 34 to 69 were arrested. Hong Kong Customs, July 6, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

**July 2022**

**Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, China**

Thirteen pieces of jewellery, earrings and necklaces with red coral (genus *Corallium*) inlays are seized from a parcel from abroad. Total coral weight: 14 grams.

Chinese Customs, August 5, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

**August 15, 2022**

**Suzhou, Suzhou Prefecture, Jiangsu Province, China**



Seizure of a red coral (genus *Corallium*) necklace in a package from abroad. Total weight: 36.1 grams. Chinese Customs, August 16, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

**August 25, 2022**

**Qingdao-Jiaodong International Airport, Shandong Province, China**

Seizure of a red coral (genus *Corallium*) necklace in a passenger's hand luggage, 565 grams.

Chinese Customs, September 2, 2022.<sup>5</sup>





## INDONESIA

July 28, 2022

Maccini Baji Port, Makassar, South Sulawesi Province, Sulawesi Island, Indonesia



Seizure of 324 bags of organ pipe coral (*Tubipora musica*, Appendix II) from the fishing vessel *Sabuk Nusantara 66* from the island of Sapuka. The captain and crew had fled before the patrol arrived. Fajar Sulsel, July 29, 2022; Indonesia Maritime Information Centre, July 2022.<sup>6</sup>



## THAILAND

August 17, 2022

Bangkok, Thailand

Search of the home of Thitipong Sangsuriyarit and seizure of 216 live stony corals (*Scleractinia*, Appendix II), 7 soft corals (family *Gorgoniidae*), 9 sea anemones (order *Actinaria*), and 75 dead coral fragments. Thitipong said he bought the animals online, grew them "for fun," then resold them for between 100 and 1,000 baths (2.7 to 27 US\$) each.

Mgronline.com, August 17, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

facebook

## EUROPE

### GERMANY

September 29, 2022

Bruchsal, Baden-Württemberg State, Germany



Seizure of stony corals (*Scleractinia*, Appendix II) in an incoming package declared to contain various "souvenirs" and "small gifts". German Customs, September 29, 2022.<sup>8</sup>

### POLAND

End of July 2022

Kraków John Paul II International Airport, Balice, Lesser Poland Voivodeship, Poland



Seizure of 2 stony corals (*Scleractinia*, Appendix II), 300 grams in total, in the luggage of a Czech passenger from Mexico. Lesser Poland Customs and Excise Office in Kraków, August 5, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

# CRUSTACEANS

## ASIA

### KAZAKHSTAN

#### OPERATION ASTYK

End of September 2022

Senzharka, North Kazakhstan Region, Kazakhstan

Police search of 3 vehicles and seizure of 50 bags of brine shrimp (*Artemia salina*). This is the first known case of poaching of this crustacean in the region since the beginning of the year. Nine men who did not have extraction permits were arrested.

*Artemia salina*, see "On the Trail" n°32 p. 259.

Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, September 28, 2022.<sup>1</sup>



## GIANT CLAMS, GOOSENECK BARNACLES, QUEEN CONCHES...

## AMERICA

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

#### Beginning of July 2022

Indian River County, State of Florida, United States of America

The suspect was returning from the Bahamas by boat (Grand Bahama Island is 180 km away). He had hidden some queen conches (*Strombus gigas*, Appendix II) in a bag containing fish fillets, but the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officers did not fall for it.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, July 7, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

#### July 27, 2022

Channel Five Bridge, State of Florida, United States of America

Tony Ngoc Truong, age 51, was arrested in possession of 8 queen conches (*Strombus gigas*, Appendix II) whose fishing is prohibited unless the shell is empty. Five specimens were in a bucket and 3 were wrapped in a T-shirt thrown under his vehicle as the patrol approached.

Marathon Weekly, August 4, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

#### Beginning of August 2022

Monroe County, State of Florida, United States of America

Seizure of a live queen conch (*Strombus gigas*, Appendix II) and 4 undersized lobsters from the vehicle of 4 poachers near Little Duck Key Island.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, August 4, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

## ASIA

### CHINA

#### Beginning of July 2022

Fuzhou Changle International Airport, Fujian Province, China

Seizure of 15 pieces of giant clam (*Tridacnidae*, Appendix II) shell hidden in a shoe and a triton's trumpet shell (*Charonia tritonis*).

Chinese Customs, July 14, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

#### July 11, 2022

Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Border Post, Guangdong Province, China. Border with Hong Kong and Macao.

Seizure of 2 giant clam (*Tridacnidae*, Appendix II) shells in the luggage of a passenger leaving Gongbei.

Chinese Customs, July 14, 2022; Gongbei Customs, July 21, 2022.<sup>5</sup>



**July 2022**

**Changsha Huanghua International Airport, Changsha Prefecture, Hunan Province, China**

Seizure of 22 objects made from giant clam (*Tridacnidae*, Appendix II) shell including bracelets and necklaces seized from passenger luggage. Chinese Customs, July 29, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

**Beginning of August 2022**

**Tianjin Autonomous Municipality, China**



214-gram nautilus (*Nautilidae*, Appendix II) seized in a package from abroad declared to contain "decorations".

Chinese Customs, August 15, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

**August 2022**

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

Seizure of a giant clam (*Tridacnidae*, Appendix II) shell bracelet in the luggage of a passenger from abroad. Total weight: 39 grams.

Chinese Customs, August 25, 2022.<sup>8</sup>

**August 2022**

**Qingdao-Jiaodong International Airport, Shandong Province, China**

Seizure of a giant clam (*Tridacnidae*, Appendix II) shell bracelet in the hand luggage of a passenger from abroad, 57 grams.

Chinese Customs, September 8, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

**September 13, 2022**

**Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, China**



Seizure in incoming mail of the white pieces of a giant clam (*Tridacnidae*, Appendix II) shell "go" game. Total weight: 1,192 grams.

Giant clam shell "go" games, see "On the Trail" n°32 p. 260, n°33 p. 231 and n°35 p. 191.

Chinese Customs, September 14, 2022.<sup>10</sup>

**September 18, 2022**

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

Seizure of a giant clam (*Tridacnidae*, Appendix II) shell amulet with a total weight of 128 grams in the luggage of a passenger from abroad.

Chinese Customs, September 20, 2022<sup>11</sup>

**September 2022**

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

Seizure of 3 giant clam (*Tridacnidae*, Appendix II) shell bracelets from 2 passengers and their luggage coming from abroad. Total weight: 337 grams.

Chinese Customs, October 1, 2022.<sup>12</sup>

## INDIA

**September 19, 2022**

**Ballia, Ballia District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India**

Police and forest officials raid the Chowk shopping district. Seizure of conches (genus *Strombus*) and other shellfish forbidden for sale in Sanjeev and Anil Gupta's stores. They had been dealing in these products for several years without being bothered. A tip-off put an end to their business.

Amar Ujala, September 29, 2022.<sup>13</sup>

## PHILIPPINES

**July 18, 2022**

**Province of Pangasinan, Philippines**

The Catholic environmental NGO Saint Francis Group for Greener Environment, founded after Pope Francis published the encyclical *Laudato Si'*, denounces the poaching of giant clams (*Tridacnidae*, Appendix II) and the networks that source them from local fishermen and stimulate poaching. No prison sentences are handed down even after spectacular seizures, such as that of 200 tonnes of clams on April 16, 2021 at Roxas in the Province of Palawan ("On the Trail" n°32 p. 261).

Union of Catholic Asian News, July 19, 2022.<sup>14</sup>

## EUROPE

### CROATIE

**End of July 2022**

**Bibinje, Zadar County, Croatia**

Two foreign tourists poached 4 noble pen shells (*Pinna nobilis*). An outraged Croatian forwarded evidence of this poaching to the local authorities. They remained unmoved by the report.

Antena Zadar, July 23, 2022.<sup>15</sup>



## SPAIN

### REPEATED OFFENCE

**Mid-July 2022**

**Ribeira, Province of A Coruña, Autonomous Community of Galicia, Spain**

Arrest near a lighthouse of 2 poachers in possession of 21 kg of gooseneck barnacles (*Pollicipes pollicipes*). One of them is a repeat offender.

La Voz de Galicia, July 20, 2022.<sup>16</sup>

**August 31, 2022**

**Laxe, Province of A Coruña, Autonomous Community of Galicia, Spain**



Seizure of 40 kg of gooseneck barnacles (*Pollicipes pollicipes*) in buckets abandoned by 3 poachers who fled. They were distributed to charities.

La Voz de Galicia, September 2, 2022.<sup>17</sup>

### REPEATED OFFENCE

**September 19, 2022**

**Nigrán, Province of Pontevedra, Autonomous Community of Galicia, Spain**

The coastguards spotted the van of a poacher well known to their services and notified the gendarmerie. The recidivist poacher was intercepted in his vehicle with 2.5 kg of gooseneck barnacles (*Pollicipes pollicipes*). A conviction handed down the previous year prohibited him from fishing. He had hired an accomplice to keep lookout. A vain precaution.

Faro de Vigo, September 24, 2022.<sup>18</sup>

## ITALY

**July 17, 2022**

**Castel Volturno, Province of Caserta, Region of Campania, Italy**

The man, in his sixties, came from the Neapolitan hinterland to poach date mussel (*Lithophaga lithophaga*, Appendix II). He was caught by the maritime authorities.

CasertaNews, July 17, 2022.<sup>19</sup>

**July 24, 2022**

**Castellammare di Stabia, Metropolitan City of Naples, Region of Campania, Italy**

An amateur video shows a tourist using a hammer to extract date mussels (*Lithophaga lithophaga*, Appendix II) from rocks at low tide. According to some witnesses, he extracted around fifty specimens. The authorities did not intervene immediately and are now trying to identify him.

Il Messaggero, July 24, 2022; Quotidiano Nazionale, July 24, 2022.<sup>20</sup>

### FAMILY AFFAIRS

**August 23, 2022**

**Port of Olbia, Province of Sassari, Autonomous Region of Sardinia, Italy**

Discovery of a large noble pen shell (*Pinna nobilis*) in the trunk of a couple's vehicle awaiting boarding on the ferry to Livorno. It was freshly caught in the waters off Porto Ferro.

Gallura Oggi, August 23, 2022; Agenzia Nazionale Stampa Associata, August 24, 2022.<sup>21</sup>

## MONTENEGRO

**Mid-July and July 19, 2022**

**Municipality of Tivat and Žukovica, Municipality of Kotor, Montenegro**



Arrest of N.S., age 72, with diving equipment, a hammer, pliers, and 4.5 kg of date mussels (*Lithophaga lithophaga*, Appendix II) in his vehicle. Catching date mussels has been banned for 2 decades, but they can still be found on the menus of some restaurants. A few days earlier, 5 kg were seized from a restaurant owner in the Bay of Tivat.

Cafe del Montenegro, July 20, 2022; Dan, July 20, 2022.<sup>22</sup>

## PORTUGAL

**Mid-August 2022**

**Vila Nova de Milfontes, District of Beja, Portugal**

Coastguard arrest of a poacher in possession of 50 kg of gooseneck barnacles (*Pollicipes pollicipes*). They were sold at an auction. The use of the proceeds is not specified.

Rádio M24, August 11, 2022.<sup>23</sup>

*Haliotis* spp.

## AFRICA

### SOUTH AFRICA

**July 2, 2022**

#### **Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa**

Seizure in the early hours of the morning of 2,536 abalones and a Nissan Navara. The value of the abalone is estimated at 31,000 US\$, or 12 US\$/specimen. The traffickers disappeared into the bush.

SAPS, July 3, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

**July 5, 2022**

#### **Cape Town, Western Cape Province, South Africa**

Fubao Shi was fined 3,100 US\$ or a suspended sentence of 3 years' imprisonment and was ordered to pay 6,200 US\$ into the Criminal Asset Recovery Account in terms of Prevention of Organised Crime Act for taking part in a major abalone smuggling operation in August 2021 (see "On the Trail" n°33 p.253).

SAPS, July 6, 2022.<sup>2</sup>



**July 5 and November 2, 2022**

#### **Kroonstad, Free State Province, South Africa**

Seizure of an abalone shipment valued at 3 million rand or 186,367 US\$, from a truck registered in Bloemfontein. Four suspects were arrested, Husin Adam, Deshar Dasram, Bernard Myburg and Fu Lin. The abalone would have been loaded in Bloemfontein from Cape Town. Husin Adam is the owner of the truck. The case is reminiscent of the trafficking operation uncovered by the Hawks in December 2021. Six suspects were arrested, including a Chinese, a Malawian, a Lesothan and 3 South Africans (see "On the Trail" n°34 p.240).

News24, July 11 et November 4, 2022.<sup>3</sup>



**August 1, 2022**

#### **Cookhouse, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa**

Nighttime seizure in an Audi A4 of 14 bags full of abalone, a total of 7,615 specimens with a total value of 1.3 million rand (77,400 US\$). Two arrests.

SAPS, August 2, 2022.<sup>4</sup>



**August 5, 2022**

#### **Port Alfred, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa**

- One Friday, a Golf lost control on the R72 and went off the road. The driver is arrested, the others flee. 467 abalones weighing 73 kg and valued at 131,000 rand, or 7,800 US\$, or 107 US\$/kg, or 16 US\$/abalone, are seized.

- The R72 is blocked by the incident. A Toyota bursts through the roadblocks at full speed and ends up in a cul-de-sac. The 2 occupants flee. One, tracked by the Belgian shepherd Udze, is immobilized. The other was later caught. 213 abalones valued at 62,000 rand or 3,690 US\$ and 17 US\$ per abalone are seized.

Talk of the Town, August 8, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

**August 10, 2022**

#### **Simon's Town, Western Cape Province, South Africa**



Seizure of 397 shucked abalones and 8 whole after a major operation in Table Mountain National Park involving the DFFE (Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment), the SAPS, the marine section of SANParks (South African National Parks), and the city police. One arrest. Thirteen divers overflown by the SAPS helicopter scattered into the mountains. They were lost sight of in the fog.

Independent Online, August 10, 2022; SANParks, August 10, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

**August 16, 2022**

#### **Kleinsee, Northern Cape Province, South Africa**

Arrest of 4 divers, Emelio Saal, Keith Saal, Conwald Wyngaard, and Hubert Felix. Seizure of 4 wetsuits, 30 large abalones valued at 166 US\$ per specimen and the poachers' vehicle. Operation coordinated by the Springbok Hawks, the local K9 brigade and agents from the Ministry of the Environment.

SAPS, August 18, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

**August 30, 2022**

**Cape Town, Western Cape Province, South Africa**



Sentence of Lifu Chen, aged 27, to 36 months' imprisonment suspended or payment of a fine of 50,000 rand or 3,000 US\$ for illegal possession of abalone, to 12 months' imprisonment or payment of a fine of 10,000 rand or 600 US\$ for breaching the Marine Living Resources Act and to 12 months' imprisonment suspended for the contravention of the Immigration Act. The weight of the dried abalone was 202 kg, with an estimated value of 1.4 million rand or 83,300 US\$ and 410 US\$/kg. Chen was arrested in August 2021. Independent Online, September 1 and November 1, 2022.<sup>8</sup>

**September 15, 2022**

**Richmond, Northern Cape Province, South Africa**



Sibusiso Kenneth Ngwenya and Muziwokuthula Sizwe Dlamini fined 20,000 rand (1,190 US\$) and sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment suspended for 5 years for transporting 24 boxes with abalone between Cape Town and Johannesburg in August 2019. SAPS, September 15, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

**September 16, 2022**

**Between Jeffreys Bay and Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa**



Seizure of 2,800 freshly shucked abalones in garbage bags in the back of a Toyota Avanza, which was also seized. The value of the abalone is estimated at 800,000 rand or 47,620 US\$ or 17 US\$ per specimen. Driver arrested. The operation was coordinated by the Port Elizabeth K9 unit and DEFF officers.

SAPS, September 17, 2022.<sup>10</sup>

**September 19, 2022**

**Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa**

Seizure of 2 garbage bags full of abalones, 2,372 in all, and the vehicle. Arrest of Mkhululi Mqai, age 39. SAPS, September 20, and November 10, 2022.<sup>11</sup>

**September 26, 2022**

**Kuruman, Northern Cape Province, South Africa**



Lin Zhuang, age 30, fined 2,380 US\$ or sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment, one suspended, for illegally transporting abalone in December 2021. Zhuang had been arrested on the N14 freeway by Kuruman police as part of a plan to prevent trafficking prior to the holiday season. Kuruman is 1,000 km from Cape Town, the epicenter of abalone poaching in the South Atlantic. SAPS, September 27, 2022.<sup>12</sup>

**September 26, 2022**

**Grabouw, Western Cape Province, South Africa**

Seizure of 3,760 abalones in the Silver Land Rover Discovery that was searched on the N2. The value of the consignment on the local market is estimated at 600,000 rand, or 35,710 US\$ or 9.5 US\$ per abalone. A Land Rover Discovery costs at least 50,000 US\$. The press release does not specify whether it has been seized.

SAPS, September 26, 2022; SABC News Western Cape, September 27, 2022.<sup>13</sup>

**MOZAMBIQUE**

**July 7, 2022**

**Maputo International Airport, Maputo Province, Mozambique**



Seizure of 900 kg of abalone about to be smuggled to Hong Kong.

O País, July 7, 2022.<sup>14</sup>



## ASIA

### CHINA

**September 28, 2022**

**Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China**

Wong King-shou, senior police inspector in charge of public relations, social networking department, had been on bail since February 2022 with a ban on moving, contacting witnesses and re-entering police headquarters, Arsenal Street. He was accused of having stolen 2 parcels of abalone from his work place. Contrary to what is said in "On the Trail" n°35 p.194, these two boxes were not the result of a seizure. They were a part of 50 boxes donated by certain citizens in gratitude for Operation Tiderider that sought to contain and repress the Anti-Extradition Law Amendment Bill protests.

Despite the fact that Wong King-shou was seen or filmed manipulating the security cameras before entering the room where the boxes of abalone were put on shelves, and that another camera showed him leaving the room with 2 boxes of abalone in his arms, and despite the hesitant and contradictory statements of his colleagues, Wong King-shou was acquitted on the benefit of the doubt. In court, Wong King-shou had only admitted that he had made a mistake by failing to write a report on the allocation of gifts within his department.

The Standard (Hong Kong), September 28, 2022.<sup>15</sup>



## OCEANIA

### AUSTRALIA

**REPEATED OFFENCE**

**August 4, 2022**

**Liverpool, State of New South Wales, Australia**

Keith Nye, age 65, claims aboriginal roots and says that the 439 abalones seized from his car in Sydney in 2017 and the 128 found in a restaurant freezer are justified due to "cultural fishing" and practices passed down to him from early childhood. The judge was not completely convinced by Mr. Nye's plea. He was sentenced to 26 months' probation, a 2-year ban on fishing, diving, holding, or transporting abalone, 200 hours of community service, and 3,130 US\$ in fines. Mr. Nye faced a maximum of 10 years in prison.

ABC News, August 4, 2022.<sup>16</sup>



**REPEATED OFFENCE**

**August 10, 2022**

**Bega, State of New South Wales, Australia**

21-year-old Anthony Mark Henry was fined 8,300 dollars or 5,780 US\$, and given 12 months of a community corrections order and 50 hours of community service for the illegal conviction of 1,093 shucked abalones in 2019. He was again fined 3,000 dollars or 2,090 US\$ for the possession for 58 abalones in the Black Head Reserve in May of 2020.

In his marine expedition in 2019, he was accompanied by 2 minors, against whom no charges were brought, and another young man, Brent Gordon, 21, who was charged with the same penalties and fines. All claimed to be part of Aboriginal culture.

The judge wished not to trivialize the offence of damaging marine sources. He reminds that an Aboriginal Australian has the right to capture 10 abalones per day for their cultural and dietary purposes. More than 10 requires a special permit. He was surprised that the thousand abalones were not shared between the members of the community. The Henry's lawyer highlighted that the courts have no evidence that the abalone were intended to be sold.

ABC News, August 10, 2022.<sup>17</sup>



**REPEATED OFFENCE**

**September 27, 2022**

**Perth, State of Western Australia, Australia**

Cam Duy Dao, age 55, sentenced to 7 months' suspended imprisonment and fines totalling 25,494 Australian dollars (17,675 US\$). The suspended sentence will be revoked if within 10 months he commits another offence of the same type. At the end of December 2018, he had been caught transporting 135 fresh abalones, and a year later 140 fresh abalones. He had been banned from holding abalone since 2013. Mr. Dao is also a specialist in breaches of the Fish Resources Management Act.

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (Western Australia), September 30, 2022.<sup>18</sup>



# SEA URCHINS

## AMERICA

### FRANCE (MARTINIQUE)

July 5, 2022

Sainte-Anne, Department of Martinique, France



Boarding of 2 fishing boats and seizure of over 1,200 white sea urchins (*Tripneustes ventricosus*) thanks to a joint operation by the Maritime Affairs Coastal Unit, the Gendarmerie's nautical brigade and the French Biodiversity Agency. The divers were fined. The live sea urchins were returned to the sea. The smuggled West Indian "caviar" which fetches between 80 € and 85 €/kg of roe, could have sold for 3,200 € (3,365 US\$). Poachers harvest up to 3,000 specimens per trip. According to Yann Jos, head of the sea urchin commission at the Regional Fisheries Committee, "the guys know when and where the brigades are, so they never get caught. To stop this massacre, more deterrence is needed." Martinique la 1ère, July 8, 2022; Le Parisien, July 18, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

## EUROPE

### CROATIA

End of August 2022

Split, Split-Dalmatia County, Croatia

A resident intervened when he spotted Italians with bags full of sea urchins on Kašjuni beach. The police arrived on the scene too late. Dalmacija danas, August 29, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

### SPAIN

July 2022

Cabo de la Huerta, Province of Alicante, Valencian Community, Spain



A 51-year-old man was caught red-handed with 78 purple sea urchins (*Paracentrotus lividus*) by Seprona officers on patrol. They were returned to the water. The poacher faces a fishing ban, several months in prison, and a hefty fine, especially as the sea urchins were immature.

Cadena SER, September 2, 2022; Información, September 2, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

### ITALY

Beginning of July 2022

Ortygia Island, Free Municipal Consortium of Syracuse, Region of Sicily, Italy



Inside the protected area, coastguards and gendarmes caught 2 poachers. They had already caught 50 kg of sea urchins, which were returned to the water. The fishing equipment was seized, and the 2 men were fined 1,000 € (1,050 US\$).

Libertà Sicilia, July 6, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

# SEA CUCUMBERS

*Holothuria fuscogilva*, *Holothuria nobilis* and *Holothuria whitmaei* (teatfish): Appendix II.  
*Isostichopus fuscus*: Appendix III in Ecuador.

## AFRICA

### SENEGAL

**Beginning of July 2022**  
**Dakar, Dakar Region, Senegal**



Seizure of 200 kg of sea cucumbers listed under CITES since 2019: *Holothuria fuscogilva* (Appendix II), *Holothuria nobilis* (Appendix II), or *Holothuria whitmaei* (Appendix II). AIRCOP, July 4, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

## AMERICA

### COLOMBIA

**Beginning of September 2022**  
**Off San Andrés Island, Department of San Andrés, Providencia and Santa Catalina, Colombia**

The Colombian navy boards the *Mrs. G*, a fishing vessel registered in Honduras, in the territorial waters of the San Andres archipelago. There are 99 sailors and divers on board the *Mrs. G*, including 5 minors. They are mostly Hondurans and members of the Miskito ethnic group. 317 sea cucumbers, 1,514 kg of fish, 460 lobsters, 500 grams of marijuana, ammunition, magazines and 217 diving cylinders were seized. The captain of the *Mrs. G* is under arrest. Two divers suffering from decompression syndrome were flown by helicopter to San Andres hospital.

San Andres, see "On the Trail" n°31 p. 99, p. 189 and n°33 p. 177.

Diario Tiempo, September 11, 2022.<sup>2</sup>



On the right, the patrol boat *20 de julio*, on the left, the fishing boat *Mrs. G* with 99 crewmembers.

## ASIA

### CHINA

**July 2022**  
**Yantai, Yantai Prefecture, Shandong Province, China**

One kilo of dried sea cucumbers seized in a postal parcel from abroad declared to contain "accessories".

Qingdao Customs, August 8, 2022<sup>3</sup>

## INDIA

**Sunday, July 10, 2022**  
**Mandapam, Ramanathapuram District, State of Tamil Nadu, India**



Seizure of 450 kg of sea cucumbers and various vehicles used for trafficking. Arrest of Mohideen and Hameed Khan. This is the eleventh case of sea cucumber smuggling handled by Mandapam forest officials since the beginning of the year. DT Next, July 11, 2022.<sup>4</sup>



**July 19, 2022**

**Vedalai Area, Ramanathapuram District, State of Tamil Nadu, India**

1,900 kg of sea cucumbers seized from a van at 5 a.m. The driver and passenger fled, then returned to the forest officials' premises and allegedly threatened to kill them.  
The Hindu, July 19, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

**July 21, 2022**

**Mandapam Area, Ramanathapuram District, State of Tamil Nadu, India**



Seizure of 35 kg of sea cucumbers. Two arrests. Joint operation by WCCB and forest officials.  
WCCB, July 22, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

**August 2, 2022**

**Devipattinam, Ramanathapuram District, State of Tamil Nadu, India**

Seizure of 250 kg of sea cucumbers by a coastal patrol. A 22-year-old man was unloading bags full of sea cucumbers from a truck and placing them on the beach in the early hours of the morning. Smuggling to Sri Lanka was prevented.  
DT Next, August 3, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

**September 1, 2022**

**Mandapam, Ramanathapuram District, State of Tamil Nadu, India. Border with Sri Lanka.**

Coastguards seize 500 kg of sea cucumbers in Indian-controlled waters on board a ship bound for Sri Lanka, valued at 22.5 million rupees (282,900 US\$ or 515 US\$/kg).  
Outlook India (with PTI), September 1, 2022.<sup>8</sup>

**MALAYSIA**

**August 28, 2022**

**Off Tok Bali, State of Kelantan, Malaysia**

Interception by a navy patrol boat of a "foreign" fishing boat catching sea cucumbers 40 nautical miles off Tok Bali. Seizure of the boat, fishing gear and 200 kg of "gamat," the local name for sea cucumbers. A total value of nearly 100,000 US\$. The 5 sailors, presumably Vietnamese, are under provisional arrest.  
New Straits Times, August 29, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

**August 31, 2022**

**Off Tok Bali, State of Kelantan, Malaysia**



Vietnamese fishing boat boarded in Malaysia's Exclusive Economic Zone. Arrest of 6 crew members. Seizure of one tonne of fish, 500 liters of diesel fuel, and fishing gear. "The fishing boat was caught fishing for sea cucumbers 55 nautical miles off the coast by a MMEA patrol boat" (Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency).  
New Straits Times, September 1, 2022.<sup>10</sup>

**EUROPE**

**RUSSIA**

**August 16, 2022**

**Fokino, Primorsky Krai, Russia**

Seizure of 2,600 Japanese sea cucumbers (*Apostichopus japonicus*) and 155 Japanese weathervane scallops (*Mizuhopecten yessoensis*). The Fokino court ordered the poacher to pay the State 36 million rubles (almost 60,000 US\$) in compensation for the damage inflicted on marine resources.  
Prim.News, August 16, 2022.<sup>11</sup>



**September 14, 2022**

**Slavyanka, Primorsky Krai, Russia**

Sentencing in first instance of 2 individuals to a suspended prison sentence of 2 years and 1 month and probation of 2 years for one and 1 year and 6 months for the other. In April 2022, using scuba-diving equipment, they had caught 130 Japanese sea cucumbers (*Apostichopus japonicus*) in Poyset Bay.  
Primorsky Krai Prosecutor's Office, September 14, 2022.<sup>12</sup>



**September 15, 2022**

**Vladivostok, Primorsky Krai, Russia**

Sentencing of a Krai resident to pay the State 6 million rubles (100,400 US\$) for damage to marine resources caused by the poaching of 5,000 Japanese sea cucumbers (*Apostichopus japonicus*). The poacher was also fined 1,975 US\$ for violating the maritime fishing code.  
Chief Military Prosecutor's Office, September 15, 2022.<sup>13</sup>



**September 28, 2022**

**Slavyanka, Primorsky Krai, Russia**

Sentencing at first instance without committal order of Ruslan Ibragimov, former chairman of the Bezverkhovo municipal committee, and his accomplice to 7 years in prison in a high-security corrective labour colony for having attempted, between April and June 2021, to remove 2 tonnes of Japanese sea cucumbers (*Apostichopus japonicus*) from an aquaculture farm and using violence against the farm's deputy director (see "On the Trail" no. 33 p.258). Primorsky Krai Prosecutor's Office, September 28, 2022; PrimaMedia, September 28, 2022.<sup>14</sup>



**OCEANIA**

**AUSTRALIA**

**September 2 and 5, 2022**

**State of Western Australia, Australia**

- Boarding of a "foreign" fishing boat. The authorities seize sea cucumbers and fishing equipment and then let the 8 fishermen leave in their boat.  
- Boarding of a "foreign" fishing boat. The authorities seize sea cucumbers and fishing equipment and let the 5 fishermen leave in their boat.  
Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), September 14, 2022.<sup>15</sup>

## SEAHORSES

*Hippocampus* spp. , Appendix II

**ASIA**

**CHINA**

**August 2022**

**Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, China**

Seizure of 5,554 juvenile dried seahorses in incoming mail.  
Chinese Customs, August 30, 2022.<sup>1</sup>



*Hippocampus abdominalis*

## SHARK ALERT

Japan, Indonesia, Thailand, Palau, Yemen and Canada have entered reservations to the Appendix II listing of blue sharks (*Prionace glauca*). This listing, adopted at the CITES Conference of the Parties in Panama in November 2022, will come into force on 25 November 2023, except for these 6 countries, which are unilaterally excluding themselves from the rules of good conduct that aim to control international trade.

Indonesia, Thailand and Canada have also entered reservations to the listing of all other requiem sharks (*Carcharhinidae* spp.). In the case of Thailand, the reservation is valid for 6 years and will therefore be considered as withdrawn in November 2028.

Countries that have entered reservations may continue to trade blue sharks and requiem sharks amongst themselves regardless of their listing in Appendix II of CITES.

## NORTHERN AMERICA

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

#### REPEATED OFFENCE

**Beginning of July 2022**

**Washington County, State of Florida, United States of America**



A boat returning from a day's fishing was checked on arrival at the Boynton Cutoff pontoon on the Choctawhatchee River. An electric fishing battery was found in a waterproof compartment. The officers also found that the boat's registration was out of date. The owner had already been ticketed a few days earlier for the same reason. The battery was seized and the fisherman was again issued citations.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, July 7, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

**Beginning of July 2022**

**Naples, State of Florida, United States of America**

Any smalltooth sawfish (*Pristispectinata*, Appendix I) caught accidentally must be immediately returned to the water in its entirety. The specimen caught from Miramar Beach had already taken the bait in the past and was amputated. Its rostrum had obviously been cut off with an electric saw. In 2019, already in Florida, a man had been charged with cutting off the rostrum of a sawfish with an electric saw (after a vain attempt with a hacksaw) and throwing the fish back (see "On the Trail" n°27 p.19). In January 2020, he was sentenced to a 2,000 US\$ fine, 2 years' probation, and 80 hours of community service. The chances of survival for an amputated sawfish are minimal.

NBC2, July 8, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

**July 9, 2022**

**Jupiter, State of Florida, United States of America**

In a detailed letter summarizing information received from outraged individuals, the NGO Peta asks the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to investigate a shark fishing competition during which several prohibited fishing gear were used: harpoons, guns, and bangsticks. 54 boats took part in the tournament. The complete kill list is unknown. Carcasses were unloaded, weighed, selfies were taken, and beer was distributed on private land out of sight. At least 9 sharks were killed, including a bull shark (*Carcharhinus leucas*) and possibly a lemon shark (*Negaprion brevirostris*).

West Palm Beach TV, July 10, 2022; PETA, August 24 and 25, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

**Beginning of July 2022**

**Lee County, State of Florida, United States of America**

A man is caught with an undersized bull shark (*Carcharhinus leucas*), freshly caught from the shore. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, July 14, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

**Beginning of July 2022**

**State of Washington, United States of America**

The information was precise enough for Agent Bolton to cut short his leave and proceed to check the suspect vehicle. The 2 occupants claimed to be fishing but were returning their catch to the water. In fact, they were carrying 3 undersized white sturgeons (*Acipenser transmontanus*, Appendix II) in a bag. Still alive, they were released. The 2 poachers were charged, and one was jailed for domestic violence.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Police,



July 19, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

#### **July 2022**

##### **Monmouth County, State of New Jersey, United States of America**

A fisherman was caught landing a blacktip shark (*Carcharhinus limbatus*). Unable to present officers with the required licence to fish for sharks in federal waters, he was prosecuted.

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, July 20, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

#### **July 2022**

##### **State of New Jersey, United States of America**

The officers noticed fishermen cutting up a yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*). Despite the captain's claims, he did not have the required licence to fish highly migratory species. He finally admitted that he had not renewed it since 2020. The legal consequences are in the hands of the National Marine Fisheries Service.

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, July 20, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

#### **July 2022**

##### **Cape May, State of New Jersey, United States of America**

Inspection of a recreational fishing vessel. Small fillets of yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) were found on board, although the tuna must be landed in the whole condition. The owner claims to have cut them up in another Cape May marina while refuelling his boat. Unfortunately for him, the agents watched his entire journey, and he did not make any stops. In addition, the size of the cut-up fillets made the officers think they were from undersized tuna.

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, July 20, 2022.<sup>8</sup>

#### **July 23, 2022**

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

Joint operation by rangers and DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation) agents to nab 2 boats that were fork-fishing on the Delaware River. On board one of the boats, 11 American eels (*Anguilla rostrata*) were seized. The boaters were fined for possession of forbidden fishing gear.

Department of Environmental Conservation, August 3, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

#### **July 26 and September 15, 2022**

##### **Oxford, State of Mississippi, United States of America**



The 2 professional fishermen were exploiting the lack of uniformity in regulations protecting paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*, Appendix II) across the United States of America. Over the course of 2018, they multiplied their fishing campaigns in Moon Lake in the State of Mississippi. They would then take the fish eggs back home to Kentucky, over 350 km away, and claim to buyers that the catch came from the Ohio River and other Kentucky rivers where paddlefish fishing is permitted.

Marcus Harrell was given a 5-year suspended prison sentence and ordered to pay 7,500 US\$ to the Lacey Act Reward Account, which pays whistleblowers. He is banned from all fishing in the State of Mississippi for a period of 5 years and further banned from harvesting fish roe in any State for a period of 5 years.

James Lawrence "Lance" Freeman was sentenced to 6 months in prison, followed by 3 years of supervised release, and was ordered to pay 20,000.00 US\$ to the Lacey Act Reward Account. He is also banned from all fishing, both commercial and recreational, for a period of 5 years.

US Department of Justice, September 19, 2022.<sup>10</sup>

#### **July 26, 2022**

##### **Terrebonne Parish, State of Louisiana, United States of America**

Arrest of Anouda Lirette on Rivière aux Huîtres (Oyster bayou) for possession of suspected methamphetamine, possession of an undersized shark, intentional concealment of wildlife, and possessing over the legal limit of sharks. He had thrown a shark overboard during the enforcement operation by Department of Wildlife and Fisheries agents.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, August 4, 2022.<sup>11</sup>

#### **End of July 2022**

##### **Volusia County, State of Florida, United States of America**

Fisherman charged with cutting up a shark. Sharks must be landed in the whole condition.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, July 28, 2022.<sup>12</sup>

#### **August 2, 2022**

##### **Off Corpus Christi, State of Texas, United States of America**

The 4 Mexican fishermen aboard their lancha had ventured up to 11 km beyond the Maritime Boundary Line and caught 40 sharks. The cargo and fishing equipment were seized. The fishermen were handed over to border enforcement agents. Lanchas are 6- to 9-meter-long boats with outboard motors. They are known for smuggling narcotics and wildlife between Mexico and the United States. US Coast Guard, August 3, 2022.<sup>13</sup>

**August 8, 2022**

**Hugo Lake, State of Oklahoma, United States of America**



Harvey had been a game warden for 30 years. On a fishing trip with his son, he immediately spotted the electrical equipment lying at the end of the dock. Harvey alerted working game warden Andrew Potter. The investigation led them to stake out a barge for 6 hours. The offending fisherman was identified. Three generators used to shock fish, several sets of cables, 2 landing nets, and fillets of frozen catfish (order Siluriformes) were seized. Electric fishing has been banned since the 1950s, but according to Potter it remains popular in Oklahoma among people aged 80 to 90. "Most of them use old bar telephone buzz boxes, grandpa built it kind-of-things." Oklahoma Game Wardens, August 8, 2022; Field & Stream, August 10, 2022.<sup>14</sup>

**Mid-August 2022**

**Jackson County, State of Florida, United States of America**



Seizure of an electric battery and indictment of 5 people for fishing with illegal means 4 flathead catfish (*Pylodictis olivaris*). Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, August 18, 2022.<sup>15</sup>

**Mid-August 2022**

**Port Canaveral, State of Florida, United States of America**

Vessel owner charged for exceeding permitted shark quota and catching one silky shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*, Appendix II) and one undersized vermilion snapper (*Rhomboplites aurorubens*). Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, August 18, 2022.<sup>16</sup>

**Mid-August 2022**

**Escambia County, State of Florida, United States of America**



Seizure of 2 electric batteries and 6 catfish (order Siluriformes) specimens. The 2 men were issued a notice to appear. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, August 18, 2022.<sup>17</sup>

**August 22, 2022**

**Island Park, State of New York, United States of America**

The ECO (Environmental Conservation Police) is informed that a boat has just caught an Atlantic bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) over 1.85 m long. At this time of year, it is forbidden to fish for specimens exceeding this size, whether for professional or recreational purposes. Caught by the patrol as it docked, the boat attempted a maneuver to leave. The crew did not go so far as to ignore the officers' injunctions. Of course, they claimed that the tuna was less than 1.85 m long. It measured 2.03 meters and was seized. Department of Environmental Conservation, September 28, 2022.<sup>18</sup>

**August 30, 2022**

**Off Corpus Christi, State of Texas, United States of America**

The 14 Mexican fishermen aboard their 3 lanchas were engaged in illegal fishing. 200 kg of sharks and 1,100 kg of red snappers (*Lutjanus campechanus*) were seized. The crews were to be handed over to border enforcement agents. The Coast Guard photo shows one of the lanchas sinking. It is not specified whether this immersion is part of the procedure. US Coast Guard, August 30, 2022.<sup>19</sup>



**August 2022**

**Menomonie, State of Wisconsin, United States of America**

Fishing for lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*, Appendix II) is prohibited throughout the State. In the event of accidental capture, the fish must be immediately returned to the water. On the Red Cedar River, the fisherman held back his catch for a long time, just long enough for a friend to come and take his picture. He was fined. Outdoor News, September 22, 2022.<sup>20</sup>

**Beginning of September 2022**

**Brevard County, State of Florida, United States of America**

Inspection of boats returning from fishing. Inspectors find a shark cut into pieces and many undersized fish. It is mandatory to land sharks in the whole condition so that the authorities can verify the number of specimens caught, which must not exceed 2. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, September 8, 2022.<sup>21</sup>

**September 10, 2022**

**McMinville and Portland, State of Oregon, United States of America**

- There is a big crowd for the first authorized white sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*, Appendix II) fishing day of the month. McMinville officers checked over 100 anglers, seized and released 2 undersized sturgeons and issued numerous citations to violators.

- Portland officers checked 73 anglers. They caught one fisherman using a gaff to reel in a sturgeon, a prohibited method. The man admitted to having 3 specimens on board. One, undersized, was released, another, over the legal size and considered to be a spawner was already dead. It was given to a charity organisation.

Oregon State Police, September 2022.<sup>22</sup>

**Beginning of September 2022**

**St. Andrews Bay, State of Florida, United States of America**

Discovery of 3 scalloped hammerheads (*Sphyrna lewini*, Appendix II) in a boat with 4 people on board. Fishing for this species is prohibited in Florida. The captain is prosecuted.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, September 15, 2022.<sup>23</sup>

**Week of September 12, 2022**

**Point Judith, State of Rhode Island, United States of America**

Seizure of a 2.87-meter Atlantic bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) from a Massachusetts-registered tour boat. The captain did not have a commercial fishing licence, even though he had customers on board, nor a licence authorizing him to fish in Rhode Island waters. The tuna was sold and the proceeds were sequestered pending trial.



Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, September 16, 2022.<sup>24</sup>

**September 2022**

**Clatsop and Columbia Counties, State of Oregon, United States of America**

Control operation during a day of fishing for white sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*, Appendix II) on the Columbia River. Two fishermen saw the agents approaching their boat and panicked, trying to get rid of a specimen. Only sturgeon measuring between 111 and 127 cm can be caught, within the limit of one sturgeon per fisherman, but they did not bring any measuring equipment. One is cited for fail to allow inspection of catch and fail to immediately release sturgeon, the other for aid in a wildlife violation.

Oregon State Police, September 2022.<sup>25</sup>

**LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

**BRAZIL**

**July 14, 2022**

**Porto Velho, State of Rondonia, Brazil**

Isothermal crates in the back of the pick-up caught the eye of environmental police officers. Seizure of 800 kg of arapaima (*Arapaima gigas*, Appendix II) filleted and bagged in batches weighing 1 to 6 kg. The cargo was donated to charitable and public interest organisations such as the Santa Marcelina Hospital.

G1 RO, July 15, 2022.<sup>26</sup>

**August 3, 2022**

**Parintins, State of Amazonas, Brazil**

Joint operation by the Federal Police and the Parintins Department of Sustainable Development and Environment (Sedema). Seizure of 21 tonnes of whole, filleted, salted, and fresh arapaima (*Arapaima gigas*, Appendix II) aboard 2 boats from the ports of Tefé and Fonte Boa. The Social Action Secretariat is responsible for distributing the seizure. A fine of 50,000 reais (9,340 US\$) was imposed on one of the shipowners. The second is liable to a fine of 450,000 reais (84,000 US\$).

G1 AM, August 4, 2022.<sup>27</sup>





## Mid-September 2022

### Palmeiras do Javari, Atalaia do Norte, State of Amazonas, Brazil. Border with Peru.

The Javari Valley in Brazil's far west has gone from being an exceptionally diverse and mysterious indigenous land to a protected zone for poachers, gold plunderers, drug traffickers, and criminals. It was here that Bruno Pereira, a Brazilian anthropologist, and Dom Phillips, an English journalist based in Brazil since 2007, were murdered in early June 2022 while investigating environmental crimes. Three people have been charged in connection with this double murder, including 2 illegal fishermen who may have just been sentenced.

In further proof of general impunity, a refrigerated container used as a gathering point for poached arapaima (*Arapaima gigas*, Appendix II) is set up, under a vast shelter, about 100 meters from the 1<sup>st</sup> Special Border Platoon and 50 meters from a guard post. A wharf allows poachers' boats to dock nearby. Indigenous peoples have documented the logistical circuit. Atalaia do Norte's Municipal Secretary for Indigenous Affairs, Jaime Matsés, witnessed the presence of the container and asserts that "the fish is transported by the Javari River to Angamos airport [in Peru], because they know there will be no inspection. This fish has to go to Iquitos, Leticia [in Colombia] and other towns we don't know about." The army has been informed, but nothing is happening.

Brasil de Fato, September 14, 2022.<sup>28</sup>



## COLOMBIA

### Beginning of July 2022

#### Barranquilla, Department of Atlántico, Colombia

Seizure of 450 shark fins from a truck. The cargo is said to come from La Guajira, 350 km away. Its commercial value is estimated at 7,850 US\$, "but beyond that we'll have to estimate the environmental cost," explained Colonel Uribe, Commander of the Department of Transport and Transit. The species have not yet been identified. RCN Radio, July 8, 2022.<sup>29</sup>

## FRANCE (FRENCH GUIANA)

### July 2022

#### Amana Nature Reserve, Territorial Collectivity of Guiana, France. Border with Suriname.



Control operations follow one another, but illegal fishing is still in full swing in waters under French jurisdiction. This month's searches resulted in the seizure of 4 tonnes of fish and 8 kg of swim bladders from acoupa weakfish (*Cynoscion acoupa*) aboard 2 "tapouilles," fishing boats from neighbouring Suriname and Guyana. The seizure was destroyed. Unlike the Macdonald's acoupa (totoaba), which lives in the Sea of Cortes and has been listed in Appendix I of CITES since 1977, the acoupa weakfish enjoys no international protection and it is unfortunate.

Acoupa weakfish, see "On the Trail" n°36 p. 217, n°32 p.282, n°31 p. 208 and n°19 p.12.

French Biodiversity Agency in Guiana, November 2022.<sup>30</sup>



## PANAMA

**September 13, 2022**

**Panama-Tocumen International Airport, Panama Province, Panamá**

Two months ahead of the 19th plenary session of CITES (November 14 to 25, 2022), host country Panama is stepping up its seizures of protected species. Police and Ministry of the Environment officers seized 186 shark fins weighing a total of 18.2 kg. An Indonesian citizen was attempting to smuggle them to Europe. The cargo is estimated to be worth 57,550 US\$, or around 3,000 US\$/kg. The species are not known.

Critica.com.pa, September 13, 2022.<sup>31</sup>

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

**Beginning of July 2022**

**Nizao, Peravia Province, Dominican Republic**

SENPA (Servicio Nacional de Protección Ambiental) officers arrested 2 fishermen who had captured and beaten to death a bull shark (*Carcharhinus leucas*). Their misdeed had been filmed and posted on social media. The capture and commercialization of sharks is prohibited throughout the country.

DominicanToday.com, July 9, 2022.<sup>32</sup>

## CENTRAL ASIA

### KAZAKHSTAN

#### REPEATED OFFENCE

**July 4, 2022**

**Turkistan Region, Kazakhstan**

Seizure of 2 vehicles, 3 boats, 4 engines, 10 fishing rods, 6 wetsuits, 2 radios and other fishing equipment, 120 nets and over a tonne of illegally caught fish frozen at suspects home. There were 7 out at night electro-fishing at the reservoirs of the Shardara and Koksaray dams. Three have been locked up. Four were released under judiciary supervision. "They had turned the extraction of natural resources into a source of revenue". The ecological damage was estimated to be 11.5 million tenge or 24,340 US\$.

Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, July 4, 2022.<sup>33</sup>



**September 27, 2022**

**Aktau, Mangystau Region, Kazakhstan**

March 13, 2022 in the village of Bautino, 33 sturgeons (Acipenseridae, Appendix I or II), captured in the Caspian Sea, weighing a total of 110kg, were seized from the home of a 25-year-old villager. The first instance resulted in his sentencing to 4 years in prison for the "illegal handling of rare and endangered animal species, their parts and derivatives". The loss to the State was assessed at 50,539,500 tenge, or 109,000 US\$. The public prosecutor appealed that no confiscation of the poacher's assets had been ordered. In the second instance, the prison sentence was upheld and an additional measure of punishment was ordered. The regional court's press made no further comments. The 33 sturgeons weighed 110 kg or 3.33 kg per specimen. In the majority of sturgeon poaching cases in Kazakhstan, Russia, Iran, and Romania, the sturgeon are immature juveniles. This is further proof that sturgeon are in danger of extinction.

Lada, March 19, 2022; Newtimes.kz, March 20, 2022; inAktau, September 27, 2022.<sup>34</sup>



## EASTERN ASIA

### CHINA

**July 14, 2022**

**Nanchong, Nanchong Prefecture, Sichuan Province, China**

Indictment of Tizi, a successful food blogger in a skirt, white shoes and long hair. She filleted a great white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*, Appendix II) or a grey sharpnose shark (*Rhizoprionodon oligolinx*) live on Sina Weibo. Afterwards, she boiled and barbecued them. She's already done the same with a peafowl (*Pavo spp.*, Appendix II or Appendix III in Pakistan) and a giant salamander (family Cryptobranchidae).

Global Times, July 18 and August 1, 2022. Global Times, July 18 and August 1, 2022.<sup>35</sup>

**August 3 and 9, 2022**

**Qingmao Border Post, Zhuhai Prefecture, Guangdong Province, China. Border with Macao.**

- Seizure of 7.8 kg of fins distributed in the bags of a passenger.

- Seizure of 4.9 kg of fins also distributed in the bags of another passenger.

They were from sharpnose guitarfish (*Glaucostegus granulatus*, Appendix II), white-spotted wedgefish (*Rhynchobatus australiae*, Appendix II) and scalloped hammerhead (*Sphyrna lewini*, Appendix II).

Chinese Customs, September 9, 2022.<sup>36</sup>

**August 16, 2022**  
**Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China**



Seizure of fish swim bladders, aquarium crabs, mooncakes, food supplements suspected of containing by-products of protected species, counterfeit medicines and cosmetics, and a whole raft of electronics in 12 containers aboard a river-sea freighter bound for Macau. Total value 43 million HK\$ or 5.8 million US\$.  
 Hong Kong Customs, August 23, 2022.<sup>37</sup>

## SOUTHEASTERN ASIA

### INDONESIA

**July 1, 2022**  
**Off Poncan Island, Sibolga, North Sumatra Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia**



Boarding of a fishing boat *Yakin Maju-02* and seizure. On board, 49 beer bottles filled with explosives.  
 Indonesian Navy, July 2, 2022.<sup>38</sup>

**July 21, 2022**  
**Beru, Sikka Regency, East Nusa Tenggara Province, Indonesia**



Arrest of fishing boat captain. Hearing for 5 sailors. Seizure of many bottles of explosives, diving equipment and the boat.  
 Kompas.com, July 22, 2022.<sup>39</sup>

**August 9, 2022**  
**Off Bangkurung Island, Banggai Islands Regency, Central Sulawesi Province, Sulawesi Island, Indonesia**



Naval battle between a fishing boat with explosives on board and a Coast Guard flagship resulted in two injuries, one on board the pirate boat, one on board the police boat. There were 16 fishermen placed under arrest and the seizure of dozens of "fish bombs" and the boat along with its fishing equipment.

SINDOnews, August 9, 2022; Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), August 11-17, 2022.<sup>40</sup>

**September 23, 2022**  
**West Kutai Regency, East Kalimantan Province, Borneo Island, Indonesia**



Seizure of an electric spear and 16 kg of fish. "Stun fishing is a fishing practice that is harmful to the ecosystem as the electricity can kill smaller fish in the vicinity, even the fisherman risks being electrocuted by his equipment" says Hamzah Kharisma, the local directory of marine fisheries.  
 PROKAL.co, September 25, 2022.<sup>41</sup>

### MALAYSIA

**July 6, 2022**  
**Off Semporna, Sabah State, Borneo Island, Malaysia**



Another fan of the blast and the disaster. On-board seizure of detonators and other pyrotechnic devices.  
 Fishing with explosives in Malaysia, see "On the Trail" n°34 p. 251.  
 Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), from July 7 to 13, 2022.<sup>42</sup>

**August 4, 2022**  
**Mengalum Island, State of Sabah, Borneo Island, Malaysia**



Although they told the bar that they were the fathers of 10 children and the only ones bringing home money, they were nevertheless sentenced to 8 months in prison and 6 months more if they did not pay a fine of 5,000 ringgits or 1,120 US\$. They had been caught using explosives to catch a hundred kilos of fish.  
 New Straits Times, August 16, 2022.<sup>43</sup>



## PHILIPPINES

**July 8, 2022**

**Mariveles, Province of Bataan, Philippines**

The crew of 2 boats were fishing with dynamite. They fled from approaching nautical patrol and abandoned their boats on the beach.

Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), July 7-13, 2022; Philippine News Agency, July 10, 2022.<sup>44</sup>



**July 31, 2022**

**General Santos, Philippines**

Seizure of 110 kg of dried shark fins from the residence of Arjun Tabudlong Polancos who was conveniently absent and is being currently searched for. The search is being covered by a local court warrant

Philstar.com, August 2, 2022.<sup>45</sup>

**August 16, 2022**

**Sanchez-Mira, Province of Cagayan, Philippines**

On-board seizure occurred on the *Balong*. Two wedgefish (Rhinidae, Appendix II) and meat from a 3rd fished with a bottom longline targeting sharks and guitarfish (Rhinobatidae, Appendix II) were taken. The estimated value is equal to 107 US\$. Three species of Rhinidae are present in the Philippines: the shark ray (*Rhina ancylostomus*, Appendix II), the white-spotted wedgefish (*Rhynchobatus australiae*, Appendix II) and the broadnose wedgefish (*Rhynchobatus springeri*, Appendix II).

GURU Press Cordillera, August 23, 2022.<sup>46</sup>

**September 20, 2022**

**Fishing Port of Manila, National Capital Region, Philippines**

The marine police and the office of fishing were well informed. Aboard the *M/V Alejandra* from the island of Linapacan, 400 km south, 13 crates of deformed fish due to an explosion were seized. Interrogation of Rodito L. Cordova, fishmonger and fish market outfitter.

Philippine National Police-Maritime Group, September 22, 2022.<sup>47</sup>



## THAILAND

**September 19, 2022**

**Bangkok, Thailand**

In 2016, Thailand banned the holding, transport, and introduction of piranhas (family Serrasalminidae) into the waterways, as well as their eggs. A 21-year-old named Apisit was breeding the tiny 6-7 cm long killers and selling them on the internet for 1,000 baht or 27.50 US\$ each. The piranhas, originally from South America, are not CITES listed. They are singled out due to their tendency to invade freshwater and to be aggressive towards other freshwater fish and other endemic freshwater inhabitants.

Bangkok Post, September 20, 2022; The Thaiger, September 20, 2022.<sup>48</sup>



## SOUTHERN ASIA

### INDIA

**July 14, 2022**

**Mangaldai, Darrang District, Assam State, India**

Abdul Rashid and Rafikul Islam were pulled over on the Guwahati road Tuesday evening and were caught in possession of 3 barca snakeheads (*Channa barca*) poached in the ONPTR (Orang National Park and Tiger Reserve). Not a lot is known about these fish. They are sold at a high price for their flesh and to be exhibited in large sized aquaria. They are endemic to the upper Brahmaputra basin. They live in wetlands and can withstand different oxygen levels during floods and monsoons. They dig a vertical den a metre deep that descends to the alluvial water table. It is believed that they "hibernate" during periods of intense drought. They are carnivores measuring up to 105 cm long and raise offspring in pairs.

Barca snakehead, cf. "On the Trail" n°36, p.219. The Sentinel, July 16, 2022.<sup>49</sup>

## IRAN

**July 2022**

### **Chabahar, Sistan and Baluchestan Province, Iran**

Seizure of 22 tonnes of sharks in a refrigerated warehouse at a port as well as 16 tonnes in a refrigerated truck headed towards the port were seized by the environmental police. Since the beginning of the year, 158 tonnes of sharks smuggled to Asia or the Gulf countries are intercepted. Chabahar is a free zone in the Gulf of Oman. In 2016, it had a population of over 106,000. The port is a point of strategic access to the Indian Ocean for Iran and additionally links the Indian ocean to the Central Asian countries. 1.78 million tonnes of merchandise have been moved there between March 21 and September 22, 2022, an increase of 29% from the previous years. India has pledged to invest 85 million US\$ in the port's development. It has already supplied equipment valued at 24 million US\$. It is thus, seeking to counterbalance the growing influence of China, which has invested in the port of Gwadar, in Pakistan, less than 200 km away.

Dana.ir, July 21, 2022; AsreHamoon July 27, 2022 ; Fanooszagros.ir, July 28, 2022.<sup>50</sup>

## SRI LANKA

**July 18, 2022**

### **Beruwela and Dikovita Habours, Western Province, Sri Lanka**



214 kg of thresher sharks (*Alopias vulpinus*, Appendix II), 234 kg of finless sharks, 3.8 kg of shark fins and 112 kg of dried sharks are seized by Coast Guard after boarding two fishing boats. The 14 crew members knew that they were involved in illegal trafficking.

Sri Lanka Coast Guard, July 20, 2022.<sup>51</sup>

**July 22, 2022**

### **Dikovita Harbour, Western Province, Sri Lanka**

Landing in the harbour is closely watched by the coastguard. This time, while being loaded on to a refrigerated truck, 5 whitetip sharks (*Carcharhinus longimanus*, Appendix II) were seized. They were found gutted, decapitated and finned. The driver and captain of the fishing boat were both handed over to the port fisheries inspector.

Sri Lanka Coast Guard, July 25, 2022.<sup>52</sup>

**July 29, 2022**

### **Wellamankara Harbour, North West Province, Sri Lanka**

Seizure of 2 kg of dried shark fins concealed in an offshore fishing boat returning to port. The 6 crewmembers were handed over to the port fisheries inspector for further legal action.

Sri Lanka Coast Guard, July 31, 2022.<sup>53</sup>

**July 31, 2022**

### **Beruwela Harbour, Western Province, Sri Lanka**

Seizure of 500 grams of shark fins by the coastguard from an offshore fishing boat returning to port. The 4 crewmen were handed over to the port's fisheries inspector for further legal action.

Sri Lanka Coast Guard, August 8, 2022.<sup>54</sup>

**August 3, 2022**

### **Negombo Harbour, Western Province, Sri Lanka**

43 kg of dried shark meat were seized from an offshore fishing vessel returning to port. The 7 crew members were handed over to the port fisheries inspector for further legal action.

Sri Lanka Coast Guard, August 3, 2022.<sup>55</sup>

**August 9, 2022**

### **Beruwela Harbour, Western Province, Sri Lanka**

Seizure by the Coast Guard of 5 decapitated and finless thresher sharks (*Alopias vulpinus*, Appendix II) (216 kg) from an offshore fishing vessel returning to port. The 7 crew members were handed over to the port's fisheries inspector for further legal action.

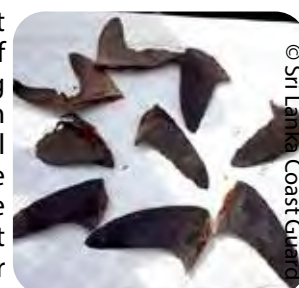
Sri Lanka Coast Guard, August 11, 2022.<sup>56</sup>

**September 7, 2022**

### **Kalpitiya Harbour, North West Province, Sri Lanka**

Seizure by the Coast Guard of 500 grams of dried shark fins and 14 kg of dried shark meat from an offshore fishing vessel returning to port. The 6 crew members were handed over to the port fisheries inspector for further legal action.

Sri Lanka Coast Guard, September 9, 2022.<sup>57</sup>



## NORTHERN EUROPE

### LITHUANIA

**September 12, 2022**

**Birzunai, Utena County, Lithuania**

Suspicion of eel (*Anguilla anguilla*, Appendix II) poaching in lakes near the village. The traps and nets were seized by a local environmental brigade. One arrest.

Environmental Protection Department, September 15, 2022.<sup>58</sup>

## WESTERN EUROPE

### FRANCE

**REPEATED OFFENCE**

**September 29, 2022**

**Nantes, Department of Loire-Atlantique, France**



Six months of house arrest under electronic surveillance, 15,000 € or 14,560 US\$ fine for the man described by his lawyer as a "little hand". At a customs checkpoint at the Virsac motorway tollgate, he had been caught transporting 123 kg of glass eels (*Anguilla anguilla*, Appendix II), i.e. over 300,000 eel larvae, in the refrigerated truck he was driving. The "little hand" was still on his 7th conviction for trafficking glass eels to the French Basque country and to the Spanish "big man" he was supposed to meet at a tobacconist's without knowing his identity. The missed appointment cost him 20-30,000 €.

Ouest-France, September 30, 2022.<sup>59</sup>

**September 29, 2022**

**La Roche-sur-Yon, Department of Vendée, France**



400 € (400 US\$) fine for a 15 € Internet sale of an eel (*Anguilla anguilla*, Appendix II) and a northern pike (*Esox lucius*). "I wasn't clear about the regulations," said the ex-president of a local angling organisation. "In fact, I was selling the pike with the eel into the bargain." As a matter of fact, it is forbidden to fish, transport, sell or give away eels without a special permit.

Ouest-France, September 29, 2022.<sup>60</sup>

## SOUTHERN EUROPE

### SPAIN

**Mid-July 2022**

**Campo de Gibraltar, Province of Cadiz, Autonomous Community of Andalusia, Spain**

Recreational fishing is booming. The Seprona (Servicio de Protección de la Naturaleza), the Grupo de Reserva y Seguridad and the Grupo de Acción Rápida blow the whistle. Seizure of 450 kg of Atlantic bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) in a van departing from La Línea de la Concepción, 250 kg in a shed in Tarifa, 450 kg in 2 SUVs and a further 360 kg, i.e. 1,500 kg of over-quota bluefin tuna. In this month of July, when tourists flock in compact shoals, bluefin tuna suppliers to restaurants and private clubs often hide behind the status of recreational fisherman. Europa Sur, July 16, 2022.<sup>61</sup>



**Beginning of August 2022**

**San Sebastián de la Gomera, Province of Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Autonomous Community of the Canary Islands, Spain**



A Danish tourist was spotted on a quay with the tail and sword of a blue marlin (*Makaira nigricans*) that is subject to strict recreational fishing regulations. The Seprona agents unravelled the case. After a 4-hour struggle, the marlin was pulled from the water, placed on the deck of the pleasure boat and amputated with surgical precision of its sword and tail, the "rest" being thrown back into the sea. The tourist, aged around sixty, is the subject of legal proceedings. The exact role of the 2 other people who accompanied him on the predatory trip is not yet known.

Vivilecanarie.com, August 4, 2022.<sup>62</sup>



## ITALY

**August 1, 2022**

**Le Castella, Province of Crotone, Region of Calabria, Italy**



Has ammonium nitrate become a part of Western European fishing methods? An attempt to fish with explosives was foiled thanks to the intervention of the bomb-disposal experts in the marine protected area of Capo Rizzuto, 143 km. The pyrotechnic device was placed in the rocks. Weighing a total of 2.3 kg, it contained 700 grams of explosive powder. Its detonation would have resulted in a large harvest of crippled fish, including the European parrotfish (*Sparisoma cretense*). This fish inhabits rocky seabeds, algae-rich reefs and phanerogam meadows. Females are bright red, grey and white. The eye is yellow. The WWF in Calabria describes it as "a real living jewel of tropical origin". The manufacturer of the pyrotechnic device has reportedly been identified.

CN24TV, August 1, 2022; il Crotonese, August 2, 2022.<sup>63</sup>

**September 12 and October 11, 2022**

**Italy**

Italy has begun to lay the foundations in order to curb the massive importation of exotic and wild animals made into pets and often cast aside as objects that become too big or "used". Five million exotic animals enter into the homes of Italians in a dizzying turnstile where their lives are often led to be ephemeral. The decree of September 12 issued in application of EU regulation 2016/429 specifies that the reproduction of animals such as big cats, large mammals, insects, reptiles, and venomous amphibians which are held in private homes is prohibited. Owners must report their presence to administration before December 27, 2022 and keep them in captivity until their natural death. Pet shops have until September 27, 2023 to comply with traceability and species designation requirements. The "chimeras" such as tigers (lion and tiger hybrids), and savannahs resulting from crosses between domestic cats and servals or crosses between tiger subspecies are prohibited.

On October 11, 2022, the Minister of Health issued a public decree. In the Appendix there is a list of species that may be captured in natural environments and introduced in Italy as pets. These are ornamental fish; tubenose goby (*Proterorhinus semilunaris*), doctorfish (*Acanthurus chirurgus*), blue doctorfish (*Acanthurus coeruleus*), yellowbar angelfish (*Pomacanthus maculosus*), and nudibranchs, pyjama slug (*Chromodoris quadricolor*). The 5 species are meant for aquariums. These regulations are still very vague and do not seem to regulate aquarium fish and mollusks born or supposedly born in breeding.

GreenMe, September 13, 2022 ; Kodami, October 28, 2022.<sup>64</sup>

**Mid September 2022**

**Pisciotta, Province of Salerno, Region of Campania, Italy**

Seizure of juvenile Atlantic bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*), weighing a total of 35 kg, in the hands of recreational fisherman. They were donated to Caritas.

SalernoToday, September 14, 2022.<sup>65</sup>

**September 20, 2022**

**Vibo Valentia, Province of Vibo Valentia, Region of Calabria, Italy**

Seizure of 21 dead juvenile Atlantic bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) by the Guardia Costiera off The Coast of the Gods in a trap marked by a secret buoy. The poachers routinely use this strategy to keep their catch fresh while waiting for the imminent sale to fishmongers or restaurants. After a veterinary check, the tuna was donated to charity.

Gazzetta del Sud, September 21, 2022.<sup>66</sup>

## EASTERN EUROPE

### BULGARIA

**July 8, 2022**

**Bulgaria**

Red card for Bulgaria Dnes media. It is stressed that fishing for eels (*Anguilla anguilla*, Appendix II) is prohibited by the Ministry of Agriculture for 5 years following threats to their extinction as the collapse of the species has been noted by the European Union and Bulgarian poachers are still capturing them in the Struma, Mestz, Arda, Maritza, and Tundzha

rivers and in the same leading article Bulgaria Dnes Media devotes at least 10 lines to the art of cooking eels and tasting them with fresh white wine.

Ministry of Agriculture, July 8, 2022; Bulgaria Dnes, July 18, 2022.<sup>67</sup>

### MOLDOVA

**July 18, 2022**

**Manta, Cahul District, Moldova. Border with Romania.**



Arrest of 2 young people, aged 20 and 21, in the Prut River, which marks the border with Romania. They were in possession of a dinghy belonging to their parents, battery operated fishing gear and of 45 kg of a variety of electrocuted species of fish. The ecological damage is evaluated to be 402,000 lei or 21,000 US\$. In the Prut, carp, asps, catfish, Crucian carp, tenches, sanders, northern pikes, perches are found.

Border Police of the Republic of Moldova, July 19, 2022.<sup>68</sup>

**September 29, 2022**

**Crihana Veche, Caahul District, Moldova. Border with Romania.**

A resident of the village of Crihana Veche was arrested in the Romanian border district for indulging in electric fishing, a popular form of fishing in the district.

Border Police of the Republic of Moldova, September 30, 2022.<sup>69</sup>



## ROMANIA

**July 4, 2022**

**Mandruloc, Arad County, Romania**

Gendarmes intercept 2 men who were fishing on board their motorboat with two electric car batteries connected to a net dropped in the Mures River. They had already electrocuted and reeled in 19 wels catfish (*Silurus glanis*) between 50 and 100 cm long.

Special Arad, July 8, 2022.<sup>70</sup>



**July 8 and 11, 2022**

**Constanta, Constanta County, Romania**

Hundreds of kilos of tainted fish, including sturgeon (*Acipenseridae*, Appendix I or II), were discovered in 2 cold stores and put under seal. The 2 companies supplied fishmongers and restaurants in major Black Sea port cities. Investigations were launched to determine the origin of the sturgeon. A black market was suspected.

Constanta News, July 8, 2022.<sup>71</sup>

**August 11, 2022**

**Tulcea County, Romania. Border with Ukraine.**

Two men aged 31 and 42 are arrested by boarder control. In their car there are 20 sterlet sturgeons (*Acipenser ruthenus*, Appendix II) still alive and barely weighing 15 kg in total, which the suspects claim to have caught in the Danube with the intention of selling them. The officers put them back in the water. During the first 9 months of 2022, 21 tonnes of fish including 234 kg of sturgeon (*Acipenseridae*, Appendix I or II), 3,683 gillnets, traps, creels, batteries and other electrical accessories were seized in the Danube delta and inland waters. 2,189 fines were handed down to the fishing and aquaculture industry, for a total of 434,560 lei or 89,615 US\$.

Ziarul de Tulcea, August 12, 2022; Romanian Police, October 15, 2022.<sup>72</sup>

## RUSSIA

**July 2022**

**Altai Krai, Russia**

Between January and February of 2020, in Khabarovsk Krai, 4 men had acquired 209 Huso sturgeons (*Huso dauricus*, Appendix II) under circumstances that remain unclear. They had then dried, prepared, and packaged them. The fish was ready to be shipped and sold on the black market. On February 20, 2020, FSB agents seized the booty in a parking lot in Komsomolsk-on-Amur. The organiser of the traffic had fled. Placed on the federal wanted list, he has just been arrested in Altai Krai, 3,500 km from Khabarovsk Krai.

Eastern Interregional Transport Investigation Department of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation, October 20, 2022; DV Novosti, October 20, 2022.<sup>73</sup>

**Beginning of July 2022**

**Semikarakorsky District, Rostov Oblast, Russia**



Two men on the Don River in 2021 had captured starry sturgeon (*Acipenser stellatus*, Appendix II) and Russian sturgeon (*Acipenser gueldenstaedtii*, Appendix II) and sold them on illegitimate markets. The ecological damages are estimated at 2.9 million rubles or 56,650 US\$.

Don-TR, July 12, 2022; Kommersant, July 12, 2022; Nashe Vremya (Rostov-on-Don) July 12, 2022.<sup>74</sup>

**Beginning of July 2022**

**Tobolsk, Tyumen Oblast, Russia**

In winter of the year 2021, Rustam and Nariman teamed up to drill through the frozen ice of the Tobol. (cf. "On the Trail" n°34 p.256). The capture of one Siberian sturgeon (*Acipenser baerii*, Appendix II) through these forbidden means earned them a 5-year suspended prison sentence and 2.5 years on probation.

Tyumen Line, July 12, 2022; Tobolsk-Inform, August 28, 2022.<sup>75</sup>



**July 5, 2022**

**Surgut, Khanty-Mansi Autonomous District, Russia**

Conviction of 2 residents of Nizhnevartovsk to a 5 years and 5 months and to 6 years in prison as well as to a fine of 30,000 rubles or 585 US\$ for having, in August of 2020, poached 4 sterlet sturgeons (*Acipenser ruthenus*, Appendix II), 2 Siberian sturgeons (*Acipenser baerii*, Appendix II), and 4 ideo (*Leuciscus idus*). 86.ru, July 5, 2022.<sup>76</sup>



**July 11, 2022**

**Birobidzhan, Jewish Autonomous Oblast, Russia**

First time sentencing of a truck driver to a one year community corrections order, probation with a ban on moving, and an obligation to report to the enforcement judge once a month, for agreeing to transport 10 kg of Amur sturgeon caviar (*Acipenser schrenckii*, Appendix II) in addition to ordinary goods between Khabarovsk and Irkutsk (3,175 km), in exchange for a fee equal to 200 US\$. He said he believed the jars contained salmon caviar and crabmeat.

Regional Information Agency Birobidzhan, July 11, 2022.<sup>77</sup>



**August 5, 2022**

**Nikolayevsk-on-Amur, Khabarovsk Krai, Russia**

The 2 men claimed to have "accidentally" found a cache of 343 small plastic tins near Gyrman and took them back to their fishing village. They contained a total of 166.3 kg of black sturgeon caviar (*Acipenseridae*, Appendix I or II), averaging 485 grams per tin. In August of the same year, things went poorly for them. The FSB and other forces seized "the find". They have just been sentenced to a 5-year-and-one-month and a 5-year-and-2-month suspended prison sentences and 3 years on probation.

AmurMedia, August 5, 2022; Argoumenty i Fakty (AIF), August 5, 2022; Khabarovsk Territory Today, August 5, 2022; PROkhab.ru, August 5, 2022.<sup>79</sup>



**August 8, 2022**

**Tsagan Aman, Republic of Kalmykia, Russia**

They captured in the Volga 6 sterlet sturgeons (*Acipenser ruthenus*, Appendix II) and a small fry thanks to a net 288 meters long. Damage to the State was estimated at 59,000 rubles, or 970 US\$. The defendants have made amends. They paid the damages before the trial and sponsored a local association dedicated to sturgeon protection. They were given a 2-year suspended jail sentence and placed on probation for one year.

Moskovski Komsomolets Kalmykia, August 8, 2022; Step Vesti, August 8, 2022.<sup>80</sup>



**August 3, 2022**

**Russia**

All sturgeons are listed in Appendix I or II of CITES and in the Red Book of protected species in Russia. In an attempt to deter poaching and trafficking, the ecological damages to be paid to the State following seizures have been increased thanks to a decree that comes into force on August 3, 2022.

For one beluga (*Huso huso*, Appendix II) or Azov beluga (*Huso huso maoticus*, Appendix II), the poacher will have to pay 826,500 rubles (13,580 US\$), compared with 206,000 rubles (4,000 US\$) previously. For a specimen of Huso sturgeon (*Huso dauricus*, Appendix II), the damages payable to the State are set at 807,700 rubles (13,000 US\$) compared with 269,000 rubles (5,250 US\$) previously. The tariff for Amur sturgeon (*Acipenser schrenckii*, Appendix II) is now set at 481,300 rubles (7,900 US\$), compared with 160,000 rubles (3,125 US\$) previously. For Sakhalin sturgeon (*Acipenser mikadoi*, Appendix II) and common sturgeon (*Acipenser sturio*, Appendix I), the tariff is 641,800 rubles (0,545 US\$). The tariff for a sterlet sturgeon (*Acipenser ruthenus*, Appendix II) caught in the Dnieper, Don, or Angara rivers has been set at 13,700 rubles (225 US\$), compared with 4,500 rubles (85 US\$) previously.

Penalties for illegal caviar production have tripled. For one kilo of Huso sturgeon and beluga caviar, the trafficker will have to pay the State 246,600 rubles (4,050 US\$) and for one kilo of caviar from other sturgeon species (*Acipenser* spp., Appendix I or II), the trafficker will have to pay the State 164,700 rubles (2,700 US\$).

Alexei Mayorov, Chairman of the Federation Council on Agrarian and Food Policy and Natural Resources, and Vladimir Petrushin, President of the Federal Fishermen's Union, believe that this decree is a step in the right direction, but the real problem, in their view, is that there are not enough agents to record violations and monitor poachers and traffickers.

Krest'ianskie Vedomosti, August 3, 2022.<sup>78</sup>



## FAMILY AFFAIRS

August 10, 2022

### Moscow Federal City, Russia

House arrest for Aleksandra Baranov. Preventive detention for Oleg Baranov. In a garage, the couple had 530 plastic tins filled with 500 grams of Amur sturgeon caviar (*Acipenser schrenckii*, Appendix II). The case is in the hands of the Ostankino district magistrates.

Ostankino District Office, August 10, 2022.<sup>81</sup>

August 11, 2022

### Saratov, Saratov Oblast, Russia

Indictment of the woman who secretly sold black caviar in a grocery store and the man who sold her Russian sturgeon eggs (*Acipenser gueldenstaedtii*, Appendix II).

Vzglyad-info, August 11, 2022; The investigative Committee of the Russian Federation, September 19, 2022.<sup>82</sup>

August and November, 2022

### Astrakhan and Ikryanoye, Astrakhan Oblast, Russia. Border with Kazakhstan.



In May 2021, the poacher of Russian sturgeons (*Acipenser gueldenstaedtii*, Appendix II), starry sturgeons (*Acipenser stellatus*, Appendix II), and carps (*Cyprinus carpio*) driving his Niva escaped from a road check in the Republic of Kalmykia and hurted a FSB agent. With 2 accomplices, he had left the Niva behind and taken to their heels. On August 13, he was arrested during a routine inspection in Astrakhan. The loss of the fish is estimated to have cost the State one million rubles or 13,470 US\$.

On November 3, his 2 accomplices were sentenced to 5 years and 5 months' and 5 years and 6 months' deprivation of liberty in a general regime corrective colony.

Astrakhan Oblast Prosecutor's Office, October 12, 2022; The investigative committee of the Russian Federation in the Astrakhan Oblast, October 12, et November 3, 2022.<sup>83</sup>

August 15, 2022

### Namsky District, Republic of Sakha, Russia

In violation of Article 258.1 of the Criminal Code on illegal fishing and transport of the aquatic biological resources belonging to species protected by international treaties signed by Russia, two men had just caught Siberian sturgeons (*Acipenser baerii*, Appendix II). They had been arrested with their booty valued at 1.1 million rubles or 18,000 US\$ on a district road.

Sakha Republic Prosecutor's Office, August 15, 2022.<sup>84</sup>

August 18, 2022

### Lenine, Republic of Crimea



In February of 2021, 5 men, one of whom has since died, were engaged in a highly organised and over-equipped poaching in conspiracy of the precious fish and had captured 67 Russian sturgeons (*Acipenser gueldenstaedtii*, Appendix II), 2 belugas (*Huso huso*, Appendix II) and 3 starry sturgeons (*Acipenser stellatus*, Appendix II). Collectively they had a total weight of around 400 kg (see "On the Trail" n°34 p.257). They were arrested while unloading on the quay. One of them was sentenced to a restriction of liberty for 2 years with mandate of committal order and the other 3 to 5-year-and-one-month suspended prison sentences with 3 years of probation. In addition, they have to pay 9 million rubles or 162,000 US\$ corresponding to the ecological damage suffered by the Russian State, which annexed Crimea in 2014.

Crimea News, August 18, 2022.<sup>85</sup>

August 24, 2022

### Tazovsky, Yamal-Nenets Autonomous District, Russia



- In January of the year 2022, a man captured, in the Taz Estuary, 3 Siberian sturgeons (*Acipenser baerii*, Appendix II) whose ecological value is estimated at 30,000 rubles or 490 US\$.

- In February of 2020, another man had bought under the counter and stored 62 Siberian sturgeons to sell them.

They were both sentenced to community service with a 5% punitive deduction of earnings. The poacher's sled and snowmobile were confiscated. He must also pay 30,000 rubles in damages to the State.

Yamal-Nenets Prosecutor's Office, August 24, 2022.<sup>86</sup>

August 24, 2022

### Nikolayevsk-on-Amur, Khabarovsk Krai, Russia



Sentenced to 180 hours of a community corrections order for the young man (21 years old) who claims to have "found" 9 Huso sturgeons (*Huso dauricus*, Appendix II) in the Malaya Khuzi river basin and then cut them up before attempting to transport the fish to Nikolayevsk-on-Amur. At his residence, 36 grams of processed marijuana made from wild hemp intended for personal consumption were found.

Far Eastern Transport Prosecutor's Office, August 24, 2022.<sup>87</sup>

**August 26, 2022**

**Between Sukhobuzimskoye and Atamanovo, Krasnoyarsk Krai, Russia**

In a hurry to get home, 2 employees from the Glavrybvod Institute dedicated to the management of aquatic biological resources stopped their KAMAZ, 5 km outside of the village Atamanovo and threw 1,440 Siberian sturgeon (*Acipenser baerii*, Appendix II) and sterlet sturgeon (*Acipenser ruthenus*, Appendix II) fry from the Beloyarsky hatchery, into the forest. Their mission was to release them into the Yenisey River.

Channel 7 Krasnoyarsk, August 29, 2022; Dela.ru, August 29, 2022; TVK Krasnoyarsk, August 29, 2022.<sup>88</sup>

**August 29, 2022**

**Khabarovsk, Khabarovsk Krai, Russia**

A man sentenced to 18 months of a suspended community corrections order and 2 years of probation was organising sturgeon (*Acipenseridae*, Appendix I or II) trafficking on the Amur River. He had been caught in the act at the end of August 2021 (see "On the Trail" n°33 p.171) in Malyshevo.

Gorod na Bire, September 5, 2022.<sup>89</sup>

**FAMILY AFFAIRS**

**September 2022**

**Ust-Bolsheretsky District, Kamchatka Krai, Russia**

In September of 2022, 4 individuals were poaching sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) and coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*). In their spawning grounds 44 specimens were killed by an electric rod that was dipped into the water by 2 expeditious fishermen, a father and a son. Two accomplices stood guard upstream and downstream. Their acts of torture were interrupted by local agents from the Federal Agency for Fishery. The damages were assessed to be 450,000 rubles or 7530 US\$. They have been charged by the Ust-Bolsheretsky district prosecutor.

Kamchatka Krai Prosecutor's Office, November 21, 2022.<sup>90</sup>

**September 6, 2022**

**Ikryanoe, Astrakhan Oblast, Russia**

In May 39 decapitated sturgeons (*Acipenseridae*, Appendix I or II), 15 slices of sturgeon and 4.74 kg of sturgeon eggs had been seized in their car. They were sentenced to serve 5 years in a corrective colony. At their home, a dinghy with a Yamaha 350 engine and other fishing equipment was seized.

Astrakhan.Ru, September 6, 2022.<sup>91</sup>

**September 12, 2022**

**Vilyuysk, Republic of Sakha, Russia**

In June 2022 during the spawning season, 4 villagers captured 4 Siberian sturgeons (*Acipenser baerii*, Appendix II) in the Vilyuy River. The damage was estimated to be 650,000 rubles or almost 11,000 US\$. They will be tried by the Vilyuysk District Court. Sakha Republic Prosecutor's Office, September 12, 2022.<sup>92</sup>

**September 14, 2022**

**Komsomolsk-on-Amur, Khabarovsk Krai, Russia**

In the first instance, a trafficker who had bought 54.25 kg of black sturgeon caviar (*Acipenseridae*, Appendix I or II) packaged in 118 boxes, from an unidentified person, was sentenced to a simple fine of 10,000 rubles or 170 US\$. The court was lenient, noting that the accused was a first-time offender and had donated 30,000 rubles to the local branch of the Glavrybvod Institute, the State water management organisation whose dubious behaviour is highlighted opposite. The public prosecutor has appealed.

Khabarovsk Krai Prosecutor's Office, September 14, 2022.<sup>93</sup>

**September 14, 2022**

**Moscow Federal City, Russia**

The 32-year-old fishmonger was fed up with "fiddling" with herring and other so-called common fish. He wanted to move up the ladder and tackle the lucrative black market in sturgeon. Through intermediaries, he bought starry sturgeon (*Acipenser stellatus*, Appendix II) and beluga (*Huso huso*, Appendix II) for around 1,000 rubles/kg, or 16.5 US\$/kg, and resold them for 3 times that price. In a shed in the Ryazanovskoye district, 120 kg of sturgeon and 15 kg of caviar were seized by FSB agents from the Eastern district. The ambitious fishmonger faces 8 years in prison and a record fine.

Eastern administrative district, September 14, 2022.<sup>94</sup>

**OPERATION POUTINE-2022**

**Mid-September 2022**

**Komsomolsky and Ulchsky Districts, Khabarovsk Krai, Russia**

The Poutine Operation aims to protect the illegal traffic of aquatic biological resources and in particular in the krai of the Russian Far East.

- Indictment of a poacher who caught near Nijnie Khalby in May of 2022 an Amur sturgeon (*Acipenser schrenckii*, Appendix II) for personal consumption, he said. The ecological value of the specimen was estimated at 160,000 rubles or 2,230 US\$. The fishing gear may be destroyed at the end of the trial.

- A resident of the village of Beloglinka was arrested. He was caught red-handed catching 11 chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*), which he claimed were for his own consumption.

AmurMedia, September 22, 2022.<sup>95</sup>

**September 22, 2022**

**Kamyziak, Astrakhan Oblast, Russia**

Sentencing of 2 individuals, one of whom was director of a fishing cooperative at the time of the crime, to 5 years' deprivation of liberty in a general regime corrective colony and a fine of 10,284,000 rubles or 172,000 US\$ to the State for damage caused to its biological resources. They poached 75 sturgeons (*Acipenseridae*, Appendix I or II) in the northern Caspian Sea in October 2021 (cf. "On the Trail" n°34 p.256). They were caught by the FSB during the transfer from the boat to a Muravey scooter. Bloknot Astrakhan, September 22, 2022.<sup>96</sup>



Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan. Seizures of caviar (1,337.604 kg, minimal value 447,500 US\$).  
Poaching and seizures of sturgeons (3,173 specimens + 965 kg of flesh) between July 1 and September 30, 2022.



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.

Sources: see page 234





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September 26, 2022. Odesa Oblast, Ukraine



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Следственного комитета

September 26, 2022  
Astrakhan, Astrakhan Oblast, Russia



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September 29, 2022  
Mangystau and Atyrau Regions, Kazakhstan



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Волгоградской области

August 15, 2022  
Gorodishchensky District, Volgograd Oblast, Russia



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управления ФСБ России по  
Хабаровскому краю и ЕАО

September 23, 2022  
Alekseevka, Khabarovsk Krai, Russia



August 6, 2022. Syrym Border Post, West Kazakhstan Region, Kazakhstan. Border with Russia.



# 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*).

## CENTRAL AFRICA

### REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

**August 29 and September 15, 2022**  
**Pointe-Noire, Department of Pointe-Noire, Republic of the Congo**

With full knowledge of the illegality of the facts, Jarier Boumounou, a mechanic's helper on a Chinese fishing boat, was caught red-handed in the capture, possession, circulation, and slaughter of a Ridley sea turtle. As a bonus, he had extracted 123 eggs from the dead specimen. He was sentenced to one year in prison and fined 100,000 CFA francs (154 US\$).

EAGLE, August 2022; PALF, August, September 6, and September 2022.<sup>1</sup>



## EASTERN AFRICA

### FRANCE (MAYOTTE)

**July 17, 2022**

**Mtsanga Nyamba, Department of Mayotte, France**

The Oulanga na Nyamba team spotted a pirogue with 6 armed men arriving on the beach. A live green turtle was immediately attacked. The gendarmerie arrived on the scene. One pirate was arrested and sent back to the Comoros. The other 5 escaped at sea. The sea turtle protection pact signed in December 2020 between Oulanga na Nyamba and the gendarmerie seems to be bearing fruit.

Le Journal de Mayotte, July 21, 2022; Oulanga Na Nyamba, July 21, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

## NORTHERN AMERICA

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**OPERATION GAME THIEF**

**July 18, 2022**

**Corpus Christi, State of Texas, United States of America**

A group of walkers noticed an injured green turtle near Packery Channel. When the authorities arrive, it is too late: the turtle, pierced by a harpoon, is dead.

Operation Game Thief (Texas), July 18, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

## LATIN AMERICA

### COLOMBIA

**September 18, 2022**

**Riohacha and Uribia, Department of La Guajira, Colombia**

855 kg of green turtle and hawksbill turtle meat seized and sent to the landfill in Maicao.

La FM (with EFE), September 18, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

### COSTA RICA

**August 25, 2022**

**Siquirres, Limón Province, Costa Rica**

The "hueveros" are sinister butchers. They kill green turtles on the beach and disembowel them to remove the eggs. Román and Godoy were arrested by the coastguard. In their bloody hands were 26 kg of meat, 63 eggs, and knives.

Informativo JBS, August 29, 2022.<sup>5</sup>

### EL SALVADOR

**September 13, 2022**

**Sonsonate Department, El Salvador**



Seizure of 1,452 eggs in dozens of small plastic grocery bags. They were ready for sale and tasting. According to article 261 of the penal code, the pair, who have been arrested, are liable to 3 to 5 years' imprisonment. The eggs were put in a specialised facility by the sea in view of an artificial incubation. There is little hope that they will hatch.

La Prensa Gráfica, September 14, 2022.<sup>6</sup>



## MEXICO

**September 13, 2022**

**Mazatlán, State of Sinaloa, Mexico**

Seizure near the port of 10 beautiful loggerhead turtle eggs in the hands of Omar Guadalupe "N." In Mazatlán or offshore, the turtles arrive from June to November. Females of 4 species - loggerhead turtles, Ridley sea turtles, leather-back turtles, and green turtles - climb the beaches to lay their eggs. El Sol de Mazatlán, September 13, 2022.<sup>7</sup>



## THE CARIBBEAN

### FRANCE (GUADELOUPE)

**August 28, 2022**

**Saint-Louis, Island of Marie-Galante, Department of Guadeloupe, France**

Between Chapelle Sainte Thérèse and Anse du Coq, a hiker discovered an adult hawksbill turtle tied to a tree by a rope hanging upside down on its back. She disentangled it, afraid of being caught by poachers, put it back the right way round, took a photo of it and informed the ONF (Office National des Forêts). The turtle returned to the sea on its own. The ONF points out that sea turtle meat is toxic. Fougougong, August 31, 2022.<sup>8</sup>

### UNITED KINGDOM (CAYMAN ISLANDS)

**July 20, 2022**

**Cayman Brac Island, Cayman Islands British Overseas Territory, United Kingdom**

It came to lay its eggs and the poachers came to kill it. On the island, loggerhead turtles are threatened with eradication. There are only twenty or so left to land.

Cayman Islands Department of Environment, July 22, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

**July 23, 2022**

**Grand Cayman Island, Cayman Islands British Overseas Territory, United Kingdom**

A green turtle was narrowly saved by an officer of the Department of Environment. It was on its back with its flippers tied with a rope. Before its release, 2 experts came to make sure that it was not injured. Cayman Islands Department of Environment, July 27, 2022.<sup>10</sup>

## EASTERN ASIA

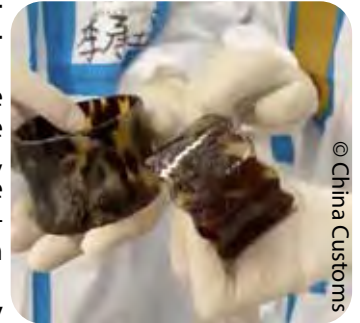
### CHINA

**July 4, 2022**

**Changsha Huanghua International Airport, Changsha Prefecture, Hunan Province, China**

101 bracelets made from hawksbill turtle shell, totalling 1.34 kg, were seized from the luggage of a passenger travelling from abroad.

Chinese Customs, July 4, 2022.<sup>11</sup>



**Beginning of August 2022**

**Tianjin Autonomous Municipality, China**

Seizure on the same day in parcels from abroad of 7 objects made of hawksbill turtle shells, including a cigarette case.

Chinese Customs, August 18, 2022.<sup>12</sup>

**August 10, 2022**

**Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, China**

In the parcel from abroad, 2 hawksbill turtle shell fans. Total weight, 98.9 grams.

Chinese Customs, August 12, 2022.<sup>13</sup>

**August 2022**

**Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, China**

Seizure of a 60 cm long stuffed hawksbill turtle in a container, 1.36 kg.

Chinese Customs, August 23, 2022.<sup>14</sup>

**September 2022**

**Tianjin Autonomous Municipality, China**

Seizure in a parcel declared to contain a "wooden box", of a hawksbill turtle shell box, 33 grams.

Chinese Customs, October 5, 2022.<sup>15</sup>

### JAPAN

**July 14, 2022**

**Kume Island, Okinawa Prefecture, Japan**

A fisherman stabbed some 30 green turtles on the beach and left them to die on the spot. Experts at the local sea turtle museum could do nothing but lament. The fishing community on the lost island between southern Japan and Taiwan blames the sea turtles for being invasive, getting caught in nets, damaging boat propellers, eating seaweed beds, and destroying fish habitats.

The Asahi Shimbun, July 17, 2022; New Straits Times (with AFP), July 19, 2022.<sup>16</sup>



## SOUTHEASTERN ASIA

### MALAYSIA

**July 15 and 22, 2022**

**Kampung Bokara and Sandakan, State of Sabah, Malaysia**

A Filipino citizen was sentenced to one year in prison and fined 2,270 US\$ for keeping 1,769 green turtle eggs in his home for profit. After serving his sentence, he will be deported to his country.

The Sun Daily (with Bernama), July 22, 2022.<sup>17</sup>



### VIET NAM

**July 6, 2022**

**Dong Nai Province, Viet Nam**

When he saw the 10 kg green turtle for sale, the man decided to buy it to get it out of trafficking and contacted ENV. The NGO reminds us that buying animals, even with good intentions, is financing the illegal activities of traffickers. Better to warn the police (provided they come quickly).

ENV, July 6, 2022.<sup>18</sup>

**September 5, 2022**

**Ha Tien, Kien Giang Province, Viet Nam. Border with Cambodia.**

Seizure in 2 souvenir shops of about 100 products made of hawksbill turtle scales: bracelets, hairpins, combs, rings,...

ENV, October 6, 2022.<sup>19</sup>

## SOUTHERN EUROPE

### ITALY

**August 4, 2022**

**Torre Pali, Province of Lecce, Region of Apulia, Italy**

The 30-year-old female loggerhead sea turtle is in a desperate state. It had been spotted by boaters off the seaside resort carrying a harpoon stuck in its head and painfully dragging a crossbow gun in its wake. Carlino, the sea turtle rescuer, and his team pulled it out of the sea and remain speechless: "I have no words, it was probably a deliberate harpoon shot because the shot was coming from the opposite direction." "It certainly wasn't a professional diver." "The fact that they failed to cut the wire between the harpoon and the crossbow suggests that they were amateurs."

Centro Recupero Tartarughe Marine - Calimera, August 4, 2022; Kodami, August 7, 2022.<sup>20</sup>

## OCEANIA

### FRANCE (NEW CALEDONIA AND FRENCH POLYNESIA)

**REPEATED OFFENCE**

**August 11 and October 4, 2022**

**Poya, South Province, Overseas Collectivity of New Caledonia, France**

The Gendarmerie of New Caledonia seized a green turtle from a fishing boat in August. Two months later, the shell of a second turtle, traps, nets, narcotics, and a Toyota Hilux were seized from the 2 fishermen's home.

New Caledonia Gendarmerie, October 13.<sup>21</sup>

**September 15, 2022**

**Papeete, Island of Tahiti, Overseas Collectivity of French Polynesia, France**



In November 2019, the 5 of them set off to the Manuae atoll in search of green turtles aboard a tuna boat and 2 "poti marara," the local name for fishing boats. Once there, they recruited cheap labour, practicing their art of catching and butchering sea turtles in exchange for cigarettes, rice, sugar, and pasta. The first overflight by a Falcon of the French army photographed the beach of Mopelia, an atoll close to Manuae, stained with blood dripping into the sea, and a good 15 people bustling around a good 15 shells. The registrations of 3 boats from Papeete were noted. On the second pass, coconut palms camouflaged the shells and coolers. Only the blood was still visible.

The youngest of the turtle "fishermen," age 22, received a 10-month suspended prison sentence. Two other fishermen received 12-month prison sentences, 4 of which will be suspended. "If you hadn't been there, 20 turtles would still be in the lagoon," said the court. The boats were confiscated. The prosecutor's request for a fishing ban was rejected. The fourth man, who admits to having been the instigator and facilitator of the expedition, was given an 18-month prison sentence, 6 months of which were suspended. Fishing is not his profession, but he wanted to make a profit from the 350 kg of turtle meat. A fifth man is implicated. He has left Polynesia and lives in mainland France. He will be summoned later. He is the owner of one of the 3 pirate boats.

Sea turtles in Polynesia, see "On the Trail" n°3 p.8, n°4 p.17, n°7 p.12, n°8 p.11, n°13 p.14, n°15 p.15, n°18 p.18, n°19 p.18, n°21 p.18, n°24 p.20, n°31 p.218, n°32 p.298, n°34 p.264 and n°36 p.232.

Tahiti Infos, September 5 and 15, 2022; Polynésie la 1<sup>ère</sup>, September 15, 2022.<sup>22</sup>

# MARINE AND FRESHWATER MAMMALS

## EASTERN ASIA

### CHINA

**September 5, 2022**

#### Beijing Autonomous Municipality, China

Seizure in a curio shop of 19 narwhal tusks (*Monodon monoceros*, Appendix II) either raw or transformed into sceptres. Narwhals live exclusively in the Arctic Ocean.

Global Times, September 7, 2022.<sup>1</sup>

### TAIWAN

**August 4, 2022**

#### Kaohsiung, Taiwan

This is ambergris discarded by a sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*, Appendix I). The "pebble" found in the north of the island by a certain Ke weighs 136 grams. This is a first for the Taiwanese archipelago. Cheng Jun, a professor of life sciences at the city's university, has already assessed dozens of false pieces of ambergris washed up on beaches or caught in nets. He issued a certificate of authenticity to the "strange-smelling pebble."

China Times, August 9, 2022.<sup>2</sup>



## SOUTHEASTERN ASIA

### CAMBODIA

**August 7, 2022**

#### Sambok, Kratié Province, Cambodia



A male Irrawaddy dolphin (*Orcaella brevirostris*, Appendix I) just a few weeks old and weighing around 10 kilos was struck down by illegal electrofishing. The body of the freshwater mammal was discovered in a supposedly sanctuarised section of the Mekong River.

The Phnom Penh Post, August 9, 2022.<sup>3</sup>

**August 24, 2022**

#### Angkaol, Kep Province, Cambodia

A simple warning was issued to a fisherman who caught a juvenile dugong (*Dugong dugon*, Appendix I) in his net and then butchered him. He undertook in writing not to do him again. There are said to be around 10 of these "sea cows and calves" in the coastal provinces of Kep and Kampot.

Khmer Times, August 29, 2022.<sup>4</sup>

### INDONESIA

**August 22, 2022**

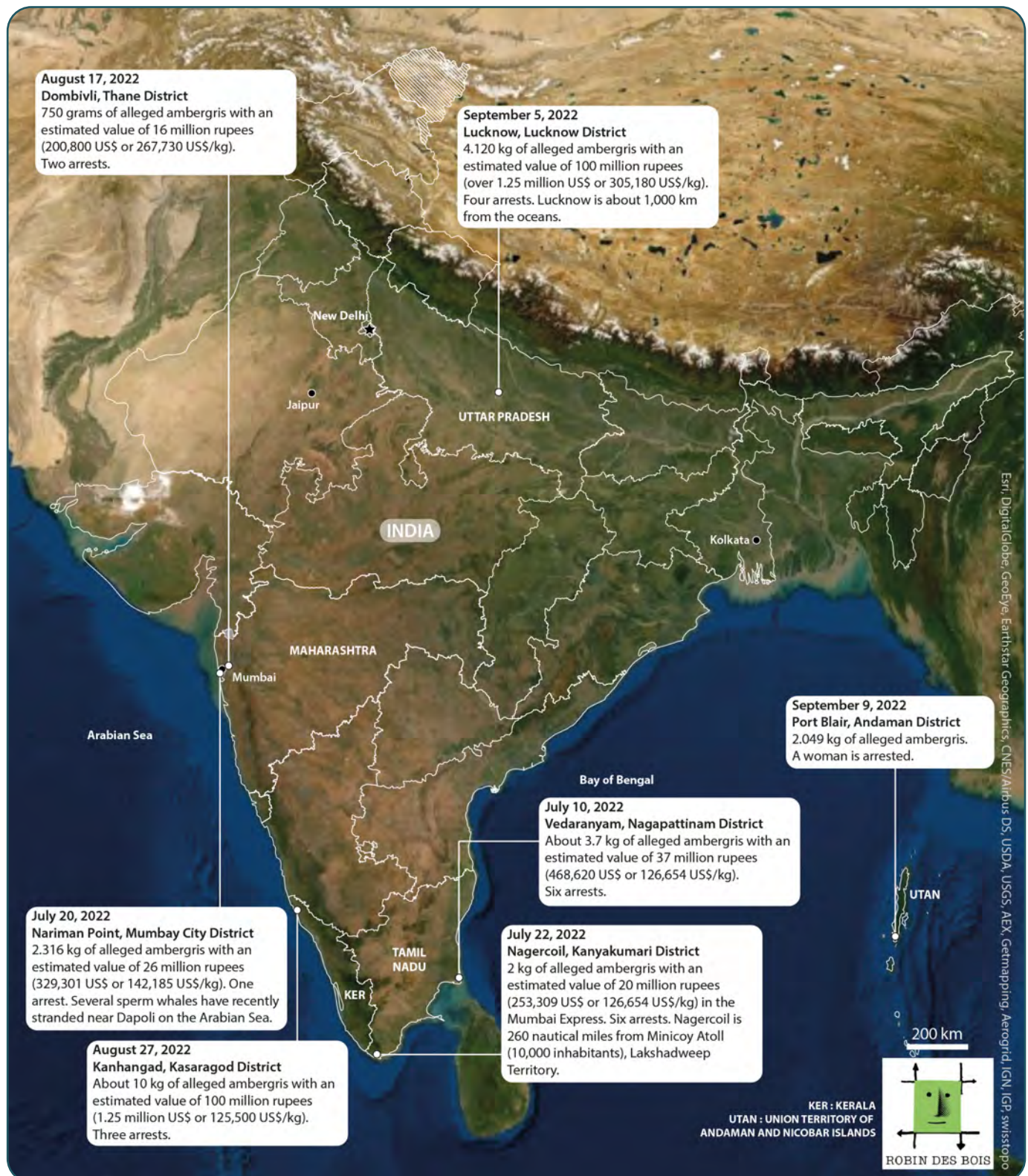
#### Bagang, Alor Regency, East Nusa Tenggara Province, Indonesia

A blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*, Appendix I) runs aground. He is already rotting. By the time the experts arrive to carry out an autopsy, all that's left is offal and bones. Eventually, the vertebrae, ribs, and baleen will be sold on the black market of social networks.

Medcom.id, August 24, 2022.<sup>5</sup>



# India. Seizures of alleged ambergris (24.935 kg) between July 1 and September 30, 2022



Sources: cf. page 234.



## INDIA

**July 10, 2022**

### **State of Kerala, India**

The wave of ambergris seizures sweeping through Kerala since July 2021 has brought back, into the hands of the police and the judiciary, fakes made from aromatic resins extracted from trees of the genus *Boswellia* (see "On the Trail" n°33 p.280, seizure at Chettuva) or from kneaded and aggregated chemicals. The miraculous find by Yemeni fishermen in February 2021 (see "On the Trail" n°32 p.303) in the guts of a sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*, Appendix I) arouses vocations and scams.

The Times of India, July 10, 2022.<sup>6</sup>

**July 22, 2022**

### **Vizhinjam, Thiruvananthapuram District, State of Kerala, India**

Doubt is growing in Kerala. The presumed sperm whale ambergris (*Physeter macrocephalus*, Appendix I) found in people's luggage is gradually changing its status to that of presumed fake ambergris. The viscous 28.4 kg picked up at sea by fishermen were blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*, Appendix I) excrement, according to previous analyses of similar batches by the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology.

Mint, July 23, 2022; The Times of India, July 31, 2022.<sup>7</sup>

**July 24, 2022**

### **State of Maharashtra, India**

Doubts are also being cast on Maharashtra officials. While the seizure of 2.7 kg of ambergris in Mulund (see "On the Trail" n°33 p.285) was authenticated by biologists, other seizures turned out to be fakes after examination by the Hyderabad laboratory specializing in genetic research. At the same time, the authorities fear a pirate hunt for sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*, Appendix I) in the Arabian Sea.

Mid-Day, July 24, 2022.<sup>8</sup>

## NORTHERN EUROPE

## ICELAND

**June 22-September 29, 2022**

### **Reykjavik, Capital Region, Iceland**



During the years 2019, 2020 and 2021, the Hvalur 8 and 9 remained docked due to the Covid-19 pandemic and uncertainties in the national and international whale meat and oil markets.

The balance sheet for the whaling season from June 22 to September 29, 2022 stands at 148 fin whales (*Balaenoptera physalus*, Appendix I with reservations from Iceland, Japan and Norway). "The month of September was particularly good," according to the company's director. On February 4, 2022, Iceland's Minister of Fisheries announced that Iceland would give up whaling from the year 2024. Iceland wants to promote tourism. Every year, over 300,000 people choose whale watching over eating whale meat. The Hvalur company's business plan depends on Japan's ability to import whale oil and meat. These imports are compromised by the Japanese lack of appetite for whale by-products, the cost of shipping and the associated controversies. Whale meat, when imported from Iceland, is made into pet food in Japan.

Morgunbladid, February 4 and September 30, 2022.<sup>9</sup>

## NORWAY

**April 11-September 2022**  
**Norway**



Between 2002 and 2022, 20 years after the ban on commercial whaling, 11,641 minke whales (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*, Appendix I with reservations from Norway and Japan) died under the harpoons of Norwegian whalers. The global quota authorized by successive governments was 22,513. The Norwegian whaling industry has bitten off more than it can chew.

The first minke whale of the year was harpooned - and died some 20 minutes later - by the Kato. He was 8 meters long and weighed around 1,700 kg. Fifteen other harpoon boats are taking part in the minke whale hunt.

Norway is the country that kills the most baleen whales. Less than 2% of Norwegians regularly eat whale meat in 2022, compared with 4% in 2019. Women under 35 are insensitive to the virtues of whale meat. The Norwegian industry's business plan depends on the acceptability of whale meat in Japan. Its radionuclide content has been the subject of controversy.

Fifteen boats, 75 sailors. Given the importance of Norway's fishing and aquaculture industry, whaling is a niche market.

Government.no, February 20, 2022; NRK, April 12, 2022; iTromsø, October 3, 2022.<sup>10</sup>

**August 14, 2022**

**Between Kragerø and Oslo, Eastern Norway Region, Norway**

The female walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus*, Appendix III in Canada) lost in the Oslo fjord since mid-July 2022 and sometimes taking her 20-hour naps on pleasure boats between a duck hunt and a swan hunt, was deliberately killed in the early hours of Sunday, August 14 in an act of discretion and perhaps shame. She was charged with disturbing the peace and endangering the lives of others. Unaffected by water jets and other attempts to frighten her away, she was surrounded by crowds of curious onlookers who, despite appeals from the authorities relayed by the press, crowded around the Arctic ambassador, who had already been reported in Denmark.

Biologist Rune Aae, a professor at the University of Southeast Norway, regrets this radical and "unjust" option. Fisheries director Frank Bakke-Jensen says the situation was no longer viable. People were swimming up to the walrus, while others were throwing fish or projectiles at her. Jet-skis swirled around the exotic marine mammal. One female swimmer claimed to have been approached too closely by the animal, and a swim lane had to be closed. The NGO NOAH is contesting the legality of the "euthanasia." It believes that instead of sacrificing Freya - the walrus's nickname for the Norse goddess of beauty and love - it would have been logical to impose financial penalties on all those who refused to respect safety distances. The Prime Minister himself came out in support of the Fisheries Directorate. "It was the right decision. Sometimes you have to make unpopular choices." Sciencenorway.no, July 20, 2022; Directorate of Fisheries (Norway), August 14 and 15, 2022; Nettavisen, August 14, 2022; The Guardian, August 14 and 15, 2022; Møre, August 17, 2022.<sup>11</sup>



## UNITED KINGDOM

**September 29, 2022**

**Grove, Oxfordshire County, England, United Kingdom**

Seizure in a private home of sperm whale teeth (*Physeter macrocephalus*, Appendix I). The overall value is estimated at around 18,350 £ (21,500 US\$). This is the largest seizure of sperm whale teeth ever made in the UK. A raw sperm whale tooth sells for between 100 US\$ and 200 US\$. After banning the sale of elephant ivory, the UK is considering extending the ban to sperm whale, killer whale, and walrus ivory.

Sperm whale teeth, see "On the Trail" n°2 p.5, p.70 and p.77, n°3 p.76, n°7 p.116, n°9 p.88-89, n°10 p.9, n°11 p.97 and 98, n°12 p.12, n°13 p.114, n°15 p.11, n°16 p.12, n°17 p.16 and p.117, n°18 p.13, n°20 p.128, n°21 p.14, n°22 p.124, n°24 p.17, n°25 p.19, p.20 and p.111, n°26 p.18, n°29 p.41 and p.180, n°30 p.174, p.179, p.197 and p.200, n°31 p.41 and p.188, n°32 p.241 and p.305, n°33 p.59 and p.282, n°34 p.49 and p.227, n°35 p.35, p.215 and p.217 and n°36 p.43.

Thames Valley Police, September 29, 2022; Oxford Mail, September 30, 2022.<sup>12</sup>

## WESTERN EUROPE

### FRANCE

**September 15, 2022**

**Guérande, Department of Loire-Atlantique, France**



Theft of a 17.5 cm long engraved sperm whale tooth (*Physeter macrocephalus*, Appendix I) from the Musée de Guérande Porte Saint-Michel. It depicts Neptune's chariot drawn by 2 horses. It was displayed under a glass cloche as part of the "From attic to museum" exhibition. It is listed in the museum's inventory of heritage collections. It is inalienable and legally unsellable. Vigilance is called for at garage sales, and especially on online sales sites such as eBay, Leboncoin, and NaturaBuy in France and their counterparts abroad, who may be negligent accomplices to thieves and traffickers by failing to demand certificates of origin for ivory and other wildlife by-products.

L'Echo de la Presqu'île, September 27, 2022; Presse Océan, September 27, 2022.<sup>13</sup>

## SOUTHERN EUROPE

### ITALY

**May-July 2022**

**La Caletta and Orosei, Province of Nuoro, Autonomous Region of Sardinia, Italy**

The Duemari veterinary clinic sounds the alarm. Between May and July, 2 emaciated dolphin carcasses washed up on the island's northeastern beaches. A fisherman and a group of restaurateurs use dried fillets from common dolphins (*Delphinus delphis*, Appendix II) and bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*, Appendix II) to prepare mosciame, an ancient culinary specialty enjoyed in Sardinia and mainland Italy. A kilo of dolphin mosciame sells on the black market for around 200 €/kg (210 US\$). The core of the trade is believed to be based in Baronìa, in the center of the province of Nuoro.

Duemari Veterinary Clinic, May 23, 2022; CagliariPad, July 25, 2022; TeleAmbiente TV, July 25, 2022.<sup>14</sup>

## EASTERN EUROPE

### RUSSIA

**February 2022**

**Sevastopol, Republic of Crimea**

Russia deploys dolphins in Sebastopol. The bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*, Appendix II) - there are thought to be 6 or 7 of them - are in captivity in enclosures sheltered by the northern dyke at the entrance to the port. In the days of the USSR, Sevastopol was already protected by dolphins captured in the Black Sea and trained in a specialised training centre. Their main mission when on port patrol is to detect any incursions by hostile divers. The US Navy runs similar programmes with dolphins and other marine mammals captured in its Exclusive Economic Zones. From the exploitation of dolphins in aquatic entertainment zoos to the exploitation of dolphins in military operations, it is only a tiny step and the enslavement strategies are the same, as is the cruelty.

Marine mammals for military use, see "On the Trail" n°30 p.199.

U.S. Naval Institute, April 27, 2022.<sup>15</sup>

**August 3, 2022**

**Russia**

All cetaceans and Pacific walruses are listed in Appendix I, II or III of CITES and in the Red Book of protected species in Russia. In an attempt to deter poaching and trafficking, the ecological damages to be paid to the State following seizures have been increased thanks to a decree that comes into force on August 3, 2022.

For each whale killed, poachers had to pay between 137,000 and 479,500 rubles (2,675 to 9,360 US\$), depending on the species. From August 3 onwards, they will have to pay between 1.4 million and 1.9 million rubles (23,000 to 31,215 US\$). The greatest ecological damage concerns grey whales (*Eschrichtius robustus*, Appendix I) and Greenland right whales (*Balaena mysticetus*, Appendix I) that frequent the Sea of Okhotsk.

For a Pacific walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus divergens*, Appendix III in Canada), the poacher will have to pay 172,000 rubles (2,825 US\$) compared to 57,500 rubles (1,120 US\$) previously.

Alexei Mayorov, Chairman of the Federation Council on Agrarian and Food Policy and Natural Resources, and Vladimir Petrushin, President of the Federal Fishermen's Union, believe that this decree is a step in the right direction, but the real problem, in their view, is that there are few people left to record offences and monitor poachers and traffickers.

Krest'ianskie Vedomosti, August 3, 2022.<sup>16</sup>



## Map sources

### **India. Electrocution of elephants between July 1 and September 30, 2022 (page 30)**

KalingaTV, July 6 and August 28, 2022 ; Ommcom News, July 6, 2022 ; One India, July 24, 2022 ; The Times of India, July 25 and 31, August 18 and 26 and September 4, 2022 ; The Telegraph India, August 18 2022 ; Pragativadi, August 28 and September 3, 2022 ; The New Indian Express, August 28 and 31, September 4 and 14, 2022 ; Odisha Bytes, September 4, 2022 ; Hindustan Times, September 4 and 14, 2022 ; Deccan Chronicle, September 25, 2022 ; The Hindu, September 25, 2022.

### **Kazakhstan. Seizures of horns (6,332), skins, carcasses and meat of saiga antelope between July 1 and September 30, 2022 (page 78)**

Forestry and Wildlife Committee Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan, July 21 and 29, 2022; Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, July 21, 26 and 30, August 15, 21 and 24, September 5, 13 and 29, 2022; zakon.kz, July 26 and 30 and August 21, 2022; Lada, August 24, 2022; KazTAG, August 25, 2022; Liter, August 25, 2022; Okhotzoooprom, September 21, 2022; Zhaik Press, September 21, 2022.

### **Democratic Republic of the Congo. Seizures, poaching and kidnapping of monkeys between July 1 and September 30, 2022 (page 97)**

J.A.C.K. – Jeunes Animaux Confisqués au Katanga, July 25, August 4, 13, 20 and 2, October 9, 2022 and February 15, 2023; Actualité.cd, July 12, 2022; Lwiro Primates, September 9, 10, 13, 14, 17 and 20, 2022; Gorilla Doctors, September 14, 2022; Adams Cassinga, September 21, 2022; UALCN, September 22, 2022; Friends of Bonobos, September 23, 25, 27 and 30, 2022.

### **Orangutans in Indonesia - July 1 - September 30, 2022 (pages 103 and 104)**

SINDOnews, July 1, 2022 ; Serambi Indonesia Daily, July 2, 2022 ; The Orangutan Project, July 6, 2022 ; Antara News, July 11, 2022 ; Borneo News, July 24, 2022 ; Ministry of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia, July 26, 2022 ; Tribun Kalteng, July 26, 2022 ; Tribun-Medan, July 26 and September 29, 2022 ; IDN Times Sumut, July 27, 2022 ; Kompas.com, July 28 and 30, 2022 ; Okezone.com, August 15 and September 8, 2022 ; SatuAcehNews, August 30, 2022 ; Mistar.id, September 1, 2022 ; iNews Kalteng, September 5, 2022 ; Scorpion Foundation Indonesia, September 5, 2022 ; Liputan6.com, September 8, 2022 ; Action for Primates, September 12, 2022 ; Koran Kaltim, September 13, 2022 ; Tribun Kaltim, September 13, 2022 ; Directorate General of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Conservation, September 27, 2022.

### **Brazil. Seizure of 2,149 birds between July 1 and September 30, 2022 (page 122)**

Jornal Minuano, July 21, 2022 ; Portal da Cidade Brusque, July 22, 2022 ; G1 BA (with TV Santa Cruz), August 1, 2022; G1 RS, August 2 and 3, 2022 ; Correio Braziliense, August 9, 2022 ; Primeira Página, August 10, 2022 ; City Hall of Várzea Paulista, August 12, 2022 ; O Povo, August 12, September 5 and 15, 2022 ; Correio de Santa Catarina, August 19, 2022 ; G1 Sul de Minas, August 21, 2022 ; Itatiaia, August 25, 2022 ; GZH, August 26, 2022 ; G1 BA (with TV Sudoeste), August 31, 2022 ; SulBahiaNews, September 6, 2022 ; G1 Campinas e Região, September 13, 2022 ; G1 Triângulo e Alto Paranaíba, September 13, 2022 ; G1 Sul do Rio e Costa Verde, September 14, 2022 ; G1 Presidente Prudente, September 17, 2022 ; Fauna News, September 19 and 27, 2022 ; O Documento, September 20, 2022 ; G1 MS, September 26, 2022 ; Conexão Safra, September 28, 2022 ; Band, September 29, 2022 ; ND Mais, September 29, 2022.

### **Indonesia. Seizure of 13,002 birds between July 1 and September 30, 2022 (pages 127 and 128)**

Canal Berita, July 2, 2022 ; FLIGHT – Protecting Indonesia's Birds, July 4, 10, 21, 24 and 25, August 1, 5, 13, 16, 18, 19, 21, 26, 27 and 29, September 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 24, 27 and 29, 2022 ; BKSDA Maluku, July 22 and September 19, 2022 ; Jayapura Quarantine Center, July 27, 2022 ; SINDOnews, July 31, 2022 ; Indonesia Maritime Information Centre, July 2022 ; Sariagri, August 19, 2022 ; VOI, August 24, 2022 ; Kupastuntas.co, August 26, 2022 ; Kalteng Today, August 31, 2022 ; iNews Sorong Raya, September 3, 2022 ; Liputan6.com, September 9, 2022.

### **India. Poaching and seizures of birds between July 1 and September 30, 2022 (page 133)**

Assam: India Today, September 8, 2022; The New Indian Express, September 8, 2022; The Print (with PTI), September 8, 2022; The Times of India, September 9, 2022.  
West Bengal: Railway Protection Force, July 29 and August 31, 2022; WCCB, August 17, 2022; Border Security Force South Bengal, August 24, 2022; NE India Broadcast, August 24, 2022; Daijiworld, September 16, 2022.  
Chhattisgarh: The Free Press Journal, August 2, 2022.  
Delhi: Hindustan Times, August 4, 2022; The Times of India, August 4 and 5, 2022.  
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Tamil Nadu: The Times of India, July 7, 2022.  
Telangana: Hindustan Times, July 30, 2022.

### **Italy. Poaching and seizures of birds between July 1 and September 30, 2022 (page 142)**

Calabria: Gazzetta del Sud, August 31, 2022; Il Post, September 16, 2022; StrettoWeb, September 23, 2022.  
Campania: ZON.it, July 11, 2022; NTR24.tv, August 25, 2022; Italia2Tv, September 26, 2022; Committee Against Bird Slaughter, January 2023.  
Friuli Venezia Giulia: Friuli Oggi, August 18, 2022.  
Lombardy: Committee Against Bird Slaughter, September 4 and 16, 2022, and January 2023; Corriere Brescia, September 18, 2022; Arma dei Carabinieri, September 22, 2022; Lega Italiana Protezione Uccelli, September 22, 2022; QuiBrescia, September 23, 2022; Gazzetta di Mantova, October 26, 2022.  
Apulia: Homeothermic Wildlife Recovery Centre at the Salento Natural History Museum in Calimera, September 27, 2022.  
Sicily: AgrigentoNotizie, July 21, 2022; Grandangolo, August 11, 2022.  
Veneto: Kodami, July 28, 2022; Agenzia Nazionale Stampa Associata, August 10, 2022; Il Dolomiti, August 10, 2022; Autonomous Province of Trento, August 10, 2022; Il Gazzettino, August 15, 2022; PadovaOggi, September 24, 2022; il mattino di Padova, September 25, 2022.  
Tripura: East Mojo, August 13, 2022.  
Uttar Pradesh: Railway Protection Force, August 20, 2022; The Times of India, August 20, 2022.

### **India. Poaching and trafficking of snakes or venom between July 1 and September 30, 2022 (page 164)**

Deccan Herald, July 6, 2022; Wildlife SOS, July 6, 2022; India Today, July 12, 2022; News Live, July 13, 2022; Railway Protection Force, July 26, 28, 29 and 31 and August 2, 2022; The Times of India, July 30, August 2, 3, 13 and 14 and September 6, 2022; United News of India, August 2, 2022; The Hindu, August 3, 2022; The Indian Express, August 4, 2022; Hindustan Times, August 7, 2022; Mid-Day, August 22, 2022; Asian News International, August 23, 2022; The Free Press Journal, August 23, 2022; Odisha TV, August 24, 2022; The New Indian Express, August 24 and October 22, 2022; Telangana Today, August 27, 2022; Border Security Force, September 2, 2022; IG News, September 2, 2022; Chennai Customs, September 5, 2022; Breaking Maharashtra, September 8, 2022; Deshdoot Times, September 8, 2022; WCCB, September 9, 2022; Mathrubhumi, September 30 and October 1, 2022; Mirror Now, October 1, 2022.

### **Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan. Seizures of caviar (1,337.604 kg, minimal value 447,500 US\$). Poaching and seizures of sturgeons (3,173 specimens + 965 kg of flesh) between July 1 and September 30, 2022 (page 224).**

Kazakhstan: Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, August 9, 2022; My City, August 9, 2022; Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, August 19 and September 12, 14 and 19, 2022; Lada, September 2, 4, 12 and 25 and October 5, 2022; Tumba.kz, September 4 and October 6, 2022; inAktau, September 14 and 25 and October 6, 2022; Border Service of the National Security Committee of the Republic of Kazakhstan, October 1, 2022.  
Russia: Altai (Krai): Altapress, August 10, 2022; Tolk, August 22, 2022.  
Astrakhan: Astrakhanpost, July 19 and August 24 août, 2022; Bloknot Astrakhan, July 19, 2022; Astrakhan.Ru, July 25 and August 26, 2022; Business News Agency, August 18 and September 9, 2022; GTRK Lotos, August 18 and September 6 and 26, 2022; RIA Volga, August 19, 2022; Freedom Square, August 26, 2022; The investigative committee of the Russian Federation, August 29, 2022; Punkt-A, September 5, 2022; Kaspynfo, September 9, 2022; Ministry of Internal Affairs, September 9 and 28, 2022; Gazeta VOLGA, September 26, 2022.  
Dagestan: Volga Interregional Environmental Prosecutor's Office, July 6, 2022; Nur, July 7, 2022; Dagestankaya Pravda, July 20, 2022; Makhachkala News, July 20, 2022; RIA Dagestan, July 20 and August 15, 2022; Ministry of Internal Affairs, August 10, 2022; IA Krasnaya Vesna, September 10, 2022.  
Kalmykia: RIA Kalmykia, August 1, 2022; TASS Russian News Agency, August 1, 2022.  
Khabarovsk: Interfax Russia, July 7, 2022; Khabarovsk Territory Today, July 7, 2022; Fishnews, July 8, 2022; Newslab, July 17, 2022; Regional Information Agency Birobidzhan, July 30, 2022; DV Novosti, September 7, 2022; The investigative committee of the Russian Federation in the Khabarovsk Krai and the Jewish Autonomous Oblast, September 14, 2022; Hunter and Fisherman, September 15, 2022; PROkhab.ru, September 20, 2022; AmurMedia, September 23, 2022; Gorod na Bire, September 23, 2022.  
Khanty-Mansi: SurgutInformTV, September 9, 2022; Yugorsky bullfinch, September 12, 2022; Bulletin of the Surgut Region, September 13, 2022; SIA-Press, September 22, 2022; Ugra-News, September 22, 2022.  
Krasnoyarsk: Ministry of Internal Affairs, August 2, 2022; NIA Krasnoyarsk, August 2, 2022; Zapad24, September 14, 2022; Newslab, September 28, 2022; Siberian News Agency, September 28, 2022.  
Moscow (Federal City): Border Service of the FSB of Russia, August 30, 2022; Moscow News, September 1, 2022.  
Novosibirsk: VN.ru, October 24, 2022; Kommersant, November 10, 2022.  
Omsk: Ministry of Internal Affairs, July 6, 2022; Kommercheskie Vesti, August 17, 2022.  
Primorsky: VladNews, August 14, 2022.  
Rostov: Don24, July 12, 2022.  
Sakhalin: ASTV.RU, November 18, 2022.  
Tyumen: Tyumen Line, July 27 and November 2, 2022; Ministry of Internal Affairs, September 12, 2022.  
Tomsk: Ministry of Internal Affairs, July 8 and August 16, 2022; GTRK Tomsk, September 27, 2022.  
Volgograd: All for You, July 12, 2022; Ministry of Internal Affairs, July 12, 2022; LACMUS.life, August 15, 2022.  
Ukraine: State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, August 19, 2022; State Bureau of Investigation, September 28, 2022.

### **India. Seizures of alleged ambergris (24.935 kg) between July 1 and September 30, 2022 (page 230)**

Andaman and Nicobar Islands: Andaman Chronicle, September 11, 2022.  
Kerala: Daijiworld, August 28, 2022.  
Maharashtra: Mid-Day, July 21, 2022; The Free Press Journal, July 21 and August 19, 2022; The Times of India, July 21 and August 18, 2022.  
Tamil Nadu: Daijiworld, July 11, 2022; The Hindu, July 22, 2022; Top Tamil News, July 23, 2022.  
Uttar Pradesh: WCCB, September 6, 2022; ABP Live, September 7, 2022; The Times of India, September 7, 2022.

## The decline of grey-crowned and black crowned canes (page 118)

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