

ROBIN DES BOIS

ON_{the} TRAIL

The defaunaation bulletin
n°48. Events from the 1st of September to the 31st of October 2025



Quarterly information and analysis report on endangered
animals poaching and smuggling
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ON_{the} TRAIL

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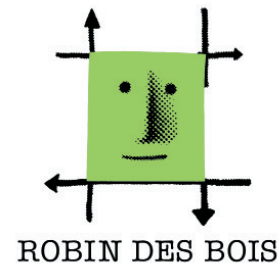
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NOTE AND ADVICE TO READERS

"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:

- Eléphants and rhinoceroses
- Various reptile species (simultaneous seizure of several reptile species)
- Various marine species (simultaneous seizure of several aquatic 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.

- 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.

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 (184 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

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ASIA

INDIA

September 2 and 3, 2025 Dangri, Jaisalmer District, State of Rajasthan, India

Ladu Khan, Alam Khan and Khete Khan stabbed Khet Singh in his sleep during the night. The Khans were angry with Singh because a few days earlier he had prevented them from poaching deer on his land. Singh died in hospital.



After his death, the village police station was the scene of protests and tensions. Dangri, in the district of Jaisalmer, is one of the strongholds of the Bishnoi, a vegetarian tribe that is strictly non-violent towards all forms of life. They consider wild animals and trees as members of their families. Women sometimes breastfeed orphaned fawns and several men died protecting Indian gazelles from poachers' assaults. They dedicate part of the rainwater collected in tanks to peafowls and other birds. They scrape off dead firewood to prevent insects from being burnt, they avoid clothes dyed in blue from indigo plants and also have among their rules of life the avoidance of unnecessary and unproductive controversies and slanders.

Bishnoi, see "On the Trail" n°9 p. 91 (ref.11), n°19 p. 117 (ref.16), n°21 p. 106 (ref.22), n°28 p. 119 (ref.20), n°29 p.80 (ref.25) and p.81 (ref.32), n°31 p.83 (ref.16) and p.184 (ref.83), n°32 p.246 (ref.92), n°35 p.75 (ref.5), n°40 p.79 (ref.8), n°41 p.72 (ref.7 and 8).¹

October 7, 2025 Orang National Park, Darrang District, State of Assam, India

Lights flickered between the branches and in the rain. At midnight, a patrol came across a group of poachers. Warnings and attempts at dialogue failed. Shots rang out. Khalilur Rahman, age 41, was killed. He left behind a .303 calibre rifle, 6 cartridges, a silencer, an axe, food supplies, and perhaps a widow, children, and a mother. He and his brother had already been arrested in May 2024 for poaching and were released on bail.²



October 15, 2025 Kaziranga National Park, Nagaon District, State of Assam, India

Three a.m. Warnings, gunfire. A nameless man suspected of poaching lies dead next to a rifle and a backpack. Other men have vanished into the night.³



PANGOLINS



Giant pangolin (*Manis gigantea*). Photo Bureau Benjamin (CC BY-NC)

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*).

WESTERN AFRICA

LIBERIA

Mid-October 2025

Marshall, Margibi County, Liberia

A long-tailed pangolin returned to the wild after arriving at the Libassa Wildlife Sanctuary 11 months earlier, having been rescued from traffickers. He was released at the same time as a red-legged sun squirrel (*Heliosciurus rufobrachium*).¹

CENTRAL AFRICA

CAMEROON

September 17, 2025

Méfou National Park, Centre Region, Cameroon

Release of a female white-bellied pangolin deep in the forest of the national park. She climbed a tree. She had been taken in by the Tikki Hywood Foundation after being seized at a bush meat market on August 12. She was so weak at the time that she could no longer feed herself.²

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

September 30, 2025

Mbandaka, Equateur Province, Democratic Republic of Congo

Seizure of 48 kg of scales. Three arrests. Joint operation by ICCN (Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation), the judicial police, INL (Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs), the NGO JUREC (Lawyers for the Environment in Congo), AWF (African Wildlife Foundation), and Conserv Congo.

Pangolins and their by-products are commonly sold at the market in Mbandaka. Traffickers then transport them to Kinshasa via the Congo River.

Pangolins in Mbandaka, see "On the Trail" n°33 p.11 (ref.10), n°34 p.10 (ref.8) and n°37 p.9 (ref.9).³

MALAWI

**Beginning of October 2025
Lilongwe, Central Region, Malawi**

Arrest by police of Benson Jeffrey, age 32. With accomplices, he was attempting to sell a live Temminck's ground pangolin in the Zamkutu area. The others managed to escape.⁴

MOZAMBIQUE

**Beginning of September 2025
Chibabava District, Sofala Province,
Mozambique**

Arrest of 2 individuals in possession of a Temminck's ground pangolin they were attempting to sell. They had captured him in Chimanimani National Park, 60 km away.⁵

UGANDA

**OPERATION INDUS
September 15, 2025
Mubende District, Central Region, Uganda**

Seizure of a motorcycle and the armour, i.e., the skin with scales, of a giant pangolin. The meat was sold for consumption. One arrest. The giant pangolin is the largest of the pangolin species, but also the most elusive.

Giant pangolin, see "On the Trail" n°2 p. 25, n°5 p. 46, n°9 p. 93 (ref. 8), n°10 p.28 (ref.5), n°11 p.30 (ref.3) and p.92 (ref.13), n°13 p.36 (ref.2) and p.37 (ref.5), n°20 p.55 (ref.4) and p.115 (ref.4), n°26 p.52 (ref.4), n° 33 p.16 (ref.60), p.21 (ref.7) and p.130 (ref.9), n°34 p.10 (ref.9), n°35 p.7 (ref.3 and 4) and p.14 (ref.4), n° 37 p.9 (ref.8), n°38 p.8 (ref.6), p.9 (ref.7) and p.12 (ref.39), n°40 p.10 (ref.4) and p.11 (ref.9), n°41 p.8 (ref.6) and p.12 (ref.39), n°42 p.11 (ref.5), n°45 p.9 (ref.17), n°46 p.11 (ref.2), n°47 p.6 (ref.2), p.7 (ref.6) and p.12 (ref.6).⁶

ZAMBIA

**September 26 and October 3, 2025
Zambia**

Seized on September 26, the 10 kg male pangolin was released a week later in a protected area whose location is not disclosed for security reasons. He recovered at the rehabilitation centre run by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife and the NGO WCP Zambia (Wildlife Crime Prevention Zambia).⁷

**September 14 and beginning of
November 2025
Bulawayo, Bulawayo Province,
Zimbabwe**

Gugulethu Ncube (age 21) and Mlamuleli Moyo (age 35) were sentenced to 9 years in prison for possessing and attempting to sell at the legendary Renkini bus terminal the armour of a Temminck's ground pangolin (1.646 kg), estimated to be worth 5,000 US\$.⁸

**Beginning of October 2025
Harare, Harare Province, Zimbabwe**

Lovemore Chitahwa, the seller, Siphilisiwe Meya, the negotiator, and Tapiwa Katungireni, the intermediary, were caught in a sting operation by undercover agents from the Criminal Investigations Department Minerals, Flora and Fauna Unit at Sam Levy's Village shopping centre. Seizure of a live Temminck's ground pangolin weighing over 10 kg, with an estimated economic value of 5,000 US\$.⁹

**Mid-October 2025
Masvingo, Masvingo Province,
Zimbabwe**

Kenias Maugara, age 46, a teacher, was sentenced to 9 years in prison for the illegal possession and attempted sale of Temminck's ground pangolin armour for 1,500 US\$. He had been arrested in August (see "On the Trail" n°47, p. 7, ref. 14).¹⁰

**October 2025
Bulawayo, Bulawayo Province,
Zimbabwe**

Sentencing of Janet Ngwenya, age 49, to 9 years in prison for attempting to sell 1,300 grammes of Temminck's ground pangolin scales in a shopping centre parking lot on Wednesday, October 15. The buyers were undercover agents from the CID (Criminal Investigations Department). The price per kilogram of scales is estimated to be 3,850 US\$/kg.¹¹

**October 22 and 28, 2025
Filabusi, Matabeleland South Province,
and Bulawayo, Bulawayo Province,
Zimbabwe**

- Arrest of Brighton Moyo (age 24), John Wax (age 25), Mayibongwe Ndlovu (age 27), and Prince Sibanda (age 36). Seizure of a live Temminck's ground pangolin estimated to be worth 5,000 US\$. The 4 men were looking for a buyer. The operation was carried out by the CID (Criminal Investigations Department) Minerals, Flora and Fauna Unit. Moyo, Wax, and Ndlovu pleaded not guilty. Sibanda was sentenced to 9 years in prison.¹²

SOUTHERN AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

September 5 and October 2025 Musina, Limpopo Province, South Africa. Border with Zimbabwe.

- Sentencing of Abednego Nyathi, age 51, a Zimbabwean national, to 6 years in prison for violating the Biodiversity Act (2004) and 2 years in prison for violating the Immigration Act (2002). The 2 sentences were combined. Personal Sibanda, age 41, a Zimbabwean national, was sentenced to 2 years in prison for violating the Immigration Act and the Firearms Control Act. They had been arrested in Musina on July 10, 2025, in possession of a female Temminck's ground pangolin. She had been transferred urgently to the Provet clinic in Hoedspruit thanks to the Bateleurs and their pilot Lloyd Rogers (see "On the Trail" n°47 p.8, ref.16).

In October, after recovering, the trafficking survivor was transferred by air to a protected area. The Bateleurs were once again called upon to help.¹³

OPERATION THUNDER September 12, 2025

Mogwase, North West Province, South Africa

Six individuals were arrested while attempting to sell a Temminck's ground pangolin in a shopping centre.¹⁴

September 24, 2025

Hoedspruit, Limpopo Province, South Africa

"On the 24th of September, South Africa celebrated Heritage day. We however were not celebrating heritage day, we were saving South Africa's heritage." With these words, the Umoya Khulula Wildlife Centre introduces the story of the rescue of a 5.8 kg female Temminck's ground pangolin. Held captive without food or water for at least 2 weeks, she is now in the capable hands of Dr. Debbie English at the Provet Veterinary Clinic.¹⁵



October 1, 2025

Pretoria, Gauteng Province, South Africa

At the entrance to a shopping centre, the 4 accomplices were attempting to sell a Temminck's ground pangolin for 160,000 rand (9,320 US\$). Lesly Jan Moeng, age 55, a repeat offender, was arrested, along with 2 police officers from the Sun City police station, Mkhanyisi Samuel, age 43, and Paulina Mkgaki, age 43, and Isaac Leatile Ntsibe, age 62. The latter 3 were released on bail for 2,000 rand (116 US\$). Moeng remains in prison.¹⁶

OPERATION THUNDER

October 10, 2025

White City, Gauteng Province, South Africa

A traditional healer was arrested in front of a petrol station while attempting to sell a Temminck's ground pangolin.¹⁷

EASTERN ASIA

CHINA

Beginning of September 2025

Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport, Guangdong Province, China

Seizure of 1.38 kg of white-bellied pangolin scales from the luggage of a passenger arriving on a flight from abroad. The scales had been concealed in tea bags.¹⁸

October 2025

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

Customs officials seized 2,124 grammes of pangolin scales and pangolin scale powder from Xiong Mouqing, which had been purchased for the equivalent of 135 US\$ in Mong La, Myanmar. "Since 2020, pangolin-based medicines have been removed from the Pharmacopoeia of the People's Republic of China. If you are ill, please consult a doctor and do not rely on traditional remedies," say the authorities.¹⁹

October 2025

Jinghong, Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province, China

A man was given a suspended sentence of 1 year and 6 months and fined 20,000 yuan (2,810 US\$) for hiding 705.16 grammes of Sunda pangolin scales (*Manis javanica*, Appendix I) under the centre armrest of his vehicle at the Mohan border crossing after arriving from Laos.²⁰



SOUTHEASTERN ASIA

INDONESIA

September 1, 2025

Ambarawa, Semarang Regency, Central Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia

Seizure of a live Sunda pangolin and 5 kg of scales. Arrest of G.M., 43, described as a “middleman” between poachers and traffickers in the black market for pangolins.²¹

September 23, 2025

Kampung Olo, Padang City, West Sumatra Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia



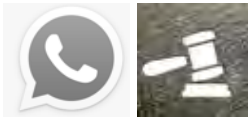
Seizure of 24.177 kg of Sunda pangolin scales, 2 cell phones, and a Daihatsu Gran Max van. DW, age 53, had been buying pangolin scales from farmers in the kota (urban area) of Padang and in the regency of Padang Pariaman for a year. He bought them for 300,000 rupiah/kg (18 US\$/kg) and resold them for 1.3 million rupiah (80 US\$) to B, age 50. B resold them for 2.8 million rupiah/kg (170 US\$).²²

REPEATED OFFENCE

September 24, 2025

Idi Rayeuk, East Aceh Regency, Aceh Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia

Nurman NST, a day labourer on an oil palm plantation, was sentenced to 3 years in prison, a fine of 200 million rupiah (12,000 US\$) with an additional 3 months in prison for non-payment, and to pay 5,000 rupiah (0.3 US\$) in court costs for possessing 5 kg of Sunda pangolin scales. According to Suparman, head of the village of Alue Sentang, Nurman NST is known as a collector of pythons, turtles, and frogs. He had also been collecting pangolin scales for several years. He bought them from small collectors scattered throughout the surrounding villages and resold them via WhatsApp for 1.5 million rupiah/kg (90 US\$/kg).²³



September 30, 2025

Jambi City, Jambi Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia



Sentencing of Wedy Wahyudi, Mustapa, and Trio Manda Saputra to 3 years in prison, fines of 50 million rupiah (3,000 US\$) and an additional month in prison in the case of non-payment, and 5,000 rupiah (0.3 US\$) in court costs for storing, attempting to sell, and transporting 10 kg of Sunda pangolin scales on 2 motorcycles. The scales were hidden in a bag of cinnamon rice. They are destined for destruction.²⁴

October 1, 2025

Paringin, Balangan Regency, South Kalimantan Province, Borneo Island, Indonesia



- Sentencing of Gusit to 3 years in prison and a fine of 30 million rupiah (1,800 US\$), with an additional month in prison in the case of non-payment. Sentencing of Giliansyah and Hikrimanto to 3 years in prison and fined 30 million rupiah, with an additional 6 months in prison in the case of non-payment. They had transported and attempted to sell 82.5 kg of Sunda pangolin scales (see “On the Trail” n°46, p. 9, ref. 14). The 3 convicted men must each pay 5,000 rupiah (0.3 US\$) in court costs. The judgment orders the destruction of the scales under the responsibility of the BKSDA (Balai Konservasi Sumber Daya Alam).²⁵

October 2, 2025

Martapura, Banjar Regency, South Kalimantan Province, Borneo Island, Indonesia



Sentencing of Dilah, age 44, a street vendor selling chickens, and Karmawan alias Wawan, age 49, a self-employed entrepreneur, to 3 years in prison, and to pay fines of 10 million rupiah (600 US\$) and 5,000 rupiah (0.3 US\$) in court costs. Failing payment within 3 months, the convicted persons’ assets would be seized and auctioned off. If the proceeds from the sale are insufficient, they will serve an additional month in prison. Dilah had purchased 12.27 kg of Sunda pangolin scales for 2 million rupiah/kg (120 US\$/kg) from Karmawan in Ampah in the East Barito Regency (Central Kalimantan Province). He resold them for 2.5 million rupiah/kg (150 US\$), making a profit of 6.25 million rupiah (375 US\$) from this illegal trade (see “On the Trail” n°46 p.9, ref.13).²⁶

October 2, 2025
East Jakarta City, Special Capital Region of Jakarta, Java Island, Indonesia



Sentencing of Auxentius, alias Apen, a student, to one year and 3 months in prison, a fine of 10 million rupiah (600 US\$) with an additional 2 months in prison in the case of non-payment, and 5,000 rupiah (0.3 US\$) in court costs for possessing 12.3 kg of Sunda pangolin scales. He allegedly bought them for 900,000 rupiah/kg (54 US\$/kg) and was looking to resell them for 1.5 million rupiah/kg (90 US\$/kg). He allegedly had them delivered to a hotel in the Pulogadung District by a Go-Car driver. The box was supposed to contain clothing.²⁷

October 21, 2025
Medan City, North Sumatra Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia



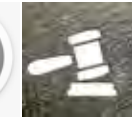
Amir Simatupang was sentenced in August 2025 to 3 years in prison and a fine of 500 million rupiah (30,800 US\$) or an additional 6 months in prison. In 2024, he and 2 members of the Indonesian armed forces and a police officer, were involved in the theft of 1,200 kg of Sunda pangolin scales from the vault of the Asahan Regency police station and in the attempted sale of 320 kg at a price of 900,000 rupiah/kg (55 US\$). The scales were packed in 9 cartons of Sampoerna cigarettes. The prosecution had appealed the ruling, and the court of appeal, siding with the prosecution, found that the prison sentence imposed on Simatupang was too lenient and sentenced him to 7 years in prison. In the first instance, the police officer was sentenced to only 21 days in detention and the 2 soldiers were sentenced to only one year in prison (see "On the Trail" n°47 p.9, ref.24). To be continued.²⁸

October 23, 2025
Jambi City, Jambi Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia



Sentencing of Pahrizal to 3 years in prison, to pay a fine of 60 million rupiah (3,600 US\$) and an additional month in prison if he fails to pay, and 5,000 rupiah (0.3 US\$) in court costs for possessing and transporting 29.185 kg of Sunda pangolin scales and 2.205 kg of agarwood (*Aquilaria malaccensis*, Appendix II) for sale (see "On the Trail" n°46 p.9, ref.16). The trials of the 3 accomplices were separated. The scales and agarwood were handed over to the provincial BKSDA for destruction.²⁹

October 27, 2025
Garut, Garut Regency, West Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia



Sentencing of Rizal Kurniawan, alias Iwan, to 3 years in prison, to pay a fine 500 million rupiah (30,000 US\$) with an additional 3 months in prison for non-payment, and to pay 5,000 rupiah (0.3 US\$) in court costs for attempting to sell 11.7 kg of Sunda pangolin scales in Medan (North Sumatra Province, Sumatra island).³⁰

October 27, 2025
Labuhan Tangga Besar, Rokan Hilir Regency, Riau Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia

Arrest by the provincial police of Zulfikar (age 49). He was transporting approximately 30 kg of Sunda pangolin scales. He allegedly obtained them from ML and MD, who are actively being sought out. According to Ade Kuncoro, head of the operation, the province's coastline, with its small ports and river mouths, is often exploited by smugglers because of its proximity to neighbouring countries such as Malaysia and Singapore.³¹

October 29, 2025
Tanjung Morawa, Deli Serdang Regency, North Sumatra Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia

Seizure of 77.35 kg of Sunda pangolin scales and arrest of a man known as "I" who was attempting to sell them.³²

VIET NAM

September 23, 2025
Cao Bang, Cao Bang Province, Viet Nam



Sentencing of D.V.T. with a fine of 500 million dong (18,950 US\$) for transporting a Sunda pangolin (8.1 kg). He admitted to having received a commission from an unknown person to deliver the pangolin to an unknown recipient near the border with China.³³

End of September 2025
Dong Nai Nature and Cultural Reserve, Dong Nai Province, Viet Nam



Rescue by Save Vietnam's Wildlife and rangers of a Sunda pangolin whose tail was caught in a metal trap. He was uninjured and released back into the forest. The Dong Nai Nature and Cultural Reserve covers more than 100,000 hectares, two thirds of which is forest and one third of which is wetlands and lakes. It is home to more than 2,000 animal species, including numerous birds, a small group of elephants, black-shanked douc langurs, and giant squirrels.³⁴

SOUTHERN ASIA

INDIA

September 3, 2025

Naka, Ayodhya District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India

Arrest in a guest house of Shakti Kumar, originally from Bihar, and Rakesh, a resident of the district. Seizure of a pangolin's armour, weighing 1.35 kg, to be skinned for its scales or kept intact to make a bulletproof vest, 2 cell phones, and 2,000 rupees (23 US\$) in cash. They claim to belong to a smuggling gang operating between Bihar, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh, and that the carcass was to be delivered in the district to a certain Bunty.³⁵

September 5, 2025

Sirisia, West Champaran District, State of Bihar, India

Arrest of Krishna Uraon, age 22, and Bhuteli Mahato, age 67, by members of the 44th SSB battalion. Seizure of a pangolin.³⁶

September 8, 2025

Tipeshwar Wildlife Sanctuary, Yavatmal District, State of Maharashtra, India

Three days in custody for 5 individuals suspected of poaching a pangolin in the sanctuary.³⁷

Mid-September 2025

Baksa District, State of Assam, India. Border with Bhutan.

Seizure of 1.125 kg of pangolin scales and arrest of a man carrying them in a plastic bag by a joint patrol of the Forest Department and elements of the Gaiden Chowk border outpost of the Sashastra Seema Bal.³⁸

October 4, 2025

Hanamakonda, Hanamkonda District, State of Telangana, India



Arrest on Saturday by the DRI (Directorate of Revenue Intelligence) of 4 individuals. Seizure of 6.53 kg of scales from 4 to 5 pangolins, according to the DRI headquarters in Hyderabad.³⁹

October 7, 2025

Arjuni, Adilabad District, State of Telangana, India



Arrest of Pendur Jugnath, Kinaka Shankar, and Pendur Mahesh. Rescue of an adult pangolin by plainclothes police officers who had received confidential information and offered to buy the scaly mammal for 500,000 rupees (5,630 US\$). Two accomplices managed to escape and will be arrested soon, according to the police. The pangolin had been captured in a trap on a plot of land covered by the ROFR (Recognition of Forest Rights) program, which grants members of tribes the right to settle and farm there.⁴⁰

October 12, 2025

Barpeta, Barpeta District, State of Assam, India

Arrest of 2 men, Palani Murugan and Mr. Salishwary, and one woman, Muthaiya Ramalingam. Seizure of 224 kg of scales. They were allegedly destined for China via Myanmar. The operation was carried out by the SSB (Sashastra Seema Bal), the RPF (Railway Protection Force) and the NCB (Narcotics Control Bureau) during a stop of the 12509 express train connecting Bengaluru (capital of Karnataka) to Guwahati (capital of Assam) in 53 hours and 10 minutes.⁴¹



October 13, 14, and 31, 2025
Williamnagar, East Garo Hills District;
Rimrangpara, West Garo Hills District, State of
Meghalaya, India

Total seizure of 27.445 kg of pangolin scales.

- October 13, Williamnagar, East Garo Hills district:
6.195 kg. Five arrests.



- October 14: seizure of 9.335 kg. Two arrests.



- October 31, Rimrangpara, West Garo Hills district:
11.915 kg. Three arrests.⁴²



October 25, 2025
Ghantvad, Gir Somnath District, State of Gujarat,
India

Arrest by B.B. Wala, Chirag Chandgude and 3 members of their team of Bijal alias Vijay Solanki and Dilip Makwana in possession of a live pangolin. He was released, and the 2 traffickers were held in custody for 4 days.⁴³

PAKISTAN

October 6 and 21, 2025
Dera Ismail Khan District, Province of Khyber
Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan

- Rescue of a large Indian pangolin abandoned at the bottom of a hole by people who tortured him.

- Release of the pangolin, bright-eyed, standing firmly on all 4 paws, with all scales, large and small, fully grown after 15 days of care. Thanks to Khan Malook Khan, Muhamma Saqib from the Wildlife Department, Muhammad Abrar, veterinarian, and Mudassir Ahmad, zoologist.⁴⁴

ELEPHANTS



African forest elephant (*Loxodonta cyclotis*). Photo robhutchinson (BY-NC)

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.

WESTERN AFRICA

COTE D'IVOIRE

September 9, 2025

Divo, Gôh-Djiboua Region, Côte d'Ivoire

The 32 kg tusk from a majestic and anonymous tusker was cut in 2 and slipped into 2 rice bags. The Burkina Faso national was trying to sell it. He was arrested by the UCT



(Transnational Organised Crime Unit), the forest and water police with the help of Eagle (Eco Activists for Governance and Law Enforcement) Côte d'Ivoire. He led to the arrest of the sponsor at the taxi-bus station. He is believed to have bought the raw ivory in Liberia and to be a regular ivory trafficker. The 2 men are being held in custody at the Abidjan prison complex, better known as MACA. Cocoa and cashews pass through the crossroads town of Divo on their way to the ports of Abidjan and San Pedro.¹

NIGERIA

OPERATION YELLOW

October 29, 2025

Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria

Three arrests by the NSW (Nigeria Customs Service Special Wildlife Office) and the NESREA (National Environmental Standards & Regulations Enforcement Agency) and seizure of 4 large tusks weighing a total of 76.4 kg.²



TOGO

October 15, 2025

Atakpamé, Plateaux Region, Togo

Sentencing of Soulémane Hassan and Djélilou Aboudoulaye to 12 months in prison, including 9 months suspended, and fined 20 million CFA francs (35,320 US\$), while Salam Alassani was sentenced to 12 months in prison, including 7 months suspended, and fined 20 million CFA francs. They must jointly pay 15 million CFA francs (26,500 US\$) in damages. They were arrested on June 5, 2025, with a tusk that they intended to sell for 3 million CFA francs (5,200 US\$) (see "On the Trail" n°46, p. 12, ref. 1).³



CENTRAL AFRICA

GABON

October 20, 2025

Franceville, Haut-Ogooué Province, Gabon

Seizure of 2 tusks cut into 17 sections. Three arrests. The suspects were referred to the specialised prosecutor's office in Libreville. The Provincial Water and Forestry Department, the Anti-Poaching Department, the judicial police, and the NGO Conservation Justice contributed to the success of the operation.⁴

REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

October 4 and 24, 2025

Dolisie, Department of Niari, Republic of the Congo

- Arrest of Lionel Mombo and Darel Mbiyaba in possession of 4 elephant tusks (11.83 kg) that they were hiding under clothes in a bag and attempting to sell. The ivory from elephant calves is believed to have come from Gabon.



- Sentencing to suspended prison terms of 24 months, fines of 5 million CFA francs (8,830 US\$) and damages of 1 million CFA francs (1,770 US\$) to be paid jointly and severally.⁵

EASTERN AFRICA

KENYA

September-October 2025

Kenya,
Narok County: Koiyaki Ranch, Mara North Conservancy, Siana Conservancy, Olare Conservancy, Ripoi Conservancy, Ngerende Conservancy, Oloisukut Conservancy, Mau Forest, Masai Mara National Reserve;
Nakuru County: Naboisho Conservancy, Olkinyei Conservancy;
Laikipia County: Ol Maisor Ranch, Chololo Ranch;
Kajiado County: Kuku Ranch, Amboseli National Park;
Kwale County: Lunga-Lunga;
Taita Taveta County: Choke Ranch, Tsavo East National Park, Tsavo West National Park, Sisal Estate;
Kilifi County: Galana Ranch, Ndatani, Shakahola, Arabuko Sokoke Forest.



KWS Kenya Wildlife Service) and SWT (Sheldrick Wildlife Trust) working together means 24/7 elephant rescue, an explosive mix of tension, anaesthetics, antibiotics, and green clay, pliers to cut the iron rings that maim legs as thick as tree trunks, spears driven 20 cm into flesh, broken or stolen tusks, a baby elephant's knee pierced by a bullet, an ear torn by a metal trap, subadult elephants collapsing and revived by the removal of the arrow and medical care, post-mortems (4), guarded prognoses (5), and successes (28).⁶



September 7, 2025

Kerugoya, Kirinyaga County, Kenya

Arrest of 3 individuals in possession of 4 tusks.⁷



September 13, 2025

Kinna, Isiolo County, Kenya

An individual was arrested and 2 tusks worth an estimated 2 million shillings, or 15,500 US\$, were seized. Based on the average price of ivory in Kenya, "On the Trail" estimates the total weight to be around 20 kg.⁸

October 5, 2025

Maralal, Samburu County, Kenya

Arrest of 2 individuals in possession of 7 tusk sections weighing a total of 11.33 kg and estimated to be worth 1.1 million shillings (8,480 US\$ or 750 US\$/kg).⁹



October 6, 2025

Nairobi, Nairobi County, Kenya

Arrest of 2 individuals on Mombasa Road, in the Shalom area, by the Directorate of Criminal Investigations and the police. Seizure of 5 tusks with an estimated value of 7.8 million shillings (60,000 US\$). Based on the average price of ivory in Kenya, "On the Trail" estimates the total weight to be around 78 kg.¹⁰

End of October 2025

Naivasha, Nakuru County, Kenya

Dismas Mong'are, a police officer, and Dennis Okindo were sentenced to 7 years in prison for possessing and attempting to sell 20 pieces of tusks weighing a total of 29 kg, taken from 5 elephant calves and valued at an estimated 2.9 million shillings (22,350 US\$ or 770 US\$/kg). The 2 men have 14 days to appeal.¹¹



MALAWI

September 8, 2025

Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve, Northern Region, Malawi

An elephant that had wandered out of the reserve was shot dead. As rangers attempted to drive him back inside, he reportedly charged a woman. Brighton Kumchedwa, director of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife, said his meat would be sold for the benefit of the State. The Vwaza Marsh Reserve covers 1,000 km² of plains, forests, and marshes. It is home to Malawi's largest elephant population (approximately 300).¹²

FAMILY AFFAIRS

**September 24 and mid-October 2025
Bongololo and Rumphi, Northern Region, Malawi**

- Arrest of Christopher Mkandawire, a teacher, his son Chisomo Mkandawire, and Abel Phiri, and seizure of 3 tusks weighing a total of 23.20 kg that they were attempting to sell.
- Sentencing of Mkandawire Sr. to 10 years in prison, sentencing of Phiri to 10 years in prison with hard labour, and acquittal of Mkandawire Jr.¹³



End of September 2025

Chikwawa, Southern Region, Malawi

Seizure in a car of 4 ivory tusks. Three arrests, including Brandson Njunga, human resources director at the Amitofo Orphanage in Blantyre.

Back in August 2020 in the same area, Dyson, a former boarder of Amitofo Blantyre who had become an expert in Mandarin and martial arts, was arrested in possession of 8 elephant tusks and sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Amitofo, derived from Amitabha (the infinite light), a Buddhist figure known for his compassion, was founded by Hui Li, a Taiwanese monk, and funded by the Taiwanese government to strengthen the presence and image of the “Republic of China” (Taiwan’s official name) on the African continent. The Buddhist monk Hui Li saw himself as a missionary of African Buddhism. He established his first orphanage in Blantyre in 2004, but his personal influence waned when Malawi, yielding like other countries to the People’s Republic of China’s yuan diplomacy, severed diplomatic relations with Taiwan in 2008. Amitofo opened a second facility in 2016 in Lilongwe, right next to one of the facilities run by Hua Lin, an old acquaintance of “On the Trail,” who arrived in Malawi with his wife in 2009 from Fujian Province, a hub for wildlife trafficking between Africa and China (see in particular “On the Trail” n°33, pp.70–71, ref.47, July 2022). The Economist (UK) gathered anonymous but credible testimonies from teenagers educated at Amitofo Lilongwe who were occasionally recruited, like Aaron Dyson, by Hua Lin and his network to transport wildlife products, particularly ivory.

Between May 2019 and June 2020, Lin’s wife, other relatives, and accomplices were arrested and convicted of trafficking pangolin scales, rhino horns, carved ivory, and undeclared weapons. Hua Lin had managed to flee. He was arrested in September 2019 and sentenced to 14 years in prison. In July 2025, he and his wife were pardoned by President Lazarus Chakwera, but Lin remained in prison for attempting to bribe prison staff. Following the reelection of former President Peter Mutharika on September 16, 2025, local and international NGOs hope that Lin, despite his repeated appeals to the High Court, will remain in prison until he has served his full sentence.¹⁴



Jimmy Nkwezalamba, 3 years jail for wildlife trafficking, handyman for Hua Lin, 14 years jail for wildlife trafficking.

Yun Hua Lin and his network, see “On the Trail” n°25 p.104 (ref.7), n°26 p.101 (ref.7), n°29 p.20 (ref.1), n°34 p.50 (ref.2), n°38 p.15 (ref.2), n°42 p.11 (ref.1) and n°47 p.11 (ref.2).

End of September 2025

Mcocha, Northern Region, Malawi. Border with Zambia.



Seizure of 2 elephant tusks cut into 4 pieces with a total weight of 37.1 kg. Arrest of Tyson Nguluwe (age 71). He was attempting to sell them for 70,000 kwachas/kg (40 US\$/kg).¹⁵

Beginning of October 2025

Rumphi, Northern Region, Malawi

The arrest of James Katumbi and the seizure of 18.5 kg of raw ivory from his home were reported in “On the Trail” n°47, p. 16 (ref. 13).



He was sentenced to 8 years in prison with hard labour. He faced up to 30 years. He asked the judges for leniency, highlighting his status as a first-time offender and his obligation to care for his mother.¹⁶

October 2, 2025

Mzuzu, Northern Region, Malawi

Seizure of a car containing carved pieces of ivory and a raw tusk (17 kg). Arrest of 2 Pakistani citizens, Shahid Amid and Shakeeb Khan. The Pakistani diaspora is active in Malawi, particularly in the restaurant sector. A Pakistani consulate defends their interests in Blantyre, the capital of the Southern Region.¹⁷



REPEATED OFFENCE

End of October 2025

Kasungu, Central Region, Malawi

Sentencing of Grave Nkhoma and Nickson Nthukwa to 21 years in prison with hard labour for elephant poaching, possession of raw ivory, and prohibited firearms. Poaching in Kasungu National Park, see "On the Trail" n°27 p.93 (ref.9) and n°45 p.16 (ref.18).¹⁸



MOZAMBIQUE

September 25, 2025

Dondo, Sofala Province, Mozambique

Police officers posing as buyers arrested a young man in possession of 2 tusks. He was a middleman. The owner of the ivory, which was priced at 5,000 meticaís/kg (78 US\$/kg), fled.¹⁹

October 28, 2025

Ngangue, Gaza Province, Mozambique



Seizure by Sernic (Serviço Nacional de Investigação Criminal) and ANAC (Administração Nacional das Areas de Conservação) of 7 raw ivory tusks, 2 firearms, and a vehicle. Seven arrests, including one reserve police officer and another on active duty. An eighth man fled the scene. Kruger Park in South Africa is about 100 kilometres away.²⁰

UGANDA

OPERATION ICARUS

September 7, 2025

Fort Portal, Western Region, Uganda

Seizure of 45.2 kg of raw ivory by the UWCU (Uganda Wildlife Crime Unit). Two arrests. Five accomplices fled, abandoning 2 cars at the scene. The value of the ivory is estimated at 100 US\$/kg.²¹

September 2025

Uganda

Sentencing of Lukwago Godfrey and Nsambu Wilbur to a fine of 12 million shillings (3,400 US\$) each or, in the event of non-payment, 11 months and 19 days in prison. They were arrested in March 2021 with 28 kg of raw ivory.²²



OPERATION INDUS

October 1, 2025

Pire, Northern Region, Uganda

Seizure of 25 kg of tusks and arrest of 2 individuals attempting to sell them.²³

RWANDA

October 17, 2025

Kigali City, Rwanda

Arrest of Mudatenguha Tuyisenge, Jean Felix Sekamana, and Jean Pierre Shirumuteto by the RIB (Rwanda Investigation Bureau). From a vehicle belonging to the Rwanda Medical Supply Agency, 3 tusks cut into 8 pieces were seized. They had come from the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo and were destined for the Asian market.²⁴

TANZANIA

September 12, 2025

Dar es Salaam, Dar es Salaam Region, Tanzania

Meja Gidarge Washing and Hussein Ally had been acquitted in the first instance. The prosecution appealed and the High Court judges ruled that there was sufficient evidence to prove that in June 2024 they were in possession of 5 tusks and 3 sections of tusks from 4 poached elephants. They based their decision in particular on the confessions of the defendants, who were found guilty in absentia. As their addresses were unknown, they had been summoned to the hearing by means of 3 successive official notices in the Mwananchi newspaper, to no avail.²⁵



September 26, 2025

Dar es Salaam, Dar es Salaam Region, Tanzania

Sentencing of Ibrahim Mbwilo to 20 years in prison for possessing and transporting 8 sections of tusks worth an estimated 34 million shillings (13,600 US\$) in June 2022. His 2 accomplices, Sadock Rulandala and Stanley Mwaroyo, were already sentenced to 20 years in prison on August 12, 2025.²⁶



October 21, 2025

Sango, Kilimanjaro Region, Tanzania

Arrest of 2 members of the regular army and 3 civilians caught in the act of transporting 16 tusks and 51 sections of tusks from 12 elephants, with a total value of 230,000 US\$. Sergeants Andrew Ndaga and Chumu Rajabu and their accomplices Mzee Ally Mzee, Juma Cheupe, and Ally Ayubu are charged with violating the Wildlife Conservation Act and the Economic and Organised Crime Control Act. Between July and October 2025, they allegedly were involved in several raw ivory transactions across various regions of the country. Based on a price of 1960 US\$/kg (see "On the Trail" n°41, p. 22, ref. 38, July 2023), the total weight of the seized ivory is estimated at 117 kg. The suspects' initial court appearances took place in January 2026 in Moshi.²⁷

ZIMBABWE

Mid-September 2025

Sengwa Research Area, Midlands Province, Zimbabwe

Rescue of an isolated, emaciated subadult elephant, approximately 3–4 years old.

The right front foot was cut all the way around by the very thick steel cable of a trap, which had to be cut strand by strand before the entire fetters could be removed. The bones had not yet been damaged. When he stood up, the elephant began walking with a more confident gait, leaning more heavily on his right front foot. Before, he had almost been hopping. His lameness and loss of mobility had caught the attention of the regional manager of ZimParks. The prognosis is relatively favourable, provided that this miraculously cured does not end up in the crosshairs of a guide and a hunter.

The Sengwa Game Reserve is primarily a hunting ground for big game, catering to the wealthy and “enthusiasts” from around the world. It spans 90,000 hectares and is home to buffalo and elephants.²⁸



October 13, 2025

Chitungwiza, Mashonaland East Province, Zimbabwe

Seizure of 2 raw tusks weighing a total of 21.8 kg from the trunk of a Toyota. Arrest of 5 traffickers, Justice Chikodze, Abraham Blahim, Daniel Mamvura, Takunda Munengami, and Sarah Katumba, by 5 police officers. The value of the shipment is estimated at 3,600 US\$ (165 US\$/kg).²⁹

October 14, 2025

Hwange National Park, Matabeleland North Province, Zimbabwe

Rescue of a young male elephant whose neck was caught in a metal cable. He had almost torn off one of his ears whilst trying to free himself. Thanks to a joint operation by ZimParks and DART (Dete Animal Rescue Trust), the trap was removed and the wounds treated as best as possible. The damage to the ear is irreparable. The prognosis is guarded.³⁰



October 29, 2025

Guruve, Mashonaland Central Province, Zimbabwe

Sentencing of Fainos Chivige to 9 years in prison. He was arrested on March 18 in possession of a weapon.³¹



REPEATED OFFENCE

End of October 2025

Harare, Harare Province, Zimbabwe

Confirmation on appeal of the sentences imposed on Hlupani Austin Sibanda (11 years in prison) and Ellmone Nkomo (9 years) for possession and transportation of 21.75 kg of raw ivory (see “On the Trail” n°45 p.16, ref.25). The defendants claimed that they had collected the tusks while herding cattle and were about to hand them over to the ZimParks office in exchange for a reward. They also claimed that the law allows 15 days to hand over found ivory to the authorities. The Supreme Court was not persuaded by their explanations. “The appellants did not acquire the ivory lawfully and in turn could not lawfully possess it for registration purposes. Their whole conduct showed that they were aware of their unlawful possession.” “If their possession was lawful, they would have behaved in a completely different way,” the court said, adding that the claim of expecting a reward was “not reasonably true as the offices concerned do not give out rewards.” Sibanda had previously been involved in a similar case (see “On the Trail” n° 25, p. 86, ref. 37).³²



End of October 2025

Zambezi National Park, Matabeleland North Province, Zimbabwe. Border with Zambia.

Rescue of a male elephant caught in a trap on his left hind leg by the Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust. The first step was to gently lure away his 5 companions.³³



October 31, 2025
Zambezi National Park, Matabeleland
North Province, Zimbabwe. Border
with Zambia.



© Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust

Rescue of a male elephant by the Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust, with assistance from ZimParks and Senanga Safaris. A metal trap was embedded in his left hind leg. He is now back on his feet.³⁴

SOUTHERN AFRICA

NAMIBIA

October 11, 2025
Onawa, Omusati Region, Namibia. Border with
Angola.



© Informanté

Mukwiilongo faces scandal after controversy over elephant meat (Informanté, October 13, 2025)

An elephant fleeing fires in Etosha National Park was deliberately shot by the armed forces a few kilometres from the border with Angola. According to the Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism, the decision was made with great reluctance after several days of efforts to bring the elephant back to safety on the Etosha side. It was decided to put an end to his wandering in order to avoid conflicts and possible human casualties. On Friday, he had repeatedly crossed the main roads between Oshakati and Okahao and between Oshakati and

Outapi. Several hundred villagers rushed to the scene with machetes, axes, and knives to seize the meat and share it, but the lack of organisation surrounding the slaughter and butchering led to glaring inequalities in the distribution of the meat. The presence and greed of Epafraas Mukwiilongo, a former parliamentarian and leader of the NEFF (Namibia Economic Freedom Fighters), exasperated the population and its representatives. "The elephant meat should have been distributed exclusively to ordinary members of the community and not to those already well fed."³⁵

EASTERN ASIA

CHINA

BEIJING AUTONOMOUS MUNICIPALITY

September 2025
Beijing-Daxing International Airport, Beijing
Autonomous Municipality, China

Eight ivory bracelets were seized from the luggage of a passenger from abroad. To deceive customs officials, he had hidden them in the handles and under the linings of several suitcases.³⁶

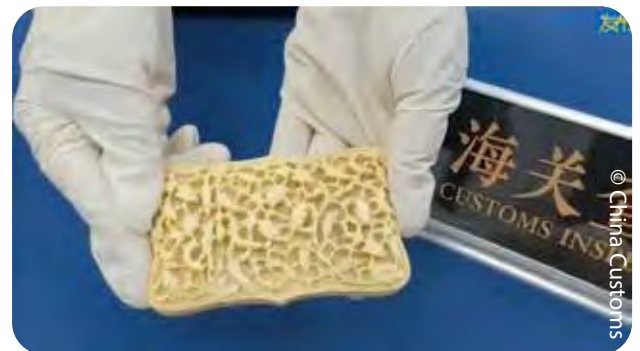
ANHUI PROVINCE

Beginning of October 2025
Hefei, Anhui Province, China

Seizure in a package from abroad of 6 carved ivory items weighing a total of 646.2 grammes.³⁷

GANSU PROVINCE

Mid-October 2025
Dunhuang Mogao International Airport, Gansu
Province, China



© China Customs

The behaviour of 2 passengers from an international flight alerted customs officials. They discovered that each was carrying an ivory bracelet. Total weight: 47.16 grammes.³⁸

GUANGDONG PROVINCE

September 5, 2025

Port of Zhongshan, Guangdong Province, China



Seized from the suitcase, bag, and coat of an arriving passenger: 35 pieces of carved ivory and 11 pangolin scales. Some of the ivories, including pendants and bracelets, were painted red and black, and the pangolin scales were painted black and white. The port in the Pearl River Delta has regular connections with Hong Kong and Shenzhen.³⁹

October 2025

Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, China

Seizure in a package from abroad declared to contain "belt buckles" of an ivory statuette representing the Buddha, 81.8 grammes.⁴⁰

JIANGSU PROVINCE

September 9, 2025

Zhenjiang Port, Jiangsu Province, China

Seizure from the luggage of a crew member while relieving from a ship: 4 bracelets and an ivory pendant.⁴¹

YUNNAN PROVINCE

September 2025

Zhangfeng Border Post, Dehong Dai and Jingpo Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province, China, Border with Myanmar.

Four ivory bracelets weighing a total of 58.7 grammes were seized from the pockets of a truck driver transporting various goods.⁴²

ZHEJIANG PROVINCE

September and October 2025

Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport, Zhejiang Province, China

- The man had something to hide. After inspection, 10 carved ivory items, including bracelets and pendants, were seized from his underwear. Total weight: 275.02 grammes. The man admitted to having purchased them abroad.

- Twenty-six ivory beads were seized from the luggage of a passenger from abroad. They were in boxes mixed with nuts. Total weight: 137.96 grammes.



- Seized from the luggage of 4 passengers from abroad: 18 carved ivory items, including bracelets and pendants. Total weight: 609.66 grammes.

- Seized from the luggage of a passenger arriving on a flight from abroad: 4 ivory bracelets hidden among accounting documents. Customs officers also seized the ivory pendant that the passenger was wearing around his neck. Total weight: 75.5 grammes.⁴³



SOUTHEASTERN ASIA

INDONESIA

FAMILY AFFAIRS

September 25, 2025

Blangkajeren, Gayo Lues Regency, Aceh Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia



Sentencing of Mat Ali, alias Ali, to one year and 3 months in prison, a fine of 30 million rupiah (1,800 US\$), and an additional 3 months in prison in the case of non-payment, and to pay 5,000 rupiah (0.3 US\$) in court costs for attempting to purchase 2 tusks weighing 14.3 kg and 15.1 kg.

The seller, Arpinsyah, alias Aman Sintia, had already been sentenced in November 2024 to one year and 5 months in prison and a fine of 30 million rupiah, with an additional month in prison in the case of non-payment.

The 2 tusks came from a Sumatran elephant presumed to have died naturally, and Aman Sintia had agreed with Ali to sell him the 2 tusks for 20 million rupiah/kg (1,200 US\$/kg). In June 2024, the transaction on the Pintu Rime bridge had abruptly failed. As Suryadi, Ali's younger brother, was taking Aman Sintia by motorcycle to Ali's car, the police had suddenly appeared with their lights flashing. Ali and Suryadi managed to escape by jumping off the 10-metre-high bridge, but Aman Sintia was immediately handcuffed and the tusks were seized. After 9 months on the run, Ali was arrested in the village of Pining. His brother Suryadi is still missing.⁴⁴

THAILAND

September 11, 2025

Nam Nao National Park, Phetchabun Province, Thailand

Two burns on the trunk. The juvenile elephant was electrocuted. His tusks were removed and secured. He was buried on site by a construction vehicle.⁴⁵



VIET NAM

September 8, 2025

Cao Bang, Cao Bang Province, Viet Nam

- Ha Thi Huong received a 30-month prison sentence. A resident of Dong Tam, Bac Kan province, she had sold 2 African elephant tusks weighing a total of 19.8 kg to Trieu Van Nguyen at a price of 710 US\$/kg.

- Trieu Van Nguyen received a 42-month prison sentence. He had sold the batch of raw ivory to Nguy Van Hung for 23 million dong (905 US\$/kg).

- Nguy Van Hung received an 18-month prison sentence.⁴⁶



October 23, 2025

Hai Phong City, Viet Nam

Destruction by fire in an industrial facility of 490 kg of raw ivory and 130 kg seized on 2 February 2023 from shipping containers that had just been unloaded from the *Xin Wen Zhou* and the *Kota Lihai*. The two containers had been loaded in Nigeria and transhipped en route to Haiphong. The two shipments were destined for HMD Technology Joint Stock Company (see "On the Trail" n°39 p.19, ref.50, and p.20, ref.52). Hoang Van Hao, its director, was sentenced on July 18, 2024, to 10 years in prison. On appeal, the sentence was reduced to 8 years and 6 months in prison.⁴⁷

October 30, 2025

Cao Lanh, Dong Thap Province, Viet Nam

Seizure from the pockets of Le Hoai Nam, who was sitting at a table in a coffee shop, of 44 bracelets suspected to be made of ivory.⁴⁸

SOUTHERN ASIA

INDIA

September 1, 2025

Bijoypur, Alipurduar District, State of West Bengal, India

The makna (male elephant without tusks) was in the buffer zone of the Buxa Tiger Reserve. He came into contact with an electric fence protecting a betel nut plantation. The 68-year-old farmer was taken into custody for 14 days. An investigation has been launched for violation of the Wildlife (Protection) Act. The body was transported to the forest for autopsy and burial in situ.⁴⁹



FAMILY AFFAIRS

September 2, 2025

Alipurduar District, State of West Bengal, India



Seizure of 3 pieces of raw ivory (769 grammes, 696 grammes, 544 grammes) and 4 leopard teeth (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) from the car of Parimal Chandra Dey, known to the authorities for arms trafficking, and his wife Debjani. They were allegedly tasked with delivering the trophies to Bhutan. They were held in custody for 10 days.⁵⁰



September 4, 2025

Thakurgoda, Mayurbhanj District, State of Odisha, India

Arrest of Jogeswar Dehuri, aged 28. He had been wanted for 18 months. He is suspected of having taken part in elephant poaching in Similipal National Park in November 2023 and in ivory trafficking. His application for bail was refused. On November 19, 2023, the carcass of an elephant aged around 40, who had been shot dead, was discovered by forest rangers. The tusks were missing, and the following day they were seized and 4 men were arrested (see "On the Trail" n°43 p.18, ref.50).

Similipal, see "On the Trail" n°1 p.18 and p.30, n°3 p.42, n°8 p.49 (ref.54) and p.102 (ref.51), n°9 p.50 (ref.42), n°10 p.38 (ref.26 and 27) and p.39 (ref.39), n°12 p.94 (ref.109), n°15 p.56 (ref.9), n°17 p.100 (ref.82), n°19 p.63 (ref.10 and 11), n°34 p.79 (ref.112), n°38 p.33-34 (ref.115) and p.50 (ref.10), n°39 p.22 (ref.63), p.23 (ref.69 and 71) and p.151 (ref.38), n°40 p.8 (ref.11 and 12) and p.33 (ref.98), n°41 p.6 (ref.5), p.15 (ref.65) and p.49 (ref.51), n°42 p.34 (ref.31), n°43 p.17 (ref.43) and p.18 (ref.50), n°44 p.24 (ref.78) and p.25 (ref.88), n°46 p.27 (ref.4) and p.59 (ref.12) and n°47 p.34 (ref.43).⁵¹

September 10, 2025
Mangala, Chamarajanagar District, State of Karnataka, India



Two at once. Around midnight, a 25-year-old elephant showing all the signs of full gestation crossed the white line. The electrified cable had been diverted from the public grid to prevent any intrusion onto privatized land. The 2 farmers who stole the electricity are being questioned by the police.⁵²

September 12 and October 8, 2025
Chirgunikudar and Kaunsitaila, Deogarh District, State of Odisha, India



- The body of a juvenile elephant around 12 years old was spotted in the early morning by a forest ranger. For unknown reasons, the elephant had separated from his family of 37 members in the Palasama forest section. According to preliminary findings, he was electrocuted. One man has been arrested. A neighbourhood investigation is underway.

- Another electrocution. The elephant was about 18 years old. He came into contact with a fence overpowered by solar panels. His body was found by the side of the road on Tuesday night. Farmer Madhaba Chandra Behera was arrested.

For more information on the dangers of solar-powered fences in India, see "On the Trail" no21 p.97 (ref.107), n°33 p.48 (ref.182), n°41 p.27 (ref.76), n°43 p.18 (ref.49), n°46 p.20 (ref.51 and 54) and n°47 p.19 (ref.37).⁵³



September 26 and 27, 2025
Talakaipur, Keonjhar District; Bhagamunda and Paikasahi, Angul District, State of Odisha, India

When the police arrived near a stone crusher in a quarry, many people ran away. Birakishore Behera and Arun Kumar Sahoo were handcuffed and forced to hand over a 51 cm (2.026 kg) tusk, another 28 cm (0.6 kg) tusk, and a third tusk from a baby elephant (20 cm, 0.387 kg). Thanks to their confessions, Pradeep Kumar Singh and Pratap Behera, alias Muna, were arrested the next day in Angul District.⁵⁴

September 27, November 11, and December 8, 2025

Telkoi Forest, Keonjhar District, State of Odisha, India

- Little is known about this suffering soul, not even whether it is a female elephant or a makna (male elephant without tusks). Some say he is the victim of a gunshot wound, others that he was injured during a fight with another elephant. What is certain is that he is limping on his left front leg and right rear leg and that his mobility is decreasing day by day. Villagers suspect that he was the victim of reprisals after a herd of 44 elephants wandered out of the forest and damaged crops. The suffering elephant took refuge deep in the forest. Rescuers were unable to locate him to make an accurate diagnosis.

- On November 11, he was rescued and his wounds were treated with antibiotics. But he did not regain his agility. After falling into a hole and getting stuck in mud, he died on the night of Monday, December 8. Already in November 2024, in the Telkoi forest, a 5- to 6-year-old elephant had died in a rice field. She had wounds on her back, neck, and chest.⁵⁵

October 1, 2025
Buggawala, Haridwar District, State of Uttarakhand, India



Fatal electric shock for an elephant. Arrest of 2 farm workers involved in installing the illegal fence.⁵⁶

Monday, October 6, and Friday, October 10, 2025
Saranda Forest, Districts of West Singhbhum and Pashchimi Singhbhum, State of Jharkhand, India



The elephant's foot was torn apart by the blast of an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) believed to have been planted by Maoist rebels hiding in the dense forest. Veterinarians from Jharkhand, Odisha, and Gujarat were dispatched to the scene and administered antibiotics, anti-inflammatories, and painkillers. The elephant died in a pool of blood 4 days after the pyrotechnic trap was set off. Since November 2022, as many as 6 security personnel have lost their lives, while 20 others were critically injured, besides claiming the lives of nearly 22 civilians, leaving a dozen others injured in IED blasts.⁵⁷

October 16, 2025
Jadupur, Angul District, State of Odisha, India

Two tusks. 4,795 kg in the hands of Chandan Mohapatra and Sharat Kumar Kheti.⁵⁸

October 22-30, 2025

Khari Khana Bil, Hojai District, State of Assam, India



- Electrocutation on the banks of the Kopili, a tributary of the Brahmaputra, of 2 elephant cows due to a “zatka machine”, batteries that, coupled with solar panels, power fences erected by farmers to prevent anyone from accessing rice paddies and sugar cane fields. These electrocution machines sell for between 100 and 200 US\$. The crops are located along a corridor used by elephants and other wild animals.

- The elephant family was deeply affected by the sudden loss of two of its members. Nine villages have suffered damage to their crops. “Our paddy has been flattened, our sugarcane uprooted.” Forest rangers are accused of incompetence and of doing nothing to guide the herd to a natural habitat [assuming there is any left]. In the meantime, farmers are demanding immediate financial compensation for the actual cost of their losses.

The tide of conflict between the world of farmers and the world of elephants continues to rise in Assam, and the government is slow to impose land management measures that would facilitate coexistence.⁵⁹



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October 24, 2025

Kochi, Ernakulam District, State of Kerala, India

The legal troubles of Mohanlal, actor and producer in Mollywood, the Malayalam-language Indian film industry based in Thiruvananthapuram in the State of Kerala, continue and are taking new turns.

Four elephant tusks and 13 pieces of carved ivory had been discovered and seized at his home in July 2011 during a tax inspection. Four years later, he had obtained certificates from the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWW) documenting the legitimate ownership of the tusks. They were returned to him.

The Kerala High Court accepted the petition filed by former forest officer James Mathew, who had challenged the validity of the property rights. The Court ruled that the certificates of ownership issued by the government in 2016-2017 were legally unenforceable.

On the Mohanlal and Mollywood case, see “On the Trail” n°12 p.94 (ref.115), n°15 p.100 (ref.89), n°17 p.102 (ref.92), n°29 p.39 (ref.112), and n°39 p.24 (ref.74).

On the Salman Khan and Bollywood case, see “On the Trail” n°2, p. 33, n°6, p. 99 (ref. 7), n°8 p.92 (ref.4), n°12 p.100 (ref.19), n°18 p.110 (ref.19), n°19 p.118 (ref.23), n°21 p.106 (ref.22), n°29 p.81 (ref.32) and n°35 p.75 (ref.5).⁶⁰

October 31, 2025 trad Cora

Benipalli, Ganjam District, State of Odisha, India

Umakant Pradhan, alias Landa, tried to scare away 2 elephants that were about to enter his rice field with fireworks. One of the 2 elephants fled, but the other remained. Pradhan resorted to drastic measures. He aimed his rifle at the elephant’s head. The elephant ran 100 metres before collapsing. Pradhan has a reputation as a poacher who hunts to feed his clan or for trade. Mallick, a neighbour of Pradhan’s, is alarmist. “We face danger every night. The fog makes visibility poor and elephants appear suddenly.”⁶¹

Friday October 31, Monday November 3, and Thursday November 13, 2025



Udalguri District, State of Assam, India

- Death of an elephant approximately 10 years old by electrocution or poisoning in a tea plantation. He had strayed from the Khalingduar forest along the border between India and Bhutan.

- Death of a male elephant in Basugaon. Forest rangers are keeping silent and veterinarians will conduct a post-mortem examination.

- Discovery of a dead elephant in Amjuli Hatikhuli. He was probably electrocuted, or perhaps poisoned. The necropsy will reveal more.

Human-elephant conflicts have been exacerbated since the beginning of 2025. The death toll stands at 15 for humans and 14 for elephants.⁶²



© The Sentinel

October 31



© The Sentinel

November 3



© The Sentinel

November 13

Violent deaths of elephants in the Udalguri district, see “On the Trail” n°25 p.95 (ref.137), n°27 p.106 (ref.102), n°34 p.42 (ref.157) and n°38 p.32.

SRI LANKA

Mid-September, September 22, and beginning of October 2025

Hunugallewa, North Western Province, Polonnaruwa and Dambulu Halmilla Wewa, North Central Province, Sri Lanka

- An elephant wounded by gunshot is treated on site by a team from the Department of Wildlife Conservation. No anaesthesia. The hind legs are tied up. The elephant is standing. Impressive. Link to the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ZggmYBQp3E>

- Killed by a bullet to the head, the 20-year-old wild elephant had strayed from Kaudulla National Park. A farmer is on the run. A crowd gathers, torn between curiosity and reverence. Respect for the remains.



- An elephant lies on the ground. He is riddled with bullets in the head but still alive. A makeshift tent has been set up to protect him from the sun and rain. His condition is critical.⁶³

September 19, 2025

Colombo, Western Province, Sri Lanka

Ali Roshan was sentenced to 15 years in prison and fined the equivalent of 68,400 US\$ for registering 5 wild elephants as domestic animals between 2009 and 2015 and trading them after domesticating them. Three accomplices who allegedly helped him capture the elephant calves in forests were acquitted due to insufficient evidence.

Ali Roshan, see "On the Trail" n°9 p. 86 (ref.74), n°11 p. 85 (ref.89) and n°14 p. 94 (ref.121).⁶⁴



October 17, 2025

Mahiyanganaya, Province of Uva, Sri Lanka

Arrest of a trafficker by the anti-poaching task force and police from Wilpattu, Ritigala, and Mahiyanganaya. Seizure of 30 elephant pearls or Gaja Muthu worth, if authentic, 300 million rupees (970,000 US\$). This is the largest seizure of elephant pearls in Sri Lanka. Gaja Muthu are calcareous concretions that sometimes form at the base of the tusks of elephants aged 60 years or older. In his shack in the tribal village, the police seized worked ivories in the form of rings and bracelets, a bottle of leopard fat (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I), 7 fragments of black ebony (*Diospyros tessellaria*), and ropes and cables for illegal honey extraction.⁶⁵ Gaja Muthu, see index.

EUROPE

AUSTRIA

OPERATION THUNDER

September 15-October 15, 2025

Vienna, Vienna State, Austria



As part of Operation Thunder, coordinated by Interpol and the World Customs Organisation, customs officials seized 6 ivory statuettes being sold on the Internet.⁶⁶

FRANCE

Saturday, September 6–Sunday, September 7, 2025

Lille, Department of Nord, France. Border with Belgium.



Seizure by the OFB (French Biodiversity Agency) and customs of 240 items from CITES-protected species, including 199 pieces of carved ivory, insects encased in resin, butterflies, a leopard skin coat (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I), a caiman skeleton (Alligatoridae, Appendix I or II), a hawk (Accipitridae, Appendix I or II) and a common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*, Appendix II), both stuffed, jewellery and ornaments made from sea turtle shells (Cheloniidae or Dermochelyidae, Appendix I), queen conch shells (*Strombus gigas*, Appendix II), and a fossilized mammoth tooth. The State authorities spent a long time searching the area where professional dealers from all over the European Union had set up their stalls, covering a distance of 5 km. 39 cultural items listed in Appendix I of the Heritage Code, including ammonite fossils and the mammoth tooth, were, until proven otherwise, the result of geological and paleontological looting. A mammoth molar sells for between 250 € and 300 € (290 US\$ and 350 US\$).⁶⁷

September 8, 2025

Paris/Saint-Ouen-sur-Seine, Department of Seine-Saint-Denis, France

Seizure at the flea market of 88 antique silver items by customs agents acting on 2 grounds: the trade in precious metals and the trade in wildlife products. 80 of the antique items were not hallmarked, and the dealer was not registered as a precious metals dealer. This hallmarking practice has been in use in France since the 13th century. It protects against the risk of fraud regarding the quality of metals. Today, the jewellery industry and customs authorities use laser marking, which poses no risk of damaging even the most delicate pieces. Eight antiques contained ivory elements. The total value of the items is estimated at 318,000 € (371,000 US\$). Those made of silver will be partially returned to their owner after compliance upgrade and regulatory marking.⁶⁸



ITALY

September 17, 2025

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

Seizure of 5 African elephant tusks, tusks from yesteryear, between 1.9 and 2.12 metres long, from a taxidermist. They are similar to the tusks of Isilo † and Masbambela † in South Africa and the tusks of Satao † in Kenya (see "On the Trail" n°1 p.32, n°4 p.84 and n°5 p.89).

They are also similar to the 7 tusks seized in August 2018 on the Nairobi-Mombasa highway. The person behind this smuggling operation is believed to have been Italian (see "On the Trail" n°22, p. 87).



September 2025



August 2018

A retired Italian diplomat, Diego Marino Enrico, was arrested in April 2021 in Kampala (Uganda) for the possession of elephant and hippopotamus ivory (see "On the Trail" n°32 p.31, ref.77).

Colonial Italy included Eritrea, Somalia, and Ethiopia.⁶⁹

There have been numerous seizures of tusks and raw ivory in Italy. The lengths are sometimes spectacular. See "On the Trail" n°8, p. 68 (ref. 6), p. 89 (ref. 105), No. 12, p. 96 (ref. 128, 1.3 metres long, and ref. 130), n°23, p. 161 (ref. 111), n°24, p. 80 (ref. 113), n°27, p. 111 (ref. 133), n°28, p. 115 (ref. 114, 156 cm long), n°29, p. 40 (ref. 121), n°30, p. 39 (ref. 149), n°31, p. 40 (ref. 152 and 153), n°33, p. 57 (ref. 233), n°34, p. 47 (ref. 188, 189, and 190), n°35, p. 34 (ref. 132), n°36, p. 40 (ref. 126 and 127), n°38, p. 36 (ref. 129, 167, and 180 cm long), n°39, p. 25 (ref. 81), n°40, p. 35 (ref. 115), n°42, p. 25 (ref. 84), n°44, p. 27 (ref. 101), and n°45, p. 22 (ref. 2).

ELEPHANTS AND RHINOCEROSSES

AFRICA

ZIMBABWE

Beginning of September 2025

Harare, Harare Province, Zimbabwe

Sentencing of Cong Yanzhong to 18 years in prison for trafficking rhino horns and raw ivory (see "On the Trail" n°47, p. 22, ref. 5).¹



AMERICA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

October 2025

Los Angeles County, State of California, United States of America

Ten years after the signing of Assembly Bill 96, which bans the trade in elephant ivory and rhino horn throughout California regardless of their age, the market has not yet been fully cleaned up. Agents from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) law enforcement from the Special Operations Unit (SOU) are well aware of this and are keeping up the pressure. At least 9 rhino horns, several large carved tusks, and thousands of elephant ivory objects or pieces, as well as a sea turtle shell, were seized from a "business," with no further details available at this time.²

RHINOCEROSES



Black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*). Photo Wayne and Pam Osborn (BY-NC)

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*.

AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

Beginning of September 2025
Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park, KwaZulu-Natal
Province, South Africa



New "maintenance" dehorning campaign underway in the park.

Dehorning rhinos in Hluhluwe-Imfolozi: see "On the Trail" n°45, p. 23, ref. 2.¹

September 8, 2025
Paulpietersburg, KwaZulu-Natal
Province, South Africa



Rangers discover 2 dead rhinos with their horns removed in a private reserve. A third injured rhino was found nearby. At the end of July, the reserve had already been raided by 3 poachers who killed a rhino and stole the horns before being arrested (see "On the Trail" n°47, p. 23, ref. 2).²

September 12, 2025
Skukuza, Kruger National Park,
Mpumalanga Province, South Africa



Freedom Mabilane and Tshifiwa Ramunashi, former rangers in the Houtboschrand section of Kruger National Park, are sentenced to 14 years in prison for poaching a rhino as part of a conspiracy. Tourists heard gunshots and raised the alarm via a park app. The 2 men claimed to have fired in self-defence to avoid being attacked by an elephant. A freshly killed rhino was found nearby. Ballistic tests, GPS decryption, and analysis of bloodstains on their uniforms formally contradicted their alibi.³

September 18, 2025

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

Pursued by a patrol, the 2 poachers were armed. One fled and disappeared into the sugar cane fields on the other side of the fence, and the other was wounded by a presumed shot fired in self-defence by the rangers. Two rhino horns were found in his backpack, along with a butcher's knife. He was taken to the nearest hospital. He will be brought before the Masoyi Periodical Court as soon as possible and charged with trespassing in Kruger Park, illegal hunting, possession of an unlicensed firearm, and possession of a dangerous weapon (the knife).⁴

OPERATION THUNDER

September 19, 2025

Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa

Rangers from the IZP (Intensive Protection Zone, in the south of the park) foiled a rhino poaching attempt. During the chase, one of the suspects fell and was arrested. He was carrying a firearm. His accomplices managed to escape.⁵

OPERATION THUNDER

September 20, 2025

Hlabisa, Kwazulu-Natal Province, South Africa

Three men preparing for a poaching expedition in Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park were arrested thanks to a tip-off. A firearm with a silencer and ammunition were seized from under a mattress.⁶

Beginning of October 2025

Limpopo Province, South Africa

Hope for Wildlife Helicopter Services intervened to help a young rhino whose neck was caught and cut by a metal trap. After removing the trap and providing emergency care, the prognosis is favourable.⁷



© Hope for Wildlife Helicopter Services

OPERATION THUNDER

October 4, 2025

Hlabisa, Kwazulu-Natal Province, South Africa



A poacher well known to authorities in several provinces was arrested as he was about to enter Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park. He had hidden a .375 calibre rifle under the bonnet of his car, a silencer in the air filter, and was also carrying a box of ammunition and 2 knives.⁸

Sunday, October 5 and October 11, 2025

Bushmans Wildlife Reserve, Alexandria, and Great Fish River Nature Reserve, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa



- Poaching and amputation of both horns of a pregnant female rhino. The happy event was expected at the end of 2025.

- Poaching of a female black rhino. Her calf is safe and sound. The poachers managed to escape but were forced to abandon the 2 horns during the chase. For Mornay Viljoen, the province's wildlife director, these 2 poaching incidents in quick succession come as a shock. "It is a signal that the poachers are infiltrating the Eastern Cape." "It's rhino calving season at the moment and many adult females are walking around with foetuses inside them." "To lose a pregnant mother rhino is a double-blow, so we need to be extra vigilant."⁹

Mid-October 2025

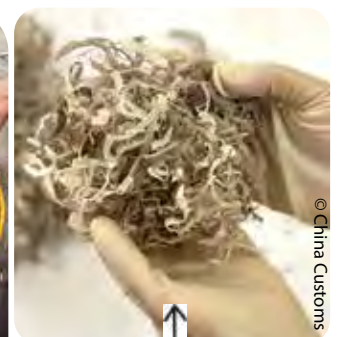
Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre, Limpopo Province, South Africa

It's preventive dehorning season for 5 juvenile rhinos. Sedatives, chainsaws, horn shards. A few grammes worth a small fortune. The horns are placed in a secure location under the control of a third party guarantor, but what happens to the shavings littering the ground?

"On the Trail" reported the seizure in China of 39.8 grammes of rhino horn shavings in a package from abroad (see n°33, p. 72, ref. 48). Based on a price of 55,000 US\$/kg, these shavings were worth 2,200 US\$.¹⁰



© Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre



© China Customs

Seizure in early August 2021, Daluo Border Crossing, Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province, China. Border with Myanmar.

**October 31, 2025
Kimberley, Northern Cape Province,
South Africa**



The province's High Court, which specialises in environmental cases and was petitioned by Wicus Diedericks, a rhino ranch operator, ruled that the horns may be exported provided they are not used for commercial purposes, in accordance with Article 7 of CITES. In his defence speech, Diedericks stated that the costs of feeding, protecting, and breeding his white rhinos amount to 20 million rand (1.16 million US\$) annually. For Diedericks, "This is more than a legal win — it's a lifeline for rhinos and a bold step toward 21st-century conservation." However, there's many a slip 'twixt cup and lip. Diedericks' argument mirrors that of John Hume, who is currently on trial for attempting to circumvent the global ban on horn exports. The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment intends to appeal the ruling and has long expressed its intention not to lift the global embargo until all measures taken to curb smuggling prove effective. However, the possibility that a proposal for the partial reopening of the global market could return to the negotiating table at the next CITES meeting in 2028 in Panama cannot be ruled out.¹¹

ANGOLA

**September 25, 2025
Cuvango, Huíla Province, Angola**



The massacre was discovered in the morning. The 2 black rhinos were lying on their sides, their horns removed. An internal plot at the Capunda Ranch was quickly suspected, and 3 men—one Angolan employee and 2 Namibians—were arrested. The 2 pairs of horns were destined for Namibia. Thanks to rigged suitcases, they would probably have ended up in China. The ranch employee cracked. One of the Namibians offered him 500,000 kwanzas (545 US\$) to facilitate the crime.¹²

KENYA

**September 2, 2025
Ol Pejeta Conservancy, Laikipia
County, Kenya**



Rescue of a black rhinoceros. The wire had wrapped itself twice around the right hind leg, like a barbed wire scarf around the metatarsal joint. He was anaesthetised from a helicopter. The prognosis is favourable, provided he is kept under close observation.¹³



**October 22, 2025
Solio Ranch, Laikipia County, Kenya**



The male with his magnificent horn (a unicorn in the savannah!) has a problem with his left hind leg, with barbed wire wrapped around it and embedded between the tarsus and metatarsus.



He had picked it up somewhere where it was lying on the ground. He was anaesthetised with etorphine and azaperone injected into his right shoulder. The barbed wire was cut with wire cutters and the circular wound was treated with antibiotics and anti-inflammatories. The prognosis is favourable. The ranch administration was reminded by the SWT/KWS mission: "remove any wires that could have been dropped around" on the ground or in the bushes.¹⁴

NAMIBIA

September 16, 2025

Onamutenya, Oshikoto Region, Namibia

Arrest of 2 men ages 28 and 41. The first was from Windhoek (700 km away), the second from the Okavango District (600 km away). They were attempting to enter Etosha National Park with a rifle equipped with a telescopic sight and silencer, 20 rounds of ammunition, 3 knives, 7 loaves of bread, and 12 cans of food. They are charged with conspiracy to poach rhinos and with possession of a firearm and ammunition without a permit.¹⁵

October 2, 2025

Okavango, Otjozondjupa Region, Namibia

The head of wildlife rangers at KAZA (Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area) is in trouble. Willem Ponahazo is accused of colluding with rhino poachers. In April 2024, Ponahazo had a rifle delivered by courier to Windhoek, which was later seized from poachers who had just killed a rhino. An arrest warrant had been issued for him since December 2024. Upon his return from a study trip to the United Kingdom, he turned himself in at the police station. Initially, his request for release on bail was denied.¹⁶

Mid-October 2025

Okosongoro Safari Ranch, Erongo Region, Namibia

Discovery of 2 female rhinos killed recently, one white and one black. Their economic value is estimated at 300,000 and 500,000 Namibian dollars (17,300 US\$ and 29,000 US\$) respectively. The horns of the black rhino are missing.¹⁷

Mid-October 2025

Okonjati Wildlife Sanctuary, Otjozondjupa Region, Namibia



After his mother was violently killed by humans, the little white rhinoceros was doomed. After wandering around for a few days, he was anaesthetised and put on an IV by Wildlife Vets Namibia, then transferred to the Mount Etjo Rhino Trust, a sanctuary founded in 2015 to deal with the increase in the number of orphaned rhinos in the country.¹⁸

October 19, 2025

Sorris-Sorris Conservancy, Khorixas, Kunene Region, Namibia

She was last seen alive on Saturday around 5 p.m. On Sunday, she was found dead with her horns amputated under a dead tree and a black tarp. She had been imported from Etosha National Park. She had given birth to 8 calves since 2015, and when she was poached by unknown individuals using an unknown method, she was carrying a foetus. Her 2 horns, whose weight has not been disclosed, are estimated to be worth 500,000 Namibian dollars (28,800 US\$).¹⁹

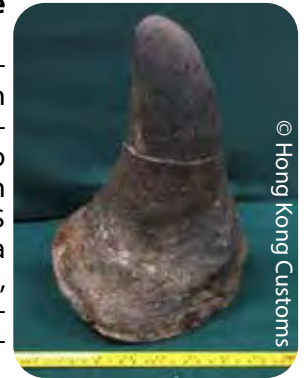
ASIA

CHINA

September 27, 2025

Hong Kong International Airport, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China

Seizure in a postal package declared to contain "ceramic gifts" and coming from France of a rhino horn weighing 2 kg with a value of 103,000 US\$ (55,000 US\$/kg). After a traceability investigation, customs authorities arrested a man believed to be involved in the smuggling.²⁰



INDIA

October 29, 2025

Jalpaiguri, Jalpaiguri District, State of West Bengal, India

Rikoch Narjari had already been convicted in April 2025 of ivory trafficking and sentenced to 4 years in prison and to pay a fine of 40,000 rupees (470 US\$). This time, he was sentenced to 7 years in prison and fined 100,000 rupees (1,127 US\$) for trafficking rhino horns between West Bengal and Assam (see "On the Trail" n°44, p. 34, ref. 25). His associate Lukas Basumatary was already sentenced to 6 years in prison and fined 40,000 rupees in March 2025 for trafficking a leopard skin (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) on June 3, 2024.²¹



INDONESIA

October 9, 2025

**Jambi City, Jambi Province,
Sumatra Island, Indonesia**

Sentencing of Sutrisno and Ramli, farmers, Satriya, a self-employed entrepreneur, and Raja Saudi H, a private sector employee, to 3 years in prison and to pay fines of 50 million rupiah (3,000 US\$), with an additional month in prison for non-payment payment, and 5,000 rupiah (0.3 US\$) in court costs for possessing and attempting to sell 1.36 kg of Sunda pangolin scales and a 600-gram Sumatran rhino horn in March 2025. The rhino horn was in a black plastic bag, and the pangolin scales were in a bag of shrimp chips inside a Toyota Fortuner.²²



MALAYSIA

October 15, 2025

Sepang, State of Selangor, Malaysia

The mountain of traffic gave birth to a prison mouse (see "On the Trail" n°34, p. 48, ref. 48). Mohamad Sukry Wahab, clearance agent, and Muhammad Hafizsan Naser, truck driver, were sentenced to 6 months in prison. In their Mitsubishi Fuso, police seized 50 rhinoceros horns and horn fragments from a package declared to contain "lobsters" after a chase at the exit of Kuala Lumpur International Airport. Experts revealed that 49 trophies came from white rhinos and one trophy came from a black rhino. This is the first time that traffickers have been convicted in Malaysia for smuggling African rhino horns. The value of the seizure was estimated at between 3.2 and 8 million ringgit (760,000 US\$ to 1.9 million US\$). At the time of the incident, the 2 men faced 3 years in prison. The leniency of the sentences, given the ecological and financial value of the seizure, is unlikely to deter wildlife gangs or curb the corruption that affects customs and other port and airport authorities in Malaysia.²³



NEPAL

September 8-9, 2025

**Bharatpur Prison,
Chitwan District;
Kathmandu Central
Jail, Kathmandu District,
Bagmati Province, Nepal**



The anti-corruption uprising led by Generation Z (those under 28) that brought down the government and sent the authorities into disarray left at least 76 people dead in 2 days. A collateral effect of the uprising was the escape of 15,000 prisoners, including some of the most notorious rhino poachers. Among those who benefited from this "early release" were, from Bharatpur Prison, Bindar Singh Praja, sentenced to 15 years in prison (see "On the Trail" n°33, p. 73, ref. 56), Ramesh Khati, Aita Singh Moktan, and Indra Bahadur Tamang, who trapped rhinos in pits in Chitwan National Park and sawed off their horns (see "On the Trail" n°43, p. 27, ref. 13), also sentenced to 15 years in prison. Three other rhino poachers, Arjun Sen Thakuri, Sitaram Thing (also involved in pit trapping), and Bishnu Bahadur Karki Chhetri, escaped from Kathmandu Central Prison, along with 3 pangolin scale traffickers, 2 traffickers of preputial glands of musk deer (*Moschus* spp., Appendix I or II), a trafficker of red pandas (*Ailurus fulgens*, Appendix I) and clouded leopard skins (*Neofelis nebulosa*, Appendix I), and an Indian national trafficking in turtles.

During this new period of instability, there are fears of increased poaching and smuggling of endangered species. During the Maoist insurgency (1996–2006) and the state of emergency, rhino poaching had reached record levels. The current political situation in Nepal, coupled with the Dashain festival (September 22–October 2), a festival honoring the Hindu goddess Durga, and Tihar (October 19–23), the festival of lights, is a new source of concern for forest rangers and wildlife conservationists.²⁴

THAILAND

September 6, 2025

Suvarnabhumi, Bangkok International Airport, Thailand

Hollow log technique variant (see "On the Trail" n°15 p. 98, n°19 p. 104 and n°23 p.68)

Seizure from the luggage of Thanh, a Vietnamese national travelling from Luanda (Angola) to Vientiane (Laos) via Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) and Bangkok of a rhino horn and 4 fragments weighing a total of 6.86 kg that were concealed in 2 hollowed-out and hermetically sealed pieces of wood. The trap was uncovered thanks to the analysis of X-rays of Mr. Thanh's luggage.²⁵



VIET NAM

October 30, 2025

Hanoi City, Viet Nam

The Court of Appeal upholds the May 15, 2025, trial court ruling sentencing Cao Xuan Manh to 7 years in prison for rhino horn trafficking (see "On the Trail" n°46, p. 25, ref. 14).²⁶





Cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*). Photo Wayne and Pam Osborn (BY-NC)

CENTRAL AFRICA

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

September 18, 2025

Lubumbashi, Haut-Katanga Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo. Border with Zambia.

Police arrest a Congolese man in possession of a lion skin (*Panthera leo*, Appendix II) imported from Zambia in May 2025, which he was attempting to sell to foreign buyers.¹

EASTERN AFRICA

KENYA

End of September 2025

Oloisukut Conservancy, Narok County, Kenya



The poisoning attempt failed. The poisoned carcass of a domestic animal was not immediately fatal. There was not enough carbofuran or another agricultural toxin. Mobilized in time, veterinarians administered antidotes and successfully purged the lions (*Panthera leo*, Appendix II). Four of them have regained full mobility and the other 2 are still recovering.²

End of October 2025

Kursi, Wajir County, Kenya

This is the unusual story of an orphaned cheetah cub (*Acinonyx jubatus*, Appendix I) that was adopted by a family of Somali shepherds, bottle-fed for months, for whom 15 sheep were sacrificed by the community over a period of 2 years, who became like a child to his foster family, for whom traffickers repeatedly offered to pay 20,000 shillings (155 US\$) to export him by road or sea to a Gulf country via northern Kenya, eastern Ethiopia, and Somalia. Between 200 and 300 cheetah cubs are taken from the Horn of Africa each year. The KWS, while publicly praising the Omar family's dedication and refusal to give in to the lure of dirty money, points out that the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act prohibits anyone from owning or keeping cheetahs and other wild animals. The cheetah cub, now a full-grown cheetah, has been transferred to the Nairobi Safari Walk, under the supervision of the KWS and safe from attempts at kidnapping by traffickers and smugglers. He is now 2 years and a few months old.³

SOMALIA

September 28, 2025

Off Berbera, Sahil Region, Somaliland Autonomous Region, Somalia

Boarding by coastguard of a dhow carrying 11 cheetah cubs (*Acinonyx jubatus*, Appendix I). Arrest of 3 Yemenis and 2 nationals. They wanted to cross the Gulf of Aden and deliver the cheetahs to the other side, to Saudi Arabia or the Sultanate of Oman via Yemen.⁴

NORTHERN AMERICA

CANADA

October 12, 2025

Port Alberni, Province of British Columbia, Canada

A reward of 2,000 Canadian dollars (1,420 US\$) is being offered by the NGO The Fur-Bearers to anyone who can identify the person or persons responsible for shooting a puma (*Puma concolor*, Appendix II) in the chest and paw. The animal had been wandering around the city for several days and was hiding under a pier in the harbour. On Sunday afternoon, he was located in a private garden on Dunbar Street. He was anaesthetised, but experts from the Royal Mounted Police and wildlife protection services determined that the fracture in his paw was irreparable. The decision was made to put him out of pain.⁵



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

October 15, 2025

Perham, Aroostook County, State of Maine, United States of America

A reward of 3,000 US\$ is being offered to anyone who can help identify the killer of a Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*, Appendix II). Even though he was lying on the side of the road, game wardens are certain that he did not die in a collision.⁶



LATIN AMERICA

ARGENTINA

September 10, 2025

Formosa, Province of Formosa, Argentina

A provincial court has charged an individual suspected of hunting a jaguar (*Panthera onca*, Appendix I) to death and posting the report on social media. At his home, police seized firearms, ammunition, shell casings, rifle scopes, spotlights, and a jaguar skin (*Puma concolor*, Appendix II). The Formosa court has already sentenced 3 similar perpetrators to 2 years in prison and a fourth to a 2-year suspended sentence (see "On the Trail" n°47, p. 30, ref. 20). "Proteger al yaguareté es proteger el futuro." (Protecting the jaguar means protecting the future).⁷

September 25 and October 13, 2025 La Playosa and Villa María, Province of Córdoba, Argentina



- He had beaten a small puma (*Puma concolor*, Appendix II) to death and posted images of the torture on social media. At his home, police seized the club and the victim's body.
- He received a one-year suspended prison sentence and was required to take a wildlife training course at the University of Villa María.⁸

Mid-October 2025

Balcarce, Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina

Seizure from a car of 3 pumas (*Puma concolor*, Appendix II) only a few months old. Six men were arrested. The rural police command has raised concerns about an underground and violent trade. The cubs were removed from their crate and examined by the vets, then released shortly afterwards into their natural habitat in the hills of Cinco Cerros. Baby pumas are increasingly sought after on the market. In August, a young man from the province of Salta, on the other side of Argentina, was charged with illegal possession of wildlife and "his" puma was seized.⁹

October 25, 2025

El Impenetrable National Park, Province of Chaco, Argentina

El Impenetrable National Park in the Chaco is undergoing a wildlife restoration program. In addition to the charcoal turtles that were introduced in the spring of 2022 (see "On the Trail" n°36, p. 165, ref. 21), the jaguar reintroduction program is a major asset and objective, but it unfortunately faces opposition from the deeply rooted tradition of poaching. A female jaguar (*Panthera onca*, Appendix I) has gone missing. Her satellite collar was found at the bottom of a river. The Fundación Rewilding Argentina and the national park administration have filed a complaint. The jaguar reintroduction project in El Impenetrable is a matter of absolute urgency. In 2019, only one male had been spotted, and the introduction of a few females has been successful. A baby jaguar was born in early 2025. The jaguar is classified as a natural monument by law, which gives them the highest level of protection on paper.¹⁰

BELIZE

September 29, 2025

Independence Village, Stann Creek District, Belize

Discovery of the carcass of an adult female jaguar (*Panthera onca*, Appendix I), weighing approximately 50 kg, in an advanced state of decomposition. She was shot dead. One canine tooth is missing.¹¹



October 15, 2025

Stann Creek District, Belize

Jordan David Woods was fined 5,000 Belize dollars (2,500 US\$) and ordered to pay court costs of 5 dollars for possessing 2 jaguar teeth (*Panthera onca*, Appendix I) mounted as pendants.¹²



BRAZIL

September 22, 2025

Vila Velha, State of Espírito Santo, Brazil

Seizure of a puma skull (*Puma concolor*, Appendix II) (and deer antlers, family Cervidae) in Vila Velha. Anyone can help combat wildlife trafficking and animal cruelty by calling the hotline at 181 or visiting the Disque Denúncia website.¹³



October 1 and November 9-10, 2025

Ponta Negra, State of Amazonas, Brazil

A jaguar (*Panthera onca*, Appendix I) that had been drifting for several hours in the Rio Negro, a tributary of the Amazon, was rescued from drowning and piranhas by the Manaus municipal police, an environmental brigade, and the Laiff Institute, which specialises in wildlife and forest interactions. A veterinary examination showed that he had been shot with 36 small lead pellets, that one of his teeth was broken, and that he had lost a lot of blood while fleeing from an ambush. After recovering, he was released back into the wild as quickly as possible. To give him every chance of retaining his instincts and independence, the keepers rubbed themselves with leaves and plants from the forest before approaching him, thus masking their human scent. This "leaf bath" contributed to the success of the operation.¹⁴

GUYANA

Mid-September 2025

Cuyuni-Mazaruni Region, Guyana

This is the story of a worker in an illegal gold mine who, at night, rides his quad bike back to the camp deep in the jungle on the banks of the Puruni River (a tributary of the Mazaruni), blinds a jaguar (*Panthera onca*, Appendix I) and shoots him, follows the blood trail with his flashlight, finishes him off, leaves, and returns the next day with friends to pull out the cat's teeth with bolt cutters. A jaguar canine tooth can be exchanged for 4.6 to 7.7 grammes of pure gold in the jungle and much more in Georgetown.¹⁵



MEXICO

September 19, 2025

Ixtapan de la Sal, State of Mexico, Mexico

A lion (*Panthera leo*, Appendix I or II) and a lioness aged approximately 7 years and 2 cubs aged approximately 3 months confined in a short grass enclosure were transferred to a facility approved by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. Kelvin "N", 23, Diana "N", 28, José "N", 24, of Venezuelan nationality, Nairobi "N", 36, a native of Cuba, Yaiza "N", 18, a native of Spain, Camilo "N", 28, a native of Colombia, and Angel "N", 56, were arrested. They are suspected of human trafficking. An investigation has been opened by Profepa (Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente) into possible additional trafficking of felines.¹⁶

September 25, 2025

Pachuca de Soto, State of Hidalgo, Mexico

Seizure and rescue of a male and female Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*, Appendix I), and a male and female lion (*Panthera leo*, Appendix II) whose condition and living conditions were deteriorating. The food they were given was rotten and foul-smelling, and they could have escaped from their dilapidated enclosures. Thanks to the Unidad de Rescate, Rehabilitación de Fauna Silvestre, Exótica y Endémica de México and the Nicolás Bravo Zoo in Tulancingo, the 2 pairs are under protection during the investigation and pending a decision on their fate.¹⁷

September 27-28, 2025

Culiacán, State of Sinaloa, Mexico

Rescue of 2 Bengal tigers (*Panthera tigris tigris*, Appendix I) from an abandoned property raided by the police. "These animals have become the silent victims of abandonment, organised crime, and the State's lack of resources to save them," laments Mr. Zazueta, president of the Ostok Sanctuary, which participated in the capture and transfer of the animals under the protection of law enforcement. Together with AZCARM (Asociación de Zoológicos, Criaderos y Acuarios de México), the Ostok Sanctuary, which has veterinary medicines, anaesthetic hypodermic guns, transport cages, and trailer trucks, has rescued 16 big cats, dozens of guard dogs, 2 horses, macaws, and parrots since the beginning of the year.¹⁸

October 21, 2025

Tonalá, State of Chiapas, Mexico

Whether it was a traffic accident or deliberate crushing, no one knows. This is the second time near the Las Gemelas gas station on the Tonalá-Arriaga road that an ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*, Appendix I) has been found dead on the side of the road in the early morning.¹⁹

SURINAME

September 16, 2025

Suriname

Seizure of 3 feline teeth by the National Forest Service. Two women were offering them for sale. Given their size, they probably came from a juvenile jaguar (*Panthera onca*, Appendix I) or an ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*, Appendix I).²⁰



EASTERN ASIA

CHINA

October 2025

Ürümqi Prefecture, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, China

Ye (not his real name) was sentenced to 5 years in prison and fined 50,000 yuan (7,000 US\$) for trapping, strangling, transporting home (on horseback), skinning, consuming the meat, and tanning the hide of a snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*, Appendix I), whose ecological value is estimated at 500,000 yuan. Ye had also trapped and used a Himalayan ibex (*Capra sibirica*, Appendix III in Pakistan) in the same manner, whose value is estimated at 50,000 yuan.²¹



MONGOLIA

September 30, 2025

Olghi District, Bayan-Olghi Aimag, Mongolia

Seizure from T. of a skin and other products derived from a snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*, Appendix I) that he had poached himself in the Delüün District. He was attempting to sell them.²²

SOUTHEASTERN ASIA

INDONESIA

September 4, 2025

Takengon, Central Aceh Regency, Aceh Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia



Sentencing of Jaharudin, age 54, Ruhman, age 30, and Saprizal, age 25, farmers, to 3 years in prison, sentencing of Maskur, age 50, a merchant, to 5 years in prison, and sentencing of Santoso alias Pajjo, age 39, a farmer, to 3 years in prison for capturing a Sumatran tiger (*Panthera tigris sumatrae*, Appendix I) in a trap on March 12, 2025, and skinning and butchering him with the ultimate aim of selling the skin and bones for profit. The trap was set in a plot of lemongrass. The 5 convicted men were fined 200 million rupiah (12,200 US\$) and sentenced to 3 months in prison in the case of non-payment. The tiger was approximately 4 years old. The skin from head to tail measured 1.66 metres in length.²³

October 3, 2025

Naga Raya Regency, Aceh Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia

S.B. was arrested on Friday. He had been on the run since July 16. At his home in the southern part of the province, police seized a Sumatran tiger skin (*Panthera tigris sumatrae*, Appendix I), 16 claws, 2 canines, a skull, 2 clavicle bones, and 18 other bones and ossicles.²⁴

October 7, 2025

Muara Baru, Special Capital Region of Jakarta, Java Island, Indonesia

Arrest of A.S.M., age 27, in possession of a leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*, Appendix II). He admits to trafficking the species to support himself. He buys them for 250,000 rupiah (15 US\$) from a certain F.A.M., who lives in the Ciamis Regency (West Java Province), 300 km away. The kitten was handed over to the BKSDA in Serang (Banten Province) in the hope that he will soon be released into the wild.²⁵

MALAYSIA

FAMILY AFFAIRS

September 16 and 23, 2025
Tenggaroh, State of Johor, Malaysia



- The body of a female tiger (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I) was found in an SUV parked at a gas station parking lot. She had wounds on her paws and 6 bullet holes in the head. The 3 suspects, including 2 brothers, are between the ages of 28 and 49. They allegedly set traps for other animals such as deer and wild boar to sell for food, but it was a female tiger who was caught and killed with a firearm. They wanted to get a lot of money out of her.

They have only got 7 years in prison and a fine for each equal to 60,000 US\$, with an additional 7 years in prison for non-payment. There are approximately 150 Malayan tigers (*Panthera tigris jacksoni*) remaining in the country. The subspecies is not recognized by all specialists.²⁶

SOUTHERN ASIA

INDIA

September 17, 2025

New Delhi, New Delhi District, National Capital Territory of Delhi, India

As part of a public interest litigation, attorney Gaurav Kumar Bansal is seeking urgent intervention by the Supreme Court to ensure that the Special

Investigation Team (SIT) report issued in June 2025 on the poaching of tigers (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I) in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh and the smuggling of bones, skins, claws, and other parts to China via Myanmar be followed by a joint investigation by the Indian Union's Ministers of Home Affairs, Environment, and Forests, the NTCA (National Tiger Conservation Authority), the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), and the Forest Services Directorates of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. In his request, lawyer Bansal states that the SIT has established the involvement of members of the Pardhi, Baheliya, Bawaria, Van Gujjar, and Sapera communities in poaching, as well as the existence of a network of financial transactions via banks, digital payments, and hawala, a traditional informal payment system. The report also notes that tigers are increasingly being poached outside the boundaries of protected areas, beyond the jurisdiction of forest departments, even though the Wildlife Protection Act also requires tiger conservation plans in the buffer zones of protected areas. By extension, the lawyer calls for the protection of tigers in their migration corridor between the Bandhavgarh and Kanha Tiger Reserves in Madhya Pradesh and the Tadoba Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra. He also cites the example of the Pench Tiger Reserve, part of which lies in Madhya Pradesh and the other in Maharashtra. "Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra form the heartland of India's tiger population."²⁷

THE METICULOUS WORK OF THE SIT (SPECIAL INVESTIGATION TEAM)

- February 19 and 22, 2023. Arrest of 4 members of the Bawaria tribe from Panchkula (Haryana) and 2 women in possession of tiger and leopard parts in the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (see "On the Trail" n°39 p.46, ref.74).
- June 28, 2023. Arrest in Dharapur, Assam, of 2 men and 2 women in possession of a tiger skin, 18 kg of bones, and claws. They claim to be porters paid 25,000 rupees (300 US\$) to transport the items to Shillong (Meghalaya), from where, according to their statements, the tiger parts were to be smuggled into Myanmar (see "On the Trail" n°41 p.42, ref.8).
- July 23, 2023. 16 consecutive arrests, 6 men, 5 women, and 5 children, in possession of traps and the means to manufacture them, in the district of Gadchiroli (Maharashtra) (see "On the Trail" n°41 p.42, ref.8).
- July 22, 2023. Arrest of 4 residents of Dharchula (Uttarakhand) in possession of the skin and 15 kg of bones from a tiger they allegedly poached in the Corbett Tiger Reserve (see "On the Trail" n°41 p.43, ref.11).
- July 30, 2023. Arrest of Mishram Jakhad, a former field investigator for the NGO Wildlife Protection Society and former forest ranger suspected of organising a tiger skin trafficking ring in Maharashtra with the Bawaria tribe and taking a commission of 30,000 rupees (360 US\$) for each poached tiger (see "On the Trail" n°41 p.42, ref.8).
- August 18, 2023. Arrest of Adin Singh, alias Sonu Singh Bawaria, alias Kalla Bawariya, suspected in Nepal and India of poaching 12 tigers. He was found in possession of tiger whiskers, teeth, and pangolin scales (see "On the Trail" n°41 p.42, ref.8). His father, Ranjit Singh, was an associate of Sansar Chand, the legendary tiger poacher (see "On the Trail" n°2 p.39, n°5 p.62, p.65 and p.125, n°6 p.52, ref.16, n°9 p.47, ref.29, p.49, ref.40, and p.100, ref.62, n°14 p.47, ref.4, n°32 p.71, ref.7, and n°42 p.139, ref.51).
- Early 2024. Sonu is released on bail. He is closely monitored by the authorities.(.../...)

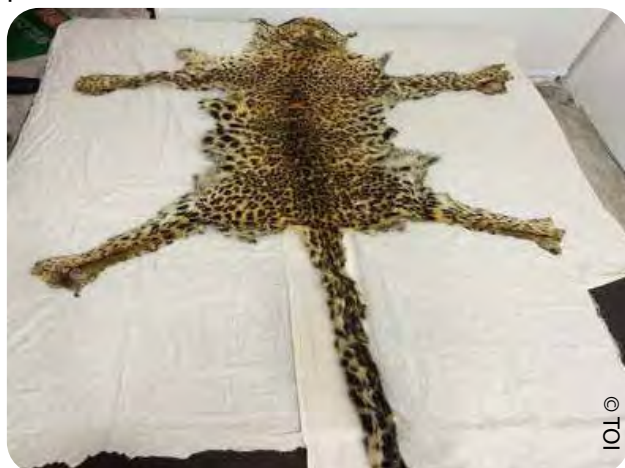
(.../...)

- July 2024. Arrest of Ajeet Siyalal Pardhi of the Pardhi tribe in Katni district (Madhya Pradesh). Ajeet is released on bail and disappears from the justice system's radar. Although their tribes are concerned with their independence and carry out ancestral poaching activities each on their own, Sonu and Ajeet are said to have reached an agreement to "work" together for the benefit of a secret organisation that had, despite some preliminary clues, thus far eluded the investigators' scrutiny.
- January 25, 2025. Arrest of Ajeet Siyalal in Chandrapur district (Maharashtra). His 3 sons flee. One of them loses his phone, and decryption reveals previously unknown information that triggers a cascade of arrests and leads to the organisation's leader.
- January 28, 2025. Sonu is arrested in Gadchiroli district (Maharashtra).
- January 30, 2025. Lalneisung Mhar, 50, a former soldier in the Assam Regiment, is arrested in Shillong (Meghalaya). He served sort of as the organisation's financial director. His role was to pay poachers and transporters via bank transfer. He was under the orders of a certain Ning San Lun. Between 2023 and 2025, transactions identified by investigators in the various bank accounts he managed totaled 20 million rupees (234,000 US\$).
- February 7, 2025. Arrest in Shillong of Ning San Lun, 41, an Indian national whose family lives in Myanmar. Her phone contained more than 500 photos of byproducts from animals subject to poaching and smuggling, including tiger skins and bones. She exported the tiger parts to Myanmar with the help of her cousin David, and the poached products in India were subsequently sold and distributed in China.
- March 2, 2025. Arrest in Manipur of Kap Liang Mung, the husband of Ning San Lun and a member of the Assam Rifles.

SIT investigators encountered several surprises during their investigation. Families living in a shack under a plastic tarp had various bank accounts into which hundreds of thousands of rupees (equivalent to thousands of US dollars) were regularly deposited. "Though barely educated, they have no problem running bank accounts, tracking online payments, and booking consignments and flight tickets." "What we discovered was that buyers in Myanmar were mostly after tiger bones, destined for use in traditional medicine in China and Viet Nam. The skins were included in consignments only as proof of authenticity." "Fresh bones fetch a lot more for their marrow and flesh residue, which help mature tiger wine." At least 100 tigers are believed to have fallen victim to this secretive pyramid scheme. The Special Investigation Team consisted of agents from the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change, the NTCA (National Tiger Conservation Authority), and the WCCB (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) in New Delhi.

**September 18, 2025
Chandigarh, Union Territory of Chandigarh,
India**

With the 4 paws spread apart, tail stretched out, and head flattened, the DRI (Directorate of Revenue Intelligence) photo on a white background is clinical. If Vikram Singh Baghel and Avdhesh Chaudhary had not been arrested, the skin would have ended up on a marble floor. The leopard was poached in a forest in Himachal Pradesh.²⁸



**September 21, 2025
Devagiri, Uttara Kannada District,
State of Karnataka, India**

The leopard cub (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) became entangled in a wild boar trap; another version says he got caught in a barbed wire fence. In both cases, the goal was the same: to prevent anyone from trespassing on cultivated land. The cub died.²⁹



September 25 - October 9, 2025

Kochi, Ernakulam District, State of Kerala, India



Baby V.J., who is blamed for the death of a leopard (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) caught in a trap on September 23, was arrested on the 25th. Since then, he has been held in preventive detention for violating the Kerala Forest Act (1961) and the Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972). The High Court ordered his release on bail of 50,000 rupees (560 US\$), based on 4 facts:

- the evidence of Baby's involvement in setting the trap, capturing the leopard and intending to capture him is insufficient,
- the length of his pre-trial detention, even before any sentence has been handed down by the court, is punitive in nature,
- Baby has no criminal record and does not present a particular risk of repeat offences or of refusing to comply with court summonses,
- his advanced age (70) justifies adjusting his pre-trial detention to take into account the plausible risks to his health.³⁰

September 26, 2025

Nagaria Khurd, Bareilly District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India



The leopard (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) died nineteen hours after being freed from a motorcycle clutch cable trap that had compressed his abdomen. He was 4 years old. Dr. Daksh Gangwar, veterinarian at the Pilibhit Tiger Reserve, knew that the race against death was not a foregone conclusion. The leopard was not bleeding, had no wounds on his back, and no skin abrasions. He succumbed to capture myopathy, a condition with marked morbidity and mortality that occur in wild and domestic animals. It arises from inflicted stress and physical exertion that would typically occur with pursuit, capture, restraint or transportation of animals.³¹

Saturday, September 27, 2025

Bhetapara, Kamrup Metropolitan District, State of Assam, India

Seizure of a complete tiger skin (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I), including the head, teeth, jaws, and claws (and 8 spotted deer skins, *Axis axis*), at the home of Ananda Ram Deka, a self-proclaimed clergyman who feigned illness upon his arrest. He was taken to the hospital. Normally, he was supposed to appear in court on Monday morning.³²

Night of 27 to 28 September 2025

Manch, Karauli District, State of Rajasthan, India

An SUV on the NH-23 road stops in the night and 2 men pick up a leopard cub (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) wandering along the side of the road, dazzled by the headlights. Someone in a car behind films the scene. Samay Singh, 30, sarpanch (equivalent to mayor) of the village of Shyampur, and Rajendra Meena were quickly identified and arrested. The leopard cub was taken to safety.³³

September 30, 2025

Damare, Sindhudurg District, State of Maharashtra, India



© Maharashtra Forest Department

Twelve claws, 4 leopard canines (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I), 4 arrests. The trap set by Rohan Bhatte, the forest ranger, and his team worked.³⁴

October 2, 2025

Pachchedoddi, Chamarajanagar District, State of Karnataka, India



A female tiger (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I) cut into 3 pieces is discovered within a 100-metre radius by a routine patrol. The head and front paws are covered with leaves, while the torso and hind paws are half buried. Nine suspects have been arrested. The tiger was poisoned in an act of revenge. She is believed to have attacked a cow grazing in the forest. In 4 months, 8 tigers have been killed in the district. Five were poisoned by the carcass of a cow sprayed with insecticide near the Mahadeshwar temple (see "On the Trail" n°46, p. 28, ref. 10), and 2 tiger cubs were found orphaned and starved to death in the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary.³⁵

October 3 and 10, 2025

Panpatha Wildlife Sanctuary, Umaria District, State of Madhya Pradesh, India

- A mother tiger (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I) is found in a state of decomposition on the outskirts of the sanctuary. She had been dead for around 10 days. She was cremated on site in accordance with current protocol. The deputy director of the sanctuary and a gamekeeper have been suspended from duty and transferred. They are suspected of negligence. Following the alert raised by tiger conservationist Ajay Dubey, 3 tiger cubs are reported missing.

- A patrol locates and rescues 2 of the orphans. They have been released under supervision into an area away from poaching and human-wildlife conflict. The fate of the third remains unknown.³⁶

October 12 and 21, 2025

Aramtola and Maira Forest, Balaghat District, State of Madhya Pradesh, India

Seizure of 13 tiger claws (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I) in a red cloth bag in a motorcycle saddlebag. Arrest of Mahendra Madavi and Mahendra Raut. Two accomplices fled, also on motorcycles. One of them, Satish Bhalawi, was recaptured a few days later and led investigators to a ditch in the middle of the forest, where bones believed to be tiger bones were uncovered after digging with shovels. The fourth man, Nand Kishore Patle, is still at large.³⁷

October 14, 2025

Navera, Valsad District, State of Gujarat, India

Seizure of a leopard skin (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) and barn owl bones (*Tyto alba*, Appendix II). Arrest of Ajay Patel and Suresh Vanjara. They intended to use the remains in paid black magic sessions. Sitaram Valvi, the seller of the skin, fled.³⁸

FAMILY AFFAIRS

October 23, 2025

Keonjhar, Keonjhar District, State of Odisha, India



Seizure of a leopard skin (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I). Arrest of Rabindra Tudu and his brother-in-law Manua Hembram. The approximately 10-year-old leopard is believed to have been poached in the Similipal Tiger Reserve. An examination of their phones shows that the 2 scoundrels are also involved in ivory trafficking. In one photo, they are seen weighing tusks.³⁹

October 25 and 27, 2025

Ghughra, Jabalpur District, State of Madhya Pradesh, India



- Acting on confidential information, forest rangers raided the Nisarg Ispat Private Limited open-pit mine owned by local mining magnate Mahendra Goenka. He specialises in the mining of bauxite, graphite, and lithium. In the agricultural part of the operation (100 hectares), 4 wild boar carcasses were discovered, as well as the carcass of a leopard (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) with 18 claws and 4 canines amputated. As a precautionary measure, the farm manager, an excavator operator, and a mine employee were arrested. Two forest rangers were transferred. They are suspected of negligence or complicity.

Mahendra Goenka has responded by claiming to be the victim of a settling of scores and jealousy on the part of a competitor, Sanjay Pathak, who is also a member of the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly affiliated with the BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party, Indian People's Party). According to Goenka, the set-up is all the more obvious given that there has never been a leopard in the area. The industrialist, who presents himself as a passionate visionary with strategic foresight, is calling on the Prime Minister to conduct a thorough investigation to foil the plot of which he claims to be a victim.⁴⁰

October 26, 2025

Arjunpur, Sonepur District, State of Odisha, India

Seizure of a leopard skin (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) in a car on the road from Sonepur to Barpalli. Arrest of Prakash Kanhar and Ranjit Bhokta, residents of the neighbouring Boudh District.⁴¹

October 28, 2025

Mudradi, Udupi District, State of Karnataka, India



The leopard caught in a wild boar trap was struggling and roaring. No one dared to approach him. Villagers immediately called the forest rangers. The leopard was anaesthetised and freed from the trap. The injuries were superficial. The alert was raised before his condition deteriorated, and the leopard, under the authority of veterinarians Meghana and Yashaswini, with the assistance of Akshay Shetty of the Snake Trust, which specialises in the rescue of snakes and other wild animals, was promptly released when he woke up.⁴²

NEPAL

October 30, 2025

Gwarko, Lalitpur District, Bagmati Province, Nepal

Seizure of a leopard skin (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) from Ramadevi Shrestha, resident of Kathmandu, and Mathura B.K., resident of Bhaktapur.⁴³

SRI LANKA

October 16, 2025

Wathurugama, Western Province, Sri Lanka

A search by wildlife protection officers led to the seizure of a fake leopard (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) covered with real leopard skin. The "owner" was released on bail for 500,000 rupees (1,600 US\$).⁴⁴



NORTHERN EUROPE

LATVIA

Week of September 1 and September 23, 2025
Kombuli, Krāslava Municipality, Latvia



"A taming hand can destroy a life." The Eurasian lynx kitten (*Lynx lynx*, Appendix II) was reportedly seen wandering on a road and a family, out of compassion, adopted him and imposed a diet and living conditions that were devoid of common sense and freedom. He was tied to a stake or kept on a leash. As for care, the family knew nothing about it and did not seek advice. When State veterinarians and other specialists arrived on the scene, alerted by public rumours, the lynx kitten was familiar and submissive, wounded on his paws, bitten by a dog or other animal, and suffering from tremors in his paws and chest. He died a few days later at the Riga National Zoo.⁴⁵

WESTERN EUROPE

FRANCE

REPEATED OFFENCE / FAMILY AFFAIRS
September 4, 2025

Lille, Department of Nord, France

Sentenced to a suspended prison sentence of 18 months, a fine of 10,000 € (11,700 US\$), a 2-year ban on owning animals, and mandatory attendance at an animal abuse prevention course for keeping a black panther (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I). He allegedly bought him at the age of one from travellers for 2,500 € (2,850 US\$) and denies, despite his circle of acquaintances being involved in animal trafficking, having wanted to resell him later at a profit. His ex-wife was given a 4-month suspended prison sentence. See "On the Trail" n°26, p. 68 (ref. 50) and n°27, p. 77 (ref. 40).⁴⁶



End of September 2025

Saint-Martin-la-Plaine, Department of Loire, France

Arrival at the Tonga Terre d'Accueil sanctuary of a female serval (*Leptailurus serval*, Appendix II) around 5 years old. She was being kept illegally in the south of France. Her experience of captivity has made her unfriendly towards humans.⁴⁷

Mid-October 2025

Saint-Martin-la-Plaine, Department of Loire, France

Arrival at the Tonga Terre d'Accueil refuge of a caracal (*Caracal caracal*, Appendix II except for Asian populations in Appendix I) previously held illegally in the south of France. He had been temporarily taken in by the Rainier III Animal Park in Monaco after his seizure.⁴⁸



October 23, 2025

Noirmont Forest, Department of Doubs, France. Border with Switzerland.

In the national forest, a Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*, Appendix II) is limping heavily on his hind paw. A camera trap has captured this. At an altitude of 1,200 meters and 3 km from any roads, it is unlikely that the animal fled after an accidental or intentional collision with a car. "The adult female has a semi-open tibia fracture, her life is in danger," warns the Athénas Centre, which suspects the fracture was caused by a hunting bullet, as has been observed in lynx before. Gilles Moyné, director of the centre, adds that time is running out. "We need to find her within 10 days."⁴⁹

SWITZERLAND

October 17, 2025

La Roche, Canton of Fribourg, Switzerland



B606, 8 years old, is dead. The body of the female Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*, Appendix II) was discovered by a gamekeeper in a ditch. She had been dead for over a month. An autopsy performed at a wildlife laboratory in Bern confirmed that she had been targeted by a poacher. The greatest concern now is for the survival of her kittens, who were only a few weeks old when they were orphaned.⁵⁰

SPAIN / FRANCE

OPERATION THUNDER

April 14 and October 2025

Manacor, Mallorca Island, Autonomous Community of Balearic Islands, Spain / Department of Seine-Saint-Denis, France

- The case began in Spain with the dismantling of an online network selling white tigers (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I), black panthers (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I), pumas (*Puma concolor*, Appendix II), and hyenas (family Hyaenidae). 19 felines, including a white tiger, a puma, a caracal (*Caracal caracal*, Appendix II except for Asian populations in Appendix I), 2 servals (*Leptailurus serval*, Appendix II), caracats (hybrids of caracals with domestic cats of the Maine Coon or Abyssinian type) and savannah cats (hybrids of servals with Bengal cats) were seized, along with certificates of dubious authenticity.

- The case continued in France in the northern suburbs of Paris thanks to the examination of all the documents seized in Spain and the coordination of the Spanish and French authorities under the auspices of Operation Thunder, Interpol, and the World Customs Organisation. The serval that was about to be seized by French customs and captured by firefighters had disappeared. In fact, he had been thrown into a bag by the owner of the premises on the balcony of the neighbour below and was found unharmed and apparently in good health. Surprise: a caracal that was not on the schedule was discovered in a shed. The 2 small cats are each estimated to be worth 6,000 € (7,000 US\$). They have travelled a long way. Originally from Russia or Belarus, they first passed through Spain before being shipped to France.⁵¹

EASTERN EUROPE

ROMANIA

October 17, 2025

Arges County, Romania

Search warrant issued by the prosecutor. Two caracals (*Caracal caracal*, Appendix II except for Asian populations in Appendix I), aged 10 months for the male and 3 months for the female, vaccinated and identified by microchips presumed to be valid, were placed in quarantine pending the conclusions of the investigation. It remains to be verified that the owner of the premises is not engaged in illegal breeding and smuggling into the European Union of felines or products of their hybridisation with Maine Coons or Abyssinian cats.⁵²

RUSSIA

September 10, 2025

Dobрино, Guryevsky District, Kaliningrad Oblast, Russia

A Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*, Appendix II) was found shot in the forest near the village of approximately 500 inhabitants. Despite emergency treatment, he did not survive. Hunting lynxes is completely prohibited in the oblast.⁵³

September 22, 2025

Moscow Federal City, Russia

At the request of the prosecutor, the Meshchansky District Court banned access to a website offering a leopard (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) for sale for 5,000 US\$ to 7,000 US\$. "This publication violates Russian law and international agreements prohibiting trade in rare animal species."⁵⁴

September 24, 2025

Khasan (border with China and North Korea) and Bezverkhovo, Nadezhdinsky District, Primorsky Krai, Russia

- Seizure of Siberian tiger paws (*Panthera tigris altaica*, Appendix I) in a car on the Razdolnoye-Khasan road. A man already known to the police was arrested.

- Subsequently, 2 other men, also known to the police, were arrested. They led the police to a section of forest near Bezverkhovo where the tiger had been poached and other remains buried. At their homes and among their associates, 87 kg of marijuana were seized.

- The 3 men were held in custody for one month and 23 days.⁵⁵

CZECHIA

September 2, 2025

Liberec, Liberec Region, Czechia

Transfer of a 12-year-old Siberian tiger (*Panthera tigris altaica*, Appendix I) to the Felida sanctuary in Nijeb-erkoop (Netherlands) by the NGO Four Paws. He had been seized in the spring of 2025 from an abandoned illegal menagerie in Hošťalková, in the Zlin

Region. He had been imprisoned there for 10 years. Starving and sick, he was transferred to Liberec Zoo. His owner was well known to the authorities: he had already been convicted of illegally keeping 5 lions (*Panthera leo*, Appendix I or II) that died as a result of mistreatment.⁵⁶

Liberec Region, see "On the Trail" n°25 p.63 (ref.15) and n°32 p.76 (ref.39).



CANIDS AND HYAENA



Bengal foxes (*Vulpes bengalensis*). Photo Uday Agashe (BY-NC)

AFRICA

TUNISIA

October 7, 2025
Grombalia, Governorate of Nabeul, Tunisia



Nine individuals sought to share a half-dead striped hyaena (*Hyaena hyaena*, Appendix III in Pakistan) captured in a trap. According to the local press, they wanted to use his body parts in black magic and witchcraft rituals. It is true that charlatanism is a way of earning a living. Seized by forestry officials from the governorate and the police, the hyaena was taken to a veterinary clinic. His condition is critical.



The striped hyaena has virtually disappeared from southern Tunisia. The last sightings date back to 2016 on the edge of the N5 national road between Testour and El Kef. The species' range in Africa extends from Algeria, Libya and Egypt to the sub-Saharan countries and Ethiopia.¹

ZIMBABWE

Mid-September 2025
Matetsi Safari Area, Matabeleland North Province, Zimbabwe. Border with Zambia, Namibia, and Botswana.



Rescue by the Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust of a wild dog (*Lycan pictus*) that had become trapped in a snare. The wound was deep. The pack remained calm during anaesthesia and treatment. The operation was carried out with the support of ZimParks and the Matetsi 7 unit.²



AMERICA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

September 2, 2025

Salmon, Lemhi County, State of Idaho, United States of America

The hero of hunters and influencers has been charged with fraud for lying about the location where he killed the beautiful grey wolf (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II), whose still-warm carcass he triumphantly carries. Ryan Lampers, known as StHealthyHunter, claimed to have killed the wolf in BGMU (Big Game Management



Unit) 28 at Gant Mountain, which allowed him to collect a 2,000 US\$ reward from the Foundation for Wildlife Management, a nonprofit organisation that offers cash rewards to wolf hunters in Idaho and Montana. In fact, he killed the wolf in BGMU 21 in Cove Creek and should have received only 750 US\$. In addition to being a hunting fanatic, Lampers is a low-life con artist.³

URUGUAY

September 1, 2025

Solís de Matajojo, Lavalleja Department, Uruguay

Poisoning of 6 Pampas foxes (*Lycalopex gymnocercus*, Appendix II) or crab-eating foxes (*Cerdocyon thous*, Appendix II). According to Uruguay Fototrampeo, the audiovisual platform dedicated to wildlife, the practice is prohibited in Uruguay. "Poison does not distinguish between species and poses a danger to all, including domestic animals, wild animals, birds of prey, native carnivores, and even humans."⁴



ASIA

BANGLADESH

October 3, 2025

Begumganj Upazila, Noakhali District, Chittagong Division, Bangladesh

"Once upon a time, there was a fox in my village." It was with this discreet and nostalgic statement to the media outlet Prothom Alo that Professor Aziz of the Department of Zoology at Jahangirnagar University predicted the imminent extinction of the species in Bangladesh. At the beginning of October, Bengal fox meat (*Vulpes bengalensis*, Appendix III in India) was on sale in a butcher's shop at a price of 2,500 taka/kg (20 US\$/kg). Fifteen kilograms were seized. Bengal foxes have been protected by national law since 2012. In the same district and at the same time, 60 kg of meat was seized in 2024. Demand is high. Legend has it that fox meat cures arthritis, and at least 500,000 patients are said to suffer from it in Bangladesh. "Trying to cure rheumatism by eating fox meat and oil is pointless and can even trigger other diseases." The wise words of Professor Abu Shahin of the University of Medicine are not sufficiently heard, relayed, or taken into account by the justice system. The courts impose fines on poachers caught in the act that are lower than the profits from trafficking, and those who slip through the net of the police or wildlife guards are in a sense encouraged to persevere and meet an unending demand. The selling price of dead foxes is rising. Bengal foxes, see "On the Trail" n°35 p.183 (ref.55), n°38 p.209 (ref.55) and p.210 (ref.62), n°39 p.48 (ref.5), n°40 p.32 (ref.92) and p.144 (ref.90), n°41 p.176 (ref.46), n°42 p.40 (ref.3) and n°44 p.187 (ref.75).⁵

EUROPE

GERMANY

October 16, 2025

Troschenreuth, Bayreuth District, Bavaria Land, Germany

The autopsy performed by the Leibniz Institute on the young grey wolf (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) found dead by a hiker in the mountainous forest of Kitschenrain has made it possible to partially reconstruct the circumstances of his death. He was wounded by a firearm. He did not die instantly. He managed to drag himself a little further away. He died of exhaustion after losing blood. The killing of wolves in Germany is only permitted if they pose a real and documented threat to humans and domestic animal herds.⁶

CROATIA

End of September 2025

Split, Split-Dalmatia County, Croatia

Psychiatrist Tomislav Pelivan was fined 3,400 € (4,000 US\$) and banned from owning animals for 2 years. "On the Trail" n°44 (p. 54, ref. 14), published in April 2025, listed all the acts of cruelty he had inflicted on fighting dogs and a 3-4-year-old female and male grey wolf (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II).⁷



FINLAND

Wednesday, October 15, and Sunday, October 19, 2025

Sotkamo, Region of Kainuu, Finland

- The body of a grey wolf (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) was found on the side of a road. He had been shot through with a bullet. The investigation will have to determine whether the wolf was shot on the spot or whether his body was dumped on the side of the road to simulate a collision. A call for witnesses has been issued.

- A wolf was shot by a hunter whose explanations are unclear. According to him, his dog was chasing a deer 200-300 metres away. His grey Norwegian elkhound was allegedly attacked by a pack of wolves, and the hunter shot one of them, claiming self-defence for his dog and himself. The weapon used in the crime has not been seized, and the police are not yet commenting on the legality of the shooting.⁸

ITALY

Sunday, September 28, 2025

Vermiglio, Autonomous Province of Trento, Region of Trentino-Alto Adige, Italy

"If this were an investigation into the disappearance of a human being, it would be said that the body and the irrefutable evidence of the crime have vanished." The Ente Nazionale per la Protezione degli Animali (ENPA, National Agency for the Protection of Animals) has lost contact with the female grey wolf (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) "Ludovica". Since Sunday, September 28, a day of hunting and commotion in the forests of Val di Sole, her GPS-VHF collar has stopped transmitting signals. A member of the Tonale pack, she had been captured and fitted with a tracking collar on April 1, 2025, in the Lombardy sector of the Stelvio National Park. Thanks to her tracking, analysts were able to study the pack's movements and structure. Ivana Sandri, an ethologist at ENPA, suspects "a crime committed against an animal protected by national law, against scientific knowledge, and against the local population. The study of Ludovica's behaviour was intended to facilitate coexistence between humans and wolves through knowledge that is still too often lacking and whose usefulness is contested by those who have an interest in spreading fear." ENPA has filed a complaint with the public prosecutor's office and the Carabinieri command. The organisation "Io non ho paura del lupo" (I'm Not Afraid of the Wolf) is also demanding the truth and describes the province as a "hotbed of crime against biodiversity" (see also p.50 réf.30). Tonale pack, see "On the Trail" n°45 p.36 (ref.11).⁹

On the Trail n°48. Robin des Bois, May 2026

RUSSIA

End of September 2025

Kamyzyaksky District, Astrakhan Oblast, Russia

Game wardens apprehended a tourist-poacher who had killed 4 golden jackals (*Canis aureus*, Appendix III in India), one red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), and 13 hares. The hunting season for jackals and foxes does not begin until November 1. His weapons and hunting equipment were seized.¹⁰

SWITZERLAND

September 1, 2025

Val Poschiavo, Canton of Grisons, Switzerland. Border with Italy.

The grey wolf (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) was found mortally wounded by a gamekeeper in Val Poschiavo, where wolf hunting is prohibited "to date" according to the Graubünden Office of Hunting and Fishing. His body was transferred to the Department of Zoology at the University of Bern for a thorough forensic analysis. Wolf hunting was banned on September 1, 2025, in Val Poschiavo, but the fact remains that this Alpine valley is a shooting range for wolves. The poaching of a female wolf on September 9, 1954, by a hunter who mistook her for a fox is documented in the archives.



The wolf of Poschiavo in September 1954

In 2023, the Canton of Graubünden asked the Federal Office for the Environment for permission to cull two-thirds of the wolf pups in the Davos and Val Poschiavo packs. Davos loves billionaires but not wolves. The authorisation was suspended at the end of 2023 by the Federal Administrative Court following an appeal by Pro Natura, WWF, and Birdlife Switzerland. On October 1, 2024, without waiting for a ruling on the merits, the Graubünden government ordered the culling of the young wolves from the Val Poschiavo pack. Between 100 and 150 wolves live in the Canton of Graubünden (7,105 km²). Their travels can take them across the border into the Italian part of the valley. Wolves in Graubünden, see "On the Trail" n°12 p. 101, n°40 p. 67 (ref. 15) and n°44 p. 58 (ref. 35).¹¹

BEARS



Ussuri brown bear (*Ursus arctos lasiotus*), Japon. Photo Klotzf (BY-NC)

NORTHERN AMERICA

CANADA

End of September 2025

Powell River, Province of British Columbia, Canada

Seneca Anthony and Kody Bevan have been charged with fatally wounding a 4-year-old grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*, Appendix II) who, after swimming 5 km, had landed on Texada Island in July 2025. There was talk of relocating him to an archipelago 100 km from the island in an area managed by native populations (see "On the Trail" n°47 p.43, ref.1). However, according to the British Columbia government, this option was unlikely to be successful, given that the bear had already been relocated twice and stubbornly returned to Texada Island, to which he was attached.¹

October 2, 2025

Richmond, Province of British Columbia, Canada

After 3 and a half years of investigation, Xiang Jun Wang is facing 17 charges under the Wildlife Act between October 2022 and May 2025 relating to the trafficking of meat from American black bears (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II), moose (*Alces alces*) and elk (*Cervus canadensis*).²

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

September 9, 2025

State of Montana, United States of America



A 10,000 US\$ fine for Bryant Mikkelson, seller or renter of equipment for hunting bears and other big game, for fatally shooting a grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*, Appendix II) after tracking him in the Highwood and Little Belt mountains and failing to report it to the authorities. Mikkelson had sent photos of the bear and the rifle he used to kill him to a few acquaintances before changing his mind and asking all his correspondents to delete the photos. On June 11, 2025, 15 days after the bear's concealed death, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks located the scene of the crime and found only a pool of dried blood and entrails. The carcass had disappeared.³

September 11, 2025

Lynchburg, State of Virginia, United States of America

A man has been charged with killing an American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) outside of hunting season and in a residential area. The investigation proved that, contrary to the allegations of the shooter and his wife, the bear had not approached the family's chicken coop and was not known in the neighbourhood to be a problem bear. After hearing dogs barking, the man grabbed his .45 calibre handgun, spotted the bear at the top of a tree, fired once, and then twice more as the wounded bear tumbled from branch to branch.⁴

September 27, 2025

Udall, Ozark County, State of Missouri, United States of America



Curtis Hastings has been charged with killing an American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) with a compound crossbow, skinning and butchering him, and placing the meat in freezer bags labelled as deer meat. He is also accused of illegally hunting deer using bait and possessing 2 foothold traps for capturing raccoons without a trapping licence.⁵

End of September 2025

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

The American black bear cub (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) was living in a doghouse and eating dog food at the home of an individual who claimed to have rescued and adopted her. After being seized in June 2025 by the DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation), she was entrusted to the Friends of the Feathered and Furry Wildlife Centre and, after 4 months of care and re-learning how to live in the wild, she was released into the Adirondack Mountains by the DEC under the coordination of Brittany Delor and Shane Manns.⁶



End of September 2025

Highland Mills, Orange County, State of New York, United States of America

On their outward journey on Route 32 in the Highland Mills at around 9:30 a.m., Eileen Novick and Susan Garcia had seen a large blue pick-up truck parked and spotted an American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) lying on the side of the road. On their return an hour later, the pick-up truck was gone, but the bear was still there, with a bullet in his side and both front paws cut off. The investigation is ongoing. In the county, bear hunting, which is subject to numerous restrictions, is open from mid-November.⁷

End of September 2025

State of Utah, United States of America



An American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) was shot with a general muzzleloader during the fall deer hunt (September 27-October 5, 2024). After a thorough investigation, agents from the Utah Department of Natural Resources tracked down the poachers. They had also poached a branch antlered bull, even though they only had a licence for spike deer, and were in illegal possession of several firearms. They were fined several thousand US\$ and ordered to pay restitution. The Department of Natural Resources' press release does not specify the location of the poaching, the number of poachers, or the amount of the fines.⁸

September 2025

Arch Cape, Clatsop County, State of Oregon, United States of America

Astoria Troopers, alerted by reports of a suspicious gunshot, witness through their binoculars the butchering of an American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) on Arch Cape Water District property, where only deer and elk hunting are permitted. After making their way through the brambles and blueberry bushes, one of the officers apprehended the poacher, who immediately admitted to the crime. The skin and meat were seized.⁹



October 4, 2025

Newton County, State of Arkansas, United States of America

- On Thursday, October 2, 2025, Max Thomas was found dead at Sam's Throne Campground in the Ozark National Forest. The alleged attacker was an American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II). He was photographed by camera traps. The exact circumstances of the attack are unknown.

- On Saturday, October 4, a bear matching the incriminating photographs was deliberately shot by forest rangers.

- On October 23, forensic experts at the University of Florida laboratory revealed that the DNA profile of the bear shot on October 4 does not match that of the bear responsible for Max Thomas' death. Until the prime suspect is found and neutralised, Sam's Throne campground and its surroundings remain closed.¹⁰

October 7, 2025

State of Montana, United States of America



Cory Lawrence, a resident of Utah, has been fined 10,000 US\$ to be paid into the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund. He had shot a grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*, Appendix II) on May 16, 2023, and abandoned the carcass on the side of a road in Sanders County (Montana), failing to report it to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (see "On the Trail" n°40 p.72, ref.13). Utah and Montana are neighbouring States.¹¹

October 20 to 24, 2025

Allegheny, Frederick and Washington Counties, State of Maryland, United States of America

For the year 2025, hunting for American black bears (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) was open from Monday 20 to Saturday 25 October. 1,050 hunters were selected by lottery. Targeting bears must take place 150 yards (137 metres) or more from a baited location, and if hunting is taking place in a spot previously baited for deer, 10 days must pass after all bait has been removed. Hunters that violate the baiting law for black bears can face up to 1,500 US\$ for a first offence and up to 4,000 US\$ for a second offence.

Allegheny County

- A man and a woman are cited for baiting bears with corn, bread and wafers. They face a fine of 1,500 US\$. They were positioned 36 and 73 metres from the baiting area.

- A 61-year-old man is cited for baiting bears with a log coated in a sugary mixture, a bucket of corn kernels and fresh red apples. He was perched in a tree with a revolver and without the mandatory orange suit. He faces a fine of 6,000 US\$. He was 9 metres from the baiting area.

- Two men aged 26 and 66 are cited for baiting bears with apples and corn. They face a fine of 1,500 US\$. They were 36 metres from the baiting area.

Washington County

- A 37-year-old man is cited for baiting bears with corn, pumpkins, soybeans, apples and sweets. He faces a fine of 1,500 US\$. He was 27 metres away from the baiting area.

- Two men aged 36 and 58 are cited for hunting bears with a bolt-action Savage .308 rifle and a bolt-action Savage .30-06 rifle in the Indian Springs Wildlife Management Area, despite previous convictions prohibiting them from possessing firearms. They face up to 4 years in prison and a fine of 4,000 US\$.

- A 38-year-old man is cited for transporting buckets of molasses to a baiting area already littered with apples. He faces a fine of 1,500 US\$.

Frederick County

- A 66-year-old man has been charged with baiting bears with corn kernels. He faces a fine of 1,500 US\$. He was 20 metres away from the baiting area.

- A 20-year-old man is cited for hunting bears without a licence and for baiting them with corn kernels on private property. He faces a fine of 3,000 US\$. He was 36 metres from the baiting area.¹²

October 28, 2025

Boundary County, State of Idaho, United States of America

A female grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*, Appendix II) has been poached north of Lake Perkins, near the border with Montana. She was wearing a GPS collar, and the lack of movement alerted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.¹³

ASIA

ARMENIA

October 30, 2025

Hermon, Vayots Dzor Region, Armenia



Release of a brown bear cub (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II), approximately 2 years old, who got caught in a homemade metal trap. Not far away in the forest, 3 other traps were found and confiscated. The cub was transferred to the Caucasian Biodiversity Refuge in Urtsadzor.¹⁴

GEORGIA

October 25, 2025

Georgia

The Department of Environmental Monitoring has launched an investigation following the circulation on social media of the poaching of a brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II). The poacher faces a fine of 50,000 lari (18,400 US\$).¹⁵

INDIA

September 8, 2025

Bhimkhoj and Joratarai, Mahasamund District, State of Chhattisgarh, India



Poaching of a sloth bear (*Melursus ursinus*, Appendix I) (and a wild boar) using homemade electric traps. Five arrests and one fugitive.¹⁶

INDONESIA

September 10, 2025

Pujon, Kapuas Regency, Central Kalimantan Province, Borneo Island, Indonesia

Handing over of a Malayan sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*, Appendix I) to the BKSDA by Mr. Sudata, who had been keeping him at his home for a year and a half. He had obtained him from illegal gold miners working in the Kapuas River, a tributary of the Barito. Officials hope to be able to release him. "Preserving animals means preserving life."¹⁷

End of September 2025 Sumatra Island, Indonesia

The female Malayan sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*, Appendix I) had been removed from trafficking thanks to an intervention and seizure by the BKSDA. She was on her way to Dubai. She was handed over to JAAN (Jakarta Animal Aid Network) and after a year of growing and learning to build nests in trees, catch insects and pick wild fruit, she was released into a national park that offers her the best chance and resources to live in peace.¹⁸

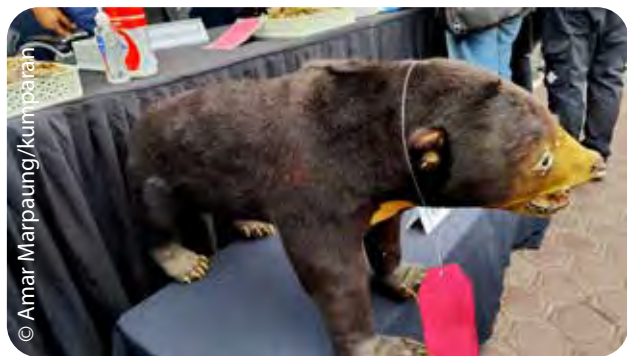


REPEATED OFFENCE

October 8, 2025

Medan Sunggal, Medan City, North Sumatra Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia

A.S.M. was carrying a very large package near the bus station. The criminal police were following him. Inside the package was a stuffed Malayan sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*, Appendix I). A.S.M. said he had bought him from D.O.N. for 2.5 million rupiah (150 US\$), and that he had intended to send him to Lhokseumawe in the province of Aceh, 330 km from Medan Sunggal. He had planned to leave him in the luggage compartment of a bus destined for a certain A.S., to whom he had sold him via a social network specialising in the trade and exchange of stuffed animals. A.S.M. was already known to the authorities for trafficking bear claws and crocodile skeletons.¹⁹



October 19, 2025

Tanjung Baringin, Pasaman Regency, West Sumatra Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia



Rescue by the BKSDA, firefighters, and a veterinarian of a 6-8 month old Malayan sun bear cub (*Helarctos malayanus*, Appendix I) caught in a trap in a snake fruit (salak) plantation. The operation lasted 2.5 hours. The rescuers began by removing the mother bear, who was watching the scene closely.²⁰



October 28, 2025

Kenanga, Indramayu Regency, West Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia

Two 23-month-old Malayan sun bears (*Helarctos malayanus*, Appendix I), one male and one female, have been evacuated by the BKSDA and transferred to the wildlife sanctuary run by the NGO Cikananga, which specialises in the rehabilitation of confiscated wild animals and their reintroduction into the wild. They were being kept in cages by a local resident.²¹

October 29, 2025

Cimahi City, West Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia

Seizure of a female Malayan sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*, Appendix I), approximately 2 years old, kept as a pet by a resident.²²

IRAN

September-October 2025

Baba Kola, Neshel, Amol County, Joorband, Mazandaran Province, Dena Protected Area, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province, Iran



- September 11, Baba Kola. Discovery of a female brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) in critical condition at the edge of the Haft Khal Forest. She is wounded by gunshots, losing blood, and does not get up when humans approach. She was immediately transferred to the Semes Kandeh-ye Olya wildlife veterinary clinic. "Death of the bear due to generalised infection following gunshot wounds," announced a statement from the province's Directorate General for Environmental Protection.

- End of September, Neshel. A female bear aged around 7 years and a cub aged 5 to 6 months were seriously wounded by gunshots to the back, ruling out self-defence on the part of the shooter. They were transferred to the Semes Kandeh-ye Olya veterinary clinic. Prognosis poor.

- October 3, Amol Prefecture. Trapped in a trap, the approximately 8-year-old bear was freed by the prefecture's licenced veterinarian. After a health check, he was released into a habitat considered safe. (.../...)

(.../...)

- October, Joorband. A brown bear in his prime was shot dead over a dispute about wild honey in the forest. "It's mine," said the bear, "it's ours," said the honey collectors.

- September, Dena protected area. A 5-year-old male was killed by a firearm. The body was partially burned by poachers. The director of environmental protection for the Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province mentions the harvest season. "Bears get more than 90% of their energy from plants and fruit, which explains why they are often found near orchards at this time of year." He calls on farmers and nature lovers to report the approach of bears and pledges to use all available means to keep them away.²³

JAPAN

Thursday, September 4, 2025

Sapporo, Hokkaidō Prefecture, Japan

The stealth presence of the Ussuri brown bear (*Ursus arctos lasiotus*, Appendix II) was reported around the Takino country club and its golf course. At around 11 a.m., he was located. The 250 guests were temporarily evacuated. A hunter who had been under contract with the country club for 10 years was immediately called in to assess the situation. His assessment was swift. He said that the 1.4-metre-tall bear suddenly appeared 5 metres away from him and that he had to shoot five times in self-defence. He only had a deer hunting licence, as he was responsible for controlling the deer population. Brown bears in Japan can only be shot in emergency situations as determined by prefectures or other competent authorities, and only by hunters with a special licence. The Takino Country Club is a subsidiary of the Sapporo Country Club.²⁴



Takino country club

MALAYSIA

September 3, 2025

Bandar Seri Alam, State of Johor, Malaysia. Border with Singapore.

The Malayan sun bear cub (*Helarctos malayanus*, Appendix I) was in a closed plastic crate to prevent his escapes, with holes to help him breathe in the back of a luxury car driven by a 22-year-old man. The bear cub was seized



by Perhilitan (Department of Wildlife and National Parks) on the edge of a forest a few kilometres from the border with Singapore. There are still wild Malayan sun bears in the State of Johor in mainland Malaysia. The original range of this endangered species stretches from Yunnan Province in China to the island of Borneo, with a few viable populations in Indonesia.²⁵

NEPAL

October 28, 2025

Gokarneshwor, Kathmandu District, Bagmati Province, Nepal

Two young men are arrested with 2 objects or organs closely resembling bear gall bladders. Three species are present in Nepal: the Himalayan brown bear (*Ursus arctos isabellinus*, Appendix I), the Asian black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I), and the sloth bear (*Melursus ursinus*, Appendix I).²⁶

PAKISTAN

Mid-October and November 5, 2025
Karachi, Province of Sindh, and Islamabad Capital Territory, Pakistan

Following a report by animal rights activists and a ruling by the province's High Court, the female Himalayan brown bear (*Ursus arctos isabellinus*, Appendix I), who had been kept in a cage at Karachi Zoo since 2017 and suffered from behavioural disorders to the point of self-harm, was transferred to the Islamabad Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre 1,500 km north of Karachi. The climatic conditions in Islamabad are similar to those in the foothills of the Himalayas. In October, the average temperature in Karachi is 30°C. It is 22.5°C in Islamabad. In accordance with the ruling, Rano may later be transferred to the Gilgit-Baltistan Territory south of the subspecies' range. The average temperature there in October is 3°C.²⁷



End of September 2025

Ulus District, Bartın Province, Türkiye

A total fine of 170,000 liras (4,140 US\$) was imposed on R.U. and I.D., who poached a brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II). Part of the beating was captured on a trail camera. The footage ended with the sound of a gunshot and the bear's howl. The carcass was found in the forest by a team from the Directorate of National Parks and Nature Conservation.²⁸



EUROPE

SPAIN

September 19, 2025

Vigo-Peinador International Airport, Province of Pontevedra, Autonomous Community of Galicia, Spain



Seizure of 30 vials of dehydrated bear bile (*Ursidae*, Appendix I or II), totalling 3 grammes, in the luggage of a traveller arriving from China.²⁹

ITALY

September 18 and 25, 2025

Caldes, Fondo and San Lorenzo in Banale, Autonomous Province of Trentino, Region of Trentino-Alto Adige, Italy

- Two hikers discovered a dead adult female bear in the woods of Caldes. She had been killed with a firearm.

- The skin of a brown bear cub (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) was thrown into a children's playground. Aidaa (Associazione italiana difesa animali ed ambiente) filed a complaint "after this macabre warning." "We hope that those responsible for this outrage will be identified and punished, but above all, we hope that this skin does not belong to a bear killed to be eaten at a clandestine banquet by poachers and their guests."

- Two bear cubs on the Val d'Ambiez road were hit deliberately or accidentally by a car in the early hours of the morning and are reported missing.³⁰

LATVIA

October 31, 2025

Taurupe Parish, Ogre Municipality, Latvia

A male brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) has been poached. Forest rangers have been notified. The police have been called in. The dirty deed took place at night during the hunting season for raccoon dogs and foxes. A weapon equipped with a thermal scope was used. The bear was targeted from a hunting blind in accordance with regulations. Under these circumstances and with this equipment, it is impossible to mistake a subadult bear for a fox or a raccoon dog. The act was deliberate. The hunter has been identified. He was assisted by a friend when loading the carcass into the trailer of his vehicle. The names of the 2 men remain confidential, as does the name of the hunting club to which they belong, to protect them and their families from retaliation by certain parts of the population.³¹

ROMANIA

September 2 and 5, 2025

Nehoiu, Buzău County, Romania

A brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) died after being caught in a snare set by an 82-year-old man on his property. He called on a young neighbour to help him cut up the carcass and dispose of it in a ravine. The incident was reported to the police, who searched the scene and collected evidence.³²



RUSSIA

Beginning of September 2025

Zabaykalsk Border Post, Zabaykalsky District, Trans-Baikal Krai, Russia. Border with China.

A Chinese national returning home had to give up 13 brown bear claws (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II in Russia and Appendix I in China) that he had purchased in Irkutsk (1,500 km away) and had not declared to customs officials.³³

Beginning of October and end of December 2025

Kozelsky District, Kaluga Oblast, Russia

Three orphaned brown bear cubs (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) were adopted by the village of Bubonitsy and fed cow's milk and bagels for a few days. They were then transferred to the Phoenix Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre in Kaluga, where they were bottle-fed and pampered, but not too much so as to prevent them from becoming imprinted on people. They were then taken care of by specialists at the centre for orphaned cubs in the Tver Oblast. After 7 months of growing and learning to live independently in the forest, the 3 Bubonitsy cubs and 12 other residents were deemed fit for life in the wild. The triplets, now weighing 30 kg, were released at the end of December in the Kozelsky district.³⁴



End of October 2025

Ostashkov, Ostashkovsky District, Tver Oblast, and Ivanovo, Ivanovo Oblast, Russia

Release by Rosprirodnadzor agents responsible for wildlife management of an adult female brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) and a 6-month-old cub who were cruelly held in a hunting dog training centre. They were transferred to the Ivanovo Wildlife and Bird Rescue Centre 600 km away.³⁵



End of October 2025

Suoyarvsky District, Republic of Karelia, Russia

Rescue by agents of the Ministry of Natural Resources of a brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) caught in a trap.³⁶



SWEDEN

End of October 2025

Stockholm, Stockholm County, Sweden

A 35-year-old woman was sentenced to 30 daily fines of 250 kronor, totalling 7,500 kronor (800 US\$), and ordered to pay 1,000 kronor (100 US\$) to the victim support fund for attempting to sell a brown bear fur coat (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix I or II) via Marketplace.³⁷

facebook



BOVIDS AND PRONGHORNS



Arabian oryx (*Oryx leucoryx*). Photo Heinrich Human (BY-NC)

AMERICA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

September 30, 2025

State of Texas, United States of America

Indictment of Virdiana I. Gonzalez and Arturo Maldonado for attempting, as part of a conspiracy, to smuggle an Arabian oryx (*Oryx leucoryx*, Appendix I) into Mexico and for violating the Lacey Act, which prohibits all forms of trade or transport of protected wild species, plants or animals, that have been illegally captured or detained. In October 2021, they recruited a “mule” to transport the animal from Laredo, Texas, to Mexico City and paid him 300 US\$.¹



ASIA

ARMENIA

October 29, 2025

Agarakadzor, Vayots Dzor Region, Armenia

When they saw the police approaching, 2 men at the exit of the village threw the body of a wild goat (*Capra hircus aegagrus*, Appendix III in Pakistan) and some dead quails onto the side of the road. They fled in a car. They were eventually arrested along with an accomplice. The wild goat is sought after for his meat, skin, horns, and the occasional bezoar, a concretion of undigested fibers and hair that forms in the stomachs of ruminants or porcupines, which, rumours and traditions claim, possesses curative or preventive properties against contagious or infectious diseases.

Bezoars, see “On the Trail” n°18 p.110 (ref.20), n°30 p.16, n°32 p.248 (ref.105), n°43 p.49 (ref.35), n°45 p.58 (ref.36), n°46 p.136 (ref.67).²

CHINA

March – September 2025

Autonomous Region of Inner Mongolia, China

In March 2025, Chinese police seized 1,844 saiga antelope horns (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II) originating from Mongolia at the Erenhot border post. In mid-September, they announced the arrest of 16 traffickers, who are Mongolian and Chinese nationals.³



September 2025

Beijing-Daxing International Airport, Beijing Autonomous Municipality, China

Thirteen saiga (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II) horns or horn fragments, weighing a total of 355 grammes, were seized from the luggage and backpack of a passenger from an international flight.⁴



Beginning of October 2025 Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, China. Border with Kazakhstan.

Sentencing of Lan (not his real name) to 9 years in prison and a fine of 8,425 US\$ for orchestrating the smuggling of 1,474 saiga antelope horns (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II) from Kazakhstan to Anhui Province since July 2023. The Xinjiang region and Anhui province are 3,500 km apart.⁵



Beginning of October 2025 Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport, Zhejiang Province, China

Two saiga horns (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II) were seized from the luggage of a passenger arriving from abroad. Total weight: 442.22 grammes.⁶

Mid-October 2025

Qingshuihe Border Post, Lincang Prefecture, Yunnan Province, China. Border with Myanmar.

A 200-gram hoof of a Chinese serow (*Capricornis milneedwardsii*, Appendix I) was seized from the pocket of a man entering Chinese territory.⁷



October 2025

District de Tong'an, Préfecture de Xiamen, October 2025 Tong'an District, Xiamen Prefecture, Fujian Province, China



Zheng, Li, Xue and Chen (not their real names) were given suspended prison sentences ranging from one year and 6 months to two years and 8 months for trafficking 11 saiga antelope horns (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II) in October 2024. Li sold 11 horns to Xue for 24,000 yuan (3,370 US\$), with Zheng and Chen acting as intermediaries. The package was seized at Xiamen Airport. Li and Chen, to demonstrate their remorse and sensitivity to environmental protection, agreed during the trial to invest 105,000 yuan (14,750 US\$) in carbon sequestration for soil and water conservation in north-western China.⁸

October 2025

Beijing-Daxing International Airport, Beijing Autonomous Municipality, China

Seizure from the suitcase and rucksack of a passenger disembarking from an international flight of 1.322 kg of saiga horn shavings (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II), divided into 15 plastic bags.⁹

October 2025

Quanzhou Jinjiang International Airport, Fujian Province, China

A saiga antelope horn (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II) weighing 183.29 grammes was seized from the hand luggage of a passenger disembarking from an international flight.¹⁰

INDIA

September 11, 2025

Hyderabad, Hyderabad District, State of Telangana, India

Arrest of Mohd Khaleemuddin alias Saleem, aged 54, a mason and day labourer on demolition sites, for transporting and attempting to sell blackbuck antlers (*Antilope cervicapra*, Appendix III in Nepal and Pakistan) and antler powder believed to strengthen bones.¹¹

October 18, 22 and 26, 2025

Kalmia and Jarkhoda, Bundi District, State of Rajasthan, India

After the slaughter of several nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*, Appendix III in Pakistan) chased and blinded by an old jeep, shot at point-blank range, leaving only their heads and legs in the meadows, police reinforcements and forest rangers arrested 2 suspects and seized 2 mobile phones, which were decrypted to reveal cruel videos that will serve as compelling evidence in the trials.¹²

October 25, 2025

Bilari, Balodabazar District, State of Chhattisgarh, India



Wanting to find the source of a foul smell that could only be a harbinger of something sinister, villagers discovered the decapitated and limbless body of a gaur (*Bos gaurus*, Appendix I) who had become entangled in electrical cables and died as a result of a short circuit and cardiac arrest. Out of habit, the forest rangers and the sarpanch claim that he fell victim to a trap for wild boar intended to prevent them from entering cultivated fields. However, the amputation of the legs, the decapitation, the flaying of the skin and the start of the butchering of the animal, which carried several hundred kilos of marketable meat, suggest other motives.

Two days later, a forest ranger was suspended from duty with immediate effect for lack of vigilance.¹³

December 3, 2024, October 27, and beginning of November 2025

Kishanganj, Indore District, State of Madhya Pradesh; Andheri, Mumbai Suburban District, State of Maharashtra; Raghokhedi, Shajapur District, State of Madhya Pradesh, India

The sadly all-too-common case that began on December 3, 2024, with the seizure of 65 kg of bushmeat, a homemade rifle and a few spent cartridges from the boot of an SUV registered in Mumbai, has taken on a life of its own, like a pebble thrown into a pond, creating ever-widening ripples that have splashed witnesses who thought they were safe. The 3 occupants of the vehicle, Johar Husain Mukri, Imtiyaz Shakeel Khan and Salman Haroon Piyarji, were returning from an (illegal) hunting trip for blackbuck (*Antilope cervicapra*, Appendix III in Nepal and Pakistan), Indian gazelles (*Gazella bennettii*, Appendix III in Pakistan) and deer in Madhya Pradesh. The arrest on October 27, 2025, in Andheri of Sabah Antulay, a business graduate from the University of Mumbai and customer relations manager for an airline serving the Middle East, has led some media outlets to suggest that the meat trafficking was not an isolated incident and that the investigation could in fact lead to exports to countries bordering the Persian Gulf. Spicy or sensational news stories have been emerging one after another following the arrest in early November of a fifth man in Raghokhedi, Azad Singh Solanki. Members of the organisation are said to have met during a religious festival in Bhopal in 2022. There, they were reportedly trained in precision shooting by an expert who is now on the run, and the firearms were state-of-the-art, a far cry from the antiquated rifle initially seized from the SUV. Digital evidences seized so far suggests that the gang members were running closed groups on secure social media platforms, first to share inputs on tracking of the locations of antelopes, then poach them and route the meatn skins, horns, and antlers to the rich and influential customers, and that they also flew for game hunting in African countries. To be continued.¹⁴

IRAN

September and October 2025

Alborz, Fars, Hormozgan, Ilam, Isfahan, Kerman, Razavi Khorasan, North Khorasan, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad, Kurdistan, Semnan, Tehran, and Yazd Provinces, Iran

22 anti-poaching operations conducted by agents of the Department of Environmental Protection resulted in the seizure of:

- 19 whole or butchered carcasses of wild goats (*Capra hircus aegagrus*, Appendix III in Pakistan). In Dena National Park, officers were alerted by gunshots. The poacher was apprehended before he had time to flee down the road into the valley below. This 2,550 km² park is classified as a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve since 2010. It is part of the 80-km-long Dena Mountain range, which includes 49 peaks exceeding 4,000 m. Numerous springs emerge from the Dena mountains, forming major rivers such as the Karun, which flows into the Persian Gulf after joining the Shatt al-Arab river (confluence of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers). The diverse ecosystems provide a favourable habitat for Persian leopards, lynx, caracals, wolves, and brown bears, among others.
- 15 whole or butchered carcasses of wild sheep of unspecified species (urial, *Ovis vignei*, Appendix I, or Cyprus mouflon, *Ovis gmelini*, Appendix I in Cyprus).
- 3 urial carcasses, including one female. Poaching a male is punishable by a fine of 986 million rials (23,450 US\$) and poaching a female by 3 times that amount.
- 2 carcasses of Cyprus mouflon.
- 1 carcass of a goitered gazelle (*Gazella subgutturosa*).



Urial, September 2025
Tehran Province, Iran

Patrols in the mountains and search operations at poachers' homes also led to the seizure of 10 hunting rifles, a Kalashnikov, ammunition, and various poaching tools. 24 men were arrested, and 4 fled.¹⁵



Dena National Park

September 13 and 30, 2025

Salas-e Babajani County, Kermanshah Province, and Pol-e Dokhtar County, Lorestan Province, Iran



- Sentencing of a poacher to 2 months in prison, construction of 5 watering holes for wildlife, and a fine of 642 million tomans (153,000 US\$) for killing 2 female wild goats (*Capra hircus aegagrus*, Appendix III in Pakistan) and one kid between March 21 and April 20, 2025.
- Fine of 250 million rials (6,000 US\$) for poaching a male wild goat in the Shadab Kooch protected area.¹⁶

KAZAKHSTAN

SAIGAS

Saturday, September 6, 2025

Khromtau District, Aktobe Region, Kazakhstan
Seizure in a pick-up truck during a roadside check of 10 carcasses of saiga antelopes (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II) and 3 firearms.¹⁷

Mid-September 2025

Nura District, Karaganda Region, Kazakhstan
Interception of an SUV. Seizure of 4 skinned carcasses of saiga antelopes (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II). Arrest of 3 residents of Astana, the capital, 200 km away.¹⁸

OPERATION KARU

End of September 2025

West Kazakhstan Region, Kazakhstan

Seizure at a farm of 30 saiga horns (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II), 4 rifles, and 104 rounds of ammunition. Operation Karu aims to combat the illegal possession of firearms.¹⁹



October 9, 2025

Algabas, Nura District, Karaganda Region, Kazakhstan

Stormy interception of a Mitsubishi Pajero on the Temirtau-Astana motorway during the night. Arrest of the driver and his passenger. Initially, they refused to comply. Seizure of the carcass of a saiga antelope (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II), 2 hunting rifles, 15 cartridges, a knife and a spotlight.²⁰

October 9, 2025

Pavlodar, Pavlodar Region, Kazakhstan

Early release of Sagyndyk Shapiey, convicted of possessing 645 saiga antelope horns (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II) and sentenced to 7 years in prison and an extravagant fine of 1.5 billion tenge (more than 2.7 million US\$, or 4,200 US\$ per horn), which has been overturned. Shapiey was convicted in the first instance in the West Kazakhstan Region in 2023. While serving his sentence at Penitentiary Colony n°44 in Pavlodar, he filed an appeal. He was released immediately. Under pressure from the parliamentary group on judicial reform chaired by lawyer Abzal Kuspan, the mere possession of saiga horns is no longer automatically considered poaching. It is punishable by lighter penalties and fines. Without denying that he intended to make some profit from them, Shapiey said that his stock of horns came from antelopes that had died naturally or from disease and from horns lost during moulting. None of them had been obtained by shooting. The premises for this change in the Penal Code had been observed by Robin des Bois in "On the Trail" n°37, p. 77 (ref.20). Before the court in Ural in the West Kazakhstan Region, the families of those convicted asked to meet with the prosecutor to obtain a review of the trials. "They pay more for a rotten saiga horn than for killing a man."²¹



End of October 2025

Shakhtinsk, Karaganda Region, Kazakhstan

Interception of a Nissan Safari by the Karaganda environmental police and the Shakhtinsk municipal police. The 65-year-old man was transporting 2 carcasses of saiga antelopes (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II) in his trunk.²²

October 31, 2025

Jitiqara, Kostanay Region, Kazakhstan.

Border with Russia.

For 6 years, while his herd grazed in the meadows, the shepherd removed the horns from the carcasses of saiga antelopes (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II) who had died of natural causes, disease, or other reasons. In one of his sheds, 66 horns and 2 skulls with horns were seized, along with dried hemp leaves intended for his personal use. He said he wanted to make souvenirs out of the horns. The charges for drug possession were dropped under the amnesty law marking the 30th anniversary of Kazakhstan's independence, and the court took into account his remorse and the 3 children he has to raise in imposing a suspended sentence and probation on the 3-year, 2-month, and 12-day prison sentence.²³



KYRGYZSTAN

8–10 September 2025

Moskva District, Chüy Region, Kyrgyzstan



- Officials from the Ministry of Ecology, suspecting that poachers were operating in the vicinity of the village of Ak-Suu, set up a camera trap in the undergrowth. Shortly afterwards, a group of herders was filmed skinning 4 Himalayan ibexes (*Capra sibirica*, Appendix III in Pakistan) and loading the meat onto their horses.

- Arrest of K.U., K.M. and B.B. and seizure of 2 16-gauge shotguns.²⁴

Mid-September 2025

At-Bashy District, Naryn Region, Kyrgyzstan

The meat of a Himalayan ibex (*Capra sibirica*, Appendix III in Pakistan) was discovered near a yurt by a patrol from the local unit of the Ministry of the Environment. K.T.B. is fined 320,000 soms (3,660 US\$).²⁵



Mid-September 2025

Boz-Uchuk, Issyk-Kul Region, Kyrgyzstan

The skins and skulls of 5 Himalayan ibexes (*Capra sibirica*, Appendix III in Pakistan) were found by the police in the mountains in the Ak-Suu District, and the meat was found in the freezer of K.A., a forest ranger.²⁶

October 22, 2025

Moskva District, Chüy Region, Kyrgyzstan

- 1 a.m. Game wardens, having received a report of poaching, head to the gorges of the Ak-Suu River, a tributary of the Chu. They intercept a Lexus 470 carrying 4 men equipped with walkie-talkies. 300 metres further up, they spot a second car whose driver, also equipped with a walkie-talkie and a torch, was on the lookout. The arrest is eventful.

- 8 a.m. At dawn, the gamekeepers return to the scene to carry out a thorough search. They discover bullet casings and the carcass of a Himalayan ibex (*Capra sibirica*, Appendix III in Pakistan).²⁷



PAKISTAN

Mid-September 2025

Rahim Yar Khan, Province of Punjab, Pakistan

Under the 2021 Wildlife Act, which toughens penalties for trafficking endangered species, 4 men were each sentenced to one year in prison and fined one million rupees (3,500 US\$) with an additional 6 months in prison in case of non-payment for poaching Indian gazelles (*Gazella bennettii*, Appendix III) in Cholistan National Park. Poaching and trafficking of blackbuck, hog deer, urial and Indian gazelle are punishable by one to 3 years' imprisonment and fines of 200,000 to one million rupees.²⁸



Beginning of October 2025

Province of Punjab, Pakistan

Seizure by the Punjab Wildlife Department, acting on a warrant issued by the public prosecutor, of an urial skin (*Ovis vignei*, Appendix I) from a private residence. The owner was fined 450,000 rupees (1,600 US\$).²⁹



SULTANATE OF OMAN

Beginning of September 2025

Dhofar Governorate, Sultanate of Oman

Arrest by the Royal Police and wildlife wardens of the governorate of 4 nationals who were poaching Arabian gazelles (*Gazella arabica*).³⁰

Mid-October 2025

Sultanate of Oman

Seizure of a carcass of an Arabian gazelle (*Gazella arabica*). One arrest.³¹

THAILAND

September 26, 2025

Huai Kwa, Tak Province, Thailand

10:49 a.m. Cut bamboo. Two gunshots. The patrol in the Thung Yai Naresuan Wildlife Sanctuary surrounds a suspicious camp. Two men flee into the jungle. Impossible to find them. Discovery in the camp of freshly skinned gaur carcasses (*Bos gaurus*, Appendix I). Seizure of 3 rifles and 3 haversacks. A barbecue was being set up for daily meals.³²



Northern giraffes (*Giraffa camelopardalis*). Photo Rino (BY-NC)

AFRICA

KENYA

September-October 2025

Kenya,

Narok County:

Conservancy,

Conservancy,

Conservancy;

Nakuru County: Kongoni Game Valley,

Oserengoni Wildlife Sanctuary;

Laikipia County: Enasoit Conservancy.

They too, the most elegant creatures of the savannah, have been saved by the veterinarians and caretakers of the KWS and the SWT and their wire cutters, which they handle with as much dexterity as a scalpel or a syringe. Six procedures and 6 favourable prognoses: 3 caught in a trap, one wounded by an arrow, one wounded by a poisoned arrow, and one wounded by a spear.¹



September 30, 2025



October 3, 2025



September 9, 2025

REPEATED OFFENCE

September 26, 2025

Kiboko, Makueni County, Kenya

Arrest by KWS and Nasaru conservation area guards of Maxim Mutunga and Patrick Nyamasyo. Seizure of meat from a male giraffe, a knife, a machete, a spotlight and 2 motorcycles. A third man reportedly fled. Mutunga has a prior conviction for bushmeat trafficking. Wildlife-rich counties such as Tsavo, Mara, Amboseli, Kajiado, and Laikipia are vulnerable to poaching to supply towns along the Mombasa–Nairobi expressway and the counties of Nairobi, Naivasha, and Kiambu.²

End of October 2025

Amboseli-Tsavo-Kilimanjaro Ecosystem, Kenya

Arrest of an individual in possession of giraffe meat.³

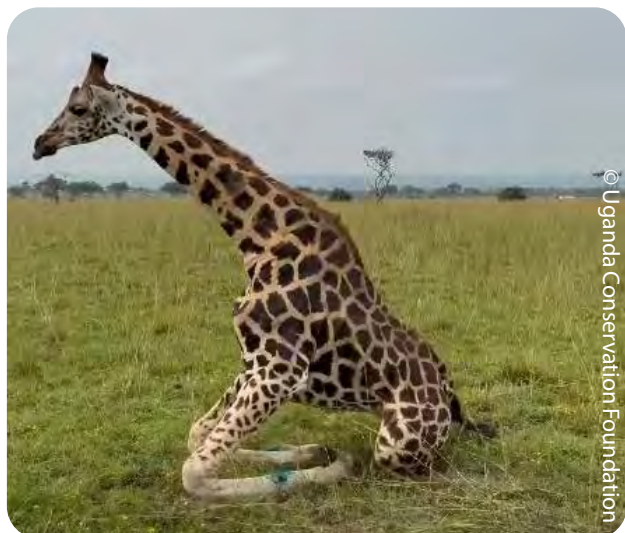
UGANDA

Beginning of October 2025

Murchison Falls National Park,
Northern and Western Regions,
Uganda



Rescue of a giraffe caught in a metal trap by one hind leg. Joint operation by the Uganda Conservation Foundation and the Uganda Wildlife Authority.⁴



End of October 2025

Murchison Falls National Park,
Northern and Western Regions,
Uganda



The Uganda Conservation Foundation is accustomed to rescuing trapped animals, but this task was particularly difficult. The female giraffe had a metal snare tightly wrapped around her right front leg, another snare tight around her right hind leg, and a third snare constricting her neck. The injuries were of varying ages. Veterinarian Dr Nancy Masia and her team freed her from the snares and, after administering a respiratory stimulant and cleaning her wounds, patiently helped her back to her feet, paying particular attention to her neck. She went on her way.⁵



ZEBRAS AND DONKEYS

AFRICA

KENYA

September-October 2025

Kenya, Nakuru County: Kedong Ranch, Loldia Conservancy, Lentolia Conservancy, Soysambu Conservancy, Sanctuary Farm, Kalro, Hell's Gate National Park; Taita Taveta County: Tsavo East National Park; Narok County: Masai Mara National Reserve.

Misfortune and happiness

- The zebra foal (genus *Equus*, *Equus grevyi*, Appendix I, found in Kenya) had remained by his mother's side after she died in a steel trap. He was transferred to the Nairobi orphanage. He no longer suffers from hunger or the cold, only from immense shock.

- The young female zebra was killed. Her right hind leg had been severed to the bone by the noose of the iron trap. The KWS and SWT team, always on the ball, rescued 10 zebras. It is a master of the wire cutters who frees from the steel cables and clears the flesh and tendons of infection.¹



NIGERIA

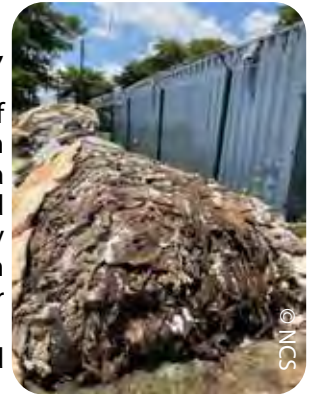
September 2025

Kebbi State, Nigeria. Border with Benin and Niger.

Customs partial report for September 2025. Customs seized 100 bales of used clothing, 143 bags of donkey meat and 444 slabs of cannabis resin the size of a laptop. The donkey meat was handed over to the NAQS (Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service) and the cannabis to the NDLEA (National Drug Law Enforcement Agency).²

September 18, October 3, 4, and 6, 2025 Kaduna, Kaduna State, Nigeria

- Seizure of 700 bags of donkey bones worth 1.86 billion naira (1.3 million US\$) and 2,500 dried donkey skins worth 2.07 billion naira (1.4 million US\$, or 560 US\$ per skin).
- The bones were burned and the skins buried.³



ASIA

CHINA

October 7, 2025

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China

Seizure in 5 40-foot refrigerated containers bound for Taiwan of 150 tonnes of donkey skins, some with dried heads, with a total value of 190 million Hong Kong dollars, or 24.4 million US\$, 162 US\$/kg and based on an average of 10 kg and 1620 US\$/skin. On the same basis, we estimate that there were 15,000 former donkeys in these 5 containers. Is Taiwan contaminated with the ejiao virus?⁴



PAKISTAN

October 2, 2025. Pakistan

A decree issued by the Ministry of Commerce authorises the export of donkey skins by approved slaughterhouses in the Gwadar Free Zone. The protocol for exporting donkey skins to China was signed last year and extended to include onions, potatoes and chillies.⁵

EUROPE

BELGIUM

October 7, 2025

Ghent, Province of East Flanders, Flemish Region, Belgium

A fine of 16,000 € (18,800 US\$) of which half is suspended for a breeder who mistreated the horses, donkeys and zebra (genus *Equus*) he kept in contravention of provincial regulations.⁶



DEER AND MUSK DEER



White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) du Honduras. Photo Luis Jose Kafie (BY-NC)

AMERICA

ARGENTINA

October 10, 2025

Villa La Angostura, Province of Neuquen, Argentina

It's a "gift", claims the driver, but the gendarmerie and police, unimpressed by this untraceable gesture of generosity, seized the 6 red deer antlers (*Cervus elaphus*).¹

the carcass to the native population for food and cultural purposes and seized the antlers. Chugach State Park covers 2,000 km² east of Anchorage. It is criss-crossed by 110 trails. Motorised watercraft are prohibited on the lakes, rivers and fjord. In 2023, Baston and an accomplice were convicted in Montana and banned from parks and other wildlife management areas for six months for collecting shed moose antlers out of season and over quota. Shed antlers, see "On the Trail" n°44 p.78 (ref.21).²

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ALASKA

REPEATED OFFENCE

September 1, 2025

Chugach State Park, Municipality of Anchorage, State of Alaska, United States of America

Logan Baston has been cited for killing a moose (*Alces alces*) near one of the trails frequented by hikers, horse riders and other lovers of beautiful, peaceful landscapes. Baston claims it was a mistake, arguing that the maps delineating hunting and non-hunting areas are illegible. The troopers gave

CALIFORNIA

September 2025

Madera, Madera County, State of California, United States of America

A hunter was sentenced to a 3-year hunting ban, one year of probation, 80 hours of community service, and mandatory completion of a hunting education program for killing a mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*). Officers from the CDFW (California Department of Fish and Wildlife) had spotted his distinctive antlers on the shelves of a taxidermist and immediately identified them as belonging to a deer they had seen alive a few days earlier at the Coarsegold Golf and Recreation Course near Yosemite Lakes National Park. The antlers were reported to have come from Inyo County, 200 km as the crow flies from Madera County. During a search of the suspect's home, photos of the deer's carcass, allegedly shot in Inyo County's Hunting Area 10 behind his house, were discovered and seized as evidence.³



The living deer



The antlers of the dead deer

COLORADO

Beginning of September 2025

Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, Saguache County, State of Colorado, United States of America

Call for witnesses. The National Park Service is seeking a man who shot an elk (*Cervus canadensis*) and took his 4/5-point antlers. The details are vague: "He might have been carrying a compound bow with bright fletching, might have been driving a dark-coloured Ram truck." Any information should be reported to 719-589-5807 or via email to GRSA_Law_Enforcement@nps.gov.⁴

September 2025

Las Animas County, State of Colorado, United States of America

Poachers targeting elk (*Cervus canadensis*) are active in the county. Between 13 and 27 September, 4 animals were targeted on 4 ranches: the first was killed and left at the scene; the second was seriously injured and had to be put down; the third had part of the meat cut away; the fourth was decapitated. A reward of 1,000 US\$ is being offered by Colorado Parks and Wildlife to anyone who can identify the poacher(s).⁵

SOUTH DAKOTA

End of October 2025

Dixon Township, Hamlin County, State of South Dakota, United States of America

A reward of 1,000 US\$ is being offered by South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks to anyone who can identify the poacher or poachers responsible for the deaths of 3 white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*). The decapitated carcasses were found in a cornfield 8 km south of Vienna.⁶

IDAHO

End of September 2025

Between Blackfoot and Firth, Bingham County, State of Idaho, United States of America

Idaho Fish and Game has issued an appeal for witnesses to help identify the person who shot and decapitated a white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) in Game Management Unit 68A during the bow hunting season. The remains were found on the banks of the Snake River, a tributary of the Columbia.⁷

The night of 19–20 October 2025

Grangeville, Idaho County, State of Idaho, United States of America

During the night between Sunday and Monday, a white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) was shot dead at the side of the Mount Idaho Grade road and decapitated. As the road is busy, Citizens Against Poaching is hopeful that a witness statement will help identify the culprit.⁸

October 24, 2025

Crouch, Boise County, State of Idaho, United States of America

An appeal for witnesses has been launched by Idaho Fish and Game following the discovery of a decapitated mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*). Information can be reported by calling 1-800-632-5999 or via the website.⁹

KANSAS

October 30, 2025

Saline County, State of Kansas, United States of America

A gunshot rings out on private land on Thursday evening. Silence returns. The following morning, the owner surveys his land and discovers tire tracks leading to a decapitated white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*). The Statewide Regular Firearm Deer Season begins on December 3 in Kansas.¹⁰

MICHIGAN

Beginning of October 2025

Kent County, State of Michigan, United States of America

A man has been charged with poaching an 8-point white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) on his property, decapitating him and attempting to use a tag assigned to his wife.¹¹

End of October 2025

State of Michigan, United States of America

Seizure at a deer meat producer's facility by agents of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources of the antlers, cape, and meat of a 9-point white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) killed without a licence. The poacher who had given him the carcass had attempted to repair his fault by purchasing a licence the day after the incident.¹²

MISSOURI

September 1, and October 14, 2025

Birch Tree, Shannon County, State of Missouri, United States of America

- Three decapitated white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) carcasses were dumped below Route 651. The photos were released by the MDC (Missouri Department of Conservation).



- Thanks to information received from various sources, the homes of

Blaine T. Lawson, Stanley W. Stricklin Jr. and Austin W. Duncan were searched under a warrant issued by the prosecutor and 12 deer heads with antlers, meat fillets, a wild turkey beard and a firearm were seized from Blaine T. Lawson's home. Lawson is charged with hunting deer out of season, wasting wildlife meat, and illegally transporting and possessing deer parts. Duncan and Stricklin are considered accomplices to Lawson. In photos posted on social media, they pose with the deer before they were decapitated. Stricklin pleads guilty and is fined.¹³



MONTANA

End of September 2025

Roundup, Musselshell County, State of Montana, United States of America

Six men have been convicted of illegally hunting elk (*Cervus canadensis*) and mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) as part of a conspiracy near Roundup between 2020 and 2024 (see "On the Trail" n°47 p.57, ref.9). Ben Valadez, Devon Rea, Kyle Steiling, Mitch Miller, Noa Valadez, and Johnny Lopez have been sentenced to a total of 22,890 US\$ in fines and the revocation of their hunting licences for a period of 2 to 8 years.¹⁴



Beginning of October 2025

Columbus, Stillwater County, State of Montana, United States of America



Three men from Big Horn County have been charged by the Columbus court with illegally killing at least 8 elk (*Cervus canadensis*) and one mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) in Sarpy Creek between 2022 and 2023. Seizure of 8 elk skulls with antlers and one mule deer skull with antlers. The investigation began with a report of a decapitated elk, outside of hunting season and without the landowner's permission, in hunting district 702 in Big Horn County.¹⁵

NEBRASKA

OPERATION NO TRACE

REPEATED OFFENCE

September 4 and 11, 2025

Lincoln, Etat du Nebraska, Etats-Unis d'Amérique



Epilogue to the Noble Outdoors case (see "On the Trail" n°37 p.92, ref.5 and 11, n°38 p.98, ref.27, n°41 p.81, ref.5, and n°42 p.58, ref.16, and p.59, ref.17).

- Sentencing of Dustin Noble, owner and director of this recreational hunting business, to 22 months in prison followed by 3 years of probation, 179,000 US\$ in restitution to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Game Law Investigative Cash Fund, permanent confiscation of several deer trophies, 2 compound crossbows and several firearms, a ban on hunting, trapping, fishing or working as a guide or hunting equipment supplier for 25 years, and a ban on cooperating in any way with taxidermists for 10 years.

- Sentencing of Mark Cooper, a client of Noble Outdoors, to a 5,000 US\$ fine to be paid into the Lacey Act Reward Account, 15,000 US\$ in restitution to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Game Law Investigative Cash Fund, probation for 2 years, permanent forfeiture of 4 mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) head trophies and several white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) antlers, and a 4-year ban on hunting, trapping, fishing, or working as a guide or hunting equipment supplier for 4 years.

In total, at the end of Operation No Trace, the 20 defendants in the Noble Outdoors case were punished with 22 months in prison, 15 years of probation, 32 years of prohibition from hunting, trapping and fishing, and 275,000 US\$ in fines and restitution.¹⁶

NEW HAMPSHIRE

September 12, 2025

Lakonia, Belknap County, New Hampshire, United States of America

Sentencing of Travis Cushman to a fine of 5,000 US\$ and to pay 750 US\$ in restitution. His hunting privileges have been suspended for 3 years and his hunting equipment, along with 3 white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) trophies, have been seized. He had been arrested in March for shooting the 3 deer at night using illegal bait.¹⁷



UTAH

Mid-October 2025

State of Utah, United States of America

Sentencing of two poachers to pay a total of 4,500 US\$ in fines and restitution, and to 40 hours of community service. They had shot a mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) on private property without a licence, and fled the scene, taking the head and some meat with them.¹⁸



WASHINGTON

Beginning of October 2025

Ferry County, State of Washington, United States of America

Wildlife officers have issued an appeal for witnesses to help track down the poacher or poachers who shot a moose (*Alces alces*) between Kettle Falls and Republic and took the head and a leg of meat. The rest of the carcass (over 200 kg of meat) was left at the scene.¹⁹

WYOMING

September 24, 2025

Lincoln County, State of Wyoming, United States of America

The court stands firm. The sentence handed down in the first instance on August 1, 2024, against Rodney Gilstrap was upheld on June 10, 2025, by the Court of Appeals: 540 days in prison, 519 of which were suspended, followed by 3 years of probation, notably accompanied by a ban on collecting shed antlers, a 18,000 US\$ fine, 10,000 US\$ in restitution, an 18-year hunting ban under the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, confiscation of 4 large-antlered mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), 2 elk trophies (*Cervus canadensis*), and one pronghorn trophy (*Antilocapra americana*, Appendix I for the population of Mexico). Rodney Gilstrap is guilty of falsely claiming residency in Wyoming using forged documents (he lived in Idaho Falls, Idaho) and of fraudulently obtaining fishing and archery cervid hunting licences between September 2018 and September 2021.²⁰



HONDURAS

October 26, 2025

Puerto Cortés, Cortés Department, Honduras

Seizure of 2 heads with antlers of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*, *Odocoileus virginianus mayensis*, Appendix III in Guatemala) in the back of a pick-up truck parked in the customs area of the port. On June 28, 1993, the National Congress declared the white-tailed deer the national mammal of Honduras. Today, it is one of the country's national symbols. In Costa Rica, the white-tailed deer was declared a national symbol on May 2, 1995.²¹

PANAMA

September 30, 2025

Capira, West Panama Province, Panama

Seizure of a head with antlers belonging to a white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*, *Odocoileus virginianus mayensis*, Appendix III in Guatemala) at a private residence by officials from the Ministry of the Environment, accompanied by police officers. Zuleyla Toribio, a biologist at the Ministry, regrets that "people are unaware of the importance of each species and think they can capture animals without facing the consequences."²²

ASIA

INDONESIA

Mid-September 2025
Temanggung Regency, Central Java Province,
Java Island, Indonesia

Deliberate burning, under the responsibility of the BKSDA and the public prosecutor, of evidence resulting from criminal acts damaging natural resources and ecosystems, mainly Javan rusa antlers (*Rusa timorensis*).²³



September 25, 2025 and October 22, 2025
Yos Sudarso Port, Ambon, Maluku Province,
Maluku Archipelago, Indonesia

- Seizure from the luggage of a passenger on board the *Nggapulu* bound for Jakarta of pair of deer antlers, packed in a red plastic bag.
- Seizure by the BKSDA of a deer skull with antlers from the luggage of a passenger on the *Nggapulu* bound for Ternate (North Maluku).
The Maluku Province is home to Javan deer (*Rusa timorensis*) and sambar deer (*Rusa unicolor*).²⁴
KM *Nggapulu*, see "On the Trail" n°31 p.125 (ref.58) and n°44 p.148 (ref.12).

October 16, 2025, October 28, 2025 and October 29, 2025

Dobo Seaport, Aru Islands Regency, Maluku Province, Indonesia

- Seizure by the BKSDA of a deer (family Cervidae) skull with antlers from the luggage of a passenger on the *Labobar* bound for Jakarta.
- New seizure on board the *Labobar* bound for Ambon (Maluku Province): a deer skull with antlers in a passenger's luggage.
- Once again. The BKSDA seized 2 deer skulls with antlers from the luggage of a passenger on the *Labobar* bound for Jakarta.²⁵
KM *Labobar*, see "On the Trail" n°46 p.59 (ref.14), n°47 p.58 (ref.16) and this issue p. 171 ref.7.

EUROPE

GERMANY

September 26, 2025
Eschede, Celle District, Lower Saxony State,
Germany

A red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) was found decapitated at the side of the road. He had been shot.²⁶

ROMANIA

September 23, 2025
Petrila, Hunedoara County, Romania

Seizure of 3 red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) skulls with antlers, 6 European roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) skulls with antlers, 2 wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) tusks, and 4 kg of meat during 3 searches carried out by the Weapons, Explosives and Dangerous Substances Unit.²⁷



GUANACOS AND VICUNAS



Guanacos (*Lama guanicoe*). Photo Johnny Giese (BY-NC)

AMERICA

ARGENTINA

September and October 2025 Provinces of Chubut, of Rio Negro, of San Juan and of Santa Cruz, Argentina

Seizures during 8 roadside police checks and 2 searches of 80 whole or butchered guanaco (*Lama guanicoe*, Appendix II) carcasses and an additional 35 kg of meat. 23 traffickers were identified. The meat was incinerated or buried. Five rifles, including 2 repeating rifles and one equipped with a telescopic sight, 2 shotguns (one air-powered and the other equipped with a telescopic sight), ammunition, knives, a whetstone, and a saw were also seized.



October 16, 2025

Trelew, Province of Chubut, Argentina

1,500 kg of meat, corresponding to approximately 30 guanacos, according to the authorities

In 3 cases, bloodstains or streaks of blood in the back of the pick-up trucks alerted the police. The drivers of a Chevrolet S-10 without a licence plate

and a Toyota Hilux refused to comply, but the vehicles were caught after high-speed chases. In the Toyota, in addition to a guanaco carcass, police seized rhea feathers.

One of the searches took place as part of an investigation into the trafficking of stolen motorcycles, and the other at a butcher shop following the inspection of a Ford Ranger that was suspicious due to its excessive weight and slow speed. It was carrying the butchered carcasses of about 30 guanacos. Police also seized a fake veterinary stamp bearing the coat of arms of the municipality of Trelew.¹



BOLIVIA

Mid-October 2025 El Alto, Province of Murillo, Department of La Paz, Bolivia

Arrest of 3 women who, during the traditional San Luis fair, were selling 3 kg of vicuna wool (*Vicugna vicugna*, Appendix II) in violation of the protocol co-signed by the National Association of Vicuna Breeders and the State, which is the only one, according to the decree of December 16, 2009, that qualifies for the Marca Vicuna Bolivia label.²

PRIMATES



Sumatran orangutan (*Pongo abelii*). Photo denniswipfli2 (BY-NC)

NORTHERN AFRICA

MOROCCO

Beginning of October 2025

Tazekka National Park, Fès-Meknès Region, Morocco

Release of 15 Barbary macaques (*Macaca sylvanus*, Appendix I) rescued from the wildlife trade, 6 males, 6 females, and 3 juveniles, into Tazekka National Park, a scene described as “magical” by the Dutch NGO AAP (Animal Advocacy and Protection), which oversees the “Born to Be Wild” project. AAP takes this opportunity to thank its partners: the Dutch Lottery, Morocco’s National Agency for Water and Forests, and the universities of Rennes in France and Liverpool in the United Kingdom. The macaques, led by a dominant male nicknamed Ayoub, climbed into the cedars and cork oaks before disappearing from view; however, equipped with geolocation collars, their movements and adventures can be tracked.¹

WESTERN AFRICA

LIBERIA

Beginning of October 2025

Marshall, Margibi County, Liberia

Arrival at the Liberia Chimpanzee Rescue & Protection sanctuary of female baby chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*, Appendix I). She had previously been kept in captivity by a family and dressed in human baby clothes.²



© Liberia Chimpanzee Rescue & Protection

October 2025

Marshall, Margibi County, Liberia

Arrival at the Libassa Wildlife Sanctuary of 2 juvenile Campbell's mona monkeys (*Cercopithecus campbelli*, Appendix II), one male and one female, rescued from traffickers. The female was in particularly poor condition. Part of her tail was missing, leaving an infected wound so deep that the bone was visible.³

CENTRAL AFRICA

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

**End August - September 15, 2025
Bunia, Ituri Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo. Border with Uganda.**

Seizure of a young chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*, Appendix I) in Bunia. Transfer to Kinshasa Airport (700 km), then to Kinshasa Airport (1,200 km as the crow flies), and finally by motorcycle to Matadi (350 km) to the sanctuary run by the NGO P-WAC (Project for Wildlife and Apes Conservation).⁴



**September 19, 2025
Kinshasa Airport, Kinshasa Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo. Border with the Republic of the Congo.**

Discovery on the tarmac at Kinshasa Airport of 3 chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*, Appendix I), 35 live and 3 dead cercopithecids, Allen's swamp monkeys (*Allenopithecus nigroviridis*, Appendix II), owl-faced monkeys (*Cercopithecus hamlyni*, Appendix II), L'Hoest's monkey (*Allochrocebus lhoesti*, synonymous with *Cercopithecus lhoesti*, Appendix II), and red-tailed monkeys (*Cercopithecus ascanius*, Appendix II). They had been there for about ten days. For unknown reasons, they had been abandoned by the sender. They were in critical condition. Two monkeys had already died in their cage, and the body of another was found behind a tire against a wall. All the monkeys that fell victim to this failed expedition were a few weeks or months old. They were transported by road to the P-WAC (Project for Wildlife and Apes Conservation) sanctuary in Kongo-Central Province near the border with Angola. P-WAC is led by Amandine Renaud, a Frenchwoman whose calling was decided at the age of 7 when she saw the movie *Gorillas in the Mist*. P-WAC makes every effort to integrate into the local community and benefit from the villagers' culture while providing them with additional income as monkey caretakers and surrogate parents.⁵



Chimpanzee rehabilitation enclosure

**End of September 2025
Ikela, Tshuapa Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo**



Rescue of a bonobo (*Pan paniscus*, Appendix I) caught in a trap, thanks to the intervention of the village wise people.⁶

**Beginning of October 2025
Ikela, Tshuapa Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo**



From the clutches of traffickers to the hands of security. This is the 3rd rescue of a baby bonobo (*Pan paniscus*, Appendix I) in 2 months.⁷

EASTERN AFRICA

MAURITIUS

September 11, 2025

Pamplemousses, Pamplemousses District, Mauritius



The court granted the request of Shafeek Jhummun, director of Hammerhead International Limited, and dismissed the charge of animal cruelty against him. On Friday, March 17th, 2023, inside a warehouse, police and veterinary services discovered 446 long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*, Appendix II), between 6 and 8 months old, in 80x40 cm cages without water, food, light or ventilation. The monkeys were destined for the global animal experimentation market. "It's a big business and the big exporters are trying to put obstacles in my way," Jhummun said at the time. According to him, this unfounded accusation caused him considerable harm as a businessman and family man. The macaques were not returned to him. Two years after the seizure, there is no word on their fate. See "On the Trail" n°40 p.101 (ref.19).¹⁰

October 2025

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

This is the second time this year that the female mountain gorilla (*Gorilla beringei*, Appendix I) has been caught in a trap. In March, veterinarian Fabrice from the NGO Gorilla Doctors was forced to amputate two of her fingers to save her. This time, veterinarians Fabrice and Eddy were able to save her left foot, while the other gorillas watched nearby during the anaesthesia.⁸



REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

October 28 and November 20, 2025
Nkayi and Madingou, Department of Bouenza, Republic of the Congo



- Seizure in the courtyard of a hotel, hidden under the clothing of Fulgence Claver Ntondele Moukoko, who had just arrived on a motorcycle, of a young chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*, Appendix I) approximately 6 months old, captured in the forests of Kindamba District in the Department of Pool about 2 months ago. He was entrusted to the Jane Goodall Institute in Tchimpounga.



SOUTHERN AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

October 4, 2025

Kosmos, North-West Province, South Africa

The chacma baboon (*Papio ursinus*, Appendix II) was just 15 months old. He could have lived for 30 years or more had he not been shot in the spine. Two other chacma baboons and numerous blue vervets have already been rescued with serious injuries by the NGO Owl Rescue Centre in the village (see 'On the Trail' n°40, p. 103, ref. 29, and n°41, p. 87, ref. 12).¹¹



- Sentence of Ntondele Moukoko to 2 years' imprisonment, a fine of 200,000 CFA francs (350 US\$), and 1 million CFA francs (1,760 US\$) in damages for possessing and attempting to sell the chimpanzee.⁹

NORTHERN AMERICA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ANIMAL CRUSHING

September 30, 2025

Cincinnati, Hamilton County, State of Ohio, United States of America



He was crushing long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*, Appendix II). 48 months in prison for Giancarlo Morelli for cooperating with a director based in the Philippines to produce, distribute and sell videos of monkeys being raped by a human child and tortured, including burning and cutting off their genitals.¹²

ANIMAL CRUSHING

October 22, 2025

Miami, Miami-Dade County, State of Florida, United States of America

Francisco Javier Ravelo is pleading guilty to distributing 40 animal-crushing videos on social media that depict the mutilation and torture of adult and juvenile monkeys (Primates, Appendix I or II) between September 2024 and February 2025.¹³

LATIN AMERICA

BOLIVIA

Beginning of October 2025

Oruro, Province of Cercado, Department of Oruro, Bolivia

Thanks to the BOL-110 hotline, a capuchin (*Cebus* spp., synonymous with *Sapajus* spp., Appendix II) has been seized in a house on Arce Street by Pofoma (Policia Forestal y Preservacion del Medio Ambiente) and transferred to the Andino Zoo for a veterinary examination and an assessment of his ability to live in the wild.¹⁴

BRAZIL

September 9, 2025

Rio de Janeiro, State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

A female capuchin (*Cebus* spp., synonym of *Sapajus* spp., Appendix II) was shot in the spine in the Gávea district. She was left partially paralysed. She died on 21 September during surgery at the Instituto Vida Livre.¹⁵

September 18, 2025

Caraúbas do Piauí, State of Piauí, Brazil

Seizure in the home of R.N.G. by the environmental military police of a black-striped tufted capuchin (*Cebus libidinosus*, Appendix II). Black-striped tufted capuchins are fraternal. They have been observed by naturalists in the State of Piauí holding a marmoset in their arms, feeding him and sheltering him in their group for several weeks. Such integration is relatively common in zoos but is very rare in natural habitats. Source: Izar P, Verderane MP, Visalberghi E, Ottoni EB, Gomes De Oliveira M, Shirley J, Fragaszy D. "Cross-genus adoption of a marmoset (*Callithrix jacchus*) by wild capuchin monkeys (*Cebus libidinosus*): case report". *Am J Primatol*. 2006 Jul;68(7):692-700. doi: 10.1002/ajp.20259.¹⁶



FAMILY AFFAIRS

REPEATED OFFENCE

October 2, 2025

Tijuca National Park, State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

The couple, who had already been arrested in May 2025 for poaching capuchins (*Cebus* spp., synonymous with *Sapajus* spp., Appendix II) in Tijuca National Park (see "On the Trail" n°46 p.64, ref.18), has once again been caught for the same offence. They were caught red-handed attempting to poach at the same location by the environmental police. Their motorcycle and all their tools were seized. Given their persistent involvement in the trafficking of capuchin monkeys, the police are requesting that they remain in custody pending trial and payment of fines.¹⁷

October 23, 2025

Rio de Janeiro and Nilópolis, State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Operation Sapajus n°3. A small capuchin (*Cebus* spp., synonymous with *Sapajus* spp., Appendix II) was being kept in captivity in an apartment in Camaçari under the guise of falsified documentation of origin. The investigation revealed that he had come from Rio de Janeiro, where he had been smuggled from the State of Bahia. Searches were conducted in Rio and Nilópolis. According to the accounting documents that were seized, several capuchins have been sold to soccer players and artists. The average black market price for a capuchin in Brazil is 4,000 reais (750 US\$).¹⁸

COLOMBIA

September 1, 2025

La Sierpe, Department of Sucre, Colombia

Seizure in the Pañuelo La Mina marsh of 17 red howlers (*Alouatta seniculus*, Appendix II) with an estimated ecological value of 193 million pesos (2,800 US\$/individual). They were locked in cages awaiting delivery. They were entrusted to veterinarians from Corpomojana (Corporation for the Sustainable Development of San Jorge and La Mojana), who are responsible for assessing their health and determining the protocol for their release.¹⁹

September 25, 2025

Bogotá, Colombia



Environmental protection officers seized a juvenile red howler monkey (*Alouatta seniculus*, Appendix II) in the Fontibón District. His 'owner' had brought him from the department of La Guajira (1,000 km to the north). He was handed over to the nearest wildlife rescue centre. "A tip-off from a member of the public was crucial to the seizure of the animal. Please report any suspicious activity relating to the illegal trafficking of wild animals to the national hotline 123 and, in Bogotá, to the following numbers: Ambiente Bogotá 601-377-8854, 318-827-7733, and 317-427-6828."²⁰

Beginning of October 2025

Cali, Department of Valle del Cauca, Colombia

The incident took place in the Los Alcázares neighbourhood in northeast Cali. There, police officers stopped a man who was carrying a white-fronted capuchin (*Cebus albifrons*, Appendix II) in a suitcase. He was coming from the bus station, where he had picked up the package at the arrival of a regular bus. At the Dagma (Departamento Administrativo de Gestión del Medio Ambiente) wildlife rehabilitation centre, the capuchin was reunited with a peer of the same age who had been found on the street in southern Cali and taken in by a local resident.²¹

Mid-October 2025

Valle de Aburrá, Department of Antioquia, Colombia

Transfer to the CAVR (Centro de Atención y Valoración de Fauna Silvestre) of a juvenile white-fronted capuchin (*Cebus albifrons*, Appendix II). After 4 months in captivity wearing diapers, he is suffering from a severe skin infection in the perianal region.



"Behind every adorable little animal kept as a pet lies a story of pain and suffering. Because every time a wild animal enters a home, we lose a little piece of nature," notes the Valle de Aburrá Environmental Authority.²²

Mid-October 2025

Valle de Aburrá, Department of Antioquia, Colombia

- The white-faced capuchin baby (*Cebus capucinus*, Appendix II) was rescued by the CAVR in a pitiful condition. He was emaciated and injured in the perianal region due to soiled diapers he had been wearing during his too-long captivity. He spent most of his time on a dog's back. His recovery will be a long process.

- A baby white-fronted capuchin (*Cebus albifrons*, Appendix II) suffered from another ailment while in captivity. Restless and underweight, he was seized from individuals who were giving him psychotropic substances. He was handed over to the CAVR and placed in the neonatal care unit.

- From January 2024 to October 2025, the CAVR in Valle de Aburrá took in 45 white-faced capuchins, all infants or juveniles.²³

End of October 2025

Barrancabermeja, Department of Santander, Colombia

A variegated spider monkey (*Ateles hybridus*, Appendix II) was found seriously injured. Firefighters rushed him to the Misión Médica veterinary clinic. Despite the prompt response, he did not survive the abuse inflicted by as-yet-unknown individuals who attempted to capture and tame him and ultimately abandoned him in the thickets.²⁴

EASTERN ASIA

CHINA

October 2025

Daluo Border Post, Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province, China. Border with Myanmar.



Two slow loris (*Nycticebus coucang*, Appendix I) legs were seized from the armrest of a car entering Chinese territory. Total weight: 12 grammes.²⁵

SOUTHEASTERN ASIA

INDONESIA

INDONESIA – ORANGUTANS

September 11, 2025

Tanjung Puting National Park, West Kotawaringin Regency, Central Kalimantan Province, Borneo Island, Indonesia

The Bornean orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*, Appendix I) was fatally shot by poachers at an illegal gold mine. The discovery of his body prompted the Kalimantan Forestry Agency (Gakkum), park management, and local police to inspect the banks of the Sekonyer River, a tributary of the Kumai that flows into the Java Sea, near Camp Leakey, to investigate rumors of illegal gold panning activities. Twelve rafts, huts, and sand suction pumps were located and destroyed by fire, and 12 gold miners aged 27 to 50, from the villages of Kumai, Natai Kerbau, Karang Sari, Mulya Jadi, and Sungai Pulau within the park, were arrested. Tanjung Puting National Park, designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1982, covers 4,000 km². Its primary purpose is to protect orangutans.²⁶

Thursday, September 11 and Sunday, September 14, 2025

Ramban, East Kotawaringin Regency, Central Kalimantan Province, Borneo Island, Indonesia

A 9-month-old Bornean orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*, Appendix I) was voluntarily handed over to the local BKSDA in the presence of villagers and the families of Muhamad Hadrianur and Mulyadi. On Thursday, while they were building a hut in a garden, they were alerted by a cry and found the baby orangutan by a stream. They brought him back to the village, and on Sunday afternoon, after consulting with everyone, it was decided to hand him over in accordance with the law.²⁷

September 30, 2025

Aek Haminjong, South Tapanuli Regency, North Sumatra Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia



20 to 25 years old. Male. He was found in a rice paddy, unable to move. For 5 days, the local BKSDA office monitored him. A preliminary medical examination revealed several injuries on his back and noted an abnormal and alarming degree of emaciation. The Tapanuli orangutan (*Pongo tapanuliensis*) had stopped eating. He was transported to the SRA (Sumatran Rescue Alliance) rehabilitation centre in Bukit Mas in Langkat Regency. He is receiving intensive care. "If possible, we will release him back into his natural habitat in South Tapanuli Regency". There are wounds that are old scars, but we don't yet know the cause.²⁸

End of September 2025

Muara Teweh, Central Teweh Regency, Central Kalimantan Province, Borneo Island, Indonesia



One year old. Female. Found on a trail in an oil palm plantation by Mr. Reza Pahlevi, who cared for her for 2 days before handing her over to the BKSDA in Muara Teweh. The Bornean orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*, Appendix I) was then taken to the BOSF (Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation) sanctuary in Nyaru Menteng.²⁹

October 11, 2025

Tanah Mas, East Kotawaringin Regency, Central Kalimantan Province, Borneo Island, Indonesia

3.5 kg. Female. 12 to 13 months old. She had been "found" 2–3 months ago in the forest and was often seen perched on the motorcycle of a teenager who paraded her around, including in bars and in videos. The antics were quickly spotted and condemned by orangutan enthusiasts. The BKSDA, with the help of the Sampit Reptile Friends community, managed to track down the family that was treating the Bornean orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*, Appendix I) like a toy and, after much negotiation, agreed to part with her. After a 14-day quarantine, she was transferred to a wildlife rehabilitation centre supported by the London-based Orangutan Foundation.³⁰

October 13, 2025

Mengkatip, South Barito Regency, Central Kalimantan Province, Borneo Island, Indonesia

Release of an adult male Bornean orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*, Appendix I) into a high-conservation area adjacent to the Industrial Forest Plantation (IFP) group's industrial plantation. The Wildlife Rescue Unit (WRU) and the BOSF witnessed the orangutan's release from the transit cage; his first instinct was to climb a tree. The orangutan, who had taken flight, had been rescued in August 2025 from Kantan Atas (Pulang Pisau Regency). On that occasion, IFP issued a statement summarized by this key quote: "Our paradigm is to create a harmonious balance between operational activities and ecosystem preservation." According to a report by the NGO AidEnvironment published 3 years ago, IFP was among the top 10 deforesters in the Borneo jungle. According to research by the NGO SOB (Save Our Borneo) published a year ago, PT Industrial Forest Plantation holds a concession of 100,989 hectares, of which more than 37,000 hectares have already been cleared and replanted with paper trees, almost entirely *Acacia crassicarpa*. Clearing began before the permit was granted.³¹

October 18, 2025

Sungai Bedaun, West Kotawaringin Regency, Central Kalimantan Province, Borneo Island, Indonesia

"There's an orangutan in a tree in the garden." Ali Mashuri got a surprise gift that Saturday morning. The large male appeared to be in excellent health. Called to the rescue, the rescuers arrived, shot him... with a tranquilizer gun, caught him in a net, and transported him to an enclosure to observe him and assess the situation. It was decided to release him immediately, as far away from conflicts as possible. After a journey by canoe and raft, the Bornean orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*, Appendix I) regained his freedom in the Lamandau sanctuary.³²

INDONESIA – EXCLUDING ORANGUTANS

September 6, 2025

Sukabumi City, West Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia



A major accident befell a Javan langur (*Trachypithecus auratus*, Appendix II) with a leash mark around his neck, either abandoned by his owner or having escaped. He tried to jump from the tree where he had taken refuge and fell onto a power line belonging to the city's electrical grid. He fell to the ground amid a shower of sparks, and firefighters attempted to revive him. When they arrived on the scene, his heart was still beating and he was breathing slightly. Their efforts, described as "heroic" by the press and neighbours who suffered power outages during the incident were in vain.³³



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REPEATED OFFENCE

October 1, 2025

Pontianak City, West Kalimantan Province, Borneo Island, Indonesia

facebook



Bima Yudha Pratama was sentenced to 3 years in prison and fined 50 million rupiah (3,000 US\$) with an additional month in prison if the fine is not paid, and ordered to pay court costs of 5,000 rupiah (0.3 US\$) for attempting on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, to sell via the Facebook group Pontianak Kalimantan Animal Market a Western tarsier (*Tarsius bancanus*, Appendix II) whom he claimed to have exchanged for cigarettes with a street vendor on Sunday, June 1.

Despite his small size (120 grammes, 12 cm tall), the tarsier is a formidable nocturnal carnivore that hunts frogs, snakes, bats and insects. In this sense, he is useful to farmers and at the same time a victim of agriculture due to the abuse of pesticides. He is also threatened by deforestation, forest fires and, as highlighted by the IUCN, toxic fumes from the gas field on the Natuna Islands south of the Riau archipelago. The Bornean tarsier is native to Peninsular Malaysia, the island of Borneo and the islands and archipelagos off the coast of Borneo. However, he is highly sought after throughout Asia for the pet trade.³⁴



Western tarsier (*Tarsius bancanus*)

End of October 2025

Special Capital Region of Jakarta, Java Island, Indonesia

Voluntary handover of 2 slow lorises (*Nycticebus coucang*, Appendix I) to the BKSDA and the NGO YIARI (Yayasan Inisiasi Alam Rehabilitasi Indonesia, Indonesian Foundation for Nature Rehabilitation). The male, who had been in captivity for 2 months, had all but one of his teeth pulled out; he cannot be released. The female should be able to be released.³⁵



© Ministry of Forestry / YIARI

October 2025

Denpasar City, Bali Province, Bali Island, Indonesia



A fine of 500,000 rupiah (30 US\$), or 7 days in prison, was imposed on a woman who was selling a long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*, Appendix II) in a severely degraded condition at her stall in the Satria animal and bird market.³⁶

THAILAND

September 17, 2025

Khao No, Nakhon Sawan Province, Thailand

The alert was triggered by a camera trap monitoring activity in a clearing known to be a popular poaching spot. Seven members of the Special Operations Unit and police officers arrived on the scene in 2 separate groups. Two poachers tumbling down the mountain failed to respond to warnings and managed to escape.

Up in the poaching camp, 15 long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*, Appendix II) were rescued. They had been stuffed into cloth bags hung from trees and carefully sealed shut. A short distance away, the patrol discovered a trap cage, popcorn and corn cobs used as bait, double-sided tape, cloth bags, and balls of rope.³⁷



© DNP

INDIA

October 10, 2025

Hat Kata Noi Beach, Phuket Island, Phuket Province, Thailand

Seizure of a slow loris (*Nycticebus bengalensis* or *Nycticebus coucang*, Appendix I) being used as a curiosity by a travelling photographer on the tourist-filled beach of Hat Kata Noi. When the police approached, he fled, abandoning his "photo prop."³⁸



October 17, 2025

Kaeng Krachan National Park, Phetchaburi Province, Thailand

Seizure by a ranger patrol of 11 suspected langur skulls (*Cercopithecidae*, Appendix II), the skull of an unidentified animal, and the carcass of a Malayan colugo (*Cynocephalus variegatus*) at a camp abandoned by poachers.

On the island of Bali in Indonesia, langur skulls sell to tourists for around 38 US\$ and orangutan skulls (*Pongo* spp., Appendix I) for up to 156 US\$. The market is expanding. A resin replica of a langur skull sells for between 150 and 200 US\$.³⁹



The seized skulls



A replica

September 12 and 13, 2025

Amserua, Barabanki District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India



Fourteen bonnet macaques (*Macaca radiata*, Appendix II), 8 males and 6 females, were found dead near a rice paddy. Poisoning is suspected. All of them had residues of wheat and chickpeas in their mouths. Postmortem examinations will be conducted by 3 veterinarians from Siddhaur.⁴⁰

September 20, 2025

Andheri, Mumbai Suburban District, State of Maharashtra, India



Seizure of 2 young gibbons (*Hylobatidae*, Appendix I) and arrest of Arvind Arogyaraj, a Bengaluru resident and home delivery driver who had recently begun specialising in door-to-door delivery of exotic animals, an emerging and lucrative trade, far more profitable than delivering prepared meals. He received his instructions via WhatsApp. He was to be paid 50,000 rupees (570 US\$) for 2 deliveries: picking up 2 packages here and delivering them there, without knowing the identities of the senders or recipients. The ringleader is believed to be in Chennai. The gibbons were reportedly purchased in Bangkok and arrived in India via the airports in Chennai, Bengaluru, or Mumbai through "kuruvis," the local term for smugglers.⁴¹

Sunday, September 21, 2025

Mankayam, Thiruvananthapuram District, State of Kerala, India



Discovery of 9 bonnet macaques (*Macaca radiata*, Appendix II) found dead or dying in a rubber plantation and along the nearby riverbank. Mass poisoning is suspected. Their mouths are full of drool. Before dying, they were shaking. Speaking on condition of anonymity, a local resident expressed the frustration regarding the monkeys introduced to the area by forest rangers. "We cannot even drink water from the wells as monkeys urinate in it."⁴²

**October 23 and November 3, 2025
Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru
Rural District, State of Karnataka, India**

Seizure of a Moloch gibbon (*Hylobates moloch*, Appendix I) and 2 black-shanked douc langurs (*Pygathrix nigripes*, Appendix I), one alive, one dead, in the backpack of Ranitha Rajan R., who had been offered a commission, hotel expenses, and plane tickets, and who was supposed to hand over the monkeys to an intermediary upon her return from Bangkok.



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© Country and Politics

At the time, authorities stated that the 2 surviving monkeys had been sent back to Thailand on the first available Thai Airways flight, but the story is more complicated. The black-shanked douc langur escaped from the customs offices where he was being held pending deportation, and airport management agrees that it will be very difficult to find him. "Since he is extremely small, locating the douc in the 2.5-million sq ft [23 ha] terminal is a Herculean task." Nine forest rangers armed with tranquilizer guns and nets are combing through every possibility, including the arrivals area, the domestic and international departures areas, and the hall where all checked baggage is sorted. The other langur, who had been prematurely declared dead from suffocation, bit one of the forest rangers who had come to help customs officials identify the species of the 3 monkeys and feed them.⁴³

**Night of October 29–30, 2025
Chhatrapati-Shivaji International Airport,
Mumbai Suburban District, State of Maharashtra,
India**

Seizure in a basket inside a wheeled suitcase of 2 Moloch gibbon infants (*Hylobates moloch*, Appendix I), aged 2 and 4 months, one of whom had died of suffocation. According to the Rakyat Post, a Moloch gibbon can sell for up to 30,000 US\$ on the black market. The Moloch gibbon is a star of the pet trade. He is native to the island of Java in Indonesia. Fewer than 2,000 remain.⁴⁴

WESTERN ASIA

ARMENIA

**Beginning of September 2025
Yerevan, Armenia**

A fine of 170,000 drams (445 US\$) for the operators of the Mandarinka Park restaurant and recreation centre, who entertained customers with 2 common marmosets (*Callithrix jacchus*, Appendix II) and a macaque (*Macaca* spp., Appendix I or II) kept in a cage. In her defence, Lilit Gevorgyan, who also runs a taxi company with her husband, says that their monkeys have a better life than the people on the street who rummage through trash cans and eat rotten leftovers. "We have monkeys that live in better conditions than many people."⁴⁵



AZERBAIJAN

**September 9, 2025
Kolkelfeli, Agstafa District, Azerbaijan**

Seizure of 2 macaques (*Macaca* spp., Appendix I or II) being held illegally at the Yaşılbağ leisure centre and transfer to Baku Zoo by a joint team from the NGO IDEA (International Dialogue for Environmental Action) and the Ministries of the Interior and Ecology. The operation was launched thanks to a tip-off from a member of the public.⁴⁶

ISRAEL

**September 18, 2025
Nehora, Southern District, Israel**

During a search of a moshav, a cooperative farming community, southern border guards discovered a vervet monkey (*Chlorocebus* spp., Appendix II) on a leash in the kitchen. Inspectors from the Nature and Parks Authority captured him and transferred him to a specialised sanctuary. This is the 58th monkey seized by the police and other authorities since March 2025.



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See "On the Trail" n°46 p.70 (ref.48) and p.141 (ref.90) and n°47 p.71 (ref.41).⁴⁷

**December 22, 2024 and October 24, 2025
Istanbul International Airport and Polonezköy,
Istanbul Province, Türkiye**

- Discovered on December 22, 2024, the young gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla*, Appendix I), locked in a wooden crate originating from Lagos, Nigeria, and bound for Bangkok, Thailand, will not be returned to the country of origin as the Turkish and Nigerian authorities had initially requested, provided that all precautions are taken to ensure he is not subjected to trafficking after his return to Africa.



- As part of the repatriation process, the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks commissioned genetic testing by the University of Ankara laboratory, including whole-genome sequencing; based on the results, it has been established that the young gorilla originates from the Western Lowlands. The range of his subspecies, *Gorilla gorilla gorilla*, includes Angola, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, and Equatorial Guinea. Nigeria was merely a transit country for him. He will therefore remain at the Polonezköy Zoo, 20 km from Istanbul, in his special enclosure protected by a glass wall. When he arrived at the zoo in late December, he weighed 9.4 kg and stood 62 cm tall; by mid-January, he had grown to 10.4 kg and 65.5 cm tall. For now, 80 million Turks are eagerly following his story. There are no other gorillas in Türkiye, at least officially. His life expectancy is estimated at around 50 years. The Turkish people have decided to name him Zeytin (Olive). For their part, the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA) and Roots & Shoots Türkiye are doing everything possible to ensure he is sent to an accredited sanctuary within his natural range.⁴⁸

FRANCE

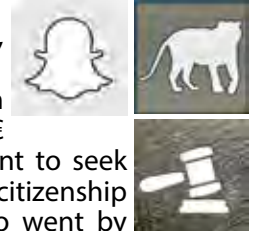
**September 8 and Mid-November 2025
Niederhausbergen, Department of Bas-Rhin,
and Department of Rhône, France. Border with
Germany.**

- Theft of common marmosets (*Callithrix jacchus*, Appendix II) in the sinister Fort Foch, built by German troops in 1870 near Strasbourg and converted by the University of Strasbourg, with its 7 hectares of wooded and contaminated by thrown-out ammunition land, into a facility for housing and supplying monkeys for experimental animal research, the outsourcing of experimental animal studies, and the sale of biological samples. The species are macaques (*Macaca mulatta*, *M. fascicularis*, *M. tonkeana*), capuchin monkeys (*Cebus capucinus*, *C. apella*), vervet monkeys (*Chlorocebus sabaeus*), and marmosets (*Callithrix jacchus*).

- Arrest of a man in the Lyon area with a prior criminal record. He had posted ads online to sell the marmosets. None of them were found. Two other individuals were questioned but cleared of suspicion. Accomplices are being sought, including among the permanent and temporary staff at Fort Foch.

Theft of pocket monkeys or baby monkeys, see "On the Trail" n°3 p.38, n°5 p.58, n°9 p.42 (ref.42), n°10 p.79 (ref.63), n°14 p.46 (ref.60), n°33 p.144 (ref.68), n°41 p.95 (ref.53), n°44 p.95 (ref.63 and 64).⁴⁹

**September 19, 2025
Senlis, Department of Oise,
France**



An 8-month suspended prison sentence, a fine of 5,000 € (5,800 US\$), and a requirement to seek employment and complete a citizenship course for the individual who went by the online aliases "Cœur de Lion" (lion heart) or "Génie du bizness" (business genius) and offered for sale, with the tagline "No money, no monkey" and photos of women simpering with the prized animals (between 1,500 and 3,500 €, 1,600 and 3,800 US\$) for common marmosets (*Callithrix jacchus*, Appendix II), Geoffroy's tufted-ear marmosets (*Callithrix geoffroyi*, Appendix II), red-handed tamarins (*Saguinus midas*, Appendix II), a serval (*Leptailurus serval*, Appendix II), and blue-and-yellow macaws (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II). He wanted to become rich and famous (he made only one sale). He is already known to the authorities for drug trafficking, traffic offences, and theft.⁵⁰

ROMANIA

**Beginning of September 2025
Felcheriu, Bihor County, Romania**

On the heels of Liska Park (see "On the Trail" n°47, p. 39, ref. 68), the newspaper Bihoreanul has uncovered a new illegal zoo in the county. The "Land of Horses" leisure farm displayed Asian macaques (*Macaca* spp., Appendix I or II) for the amusement of customers who had just paid an admission fee of 20 lei (4.60 US\$). It was fined 6,000 lei (1,400 US\$) by the Veterinary Health and Food Safety Directorate and 50,000 lei (11,500 US\$) by the Environmental Guard.⁵³



September 25, 2025

Le Cannet, Department of Alpes-Maritimes, France

Seizure of a Barbary macaque (*Macaca sylvanus*, Appendix I), one and a half years old, from a young man with a criminal record for drug-related offences. He claims to be passionate about these small monkeys. He had purchased him "under the table" in Marseille. He will have to explain himself before the judge.⁵¹



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Mid-October 2025

Saint-Martin-la-Plaine, Department of Loire, France

A Barbary macaque (*Macaca sylvanus*, Appendix I) was found wandering near the Amnéville Zoo in eastern France in May 2025. After several days, he was captured by zoo keepers and, following a quarantine period, transferred to the Saint-Martin-la-Plaine sanctuary, 700 km away. Primates are once again in vogue in France and Belgium. Importers from the Maghreb have reclaimed a share of the black market for pets. Like the serval craze, the trend for small monkeys often ends with the animals being abandoned on public roads. The Saint-Martin-la-Plaine sanctuary has also recently taken in a common marmoset (*Callithrix jacchus*, Appendix II) who was kept in captivity by private individuals in the Rhône-Alpes region.⁵²



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Red panda (*Ailurus fulgens*). Photo Yishen Xiao (BY-NC)

AFRICA

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

End of September 2025

Ruzizi Valley, Sud-Kivu Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo. Border with Burundi.

A hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*, Appendix II) that had approached homes and a rice field was shot dead.¹

AMERICA

ARGENTINA

September and October 2025

Provinces of Córdoba, Corrientes, Misiones, and Salta, Argentina

Seizure by security forces and forest rangers during 20 operations of approximately 20 carcasses of white-lipped peccaries (*Tayassu pecari*, Appendix II) and collared peccaries (*Pecari tajacu*, Appendix II), 2 live peccaries, 5 carcasses of nine-banded armadillos (*Dasypus novemcinctus*), 4 carcasses of capybara (*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*), one live capybara, pistols, rifles, shotguns, knives, machetes, telescopic sights, and night-vision goggles. 15 arrests were made, including one woman.

In two cases, the alert was raised by farmers exasperated by poaching on their lands and in the forest. In Rosario de la Frontera (province of Salta), poaching goes hand in hand with livestock theft. The police investigation led to the dismantling of a gang that specialised in motorcycle raids. A "high-ranking" source within the law enforcement

agencies of the province of Corrientes, speaking to the daily newspaper Epoca, acknowledged the farmers' anger. "In light of the growing concern among local producers, the goal is not only to combat poaching but also to eradicate all types of crimes committed in rural areas."

Two operations took place in the Urugua-í Provincial Park (province of Misiones), where campsites, salt blocks, and bait were destroyed. Five poachers were apprehended. Covering an area of 840 km², the park is dedicated to protecting the ecosystem of the Urugua-í River catchment area. Together with the Iguazú and Iguazu National Parks, located in Argentina and Brazil, it forms a large transboundary rainforest reserve.²



Two arrests in the Urugua-í Provincial Park on September 24, 2025

BRAZIL

September and October 2025

States of Amapá, Ceara, Maranhão, Mato Grosso, Minas Gerais, Paraíba, Paraná, Piauí, and São Paulo, Brazil

Summary of seizures during 23 operations conducted by the Civil Police, the Military Environmental Police, and Ibama (Instituto brasileiro do meio ambiente e dos recursos naturais renováveis):

- 8 armadillo carcasses, including one nine-banded armadillo (*Dasypus novemcinctus*), and 3 live armadillos, including one six-banded armadillo (*Euphractus sexcinctus*) who was released back into the wild.
- 6 carcasses, one leg, and 60 kg of capybara meat (*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*).
- 5 carcasses, 14 kg of meat, and one live paca (*Cuniculus paca*, Appendix III in Honduras).
- 3 live agoutis (genus *Dasyprocta*).
- 2 South American coatis (*Nasua nasua*, Appendix III in Uruguay), one dead and one alive.
- 1 white-lipped peccary carcass (*Tayassu pecari*, Appendix II) and 20 kg of collared peccary meat (*Pecari tajacu*, Appendix II).
- 1 opossum carcass (family Didelphidae).

Among the fifteen or so poachers or traffickers were a former city councilman and director of the public school in Bigua (State of São Paulo) and a reserve sergeant in the military police.

Near Sete Barras, in the Serra do Mar protected area (State of São Paulo), the military police dismantled an illegal workshop processing hearts of the Euterpe edulis palm (juçara), a species threatened with extinction due to overexploitation and who may not be harvested without authorization. On this occasion, they seized 52 kg of meat from armadillos, pacas, collared peccaries, capybaras, and tegus (*Tupinambis* or *Salvator* spp., Appendix II). In addition to machetes, knives, and traps, some thirty firearms of various types and calibres were seized, and an illegal weapons workshop was dismantled in Colniza, Mato Grosso, as part of Operation Zero Tolerance.

In Paraná, a capybara was found mutilated by hikers right out in a park in downtown Ponta Grossa. Back in July, already, in the northern part of the same State, 2 capybaras had been found dead in a park with wounds caused by sharp objects.

In Minas Gerais, 6 hunting dogs were confiscated and taken to a shelter for veterinary evaluation and care.³

September 15, 2025

Parintins, State of Amazonas, Brazil

Seized aboard a boat that had just docked, a three-toed sloth (genus *Bradypus*) a few months old, treated like a doll. His nails were painted, and he was fed meat and fish soup. Sloths are herbivores. He could have died eventually from ingesting animal protein. The sloth will remain in the care of Sedema (Secretariat for Sustainable Development and the Environment) until he is able to return to his natural habitat. "It is a crime to remove wild animals from nature, whether to raise them or to eat them," said the head of the Environment Department of the city of Parintins (population 102,000). The woman was fined and will be charged with animal trafficking, which may be extended to include animal abuse.⁴



COLOMBIA

October 3, 2025

Anserma, Department of Caldas, Colombia

Seizure by the Carabinieri and the environmental police of a capybara (*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*) kept as a pet in a private residence.⁵



SURINAME

October 8, 2025

Brokopondo, Brokopondo District, Suriname

Seizure of butchered carcasses of South American tapirs (*Tapirus terrestris*, Appendix II) and brockets (genus *Mazama*) by officers from the Department of Nature Conservation. Four arrests. Hunting of brockets is prohibited from October to February and hunting of tapirs from September to May.⁶

ASIA

INDIA

September 16, 2025
Gaya Ji, Gaya District,
State of Bihar, India

Local forest rangers seized 346 mongoose-hair brushes (genus *Herpestes*, 6 species listed in Appendix III in India and Pakistan) following information gathered by the WCCB.⁷



End of September 2025
Bela, Banaskantha District, State of Gujarat, India

Arrest of Hamir Ukabhai Parmar for poaching an Indian crested porcupine (*Hystrix indica*) on the outskirts of his village (population 1,500). At first his request for release on bail has been denied.⁸

October 13, 2025
Kapursing, Cuttack District, State of Odisha, India

Seizure of 800 dead bats. They had been sprayed with a neuroleptic aerosol while in their trees and collected unconscious after they flew away. Eleven armed men were arrested in an abandoned sawmill. According to investigators, the gang scoured the most remote forests, factories, and other closed-down workshops around Bhubaneswar in search of the flying mammals. The lack of forest rangers in the Athagarh division is said to have allowed these "jungle mafias", as they are called by environmentalists, to operate with impunity.⁹

INDONESIA

October 15-17 and 20, 2025
Papua Province,
New Guinea Island,
Indonesia. Border with
Papua New Guinea.

Seizure by the BKSDA of 2 stuffed black spotted cuscuses (*Spilocuscus rufoniger*). They were destroyed by fire in the BKSDA courtyard in Abepura.¹⁰



KYRGYZSTAN

September 16, 2025
Kemin District, Chüy Region, Kyrgyzstan



Officers from the Ministry of Ecology seized 2 Indian crested porcupines (*Hystrix indica*) and 15 chukar partridges (*Alectoris chukar*) being kept at the Kemin Ordo leisure centre. They were handed over to the NGO NABU, which released the porcupines and 12 partridges after providing them with some care.¹¹

MONGOLIA

September 10, 2025
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Two men were arrested whilst hunting marmots (*Marmota baibacina* or *Marmota sibirica*) on horseback on the outskirts of the capital. They were taken to the police station, whilst the carcasses were handed over to the National Centre for Zoonotic Diseases.¹²

September 15, 2025
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Sentencing of O.N. to one year of probation for poaching a marmot (*Marmota baibacina* or *Marmota sibirica*) in July 2025 in the Bogd-Khan-Uul Reserve. He paid damages of 820,000 tugriks (225 US\$) prior to the trial and his TOZ-8 rifle was confiscated by the State.¹³



MYANMAR

September 14, 2025

Indaw Township, Katha Division, Sagaing Region, Myanmar

Trafficking in endangered animals has increased in the country since the 2021 military coup. Seizure by the PDF (People's Defence Force) of 9 live red pandas (*Ailurus fulgens*, Appendix I) found in a vehicle. They were handed over to the KIO (Kachin Independence Organisation). Bamboo makes up 98% of their diet. Red pandas are being displaced, poached, and often captured alive for export to China, where there is reportedly a trend for keeping red pandas in captivity despite their reputation for aggression. There is also reportedly a demand for their skins, their meat, and for extracting traditional medicines from them. Kachin State, particularly the Emaw Bum region, is the stronghold of the red pandas. Several thousand square kilometers have suffered from deforestation, and urban populations are settling in the mountains to reinvent themselves as herders.¹⁴

THAILAND

FAMILY AFFAIRS

October 17, 2025

Kaeng Krachan National Park, Phetchaburi Province, Thailand

Guided by a wisp of smoke rising from the jungle near Tao Dam Falls, the patrol surprised a man weaving bamboo and his wife cooking a Himalayan porcupine (*Hystrix brachyura*) in their remote camp, surrounded by 2 buckets full of water, an old homemade rifle, and 46 lead bullets. The survivalist couple was taken to the station. Kaeng Krachan National Park (2,900 km²) has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since July 2021.¹⁵

VIET NAM

September 8, 2025

Yen Thang, Ninh Binh Province, Viet Nam



At 5 a.m., at the intersection of the highway and National Route 45, a car was stopped and a small-clawed otter (*Aonyx cinerea*, synonymous with *Aonyx cinereus*, Appendix I) was seized. The driver, Tran Thi Hue, a resident of Quang Ngai Province, had purchased him for 7 million dong (265 US\$) and resold him via Facebook for 20 million dong (760 US\$). She was on her way to deliver him to Hanoi.¹⁶

September 12, 2025

Na Sam, Lang Son Province, Viet Nam. Border with China.

Seizure of 14 live small-clawed otters (*Aonyx cinerea*, synonymous with *Aonyx cinereus*, Appendix I). The trafficker had acquired them in Thailand and claimed to have been recruited for a commission of 15 million dong (580 US\$) to transport them to China. Three other individuals have been arrested.¹⁷

End of October 2025

Ca Mau Province, Viet Nam

A 12-month prison sentence for the trafficker of a small-clawed otter (*Aonyx cinerea*, synonymous with *Aonyx cinereus*, Appendix I) arrested in July 2025 (see "On the Trail" n°47 p.76, ref.17).¹⁸



EUROPE

FRANCE

Night of 5 to 6 September 2025

Toulouse, Department of Haute-Garonne, France

"Travelling French citizens" were arrested in the grounds of a medical-social establishment caring for children and teenagers. They were two men aged 62 and 31. On Friday night, when they were arrested by the police alerted by the guard, they already had a dozen protected animals in their bag, European hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*) that they had just collected, sniffed out by a specialised tracking dog, dazzled by a torch and prostrate. They were immediately released back into the wild where they had been captured. European hedgehogs are fully protected mammals in the European Union.

In "*Les Misérables*", Victor Hugo notes that Curtillus 'invented the roasted hedgehog'. Victor Hugo alludes to the satire "*A Ridiculous Dinner*" written by Horace (65 BC – 8 BC): "it is true that we owe to Curtillus the great invention of the hedgehog, which is still eaten moist and salted by seawater, far preferable to brine"¹⁹

September 24, 2025

Tarbes, Department of Hautes-Pyrénées, France

Misfortune continues to plague European hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*). Last night, 2 individuals accompanied by a beating dog were caught by the police in the ditches and embankments along the railroad tracks near the station. They were hunting hedgehogs. They had already collected 6, and a 7th was in the dog's mouth.²⁰

Night of October 21-22, 2025

Niort, Department of Deux-Sèvres, France

During the night of Wednesday, the 21st, to Thursday, the 22nd, the Anti-Crime Brigade (BAC) spotted 2 individuals and a dog in some



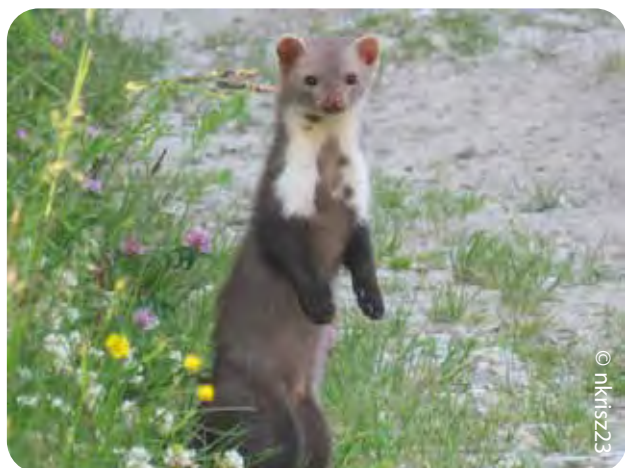
thickets and seized a wicker basket nearby containing a live European hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*). He was released back into the wild. "The Deux-Sèvres National Police also works to preserve biodiversity: every action, no matter how small, helps protect our environment."²¹

RUSSIA

September 15-October 15, 2025

Russia

Seizure of 681 beech marten pelts (*Martes foina*, *Martes foina intermedia*, Appendix III in India and Appendix III of the Bern Convention). Common but unloved in Eurasia, and like the fox accused of spreading the rabies virus, the beech marten is prized for his winter fur, which is soft, thick, and pleasant to the touch. His coat in summer is coarse and sparse. A good beech marten pelt is sometimes sold at the price of a sable. It is used in traditional clothing for toques and hats, for lining sheepskin vests, and in Chinese and Indochinese fast fashion to embellish hoods, collars, and sleeves of coats and other outerwear. Beech martens may be hunted in Russia from October to February, a timeframe that allows both for the regulation of a species considered in some respects to be harmful and for the personal and commercial use of a "beneficial" fur. It is prohibited to capture them with jaw traps or to destroy their nests in crevices or rock piles by fire or other means. However, as an exception to hunting regulations in the Russian Federation, it is permitted to use nets to capture and then kill beech martens. Farming beech martens for fattening and breeding is doomed to failure. The beech marten is untamable.²²



October 27, 2025

Moscow Federal City, Russia

Following a ruling by the Khoroshyovsky District Court, websites offering otters (*Lutrae*, Appendix I or II) for sale are now blocked.²³

SWEDEN

Beginning of October 2025

Kalmar, Kalmar County, Sweden

A 25-year-old man was sentenced to 160 hours of community service for kicking a European hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) several times, including 2 kicks that sent the animal flying through the air before he crashed onto the pavement. He justified the "aggravated animal cruelty" of which he was found guilty by claiming self-defence. He said he was afraid of the hedgehog.²⁴





Lesser bird-of-paradise (*Paradisaea minor*). Photo Ben Tsai 蔡維哲

CENTRAL AFRICA

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Beginning of October 2025

Maniema Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Release of 50 grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*, Appendix I) after a year of care and relearning to live in the wild. They had been rescued from the illegal trade or captivity. The operation is credited to the Lukuru Foundation, which opened a new care centre for grey parrots in April 2025 at the Kinsangani Zoo with the assistance of the ICCN. It already has 112 residents. About fifty are expected to be released in the coming months. The government has enacted a ban on the capture and trade of grey parrots (see "On the Trail" n°47 p.80, ref.5).¹

EASTERN AFRICA

ZIMBABWE

Beginning of October 2025

Victoria Falls, Matabeleland North Province, Zimbabwe

A 3-month suspended prison sentence, accompanied by a 5-year probation period, and a fine of 300 US\$ or 3 months in prison for Fadzai Muyambo, Onai Oliase, and Esrom Mudzingwa, who were in possession of 9 ostrich eggs (*Struthio camelus*, Appendix I in 12 African countries) with a total weight of 11.95 kg, 1.3 kg per egg, and an estimated value of 9,000 US\$, or 1,000 US\$ per egg. They reportedly "picked them up" in the wild around Checheche (Manicaland



Province) before travelling by bus toward Zambia via Victoria Falls, 500 km away. They were "picked up" by ZimParks and the police at the Chinotimba checkpoint, the border crossing with Zambia.²

SOUTHERN AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

September 18, 2025

Johannesburg, Gauteng Province, South Africa

A juvenile barn owl (*Tyto alba*, Appendix II) trapped inside a cardboard box at Kwa Mai Mai Market, the city's oldest traditional market, nicknamed Ezinyangeni ("The Place of Healers"), where all lovers of traditional medicines go to shop. It was rescued from there by the Owl Rescue Centre.³



© Owl Rescue Centre

September 2025

Cape Town, Western Cape Province, South Africa



- On Sunday, February 16, at dusk, a man on the Sea Point promenade was beating a spotted eagle-owl (*Bubo africanus*, Appendix II) with a stick in front of horrified passersby—a true ordeal that resulted in multiple fractures and the agony of the little martyr.

- On Saturday, February 22, the torturer was arrested. He is Mthini, 36, originally from Mozambique.

- After 7 months of pretrial detention, he was sentenced to one month in prison and a fine of 1,000 rand (56 US\$) for violating the Immigration Act, along with immediate deportation following the completion of his sentence, and a suspended fine of 8,000 rand (455 US\$) for violating the Animal Protection Act and the Nature Conservation Ordinance.⁴

BOTSWANA

September 4, 2025

Kachikau, North West District, Botswana. Border with Namibia.



Poisoning of 35 vultures (Accipitridae, Appendix I or II) by a pesticide on September 4, following the 6 poisoned on July 10 in Parakarungu (to be followed later by the 14 vultures poisoned in

Lesoma on December 4, 2025).

Over a 3-year period, 252 vultures were found dead in the Chobe District and around Gumare (North West District). Over a 5-year period, an estimated 10,000 vultures have been poisoned in southern Africa, including 6,000 in Botswana and Namibia. The species found in Botswana are the white-backed vulture (*Gyps africanus*, Appendix II), the Cape vulture (*Gyps coprotheres*, Appendix II), the hooded vulture (*Necrosyrtes monachus*, Appendix II), the white-headed vulture (*Trigonoceps occipitalis*, Appendix II), and the lappet-faced vulture (*Torgos tracheliotus*, Appendix II).⁵



White-backed vulture (*Gyps africanus*)

VULTURES ARE ALSO POISONED BY LEAD

In southern Africa, ornithologists and other advocates for wildlife and savannah ecosystems have come to realize the extent of chronic poisoning among vultures that consume carrion contaminated by hunters' bullets and lead shot. Vultures suffer from 2 types of poisoning: the violent of carbofuran from farmers and the insidious effects of lead, which affects the nervous system, the reproductive cycle, digestion, the immune system, skeletal development, and learning abilities. BirdLife in South Africa, along with its partners in Botswana, Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, is leading educational workshops on the dangers of lead bullets with the goal of promoting the use of lead-free ammunition in hunting safaris.

As part of the study published in September 2025 in *Environmental Pollution* by the 3 Spanish experts R. Mateo, M.J. Lavilla, and P.R. Camarero, specifically on griffon vultures (*Gyps fulvus*, Appendix II), between 2020 and 2023, 673 pellets containing hair, bones, feathers, hooves, and other indigestible material regurgitated by griffon vultures were collected at 6 locations in the province of Soria (10,000 km², average altitude 1,025 meters, 43% forested, with a high density of ungulates such as wild boars, roe deer, and red deer, as well as pig, cow, and sheep farmers). When a lead bullet lodges in large game, it can break into 500 fragments. The pellets were examined using X-rays to detect metals. 11% contained ammunition fragments. In 9.5% of them, lead is the dominant metal, and in 1.5% it is the copper coating the lead pellets that is dominant. The average weight of a lead fragment is 39.3 mg. The presence of metallic ammunition residues is directly linked to the consumption of game, particularly the carcasses of cervids such as roe deer and red deer. The ingestion of lead from ammunition by vultures is not constant throughout the year. The 2 months with the highest concentrations of lead in the pellets are January, coinciding with the general opening of the hunting season, and May, with the opening of the roe deer hunting season. The authors estimate that every day, more than 3% of griffon vultures ingest lead residues, which may explain the high concentrations of lead in their blood (more than 20 micrograms/decilitre in 53.7% of vultures). Between 2004 and 2020, 15.6% of griffon vultures found dead, 257 in total, had liver lead levels above average, and 10.5% had levels consistent with lethal poisoning (30 micrograms/gram of dry weight). One-third of the pellets contain sand and gravel pecked by the vultures to aid digestion. This percentage is significant, and in Spain and other countries, mine tailings could be considered a third source of poisoning for vultures of all species.



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

September 9, 2025

Lake Meade, State of Pennsylvania, United States of America

An osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*, Appendix II) was killed by a small-calibre firearm. Authorities are appealing for witnesses.⁶

September 10, 2025

Brandford, State of Connecticut, United States of America

The red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*, Appendix II) has been wounded three times by hunting shot and has a fractured wing. It was taken in by Dan Cosgrove Animal Shelter and entrusted to the veterinarians at "A Place Called Hope." Retaliation by local farmers is suspected.⁷

Beginning of October 2025

Saratoga, State of California, United States of America

The red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*, Appendix II) was saved from certain death by the Peninsula Humane Society and the SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals). It was found on a picnic table



in July, unable to fly, with lead shot wounds to the head, showing signs of lead poisoning, and suffering from vision problems. It survived the surgery and successfully completed rehabilitation. It has been released back into the wild.⁸

REPEATED OFFENCE

October 23, 2025

Otay Mesa Port of Entry, San Diego County, State of California, United States of America. Border with Mexico.

Jesse Agus Martinez, a U.S. citizen, was charged with attempting to smuggle 2 live, sedated orange-fronted conures (*Eupsittula canicularis*, synonymous with *Aratinga canicularis*, Appendix II) that he had hidden in his pants. A customs officer noticed a bulge in his groin area. Martinez remained unflustered and claimed it was his penis. The officer was not impressed by this so-called extraordinary equipment. The conures were taken into custody by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and placed in quarantine. Martinez had already attempted to import protected birds into the United States.⁹

LATIN AMERICA

ARGENTINA

September and October 2025 Provinces of Buenos Aires, Cordoba, Mendoza, and Santa Fe, Argentina



More than 120 live birds seized during 10 enforcement operations conducted on roads or during searches by agents from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, the Gendarmerie, the Rural Security Police, the Mendoza Biodiversity and Ecopark Directorate, the Mendoza Institute of Health and Agricultural Quality (Iscamen), supported by municipal officials:

- About 40 passerines of unspecified species.
- 18 golden-billed saltators (*Saltator aurantiirostris*).
- 16 saffron finches (*Sicalis flaveola*).
- 12 grosbeaks, including 7 glaucous-blue grosbeak (*Cyanoloxia glaucoerulea*).
- 10 red-crested cardinal (*Paroaria coronata*, Appendix II).
- 9 buffy-fronted seedeaters (*Sporophila frontalis*) and one rusty-collared seedeater (*Sporophila collaris*).
- 8 yellow cardinals (*Gubernatrix cristata*, Appendix II).
- 5 chestnut-capped blackbirds (*Chrysomus ruficapillus*).
- 2 black-backed grosbeaks (*Pheucticus aureoventris*).
- 2 European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine) native to Europe.
- 1 band-tailed seedeater (*Catamenia analis*).

Ten birds were being transported to the central market in Tapiales, in the province of Buenos Aires. In the same province, about 30 birds were being held in storage awaiting sale on the online marketplace; 2 traffickers were brought before the federal court and sentenced to fines of 600,000 (410 US\$) and 1 million pesos (690 US\$). Dead birds were also found in their storage facilities.

Juan Pablo Coniglione, a veterinarian with the Mendoza Department of Wildlife, warns: "Illegal wildlife trafficking can introduce zoonotic diseases such as psittacosis, salmonellosis, avian influenza, or various parasitic infections. Poor capture conditions, overcrowding, and transport increase the risk of infection for people handling the animals and their family members."

During a truck inspection by officers from the Province of Cordoba road safety squad, 8 fighting cocks were also seized. In Argentina, animal fighting is prohibited, but not in France.¹⁰

BOLIVIA

October 9, 2025

Morochata, Department of Cochabamba, Bolivia



The Hens and the Condors: A Sad Bolivian Fable. A fox raiding his henhouse prompts a farmer to scatter poison to get rid of him. His unwary dog eats some and hides to die. His carcass is spotted by condors lured in. Result: four magnificent Andean condors (*Vultur gryphus*, Appendix I) grounded for eternity.¹¹

October 11, 2025

Departments of Oruro and Santa Cruz, Bolivia

Rescues:

- 28 parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II) packed into 5 boxes seized by POFOMA agents at the Oruro bus station in a vehicle coming from Cochabamba and likely headed for Chile—an 8-hour drive to the Oruro Municipal Biopark. A man and a woman were arrested.

- 30 parrot chicks sold illegally at the Feria Barrio Lindo seized by agents from the Directorate of Natural Resources (Direna) and POFOMA. They were transferred to the Wildlife Reception and Transfer Centre (CAD) in Santa Cruz de la Sierra. "We reaffirm the provincial government's commitment to the conservation and protection of wildlife, and we will continue to carry out these operations to rescue animals that are victims of illegal trafficking."¹²

BRAZIL

September 1, 2025

Faxinal dos Guedes, State of Santa Catarina, Brazil

Brother Genildo Provin, pastor of the parish of St. John the Baptist in the Archdiocese of Chapecó, shot a green-billed toucan (*Ramphastos dicolorus*, Appendix III in Argentina) with a 5.5-calibre air rifle in the middle of town (population 11,500). After his stunt, he was intercepted by the military police, and the wounded toucan was seized from his car and immediately taken to a veterinarian. Neither the police nor church authorities wished to comment further on the matter. On Monday, in an Instagram post, the parish showed Brother Genildo participating with contrition in a symbolic tree-planting ceremony.¹³



OPERATION FORUM AVIUM I

Sunday, October 5, 2025

Fortaleza, State of Ceará, Brazil



Seizure by 58 Ibama agents from the States of Ceará, Amazonas, Amapá, Bahia, the Federal District, Goiás, Maranhão, Paraíba, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Norte, and Tocantins during a market of 187 native animals, caatinga parakeets (*Aratinga cactorum*, Appendix II), blue-fronted amazons (*Amazona aestiva*, Appendix II), jandaya conures (*Aratinga jandaya*, Appendix II), white-naped jays (*Cyanocorax cyanopogon*), chestnut-capped blackbirds (*Chrysomus ruficapillus*), yellow-bellied seedeaters (*Sporophila nigricollis*), white-throated seedeaters (*Sporophila albogularis*), lined seedeaters (*Sporophila lineola*), hooded siskins (*Spinus magellanicus*), and tortoises (*Chelonoidis carbonarius* or *Chelonoidis denticulatus*, Appendix II), and of 81 exotic animals, red-rumped parrots (*Psephotus haematonotus*, Appendix II), rosellas (*Platyercus* spp., Appendix II), coconut lorikeets (*Trichoglossus haematodus*, Appendix II), Bourke's parrots (*Neopsephotus bourkii*, Appendix II), lovebirds (*Agapornis* spp., Appendix II except *Agapornis roseicollis*), and rose-ringed parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*). About 30 people have been arrested and fined a total of 465,000 reais (87,200 US\$).¹⁴

October 18, 2025

Sao Paulo/Guarulhos International Airport, State of São Paulo, Brazil

Seizure from the luggage of a Belgian national who was about to fly to France of 2 pin-tailed manakins (*Ilicura militaris*), 5 green-headed tanagers (*Tangara seledon*), 7 gilt-edged tanagers (*Tangara cyanoventris*), 2 red-necked tanagers (*Tangara cyanocephala*) and 2 brassy-breasted tanagers (*Tangara desmaresti*). A fine of 72,000 reais (13,500 US\$) was imposed for breaching the 2008 decree on the capture, transport and mistreatment of wild animals. The birds were transferred to CETRAS (Centro de Triagem e Reabilitação de Animais Silvestres) at the Tietê Ecological Park for emergency veterinary care and assessment of their suitability for safe release.¹⁵

BRAZIL

Seizure of 7,417 birds between September 1 and October 31, 2025



Details on the following pages



9 birds including one campo troupial (*Icterus jamacaii*). September 27, 2025. Federal District



3 birds including one double-collared seedeater (*Sporophila caerulescens*). October 15, 2025. State of São Paulo

ACRE (3)

3 chestnut-bellied seed finches (*Oryzoborus angolensis*, synonymous with *Sporophila angolensis*)

ALAGOAS (109)

73 double-collared seedeaters (*Sporophila caerulescens*)

20 seedeaters (genus *Sporophila*)

5 red-cowled cardinals (*Paroaria dominicana*)

5 saffron finches (*Sicalis flaveola*)

2 green winged saltators (*Saltator similis*)

2 lined seedeaters (*Sporophila lineola*)

1 chestnut-bellied seed finch (*Oryzoborus angolensis*, synonymous with *Sporophila angolensis*)

1 blue-black grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*)

AMAZONAS (1)

1 white-throated seedeater (*Sporophila albogularis*)

BAHIA (1061)

69 yellow-bellied seedeaters (*Sporophila nigricollis*)

63 saffron finches (*Sicalis flaveola*)

59 green winged saltators (*Saltator similis*)

59 double-collared seedeaters (*Sporophila caerulescens*)

35 chopi blackbirds (*Gnorimopsar chopi*)

23 ultramarine grosbeaks (*Cyanocompsa brissonii*)

21 red-cowled cardinals (*Paroaria dominicana*)

13 white-bellied seedeaters (*Sporophila leucoptera*)

10 buff-throated saltators (*Saltator maximus*)

10 tanagers (family Thraupidae)

4 giant cowbirds (*Molothrus oryzivorus*)

4 rufous-collared sparrows (*Zonotrichia capensis*)

3 chestnut-bellied seed finches (*Oryzoborus angolensis*, synonymous with *Sporophila angolensis*)

3 Passeriformes

3 white-throated seedeaters (*Sporophila albogularis*)

3 lined seedeaters (*Sporophila lineola*)

2 jandaya conures (*Aratinga jandaya*, Appendix II)

2 red-legged seriemas (*Cariama cristata*)

2 cinnamon tanagers (*Schistochlamys ruficapillus*)

1 chestnut-capped blackbird (*Chrysomus ruficapillus*)

1 white-naped jay (*Cyanocorax cyanopogon*)

1 shiny cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*)

668 unidentified birds

CEARA (656)

30 lined seedeaters (*Sporophila lineola*)

27 white-throated seedeaters (*Sporophila albogularis*)

20 yellow-bellied seedeaters (*Sporophila nigricollis*)

17 white-naped jays (*Cyanocorax cyanopogon*)

17 red-cowled cardinals (*Paroaria dominicana*)

11 blue-fronted amazons (*Amazona aestiva*, A. II)

10 chestnut-capped blackbirds (*Chrysomus ruficapillus*)

10 chopi blackbirds (*Gnorimopsar chopi*)

10 hooded siskins (*Spinus magellanicus*)

8 grey pileated finches (*Coryphospingus pileatus*)

5 shiny cowbirds (*Molothrus bonariensis*)

5 great-billed seed finches (*Sporophila maximiliani*)

5 rufous-collared sparrows (*Zonotrichia capensis*)

3 caatinga parakeets (*Aratinga cactorum*, Appendix II)

3 Passeriformes

2 lovebirds (*Agapornis* spp., Appendix II except *Agapornis roseicollis*)

2 jandaya conures (*Aratinga jandaya*, Appendix II)

2 blue-winged parrotlets (*Forpus xanthopterygius*, A. II)

2 Bourke's parrots (*Neopsephotus bourkii*, Appendix II)

2 pale-headed rosellas (*Platycercus* spp., Appendix II)

2 red-rumped parrots (*Psephotus haematonotus*, A. II)

2 parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II)

2 rose-ringed parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*)

2 coconut lorikeets (*Trichoglossus haematodus*, A. II)

2 rufous-bellied thrushes (*Turdus rufiventris*)

1 yellow-chevroned parakeet (*Brotogeris chiriri*, A. II)

1 campo troupial (*Icterus jamaicai*)

1 blue-winged macaw (*Primolius maracana*, A.I)

452 unidentified birds

FEDERAL DISTRICT (236)

137 saffron finches (*Sicalis flaveola*)

32 yellow-bellied seedeaters (*Sporophila nigricollis*)

11 blue-and-yellow macaws (*Ara ararauna*, A. II)

7 double-collared seedeaters (*Sporophila caerulescens*)

4 amazon parrots (*Amazona* spp., Appendix I or II)

4 macaws (*Ara* spp., Appendix I or II)

3 ultramarine grosbeaks (*Cyanocompsa brissonii*)

3 parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II)

3 black-throated grosbeaks (*Saltator fuliginosus*)

3 seedeaters (genus *Sporophila*)

3 rufous-bellied thrushes (*Turdus rufiventris*)

2 chopi blackbirds (*Gnorimopsar chopi*)

2 variable orioles (*Icterus pyrrhopterus* synonymous with *Icterus cayanensis pyrrhopterus*)

2 red-cowled cardinals (*Paroaria dominicana*)

2 lined seedeaters (*Sporophila lineola*)

2 pale-breasted thrushes (*Turdus leucomelas*)

2 American barn owls (*Tyto alba furcata*, Appendix II)

1 yellow-faced amazon (*Amazona xanthops*, A. II)

1 yellow-chevroned parakeet (*Brotogeris chiriri*, A. II)

1 red pileated finch (*Coryphospingus cucullatus*)

1 campo troupial (*Icterus jamaicai*)

1 green winged saltator (*Saltator similis*)

1 palm tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*)

8 unidentified birds

ESPÍRITO SANTO (310)

58 budgerigars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*)

35 double-collared seedeaters (*Sporophila caerulescens*)

15 Passeriformes

14 lovebirds (*Agapornis* spp., Appendix II except *Agapornis roseicollis*)

13 Atlantic canaries (*Serinus canaria*)

8 tanagers (family Thraupidae)

7 ultramarine grosbeaks (*Cyanocompsa brissonii*)

7 finches (family Fringillidae)

7 lined seedeaters (*Sporophila lineola*)

7 Eurasian collared doves (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

5 Psittaciformes (Appendix I or II except 4 species)

5 green winged saltators (*Saltator similis*)

5 plumbeous seedeaters (*Sporophila plumbea*)

3 thrush-like wrens (*Campylorhynchus turdinus*)

3 blue-winged parrotlets (*Forpus xanthopterygius*, A. II)

3 Brazilian tanagers (*Ramphocelus bresilia*)

2 rose-ringed parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*)

1 rufous-bellied thrush (*Turdus rufiventris*)

1 blue-black grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*)

111 unidentified birds

MARANHÃO (137)

19 lined seedeaters (*Sporophila lineola*)
11 finches (family Fringillidae)
8 tanagers (family Thraupidae)
4 chestnut-bellied seed finches (*Oryzoborus angolensis*, synonymous with *Sporophila angolensis*)
3 yellow-rumped caciques (*Cacicus cela*)
3 saffron finches (*Sicalis flaveola*)
2 ovenbirds (family Furnariidae)
2 campo troupials (*Icterus jamacaii*)
2 red-crested cardinals (*Paroaria coronata*, A. II)
2 green winged saltators (*Saltator similis*)
2 yellow-bellied seedeaters (*Sporophila nigricollis*)
2 cocoa thrushes (*Turdus fumigatus*)
2 blue-black grassquits (*Volatinia jacarina*)
1 yellow-green grosbeak (*Caryothraustes canadensis brasiliensis*)
1 parrot (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II)
73 unidentified birds

MATO GROSSO (41)

5 parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II)
2 amazon parrots (*Amazona* spp., Appendix I or II)
34 unidentified birds

MATO GROSSO DO SUL (13)

6 saffron finches (*Sicalis flaveola*)
5 double-collared seedeaters (*Sporophila caerulescens*)
1 chopi blackbird (*Gnorimopsar chopi*)
1 chestnut-bellied seed finch (*Oryzoborus angolensis*, synonymous with *Sporophila angolensis*)

MINAS GERAIS (1087)

215 double-collared seedeaters (*Sporophila caerulescens*)
108 blue-fronted amazons (*Amazona aestiva*, A. II)
97 green winged saltators (*Saltator similis*)
61 saffron finches (*Sicalis flaveola*)
46 chestnut-bellied seed finches (*Oryzoborus angolensis*, synonymous with *Sporophila angolensis*)
40 seedeaters (genus *Sporophila*)
24 blue-and-yellow macaws (*Ara ararauna*, A. II)
24 ultramarine grosbeaks (*Cyanocompsa brissonii*)
22 yellow-bellied seedeaters (*Sporophila nigricollis*)
14 parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II)
14 hooded siskins (*Spinus magellanicus*)
11 macaws (*Ara* spp., Appendix I or II)
5 slaty-breasted wood rails (*Aramides saracura*)
5 rufous-bellied thrushes (*Turdus rufiventris*)
2 campo troupials (*Icterus jamacaii*)
2 lined seedeaters (*Sporophila lineola*)
2 plumbeous seedeaters (*Sporophila plumbea*)
1 lovebird (*Agapornis* spp., Appendix II except *Agapornis roseicollis*)
1 white-eyed conure (*Aratinga leucophthalma*, A. II)
1 chopi blackbird (*Gnorimopsar chopi*)
1 copper seedeater (*Sporophila bouvreuil*)
391 unidentified birds

PARÁ (49)

20 saffron finches (*Sicalis flaveola*)
3 chestnut-bellied seed finches (*Oryzoborus angolensis*, synonymous with *Sporophila angolensis*)
1 orange-winged amazon (*Amazona amazonica*, A. II)
1 white-lined tanager (*Tachyphonus rufus*)
24 unidentified birds

PARAÍBA (50)

50 unidentified birds

PARANÁ (90)

17 double-collared seedeaters (*Sporophila caerulescens*)
7 green winged saltators (*Saltator similis*)
4 blue-fronted amazons (*Amazona aestiva*, A. II)
3 blue-and-yellow macaws (*Ara ararauna*, A. II)
2 chopi blackbirds (*Gnorimopsar chopi*)
2 hooded siskins (*Spinus magellanicus*)
2 rufous-collared sparrows (*Zonotrichia capensis*)
1 yellow-rumped marshbird (*Pseudoleistes guirahuro*)
1 parrot (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II)
1 white-naped seedeater (*Sporophila fringilloides*)
1 chestnut-backed tanager (*Tangara preciosa*)
1 rufous-bellied thrush (*Turdus rufiventris*)
48 unidentified birds

PERNAMBUCO (382)

130 parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II)
32 chopi blackbirds (*Gnorimopsar chopi*)
220 unidentified birds

PIAUI (90)

15 amazon parrots (*Amazona* spp., Appendix I or II)
10 red-cowled cardinals (*Paroaria dominicana*)
10 guans (genus *Penelope*)
6 lined seedeaters (*Sporophila lineola*)
6 yellow-bellied seedeaters (*Sporophila nigricollis*)
5 Passeriformes
5 parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II)
5 green winged saltators (*Saltator similis*)
4 blue-and-yellow macaws (*Ara ararauna*, A. II)
2 chopi blackbirds (*Gnorimopsar chopi*)
2 rufous-collared sparrows (*Zonotrichia capensis*)
1 yellow-rumped cacique (*Cacicus cela*)
19 unidentified birds

RIO DE JANEIRO (1722)

963 double-collared seedeaters (*Sporophila caerulescens*)
61 Passeriformes
56 green winged saltators (*Saltator similis*)
46 rufous-collared sparrows (*Zonotrichia capensis*)
42 blue-black grassquits (*Volatinia jacarina*)
28 tanagers (family Thraupidae)
20 red-crested cardinals (*Paroaria coronata*, A. II)
5 saffron finches (*Sicalis flaveola*)
4 toco toucans (*Ramphastos toco*, Appendix II)
3 red-browed amazons (*Amazona rhodocorytha*, A. I)
3 budgerigars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*)
2 blue-and-yellow macaws (*Ara ararauna*, A. II)
2 mottled owls (*Ciccaba virgata*, Appendix II)
2 campo troupials (*Icterus jamacaii*)
2 chestnut-bellied seed finches (*Oryzoborus angolensis*, synonymous with *Sporophila angolensis*)
2 white-eyed conures (*Aratinga leucophthalma*, A. II)
2 parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II)
1 sun conure (*Aratinga solstitialis*, Annexe II)
1 grey pileated finch (*Coryphospingus pileatus*)
1 chopi blackbird (*Gnorimopsar chopi*)
1 lory (Loriidae, Appendix I or II)
1 yellow-headed caracara (*Milvago chimachima*, A. II)
1 rose-ringed parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*)
1 tawny-browed owl (*Pulsatrix koeniswaldiana*)

RIO DE JANEIRO - CONTINUED

1 Brazilian tanager (*Ramphocelus bresilia*)
1 cinnamon tanager (*Schistochlamys ruficapillus*)
1 Atlantic canary (*Serinus canaria*)
1 buffy-fronted seedeater (*Sporophila frontalis*)
468 unidentified birds

RIO GRANDE DO NORTE (9)

2 parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II)
2 saffron finches (*Sicalis flaveola*)
1 scaled dove (*Columbina squammata*)
1 chopi blackbird (*Gnorimopsar chopi*)
1 campo troupial (*Icterus jamacaii*)
1 white-throated seedeater (*Sporophila albogularis*)
1 cocoa thrush (*Turdus fumigatus*)

RIO GRANDE DO SUL (196)

21 green winged saltators (*Saltator similis*)
21 saffron finches (*Sicalis flaveola*)
20 ultramarine grosbeaks (*Cyanocompsa brissonii*)
19 black-throated grosbeaks (*Saltator fuliginosus*)
13 red-crested cardinals (*Paroaria coronata*, A. II)
9 diademed tanagers (*Stephanophorus diadematus*)
6 hooded siskins (*Spinus magellanicus*)
6 double-collared seedeaters (*Sporophila caeruleascens*)
5 golden-winged caciques (*Cacicus chrysopterus*)
5 glaucous-blue grosbeaks (*Cyanoloxia glaucoerulea*)
5 monk parakeets (*Myiopsitta monachus*, Appendix II)
5 seedeaters (genus *Sporophila*)
2 red pileated finches (*Coryphospingus cucullatus*)
2 parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II)
1 blue-fronted amazon (*Amazona aestiva*, A. II)
1 lined seedeater (*Sporophila lineola*)
55 unidentified birds

SANTA CATARINA (338)

241 Passeriformes
10 vinaceous-breasted amazons (*Amazona vinacea*, Appendix I)
10 ultramarine grosbeaks (*Cyanocompsa brissonii*)
10 tanagers (family Thraupidae)
2 black-throated grosbeaks (*Saltator fuliginosus*)
2 green winged saltators (*Saltator similis*)
2 saffron finches (*Sicalis flaveola*)
2 hooded siskins (*Spinus magellanicus*)
1 blue-fronted amazon (*Amazona aestiva*, A. II)
1 blue-and-yellow macaw (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II)
1 cockatiel (*Nymphicus hollandicus*)
1 Psittaciformes (Appendix I or II except 4 species)
1 toco toucan (*Ramphastos toco*, Appendix II)
54 unidentified birds

SAO PAULO (591)

64 saffron finches (*Sicalis flaveola*)
62 green winged saltators (*Saltator similis*)
51 blue-fronted amazons (*Amazona aestiva*, A. II)
38 double-collared seedeaters (*Sporophila caeruleascens*)
35 rufous-collared sparrows (*Zonotrichia capensis*)
7 gilt-edged tanagers (*Tangara cyanoventris*)
6 white-eyed conures (*Aratinga leucophthalma*, Appendix II)

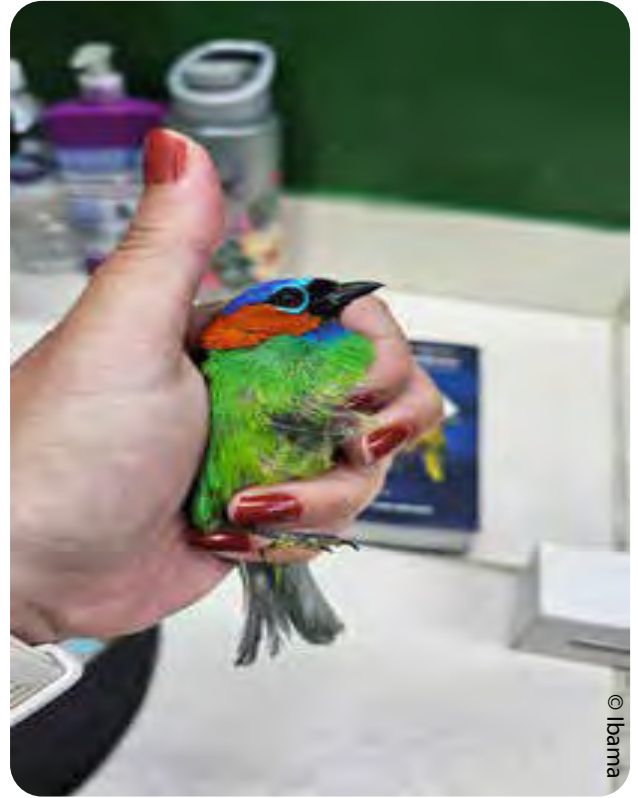
5 tanagers (family Thraupidae)
5 blue-and-yellow macaws (*Ara ararauna*, A. II)
5 hooded siskins (*Spinus magellanicus*)
5 seedeaters (genus *Sporophila*)
5 green-headed tanagers (*Tangara seledon*)
4 red-cowled cardinals (*Paroaria dominicana*)
4 parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II)
4 lined seedeaters (*Sporophila lineola*)
4 pale-breasted thrushes (*Turdus leucomelas*)
3 chopi blackbirds (*Gnorimopsar chopi*)
3 campo troupials (*Icterus jamacaii*)
2 chestnut-capped blackbirds (*Chrysomus ruficapillus*)
2 red pileated finches (*Coryphospingus cucullatus*)
2 blue-winged parrotlets (*Forpus xanthopterygius*, Appendix II)
2 variable orioles (*Icterus pyrrhopterus* synonymous with *Icterus cayanensis pyrrhopterus*)
2 pin-tailed manakins (*Ilicura militaris*)
2 chestnut-bellied seed finches (*Oryzoborus angolensis*, synonymous with *Sporophila angolensis*)
2 red-crested cardinals (*Paroaria coronata*, A. II)
2 black-throated grosbeaks (*Saltator fuliginosus*)
2 Atlantic canaries (*Serinus canaria*)
2 copper seedeaters (*Sporophila bouvreuil*)
2 rusty-collared seedeaters (*Sporophila collaris*)
2 yellow-bellied seedeaters (*Sporophila nigricollis*)
2 red-necked tanagers (*Tangara cyanocephala*)
2 brassy-breasted tanagers (*Tangara desmaresti*)
2 blue-black grassquits (*Volatinia jacarina*)
1 amazon parrot (*Amazona* spp., Appendix I or II)
1 grey pileated finch (*Coryphospingus pileatus*)
1 ultramarine grosbeak (*Cyanocompsa brissonii*)
1 Passeriformes
1 yellow-rumped marshbird (*Pseudoleistes guirahuro*)
1 great-billed seed finch (*Sporophila maximiliani*)
1 yellow-legged thrush (*Turdus flavipes*)
244 unidentified birds

TOCANTINS (246)

54 jandaya conures (*Aratinga jandaya*, Appendix II)
20 Passeriformes
16 chopi blackbirds (*Gnorimopsar chopi*)
12 tanagers (family Thraupidae)
10 chestnut-bellied seed finches (*Oryzoborus angolensis*, synonymous with *Sporophila angolensis*)
10 red-cowled cardinals (*Paroaria dominicana*)
10 green winged saltators (*Saltator similis*)
10 seedeaters (genus *Sporophila*)
5 hyacinth macaws (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*, Appendix I)
5 lined seedeaters (*Sporophila lineola*)
3 orange-winged amazons (*Amazona amazonica*, Appendix II)
3 parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II)
1 blue-fronted amazon (*Amazona aestiva*, A. II)
1 blue-and-yellow macaw (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II)
1 greater rhea (*Rhea americana*, Appendix II)
85 unidentified birds



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18 birds including 7 red-necked tanagers (*Tangara cyanocephala*) and 2 brassy-breasted tanagers (*Tangara desmaresti*). October 18, 2025. São Paulo/Guarulhos International Airport, State of São Paulo



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One macaw chick (*Ara* spp., Appendix I or II). September 24, 2025. Federal District

2 parrot chicks (*Psittacidae*, Appendix I or II). October 2, 2025. State of São Paulo



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5 double-collared seedeaters (*Sporophila caerulescens*) and 4 green winged saltators (*Saltator similis*). October 6, 2025. State of Espírito



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A blue-fronted amazon (*Amazona aestiva*, Appendix II) and a blue-and-yellow macaw (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II). October 31, 2025. State of São Paulo

OPERATION LIBERTAS

October 29, 2025

States of Minas Gerais, Santa Catarina, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro, Alagoas, Ceará, Rio Grande do Sul, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Maranhão, and Bahia, Brazil



116 searches. Eleven arrests in flagrante delicto. Seven people placed in pretrial detention. Seizure of 755 animals originating from the Cerrado, the Caatinga, and the Atlantic forests. Seizure of 37 cell phones, 4 firearms, 1,230 rounds of ammunition, one vehicle, 20 cages, 7 traps, 3 transport cages, forged documents, and falsified rings. The rescued animals are mainly birds, including parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II), blue-fronted amazons (*Amazona aestiva*, Appendix II), toco toucans (*Ramphastos toco*, Appendix II), double-collared seedeaters (*Sporophila caerulea*), green winged saltators (*Saltator similis*), chestnut-bellied seed finches (*Oryzoborus angolensis*, synonymous with *Sporophila angolensis*), lined seedeaters (*Sporophila lineola*), ultramarine grosbeaks (*Cyanocompsa brissonii*), saffron finches (*Sicalis flaveola*), blue-black grassquits (*Volatinia jacarina*), yellow-rumped caciques (*Cacicus cela*), black-throated grosbeaks (*Saltator fuliginosus*), yellow-green grosbeaks (*Caryothraustes canadensis brasiliensis*), and red-cowled cardinals (*Paroaria dominicana*); as well as reptiles, including black-bellied sliders (*Trachemys dorbigni*) and a boa constrictor (*Boa constrictor*, Appendix II); and mammals, including a leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*, Appendix I or II).

Operation Libertas is an initiative of ABRAMPA (Brazilian Association of Members of the Public Prosecutor's Office for the Environment). The goal is to strengthen the effectiveness of prosecutors in prosecuting crimes against wild flora and fauna. Libertas began in 2022 in 11 States.

This initiative has yielded mixed results. In Mato Grosso do Sul (357,000 km², 2.7 million inhabitants), only one seizure was recorded: a chestnut-bellied seed finch.¹⁶

CHILE

September 20, 2025

Paso Internacional Los Libertadores, Los Andes Province, Valparaíso Region, Chile. Border with Argentina.



Seizure in a vehicle of 50 birds that had been tied up and stuffed headfirst into 25 cartons of fruit juice from an Argentine brand, including yellow cardinals (*Gubernatrix cristata*, Appendix II), red-crested cardinals (*Paroaria coronata*, Appendix II), ultramarine grosbeaks (*Cyanocompsa brissonii*), hooded siskins (*Spinus magellanicus*), double-collared seedeaters (*Sporophila caerulea*), saffron finches (*Sicalis flaveola*), red pileated finches (*Coryphospingus cucullatus*), and European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine). 17 had already died from suffocation. Customs officers became suspicious upon finding 2 empty boxes of birdseed in the glove compartment. Two arrests were made for trafficking in protected species and animal cruelty.¹⁷

October 13, 2025

Antofagasta, Antofagasta Región, Chile

Seizure by Bidema (Brigada Investigadora de Delitos contra el Medioambiente y Patrimonio Cultural), the PDI (Policía de Investigaciones), and the SAG (Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero) from a downtown building of 14 exotic birds, including a macaw (*Ara macao*, Appendix I, or *Ara chloropterus*, Appendix II), a chestnut-fronted macaw (*Ara severus*, Appendix II), 2 blue-fronted amazons (*Amazona aestiva*, Appendix II), 2 red-lored amazons (*Amazona autumnalis*, Appendix II), all native to other South American countries, 2 coconut lorikeets (*Trichoglossus haematodus*, Appendix II) native to Southeast Asia and Oceania, one eastern rosella (*Platyercus eximius*, Appendix II) native to Australia, 4 red-rumped parrots (*Psephotus haematotus*, Appendix II) native to Australia, and another parrot (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II). The birds are in the custody of the SAG for health examinations and to assess the possibility of placing them in accredited zoos or sanctuaries. Arrest of a Chilean citizen.¹⁸

COLOMBIA

September and October 2025

Department of Antioquia, of Boyacá, of Caldas, of Cundinamarca, of Nariño, de Norte de Santander, of Santander, of Sucre, and of Valle del Cauca, Colombia

Seizures of 49 live birds:

- 14 ostriches (*Struthio camelus*, Appendix I in 12 African countries) and 2 northern screamers (*Chauna chavaria*) at the Marbelha Safari Beach Hotel zoo in Coveñas, along with 2 peccaries (Tayassuidae, Appendix II).
- 13 macaws, including 6 blue-and-yellow macaws (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II), 3 red-and-green macaws (*Ara chloropterus*, Appendix II), and 2 scarlet macaws (*Ara macao*, Appendix I).
- 9 amazon parrots, including 6 yellow-crowned amazons (*Amazona ochrocephala*, Appendix II, plus 4 handed over to the authorities), 2 orange-winged amazons (*Amazona amazonica*, Appendix II), and one red-lored amazon (*Amazona autumnalis*, Appendix II).
- 2 orange-chinned parakeets (*Brotogeris jugularis*, Appendix II) seized upon arrival at the El Salitre bus terminal in Bogotá, having travelled from Ciudad Ojeda, Venezuela (a 20-hour drive).
- 2 brown-throated conures (*Aratinga pertinax*, Appendix II).
- 2 tropical mockingbirds (*Mimus gilvus*).
- One keel-billed toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*, Appendix II).
- One parrot (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II).
- One passerine (order Passeriformes).
- One tropical screech-owl (*Megascops choliba*, Appendix II). Thanks to the coordinated efforts of the Corpoboyacá Wildlife Group, the environmental police, and the Juan de Castellanos University Foundation's wildlife refuge, it was treated and released.



- One barn owl (*Tyto alba*, Appendix II) that had been in captivity for 7 months in Medellín. "Let's not participate in the illegal wildlife trade in the metropolitan area. This animal is essential to the balance of the ecosystem, as it performs biological and ecological functions such as controlling pests like mice," reminded Mr. Gómez, supervisor of the CAVR.¹⁹

EL SALVADOR

FAMILY AFFAIRS

October 9, 12, and 14, 2025

Santa Tecla, Department of La Libertad, El Salvador

The Santa Tecla Debate

- Seizure, under the authority of the Attorney General's Office, of 200 birds, including scarlet macaws (*Ara macao*, Appendix I), white-fronted amazons (*Amazona albifrons*, Appendix II), eastern rosellas (*Platycercus eximius*, Appendix II), rose-ringed parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*), other parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II), and keel-billed toucans (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*, Appendix II) from the premises and storage facilities of APROAVES, an organisation specialising in bird conservation. According to the investigative file, José Edgardo Kamen Mejía and Erika Carla Juárez allegedly posed as veterinarians and agents of the MARN (Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources) to bird owners and exploited their purported authority to seize the birds, subject them to a health examination, and return them on the condition that a sort of fee be paid for services rendered. They are accused of the illegal practice of veterinary medicine, extortion, and harm to protected wildlife.

- José Edgardo Kamen Mejía, Erika Carla Juárez, and their daughter, Alison Kamen, refute the prosecutor's charges, denouncing a witch hunt by the Ministry of the Environment and false allegations. The couple claims they never claimed to hold a veterinary degree. According to the Kamen family, APROAVES's only shortcoming is that it is recognized only by the Ministry of the Interior, whereas the validation of their application should have been approved by the Ministry of the Environment as well. José Edgardo Kamen Mejía and Erika Carla Juárez were released from El Penalito prison in Colón (La Libertad department) on October 12. On October 14, the court ordered a conditional suspension of the proceedings, dismissed the 3 charges, and directed APROAVES to regularize its administrative status with the Ministry of the Environment. The shelter reopened on November 6. To be continued.²⁰



ECUADOR

OPERATION TORMENTA 41

September 17, 2025

Durán, Province of Guayas, Ecuador

During searches by police and military forces of 17 private properties aimed at dismantling the Chone Killers criminal group, 8 grenades, 2 firearms, ammunition, 45,000 US\$ in cash, marijuana, and "large quantities" of cocaine, stolen vehicles, and a blue-headed parrot (*Pionus menstruus*, Appendix II), mistreated and its wings clipped, were seized. A minor who had been taken hostage was freed and handed over to social services after being interviewed by the police.

The Chone Killers is a gang specialising in drug trafficking, robbery, murder, and hostage-taking. It is a splinter group of the Los Choneros gang. It operates primarily out of Durán (population 300,000).²¹

HONDURAS

October 24, 2025

Comayagüela and Tatumbla, Francisco Morazán Department, Honduras



Seizure by the ICF (Forest Conservation Institute) in cooperation with the FTIA (Inter-institutional Task Force against Environmental Crime) of an orange-chinned parakeet (*Brotogeris jugularis*, Appendix II), a keel-billed toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*, Appendix II), 5 orange-fronted conures (*Eupsittula canicularis*, synonymous with *Aratinga canicularis*, Appendix II), and a red-lored amazon (*Amazona autumnalis*, Appendix II). "¡No seas parte del Delito Ambiental!" (Don't be part of environmental crime!).²²

October 24, 2025

Chinacla, La Paz Department, Honduras

Seizure by the ICF and the FTIA, in coordination with the Attorney General's Office and the armed forces, of 2 scarlet macaws (*Ara macao*, Appendix I) in a small private zoo. Once their ability to fend for themselves has been verified, they will be released in the right location at the right time.²³

MEXICO

October 1, 2025

Tampico International Airport, State of Tamaulipas, Mexico



At a shipping company, the National Guard's canine unit discovers 3 live ostriches (*Struthio camelus*, Appendix I in Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and Sudan) in 3 wooden crates.²⁴

PARAGUAY

September 10, 2025

Alto Paraná department, Paraguay

During an anti-wildlife trafficking operation coordinated by the Ministry of the Environment, the police, and the Public Prosecutor's Office, one hyacinth macaw (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*, Appendix I) and 2 scarlet macaws (*Ara macao*, Appendix I) were seized alive in makeshift cages. They were transferred for care to the Wildlife Research Centre (Centro de Investigación de Animales Silvestres - CIASI). José Arimatea Garcete Escurra, who was transporting the cages in his Toyota vehicle, was charged with wildlife trafficking. He had been offering the birds for sale via the Internet.²⁵



September 25, 2025

Itá, Central Department, Paraguay

Following a tip from Interpol, a search of the traffickers' hideout led to the seizure of 23 macaw chicks, including hyacinth macaws (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*, Appendix I) and scarlet macaws (*Ara macao*, Appendix I). One suspect was arrested, and the seizure of computer equipment will, it is hoped, help identify the buyers, routes, and international contacts of the criminal network.²⁶

REPEATED OFFENCE

October 24, 2025

Luque, Central Department, Paraguay



Juan Alberto Ayala Mercado, already known for wildlife trafficking, was caught red-handed selling 3 parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II) right on the street. To make them look like exotic species and sell them at a higher price, Mercado dyed the feathers on their heads and wings yellow and orange. The birds show signs of skin and eye injuries, and one specimen is in critical condition. Inspectors from the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development also seized branches coated with glue used to capture the birds.²⁷

PERU

September 18, 2025

Juancito, Province of Ucayali, Region of Loreto, Peru

Seizure in the port by the Directorate of Forest Development and Wildlife of approximately 100 white-winged parakeets (*Brotogeris versicolurus*, Appendix II). Juancito is crossed by the Ucayali River, a tributary of the Amazon. The operation received support from riverboat operators who were urged to report the illegal transport of wild animals.²⁸

VENEZUELA

September 23, 2025

Caracas, Capital District, Venezuela

Seizure of 45 zebra finches (*Taeniopygia guttata*). José Trillo Trillo was breeding them and selling them for 50 US\$ each via the Internet. The birds, which were living in conditions incompatible with their needs, were rescued and placed in the custody of the Ministry of Ecosocialism. At least one egg was seized.

Zebra finches are native to Indonesia. See "On the Trail" n°10 p.79 (ref.65), n°31 p.138 (ref.131), n°39 p.100-101, n°41 p.119-121, n°46 p.81-82 and n°47 p.91-92.²⁹

CENTRAL ASIA

KAZAKHSTAN

Mid-October 2025

Basshi, Jetisu Region, Kazakhstan

Yerlan Zhumadilov, a member of the district parliament elected by the people and an employee of Altyn-Emel National Park, is also a poacher. He doesn't go after small game. With 2 accomplices, he captured 2 saker falcons (*Falco cherrug*, Appendix II) during their winter migration to the Middle East. They were seized in the kitchen of his vacation home along with a hunting net. They were about to be sold. Altyn-Emel Park covers 4,600 km². It is listed as a biosphere reserve by UNESCO. It is a geological, archaeological, paleontological, and wildlife and plant monument, with its centuries-old willows.³⁰



UZBEKISTAN

September 23, 2025

Chinoz District, Tashkent Region, Uzbekistan

Seizure of a peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I) and a Eurasian hobby (*Falco subbuteo*, Appendix II) being kept in captivity at a private residence. They were transferred to Tashkent Zoo. Joint operation by the Ministry of Ecology, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Syr-Darya River Water Resources Control Department. The 'owner' is reported to have been fined over 620 million sums (50,000 US\$).³¹



September 23, 2025

Oqtosh, Tashkent Region, Uzbekistan. Border with Kazakhstan.

Interception by customs officials of a smuggler attempting to leave the country with 8 peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I) locked in a bag, bound and hooded. They were initially handed over to Tashkent Zoo.³²

Beginning of October 2025

Tashkent Region, Uzbekistan



Release of 8 saker falcons (*Falco cherrug*, Appendix II) in the presence of environmental protection authorities from the Tashkent and Sirdaryo Regions, the Department of Ecotourism and Hunting Development, and specialists from the Institute of Zoology. The birds of prey had been seized by customs officials in Syr-Darya, a region bordering both Kazakhstan and Tajikistan.³³

EASTERN ASIA

CHINA

September 2025

Guangdong, Fujian, and Anhui Provinces, China

Seizures of almost 23 kg of "bird's nests":

- 491.2 grammes at the Liantang checkpoint, concealed in the pockets of the black dress and in the leggings of an arriving passenger.
- 18.6 kg in the luggage of 2 passengers at Xiamen-Gaoqi International Airport.
- 3.8 kg in the luggage of an incoming passenger at Hefei Xinqiao International Airport. Estimated value: 14,300 US\$.³⁴



September 2025. Xiamen-Gaoqi International Airport, Fujian Province

September 16, 2025

Weiyang District, Xi'An Prefecture, Shaanxi Province, China

Sentence of Zhang, not his real name, to a 2-month suspended prison term, accompanied by a 6-month probation period and community service, and a fine of 3,000 yuan (555 US\$) for keeping 58 wild birds at his home, 32 of which were "of significant ecological, scientific, and social significance," and 9 protected by the State, 2 red-billed leiothrix (*Leiothrix lutea*, Appendix II), a Chinese hwamei (*Garrulax canorus*, Appendix II), 2 chestnut-flanked white-eyes (*Zosterops erythropleurus*), and 4 Eurasian skylarks (*Alauda arvensis*, Appendix III in Ukraine). Given his age (60), his poor health, and his remorse, Zhang received a reduced sentence. After the verdict, the judge spoke with him and his family, explained the legal basis for the sentence, and encouraged Zhang to actively make amends for his mistakes. Zhang was deeply moved: "In the past, ornithology was just a hobby. Thanks to this lesson, I have fully realized the importance of environmental protection. From now on, I will tell bird lovers that I know we must not touch wild animals..."³⁵

October 9, 2025

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China

Seizure of 53 live birds, including 10 parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II), with an estimated value of 1,400 US\$, found in a woman's luggage at the Lo Wu checkpoint.³⁶

TAIWAN

September 30, 2025

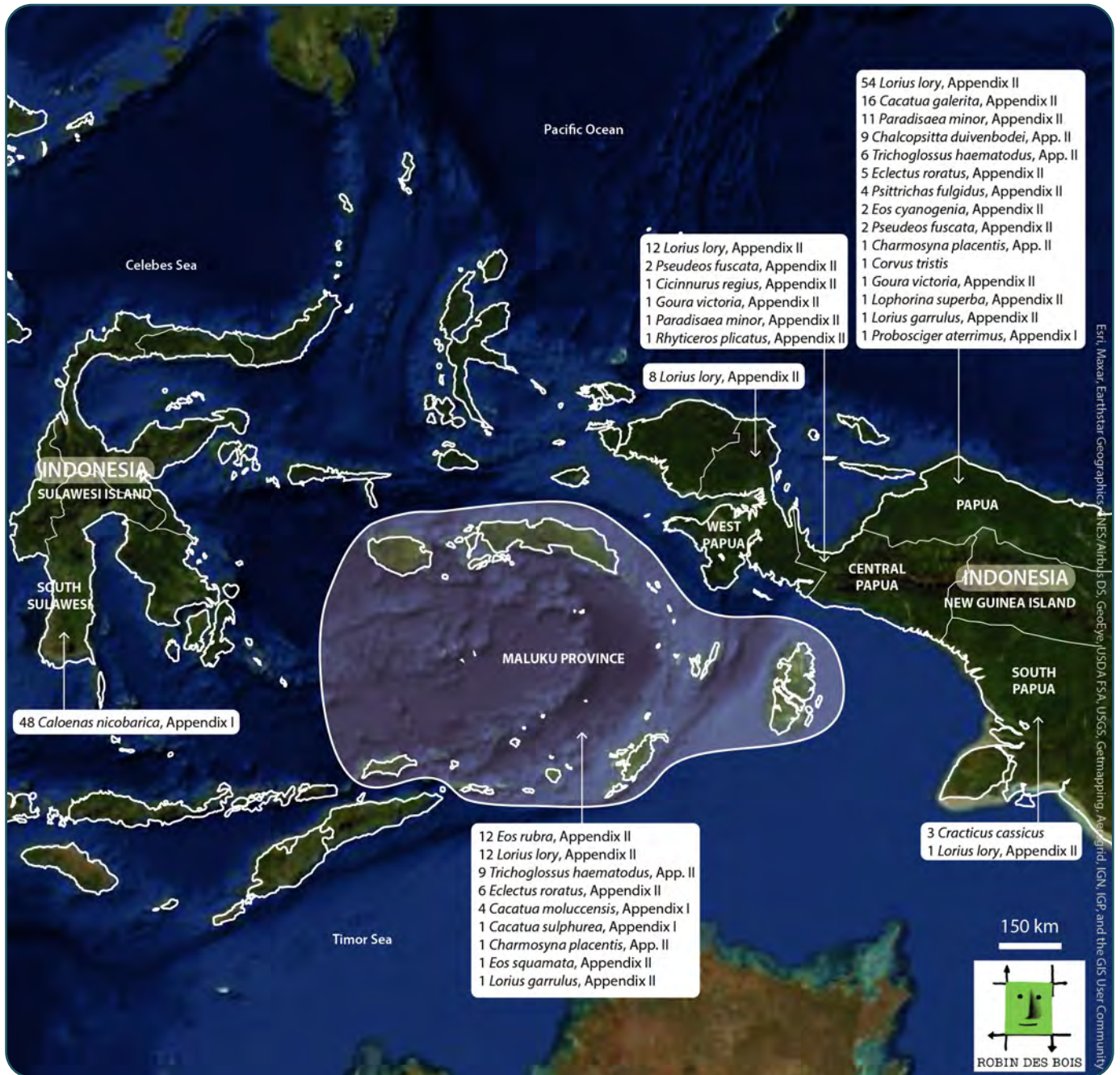
Keelung Municipality, Taiwan

Nets several hundred meters long, stretched across a ridge in the Qidu Mountains, struck and killed 4 black kites (*Milvus migrans*, Appendix II) in mid-flight. It was the inactivity of the GPS tracker on "Orange M9" that alerted the Raptor Research Group of Taiwan (RRGT). The nets were dismantled with the assistance of the Keelung City Animal Protection and Clinic and the Keelung Bird Society. Police suspect gangs that trap racing pigeons in order to demand ransom from their owners, whom they identify through the ring on the prized racing bird.³⁷

INDONESIA
Seizure of 10,924 birds between September 1 and October 21, 2025



3,081 live birds, including black-naped orioles (*Oriolus chinensis*), and 498 dead birds
October 18, 2025. East Java Province



16 birds including 3 black-winged kites (*Elanus caeruleus*, Appendix II). September 10, 2025
Bangka Belitung Islands Province



200 birds including 75 great hanging parrots (*Loriculus stigmatus*, Appendix II)
October 1st, 2025. East Java Province

**Seizure of 10,924 birds between
September 1 and October 21, 2025**
Map details

2,145 olive-backed tailorbirds (*Orthotomus sepium*)
1,715 bar-winged prinias (*Prinia familiaris*)
1,105 yellow-vented bulbuls (*Pycnonotus goiavier*)
584 zebra finches (*Taeniopygia guttata*)
490 ashy tailorbirds (*Orthotomus ruficeps*)
435 white-eyes (genus *Zosterops*)
385 brown honeyeaters (*Lichmera indistincta limbata*)
341 olive-backed sunbirds (*Cinnyris jugularis ornatus*)
280 Javan mynas (*Acridotheres javanicus*)
254 long-tailed shrikes (*Lanius schach*)
140 blue-winged leafbirds (*Chloropsis cochinchinensis*)
109 velvet-fronted nuthatches (*Sitta frontalis*)
107 crimson sunbirds (*Aethopyga siparaja*)
100 Nectariniidae
88 black-capped lorries (*Lorius lory*, Appendix II)
75 great hanging parrots (*Loriculus stigmatus*, A. II)
68 olive-backed sunbirds (*Cinnyris jugularis*)
68 pygmy hanging parrots (*Loriculus exilis*, A. II)
63 pied fantails (*Rhipidura javanica*)
57 citrine lorikeets (*Trichoglossus flavoviridis meyeri*, A. II)
50 common ioras (*Aegithina tiphia*)
49 prinias (genus *Prinia*)
48 Nicobar pigeons (*Caloenas nicobarica*, Appendix I)
40 Java sparrows (*Lonchura oryzivora*, Appendix II)
40 Sunda pygmy woodpeckers (*Yungipicus moluccensis*)
38 shrikes (genus *Lanius*)
29 ioras (genus *Aegithina*)
28 black-naped orioles (*Oriolus chinensis*)
20 black-winged kites (*Elanus caeruleus*, Appendix II)
16 sulphur-crested cockatoos (*Cacatua galerita*, Appendix II)
15 black-winged flycatcher-shrikes (*Hemipus hirundinaceus*)
15 coconut lorikeets (*Trichoglossus haematodus*, A. II)
12 red lorries (*Eos rubra*, Appendix II)
12 lesser birds-of-paradise (*Paradisaea minor*, A. II)
11 eclectus parrots (*Eclectus roratus*, Appendix II)
10 chestnut-backed thrushes (*Geokichla doherthyi*)
10 zebra doves (*Geopelia striata*)

10 munias (genus *Lonchura*)
10 tit-babblers (genus *Macronus*)
10 Moluccan flycatchers (*Myiagra galeata*)
10 babblers (genus *Stachyris*)
9 brown lorries (*Chalcopsitta duivenbodei*, Appendix II)
8 fire-tufted barbets (*Psilopogon pyrolophus*)
8 changeable hawk-eagles (*Spizaetus cirrhatus*, A. II)
6 brahmyn kites (*Haliastur indus*, Appendix II)
5 great tits (*Parus major*)
5 streaked weavers (*Ploceus manyar*)
5 dusky lorries (*Pseudeos fuscata*, Appendix II)
4 salmon-crested cockatoos (*Cacatua moluccensis*, A. I)
4 parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II)
4 Pesquet's parrots (*Psitttrichas fulgidus*, Appendix II)
3 hooded butcherbirds (*Cracticus cassicus*)
3 red-throated barbets (*Psilopogon mystacophanos*)
2 red-flanked lorikeets (*Charmosyna placentis*, Appendix II)
2 black-winged lorries (*Eos cyanogenia*, Appendix II)
2 Victoria crowned pigeons (*Goura victoria*, A. I)
2 chattering lorries (*Lorius garrulus*, Appendix II)
2 scarlet minivets (*Pericrocotus speciosus*)
1 black-winged myna (*Acridotheres melanopterus*)
1 Sumatran trogon (*Apalharpactes mackloti*)
1 white cockatoo (*Cacatua alba*, Appendix II)
1 yellow-crested cockatoo (*Cacatua sulphurea*, A. I)
1 greater green leafbird (*Chloropsis sonnerati*)
1 king bird-of-paradise (*Cicinnurus regius*, Appendix II)
1 grey crow (*Corvus tristis*)
1 violet-necked lory (*Eos squamata*, Appendix II)
1 nankeen kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*, Appendix II)
1 snowy-browed flycatcher (*Ficedula hyperythra*)
1 hill myna (*Gracula religiosa*, Appendix II)
1 white-bellied sea eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*, A. II)
1 lesser adjutant (*Leptoptilos javanicus*)
1 superb bird-of-paradise (*Lophorina superba*, A. II)
1 Javan scops owl (*Otus angelinae*, Appendix II)
1 palm cockatoo (*Probosciger aterrimus*, Appendix II)
1 Papuan hornbill (*Rhyticeros plicatus*, Appendix II)
1 Blyth's hawk-eagle (*Spizaetus alboniger*, Appendix II)
1 Javan hawk-eagle (*Spizaetus bartelsi*, Appendix II)
1,739 unidentified birds



Nicobar pigeon (*Caloenas nicobarica*)



48 Nicobar pigeons (*Caloenas nicobarica*, Appendix I). Late September 2025. South Sulawesi Province

September 10, 2025

Makassar City, South Sulawesi Province, Sulawesi Island, Indonesia



The owner of the *Pemas Jaya Lilisang Jaya 02* was sentenced on July 23, 2025, in the first instance to one year in prison and a fine equal to 12,250 US\$ for trading fish eggs for 11 black-capped lorries (*Lorius lory*, Appendix II) (see "On the Trail" n°47, p. 92, ref. 39). The provincial prosecutor had appealed, arguing that the sentence was not severe enough, and the court of appeal upheld the appeal. Given the seriousness of the offence, the judges found that there was no legal basis or mitigating circumstance justifying a sentence for Sumang Dg Galla that was less severe than that provided for under the 1990 Law on the Conservation of Natural Resources and Ecosystems, as amended in 2024. The judges further held that, "given the increasing scarcity of protected wildlife species, the penalty imposed on the defendant must serve as a deterrent to prevent him from reoffending and to discourage the public from committing similar acts." He is therefore sentenced to 3 years in prison and, as in the first instance, to a fine of 200 million rupiah (12,250 US\$), with an additional 3 months in prison if the fine is not paid.³⁸

September 18, 2025

Klaten, Klaten Regency, Central Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia



Sentencing of Suprihadi, a 33-year-old bird seller at a small kiosk next to a market square, and Prasetyo, his employer, to 4 months in prison and a fine of 5 million rupiah (300 US\$) which can be replaced by an additional 3 months in prison if not paid, for selling at least 50 greater green leafbirds (*Chloropsis sonnerati*) through 15 Facebook groups dedicated to birds, at prices ranging from 230,000 rupiah (13 US\$) to 515,000 rupiah (30 US\$) per bird. The birds were supplied by a certain Mr. Muhadi, a resident of Malang, East Java province.³⁹



Greater green leafbird (*Chloropsis sonnerati*)

October 7, 2025

Supadio International Airport, Pontianak City, West Kalimantan Province, Indonesia

Seizure by the BKSDA and the Avsec (Aviation Security) in the freight sector of 3 rhinoceros hornbills helmets (*Buceros rhinoceros*, Appendix II).⁴⁰

REPEATED OFFENCE

October 9, 2025

Bengkalis, Bengkalis Regency, Riau Province, Bengkalis Island, Indonesia



Sentencing of Rahmansyah alias Man, 33, self-employed, a repeat offender, to 10 months in prison, a fine of 1 billion rupiah (59,590 US\$) with an additional 2 months in prison in case of non-payment, and 5,000 rupiah (0.30 US\$) in court costs, and Surya alias Amor, 40, fisherman, to 7 months in prison, a fine of 1 billion rupiah with an additional 2 months in prison in case of non-payment, and 5,000 rupiah in court costs. Both men were arrested on May 7, 2025, in flagrante delicto while transporting 1,680 magpie-robins (genus *Copsychus*) on behalf of a certain Rozi from Malaysia to the port of Tanjung Buton on the island of Sumatra (see "On the Trail" n°46 p.88, map of birds' seizures).⁴¹

October 15-17 and 20, 2025

Jayapura City, Jayapura Regency, Keerom Regency, Papua Province, New Guinea Island, Indonesia. Border with Papua New Guinea.

- Handing over or seizures by the BKSDA at warehouses or ports of 56 live birds: one palm cockatoo (*Probosciger aterrimus*, Appendix II), 30 black-capped lorries (*Lorius lory*, Appendix II), 5 sulphur-crested cockatoos (*Cacatua galerita*, Appendix II), 5 brown lorries (*Chalcopsitta duivenbodei*, Appendix II), 4 eclectus parrots (*Eclectus roratus*, Appendix II), 4 Pesquet's parrots (*Psittichas fulgidus*, Appendix II), 3 coconut lorikeets (*Trichoglossus haematodus*, Appendix II), 2 dusky lorries (*Pseudeos fuscata*, Appendix II), one chattering lory (*Lorius garrulus*, Appendix II), and one grey crow (*Corvus tristis*). They were temporarily transferred to the Waena rehabilitation centre. "many of them have had their wing feathers clipped and are already tame, requiring habituation for release back into the wild," said Johny Santoso, head of the BKSDA in Papua.

- Seizures of 52 stuffed birds or bird parts, including 11 lesser birds-of-paradise (*Paradisaea minor*, Appendix II), 3 Papuan hornbill helmets (*Rhyticeros plicatus*, Appendix II), and 20 Northern cassowary crests (*Casuaris unappendiculatus*). They were destroyed by fire in the courtyard of the BKSDA office in Abepura, which sparked protests from local communities who consider the feathers of the lesser emerald bird-of-paradise to be sacred and essential for ritual headdresses. More mundanely, they also have commercial value.⁴²

PHILIPPINES

September 27, 2025

Maasim, Province of Sarangani, Philippines



Seizure by traffic police of 19 rufous hornbills (*Buceros hydrocorax*, Appendix II), 6 of which dead, and 6 live writhed hornbills (*Rhabdotorrhinus leucocephalus*) found in 3 wheeled suitcases inside an SUV, in the far south of the country near General Santos and its port. Both species are endemic to the Philippines. Arrest of the driver, "Junior," age 34.⁴³



Rufous hornbill (*Buceros hydrocorax*)



Writhed hornbill (*Rhabdotorrhinus leucocephalus*)

SINGAPORE

October 31, 2025

Woodlands Checkpoint, Singapore. Border with Malaysia.



The motorcycle had come from Malaysia. Inside a bag was a PVC pipe wrapped and tied in black cloth, containing a white-rumped shama (*Copsychus malabaricus*, Appendix II). The bird was on the verge of suffocation and died the day after the seizure. The motorcyclist was sentenced to 4 weeks in prison.⁴⁴

THAILAND

September 25, 2025

Yan Yao, Phichit Province, Thailand

Arrest at his home of Mr. Sombun, 69, by the Division for the Suppression of Crimes Against Natural Resources and the Environment. At his home, 13 white-breasted waterhens (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*), 13 brown crakes (*Zapornia akool*), and a red turtle dove (*Streptopelia tranquebarica*) in cages were seized, along with 2 dead white-breasted waterhens hidden in rice sacks. Sombun admitted to collecting eggs in rice paddies, hatching them, and selling each bird for 10,000 baht (300 US\$). He has been engaged in this activity for 4 to 5 years.⁴⁵

VIET NAM

September 7, 2025

Thanh Hóa Province, Viet Nam

Seizure by police of 136 red-whiskered bulbuls (*Pycnonotus jocosus*) on a bus travelling from Muong Lat to Thanh Hóa (220 km, 4.5 hours). Fine equivalent to 570 US\$.⁴⁶



September 24, 2025

Dak Lak Province, Viet Nam

Seizure by the Forest Protection Department of a crested serpent eagle (*Spilornis cheela*, Appendix II) being kept in a cage in a house.⁴⁷

September 29, 2025
Hue City, Viet Nam

Seizure by the Forest Protection Department, alerted by ENV (Education for Nature – Vietnam), of 10 red-whiskered bulbuls (*Pycnonotus jocosus*) and 5 black-throated laughingthrushes (*Garrulax chinensis*) at a trafficker’s home. He was fined the equivalent of 332 US\$ for illegal possession and online advertising of protected birds.⁴⁸



September 2025
Dien Bien Province, Viet Nam

Seizure of 4 black-throated laughingthrushes (*Garrulax chinensis*) and one Oriental magpie-robin (*Copsychus saularis*). Fine equal to 750 US\$ for illegal possession and online advertising of protected birds.⁴⁹



October 7, 2025
Thanb Binh, Da Nang City, Viet Nam

A fine of 13.5 million dong (520 US\$) was imposed on an individual who posted 12 ads offering red-whiskered bulbuls (*Pycnonotus jocosus*) for sale through various social media accounts. To assure quality, they were described as “wild birds caught by poachers.” The fine was calculated based on the number of posts (approximately 43 US\$ per post).⁵⁰



October 21, 2025
An Chau, Bac Ninh Province, Viet Nam

A fine of 13.75 million dong (520 US\$) was imposed for posting 11 ads on social media offering songbirds for sale, including Chinese hwameis (*Garrulax canorus*, Appendix II). The fine was calculated based on the number of social media posts (approximately 47 US\$ per post). According to some witness accounts, the suspect may have actually sold several hundred birds since 2021.⁵¹



SOUTHERN ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

September 2025
Laghman Province, Afghanistan

Seizure at a market by agents from the Department of Environmental Protection and Security Services of 10 caged birds, including falcons (Falconidae, Appendix I or II) and swifts (family Apodidae). They were released back into the wild. “Illegal and large-scale bird hunting harms our environment, ecological balance, the natural food chain, survival, scientific value, and the beauty of the environment, and contributes to the spread of various diseases (human, animal, and plant) in society,” notes the National Environment Protectional Agency.⁵²

September 2025
Samangan Province, Afghanistan

Seizure of 2 live but severely weakened kestrels (*Falco tinnunculus*, Appendix II), with their beaks tied and their eyelids half-closed. Two poachers/trappers were arrested.⁵³

September 2025
Ghazni Province, Afghanistan



Three falcons (*Falco* spp., Appendix I or II) were seized alive. Five men were reprimanded and let off after signing written pledges not to hunt again. In the event of a repeated offence, they will be prosecuted.⁵⁴

BANGLADESH

October 28, 2025
Haripur, Sylhet District, Sylhet Division, Bangladesh



Following a raid by the police and members of the 27th Infantry Regiment, under the supervision of Magistrate George Mitra Chakma, and the seizure of dead wild birds that were ready to be cooked and served, the Shahporan and Tanvir hotels were sealed off and remain closed until further notice.⁵⁵

INDIA

July 19, August 2, September 19 and 22, 2025 Ambivali and Vavandhal, Raigad District, Pune, Pune District, State of Maharashtra; Chennai, Chennai District, State of Tamil Nadu, India

- Burglary involving the theft of 11 birds from a wildlife rehabilitation centre, the Rewild Sanctuary and Charitable Trust, following the locking of the room where 3 caretakers were asleep and the disabling of surveillance cameras. Veterinarian Dr. Rina Dev, the centre's director, says that some of the birds have suffered fractures and that another is blind.

- Arrest of Anil Ramchandra Jadhav, 19, a pharmaceutical assistant at a veterinary clinic.

- Arrest of Rajesh Singh Mahi, alias Samshersingh, 43, a water vendor on trains between Karjat and Mumbai. The 2 men admitted to being the thieves and eventually provided the address of the fence in Chennai.

- Seizure of 7 grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*, Appendix I), one scarlet macaw (*Ara macao*, Appendix I), and one blue-and-yellow macaw (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II). The value in India of a grey parrot is estimated at 75,000 rupees (around 850 US\$), that of a scarlet macaw at 400,000 rupees (around 4,560 US\$), and that of a blue-and-yellow macaw at 200,000 rupees (around 2,290 US\$). The Free Press Journal reports on its website that "the intelligence of the African grey parrot is equal to that of a 5-year-old child." Two other exotic birds reportedly died during their transfer to Chennai, 1,250 km from Ambivali.

Along with a team of rescuers, Rina Dev also came to the aid of livestock, dogs, and cats that were buried under rubble after the April 2015 earthquake in Nepal.⁵⁶

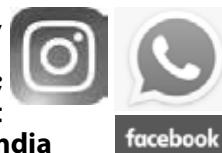
September 5, 2025

Shallabugh Wetland Conservation Reserve, Ganderbal District, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, India

Arrest of 4 poachers in the Shallabugh Wetland, a Ramsar Site of international importance frequented by more than 21 species of resident and migratory birds, including imperial eagles (*Aquila heliaca*, Appendix I), steppe eagles (*Aquila nipalensis*, Appendix II), Pallas's fish-eagles (*Haliaeetus leucoryphus*, Appendix II), black-bellied terns (*Sterna acuticauda*), yellow-eyed pigeons (*Columba eversmanni*), and wood snipes (*Gallinago nemoricola*). According to Altaf Hussain, assistant forest warden, dead birds, 2 boats, new cartridges, and empty cartridges were seized.⁵⁷

September 22 to October 2,
2025

Tellapur, Sangareddy District;
Hyderabad and Siddipet
Districts, State of Telangana, India



The Hindu festival of Dussehra, or Dasara, celebrates Rama's victory over the demon Ravana, who had abducted his wife Sita. It is said that Rama saw the magnificent flight of an Indian roller (*Coracias benghalensis*) in the sky just before the final battle. Spotting a "palapitta" is therefore considered a sign of good luck. This year, Dussehra took place on October 2, and Telangana's State bird suffered once again. Believers and the gullible of modern times, across all social classes, are content to see an Indian roller caged or with its legs bound and wings clipped and their photos have become popular on social media. However, the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 prohibits capturing, caging, or displaying the Indian roller. Anti-poaching squads from the Forest Department, assisted by NGOs such as the Greater Hyderabad Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GHSPCA), seized 26 rollers, 16 in Hyderabad and its surroundings (including one in a pet store during a transaction for 3,000 rupees, or 34 US\$) and 10 in Siddipet, about 100 km from Hyderabad. At least 5 Indian rollers died despite medical care, and 9 were released. Two people have been charged with poaching.

The outcome may seem modest, but given the popularity of the practice, which is supported by political leaders, the complicity of temple officials, and the lack of motivation and resources within the Forest Department, this already represents 9 Indian roller saved, provided they survive the trauma of captivity and a release that often takes place far from where they were captured. Indian roller populations have declined by 30% over the past 12 years due to habitat loss, environmental pollution from pesticides, and "ritual" poaching. Their diet of crop-damaging insects has earned them the nickname "farmers' friend." When the bird of victory is killed, everyone loses.⁵⁸



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End of September 2025
Sagar, Sagar District, State of Madhya Pradesh, India



Rescue by the Forest Department of a barn owl (*Tyto alba*, Appendix II) that had fallen into the courtyard of a public school in Shastri Nagar, with its wing feathers stuck together. A teacher raised the alarm. Water and soap were not enough, the glue had to be removed with kerosene. It was certainly doomed to end its life in tantric rituals.⁵⁹

Night of October 4–5 and October 9, 2025
National Highway 47, around Bhopawar, Dhar District, State of Madhya Pradesh, and Ahmedabad, Ahmedabad District, State of Gujarat, India



Seizure of 135 parakeets, including Alexandrine parakeets (*Psittacula eupatria*, Appendix II), plum-headed parakeets (*Psittacula cyanocephala*, Appendix II), grey-headed parakeets (*Psittacula finschii*, Appendix II), and rose-ringed parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*), 17 of which were already dead in the luggage compartment of a night bus travelling between Bhopal and Ahmedabad (580 km). Abdul Saeed (Jahangirabad) and Rasheed, alias Sarwar Popatlal, suspected traffickers, were arrested in Bhopal, Kalpesh was arrested in Ahmedabad, and the surviving parakeets were released.⁶⁰

Night of October 12 to 13, 2025
Aksharshila, Deogarh District, State of Odisha, India

Kishore Chandra Pradhan, a forest ranger who retired in 2012, provided work for his colleagues. Seized at his home were 17 Indian peafowl feathers (*Pavo cristatus*, Appendix III in Pakistan), which were reportedly plucked 6 months ago, and a skin of a spotted deer (*Axis axis*).⁶¹

October 19, 2025
Bakshi Ka Talab, Lucknow District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India

Jitendra Singh and Sanjeev were arrested by officials from the Forest Department and the police after 295 live parakeets, including rose-ringed parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*) and plum-headed parakeets (*Psittacula cyanocephala*, Appendix II), and 355 dead parakeets were found in their car. The supplier is reportedly a man named Rajkumar from Moradabad, and the birds were to be delivered to Gorakhpur, a further 5-hour drive away. According to the police, "Preliminary investigation indicates the group is part of a larger interstate wildlife trafficking network operating across several States, including Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Bihar".⁶²

Night of October 28-29, 2025
Sakawrtuichhun, Aizawl District, State of Mizoram, India

Theft of a Pesquet's parrot (*Psitttrichas fulgidus*, Appendix II) from the zoo. It was stolen between 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday and 7:00 a.m. on Wednesday. Mizoram, whose border with Myanmar stretches 500 km, has become a hotspot for 3 types of trafficking: weapons, drugs, and exotic animals. The Pesquet's parrot is native to the island of New Guinea. A reward of 225 US\$ is being offered to anyone who'll enable locating the bird and apprehending its captors.⁶³



Pesquet's parrot (*Psitttrichas fulgidus*)

October 30, 2025

Chennai International Airport, State of Tamil Nadu, India

Ayyobe Kunnumbrath, a grocer from Kochi, was arrested by customs officials upon disembarking from IndiGo flight 6E-1032 from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, with 10 live Bali mynas (*Leucopsar rothschildi*, Appendix I) in his suitcase, crammed into plastic boxes among toys, chocolates, and cookies. He was travelling with Anwar, the owner of a nursery and pet store and organiser of the operation, with F. Binseer, a “commission agent,” and with M. Nasir, a “real estate agent.” They were scheduled to continue their return trip to Kochi on a second flight, and this smuggling operation was intended to help them recover financially. Anwar reportedly managed to escape in a taxi with 6 other Bali mynas in his luggage while Ayyobe was being questioned (and turned him in). The seized birds would have been sent back to Malaysia the following day.⁶⁴



Bali myna (*Leucopsar rothschildi*)

IRAN

September and October 2025

West Azerbaijan, Bushehr, Fars, Hormozgan, North Khorasan, Khuzestan, Lorestan, and Sistan and Baluchestan Provinces, Iran

Report on seizures of live birds:

- About 20 European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine) were seized thanks to the intervention of officers from the Environmental Protection Unit. They had just been captured and were released back into the wild.



- 18 falcons seized during 8 operations conducted by the police, border guards, and the Department of Environmental Protection at capture sites, at the homes of poachers and traffickers, and on an intercity bus: kestrels (*Falco tinnunculus*, Appendix I), peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I), and saker falcons (*Falco cherrug*, Appendix II). The birds were intended for export to Persian Gulf countries. Environmental experts estimate the financial value of a falcon at approximately 8 billion rials (190,250 US\$).



Poacher's den, Hormozgan Province

- 16 white-eared bulbuls (*Pycnonotus leucotis*) released.

- 15 doves (genus *Streptopelia*) released.

- 2 Indian peafowls (*Pavo cristatus*, Appendix III in Pakistan) found in a poacher's possession along with an air rifle. Indian peafowls may only be imported and kept in Iran upon issuance of a permit.⁶⁵

PAKISTAN

Beginning of September 2025

Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan

Seizure by the Wildlife Department in Lakki Marwat of 2 saker falcons (*Falco cherrug*, Appendix II) and release into a suitable habitat near Bannu, 70 km away.⁶⁶

October 7, 2025

Lahore, Province of Punjab, Pakistan

Seizure from a young poacher-trafficker of at least one barn owl (*Tyto alba*, Appendix II) and one short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*, Appendix II), both alive and offered for sale near the Data Darbar sanctuary. Owls are exploited for black magic rituals and sold for the equivalent of 35 to 106 US\$.⁶⁷

October 2025

Province of Punjab, Pakistan

- In Sargodha, seizure of 2 falcons (Falconidae, Appendix I or II), arrest of 3 poachers, and destruction of falconry hides.

- On the banks of the Indus River, arrest of 4 men caught in the act of capturing falcons. Nets, traps, and live pigeons were seized.

The falcons most frequently poached and seized in Pakistan are the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I) and the saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*, Appendix II).⁶⁸



End of October 2025

Dera Ismail Khan, Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan



Inspection of the luggage compartments on the Karachi-Bannu bus (1,250 km, 19-hour drive) on the Indus Highway. This was no coincidence: the Wildlife Department had received a tip. Seizure of 32 common cranes (*Grus grus*, Appendix II), 6 of which were dead. They were wrapped in pieces of cloth. The survivors were transferred to the D.I. Khan Wildlife Park for veterinary care.⁶⁹

WESTERN ASIA

SAUDI ARABIA

October 2025

Yanbu Governorate, Medina Province, Saudi Arabia

Arrest by the SFES (Special Forces for Environmental Security) of Naeem Abdullah Al-Armani and seizure of 3 falcons (*Falco* spp., Appendix I or II) and a quail. He faces fines of 11,500 riyals (3,000 US\$) for hunting without a permit and 5,000 riyals (1,330 US\$) for hunting in a restricted area.⁷⁰

ARMENIA

Mid-October 2025

Jermuk, Vayots Dzor Region, Armenia

A buzzard (*Buteo* spp., Appendix II) was seized by environmental officers and police officers. V.S. had captured it and was keeping it at home without a permit. It was released into the surrounding forest.⁷¹

AZERBAIJAN

September 2025

Soumgait and Baku Municipalities, Khachmaz and Qabala Districts, Azerbaijan

Following reports from citizens to the NGO IDEA (International Dialogue for Environmental Action), officials from the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources seized 20 live birds that were being kept illegally. They were taken into the care of veterinarians at the Baku Zoo.

- 2 ostriches (*Struthio camelus*, Appendix I in 12 African countries) and 13 rose-ringed parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*) in a restaurant at the Nassimi Cultural and Recreational Park in Sumgait.

- A cinereous vulture (*Aegypius monachus*, Appendix II) in the courtyard of a house in Baku.

- A flamingo (Phoenicopteridae, Appendix II), 2 whooper swans (*Cygnus cygnus*), and 3 chinchillas (genus *Chinchilla*) in a restaurant. The birds' wings had been mutilated to silence any vague hope of flying.

- A cinereous vulture (*Aegypius monachus*, Appendix II) at the "Bazarduzu" recreation centre. The bird had been shot, was untreated, and was malnourished.⁷²

October 24, 2025

Shabran District, Azerbaijan



A Turkish national and a resident of Baku were transporting 3 peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I) in their car when they were stopped on a road along the Caspian Sea coast by officers from the National Ecological Security Service. Seizure and a fine of 2,000 manats (1,180 US\$) each.⁷³

CYPRUS

September 26, to October 5, 2025

Maroni, Larnaca District, and Dali, Nicosia District, Cyprus



It's fall, and migratory passerines are stopping over in Cyprus and may never leave. The police have carried out 3 anti-poaching operations.

- On September 26, the home of the 55-year-old leader of the "Akas" poaching gang, a long-known figure, was searched. Sixty-three dead birds, 10 nets, 4 electronic bird calls, and 8 loudspeakers were seized, and 343 live birds were freed from nets. A fine of 26,000 € (30,357 US\$) was imposed.

- On October 3, a search of a second poacher's home resulted in the seizure of 952 dead birds and 5 nets. A search of a third poacher's home resulted in the seizure of 149 dead birds, the release of 147 live birds, and the dismantling of 11 nets. Total fines of 30,000 € (35,030 US\$).

- On October 5, back to the leader of the "Akas" gang. Another seizure of one dead bird, 3 nets, and 4 loudspeakers, and the release of 6 live birds. Additional fine of 6,000 € (7,000 US\$).

In total, 1,165 dead passerines, some already plucked, were seized, and 496 live birds were released. Koulla Michael, executive director of the Cypriot NGO Terra Cypria, disputes the cultural nature of the consumption of ambelopoulia (skewers of small passerines). "It is a criminal activity carried out on an industrial scale and generating enormous illegal profits."⁷⁴

Ambelopoulia, see "On the Trail" n°10 p.27 (ref.45), n°16 p.35 (ref.52), n°21 p.39 (ref.84), n°34 p.158 and n°42 p.95 (ref.104).



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October 2025

Famagusta, Larnaca, Limassol, and Nicosia Districts, Cyprus

Seizure by police and agents of the Hunting and Wildlife Service during field operations and 7 searches conducted under judicial warrants of 1,370 passerines, including 1,279 dead birds, Eurasian blackcaps (*Sylvia atricapilla*, Appendix III in Ukraine), European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine), leaf warblers (genus *Phylloscopus*), Spanish sparrows (*Passer hispaniolensis*), 7 partridges (*Perdix perdix*), and 5 black francolins (*Francolinus francolinus*). Three poachers were arrested while many others who were waiting for flocks of passerines managed to escape.⁷⁵



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End of October 2025

Cyprus

Owls are collateral victims of passerine poaching.

- A long-eared owl (*Asio otus*, Appendix II) that had been freed from a net had to be euthanised. It was seriously injured and had lost one eye.

- A long-eared owl and a Cyprus scops owl (*Otus scops cyprius*, Appendix II) were rescued in time.

The Cyprus scops owl is an endemic species distinguished by its plumage and two distinct vocal notes. It is believed to be a partial migrant, individuals have been observed in Israel.⁷⁶



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IRAK

October 19 and 20, 2025

Kirkuk and Wasit Governorates, Irak

- The Environmental Authority and the courts have launched an investigation following the release of a video showing men killing a peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I).

The Kurdistan Green Party has condemned the act of cruelty.

- Two peregrine falcons were seized by the organised crime unit.

Falcons in Irak, see "On the Trail" n°11 p.26 (ref.45), n°32 p.177 (ref.144), n°34 p.159 (ref.90), n°42 p.94 (ref.97) and n°43 p.89 (ref.77).⁷⁷



LEBANON

September and October 2025

Akkar Governorate, Baalbek-Hermel Governorate, Mount Lebanon Governorate, and North Governorate, Lebanon

Summary of operations to combat the poaching of feathered biodiversity:

- Seizure at the border of "hundreds" of European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine) still alive, originating from Syria, by units of the 1st Land Border Regiment. The birds were treated and released by the Department of Agriculture of the Akkar Governorate.

- A lesser-spotted eagle (*Aquila pomarina*, Appendix II) found lying on the ground with a gunshot wound. It had to be made out of pain.

- 6 Eurasian sparrowhawks (*Accipiter nisus*, Appendix II), a kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*, Appendix II), and a common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*, Appendix II) shot dead in the cedar forests of Qoubaiyat. The poachers abandoned their loot to flee more quickly.



- 312 birds were rescued alive from the endless nets strung across their migratory route. They were released back into the wild.

- "Hundreds" of dead birds were retrieved from the nets by the Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL), in close cooperation and coordination with the Bekaa Intelligence Division of the Internal Security Forces: lesser whitethroats (*Sylvia curruca*, Appendix III in Ukraine), Eurasian blackcaps (*Sylvia atricapilla*, Appendix III in Ukraine), garden warblers (*Sylvia borin*, Appendix III in Ukraine), red-backed shrikes (*Lanius collurio*), common chiffchaffs (*Phylloscopus collybita*), corn crakes (*Crex crex*), European robins (*Erithacus rubecula*, Appendix III in Ukraine), Eurasian reed warblers (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*), whinchats (*Saxicola rubetra*), Eurasian siskins (*Carduelis spinus*, synonymous with *Spinus spinus*, Appendix III in Ukraine). A scops owl (*Otus scops*, Appendix II), a common kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), and even an Egyptian fruit bat (*Rousettus aegyptiacus*) were among the victims. More than 10 km of nets were removed, some of which had been set up on a farm among lemon groves, while others were found in the heart of the Barja urban area.⁷⁸



Common kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)
End of October 2025. Baalbek-Hermel Governorate



Egyptian fruit bat (*Rousettus aegyptiacus*)
End of October 2025. Akkar Governorate

TURKIYE

October 14, 2025

Silivri, Istanbul Province, Türkiye

Search by the police acting under the authority of the public prosecutor's office and seizure of 2 peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I) that had been captured illegally and were intended for smuggling. Fines totaling 36,000 US\$ imposed on 2 foreign nationals.⁷⁹



October 20, 2025

Çorlu, Tekirdağ Province, Türkiye

Search by the police acting under the authority of the public prosecutor's office and seizure at an illegal bird breeding facility of one grey parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*, Appendix I), 4 parrotlets (*Forpus* spp., Appendix II), 10 lovebirds (*Agapornis* spp., Appendix II except *Agapornis roseicollis*), and 26 cockatiels (*Nymphicus hollandicus*). They were transferred to the Çatalca Antikköy Zoo. Fines totaling 1,150 US\$.⁸⁰



YEMEN

September 2025

Saada Governorate, Yemen

During the month of Rabi' al-Awwal of the year 1447, corresponding to August 24 through September 22, 2025, customs officials in the governorate seized tonnes of pesticides, fireworks classified as pyrotechnic devices, cigarettes, tobacco, 41 head of livestock, and 21 saker falcons (*Falco cherrug*, Appendix II).⁸¹

NORTHERN EUROPE

DENMARK

End of September 2025 and end of January 2026

Jystrup, Sjælland Region, and Copenhagen, Denmark

Discovery in a field of a juvenile white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*, Appendix I) and an adult common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*, Appendix II) by Henrik Jørgensen, a wildlife consultant for the Central Zealand Nature Agency. He had been alerted by a member of the public. The birds were handed over to the relevant department at the University of Copenhagen, which confirmed in early 2026 that the 2 raptors had been poisoned by carbofuran.⁸²



UNITED KINGDOM

OPERATION THUNDER

September 13 – October 15 2025

United Kingdom

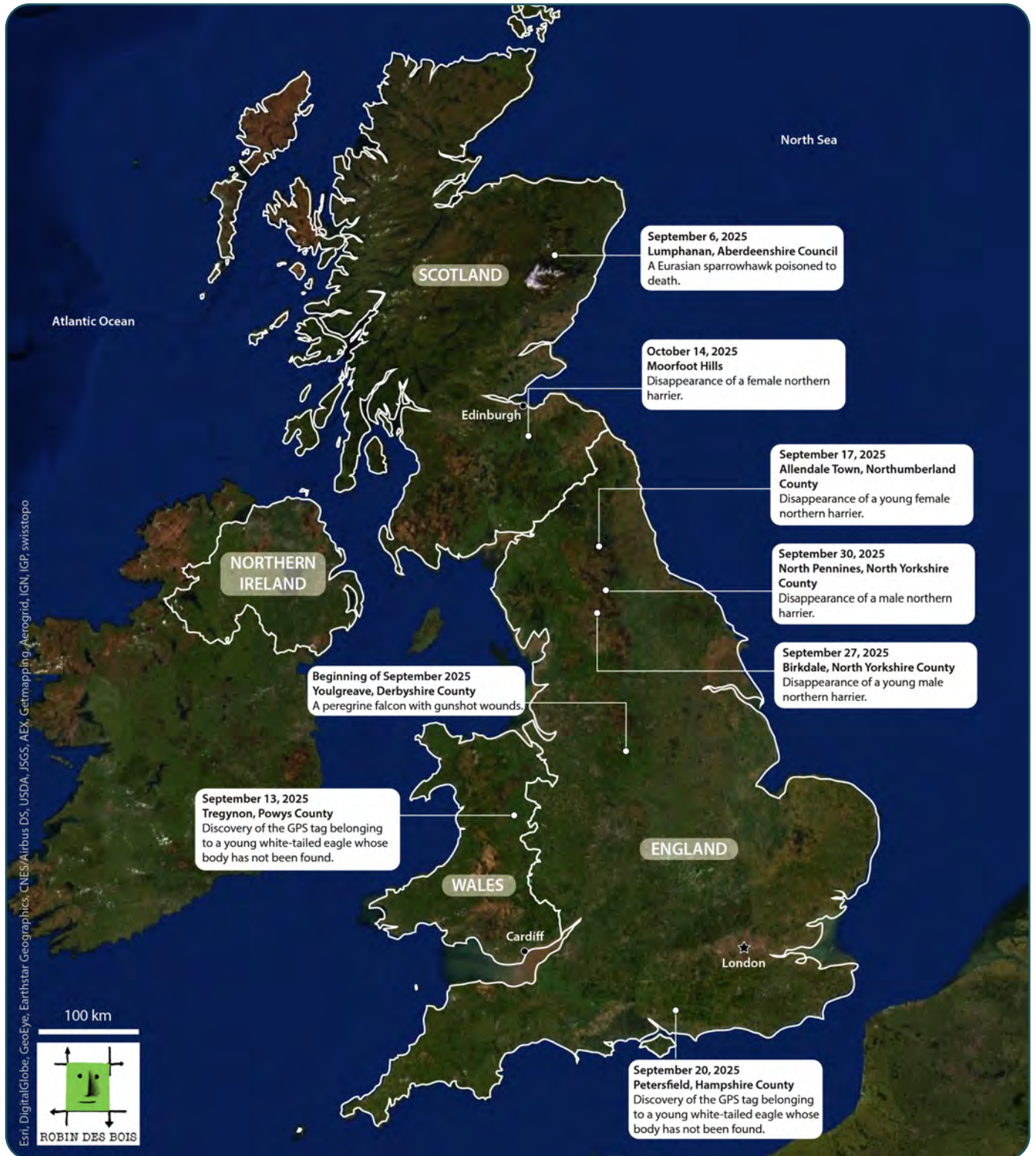
As part of Operation Thunder, coordinated by Interpol and the World Customs Organisation, the Border Force seized around 100 birds from a vehicle, including scarlet ibises (*Eudocimus ruber*, Appendix II), green-cheeked conures (*Pyrrhura molinae*, Appendix II), originating from South America, and lovebirds (*Agapornis* spp., Appendix II except *Agapornis roseicollis*) originating from Africa. Not all of them had survived the journey.⁸³

October 22, 2025

Orsett, Essex County, England, United Kingdom

At the home of a man in his thirties who was arrested for theft and driving without a licence, police found a European goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine) in a cage. It was taken to the South Essex Wildlife Hospital and quickly released.⁸⁴

United Kingdom Poaching of raptors (8) between September 1 and October 31, 2025



“Disappearance”: bird with a GPS that stopped transmitting
 4 northern harriers (*Circus cyaneus*, Appendix II)
 2 white-tailed eagles (*Haliaeetus albicilla*, Appendix I)
 1 Eurasian sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*, Appendix II)
 1 peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I)

SWEDEN

End of October 2025

Härnösand, Västernorrland County, Sweden



The man was baiting Eurasian bullfinches (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*, Appendix III in Ukraine) and great tits (*Parus major*) in January 2025. With the thick layer of snow depriving them of food, they were lured in without difficulty. A passer-by caught him in the act and alerted the police. He was fined 2,500 kronor (265 US\$).⁸⁵

WESTERN EUROPE

GERMANY

September 1, 2025

Göppingen District, Baden-Württemberg Land, Germany



A kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*, Appendix II) that had been kept in captivity and mistreated for several months was abandoned by the side of the road. If it survives, its recovery will take a very long time. The Falconis Filstal e.V. Raptor Centre has filed a complaint.⁸⁶

Beginning of September 2025

North Rhine-Westphalia Land, Germany

A kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*, Appendix II) was shot with an air rifle. History is repeating. Back in February 2023, in the same district, a kestrel was shot with a similar weapon. The person or persons responsible are still at large.⁸⁷

Beginning of October 2025

Meckenried, Haßberge District, Bavaria Land, Germany



Discovery of a common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*, Appendix II), dead in a field. Having doubts, the landowner contacted the LBV (Bavarian Society for the Protection of Birds). The toxicological analysis is unequivocal: the buzzard died from poisoning by parathion or E605, an insecticide banned in the European Union since 2001.⁸⁸

AUSTRIA

September 3 and 4, 2025

Neusiedl am See District, Burgenland State, Austria



- The carcass of a common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*, Appendix II) is found on the roof of a hunting cabin.

- A raptor is rescued from a trap during a surveillance operation conducted with the help of sniffer dogs and drones.

“Neusiedl am See is a real hotbed of poaching,” warns Johannes Hohenegger, a raptor specialist at BirdLife Austria.⁸⁹

Mid-September 2025

Eisenstadt, Burgenland State, Austria



Collusion between falcon breeders and falconers undermines the justice system.

Following 2 hearings, the first of which took place in 2025, the court did indeed sentence to 6 months' probation the breeder who sold 2 Eurasian eagle-owls (*Bubo bubo*, Appendix II) to the falconer without providing the transaction with certificates duly completed by the national CITES authority. At the same time, the court recommended that the raptors remain permanently with the buyer. Declaring himself deeply committed to animal welfare and citing his long experience as a falconer, he convinced the judge that the 2 illegally acquired raptors would be better cared for in his home than in a potential sanctuary, the existence and competence of which, in his view, remain to be proven.⁹⁰

OPERATION THUNDER

September 15- October 15, 2025

Vienna, Vienna State, Austria

As part of Operation Thunder, coordinated by Interpol and the World Customs Organization, 55 pairs of earrings made from parrot feathers (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II, except for 3 species) were seized at a flea market. Some of them may have come from scarlet macaws (*Ara macao*, Appendix I). Europe clearly remains a lucrative market for those plundering South American biodiversity (see, in particular, “On the Trail” n°47, p. 99).⁹¹



BELGIUM

REPEATED OFFENCE

September 2, 2025

Deinze, Province of East Flanders, Flemish Region, Belgium

At the request of unpaid creditors, seizure by a bailiff in Deinze at the Hof ter Borcht summer bar operated by Angelo Devolder of 23 large birds of prey, including white-tailed eagles (*Haliaeetus albicilla*, Appendix I) native to Eurasia and Africa, bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, Appendix II) native to North and Central America, African fish-eagles (*Haliaeetus vocifer*, Appendix II) native to Africa, Himalayan griffon (*Gyps himalayensis*, Appendix II) native to Central and South Asia, griffon vultures (*Gyps fulvus*, Appendix II) native to Eurasia and Africa, a Rüppell's vulture (*Gyps rueppelli*, Appendix II) native to Africa, a cinereous vulture (*Aegypius monachus*, Appendix II) native to Eurasia and Africa, a golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*, Appendix II) native to Eurasia and North America, black-winged kites (*Elanus caeruleus*, Appendix II) native to Eurasia and Africa, and black kites (*Milvus migrans*, Appendix II) native to Eurasia and Africa. The birds have been transferred to the Opglabbeek rescue centre. Dries Damiaens, its director, notes that the birds had not been cared for in several days. "For the bailiff, the case will be closed once the owner has settled his debts. He will then be able to retrieve the animals, but first we must verify that he has the necessary permits." "We already know him. We accompanied the inspection service to his home in 2019, and birds were also seized then."

Indeed, "On the Trail" n°26 (p. 43, ref. 36, published April 30, 2020) mentioned the seizure in Deinze of 11 birds and the disappearance of 6 other birds between the start of the investigation and the final seizure. Furthermore, in June 2014, the Ghent Judicial Court sentenced 5 fake ornithologists to prison terms, either actual or suspended, and fines ranging from 2,750 to 90,000 € (3,750 to 122,700 US\$) for illegally breeding, often by incubating eggs, several birds, including black kites, eagles native to America and Africa, vultures, and golden eagles (see "On the Trail" n°5, p. 43, published July 29, 2014). Deinze is 20 km from Ghent.⁹²

FRANCE

September 4, 2025

Nogent-le-Phaye, Department of Eure-et-Loir, France

Arrival at the Tanière Zoo-Sanctuary of 2 scarlet macaws (*Ara macao*, Appendix I), 2 eastern rosellas (*Platycercus eximius*, Appendix II), 2 red-and-green macaws (*Ara chloropterus*, Appendix II), 4 blue-and-yellow macaws (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II), 2 red-ored amazon (*Amazona autumnalis*, Appendix II), and 7 Java sparrows (*Lonchura oryzivora*, Appendix II) seized in France from a substandard breeding farm engaged in intensive breeding. The Java sparrow was scandalously presented on November 18, 2020, on La Quotidienne, a program dedicated to consumption and new forms of solidarity, as "a clever bird, a bird tamed by humans, a bird that behaves like a dog or a cat." Trafficking in paddas is now widespread throughout the world, and thousands of them are seized by authorities in Asia and on every continent.⁹³



Java sparrows
(*Lonchura oryzivora*)

September 8, 2025

Le Muy, Department of Var, France

Five years after it went missing—either by accident or through malicious intent—during a move, the blue-and-yellow macaw (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II) has been returned to its owner, who lives in Le Muy. The OFB found it in June 2024 in a very small cage in Château-Arnoux-Saint-Auban (Alpes-de-Haute-Provence). It spent most of its time in the dark, and its keeper could not provide a convincing explanation for the bird's origin. Still spirited but somewhat ruffled, in lieu of the South American jungle, it will quickly regain its luster in the large, empty aviary that has been waiting for it for 5 years.⁹⁴

September 23, 2025

Montpellier, Department of Hérault, France

The basement in the La Mosson neighbourhood was dark, like all basements. There were dead mice on the floor, and it was inhabited by rats. It was there, in cages, that 9 European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine) and 94 canaries were seized by the national police, the municipal police, and the Action Protection Animale organisation, which filed a complaint for animal abuse and trafficking.

Seizure of goldfinches in Montpellier, see "On the Trail" n°35 p.137 (ref.111), n°37 p.139 (ref.102), n°38 p.158 (ref.145 and 150), n°40 p.153 (ref.134), n°42 p.97 (ref.114) and n°44 p.136 (ref.173).⁹⁵

October 28, 2025

Audierne, Department of Finistère, France

Theft during the night of Tuesday to Wednesday of a juvenile kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*, Appendix II) from the Aquashow amusement park. The park operators have issued a "missing animal alert." It doesn't know how to hunt on its own. It may have the instinct, but it won't know how to kill prey. It's used to being hand-fed by humans. While the people who took the bird in may have meant well by trying to release it, they've doomed it, that much is certain."

Fifteen days after the theft, the fate of "Ozzy" (the nickname given to it) remains unknown. Rather than animal rescuers, the incident may have been orchestrated by an illegal raptor breeder. Aquashow boasts of presenting, facing the estuary of the Goyen coastal river, for 15 € (17.5 US\$), a show where birds "in total freedom" demonstrate their agility, speed, power, and even their ability to hunt underwater.

In May 2024, a fisherman miraculously saved a 4-year-old red kite from drowning after it failed to return to the Aquashow facility, and in 2019, a bald eagle used by Aquashow was found 600 km from the park after a 2-week desertion.⁹⁶

THE NETHERLANDS

October 11, 2024 and September 9, 2025

Amsterdam-Schiphol International Airport and Amsterdam, Province of North Holland, The Netherlands



- October 11, 2024. Seizure of 3 saker falcons (*Falco cherrug*, Appendix II) and one peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I) in the luggage of a man departing from Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam for Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The leg bands on the raptors were open as if they had been tampered with, raising customs officers' suspicions and leading to the seizure.

- After nearly a year, the DNA report based on feathers and blood from the National Wildlife Institute states that the breeding pair of saker falcons owned by the suspect can be considered the parents of the 3 seized saker falcons. They were returned to the traveller. Two are alive; the third has since died. According to the same report, the peregrine falcon remains of unknown origin and will not be returned to the person who claimed legitimate ownership of it.⁹⁷

REPEATED OFFENCE

September 12, 2025

Province of North Brabant, The Netherlands

Seizure of 498 birds, including cockatoos (*Cacatuidae*, Appendix I or II) native to Australasia, red-billed toucans (*Ramphastos tucanus*, Appendix II) native to South America, white-thighed hornbills (*Bycanistes albotibialis*, Appendix II) native to Africa, yellow-crowned gonoleks (*Laniarius barbarus*), and starlings (genus *Lamprotornis*) native to Africa. Arrest of a 20-year-old man, a wholesaler of exotic birds. 170 birds without certificates of origin had already been seized from his small business when he was 19 years old (see "On the Trail" n°44 p.137, ref.176).⁹⁸

Mid-September 2025

Province of North Holland, The Netherlands



Three German traffickers have been convicted to a fine of 7,500 € (8,760 US\$) each after being caught red-handed on June 16, 2025 at Amsterdam International Airport transporting 51 Atlantic puffin eggs (*Fratercula arctica*) and 28 tufted duck (*Aythya fuligula*) and long-tailed duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) eggs upon disembarking from a flight from Iceland (see "On the Trail" n°46 p. 97, ref. 61). The eggs were hidden in their hand luggage. An incubator was discovered in one of their hold luggage items. They had kept the eggs warm until their departure from Iceland. The eggs were urgently transported to Rotterdam Zoo (60 km) and placed in the 5 incubators dedicated to hatching vulture eggs. Four days later, one puffin chick hatched, the first of a series of 42 fledglings. Only 2 long-tailed duck eggs and 7 tufted duck eggs hatched. Thanks to the puffins, the zoo keepers were overcome with euphoria, but this could be followed by sadness. The mortality rate of puffin chicks in captivity is very high, and the reproduction rate of survivors is very low. Bern Zoo in Switzerland has had experience of this. After purchasing 33 puffin chicks from breeder Ludger Bremehr in Germany in 2009 and 2010, only 13 were still alive in 2019. According to ZIMS (Zoological Information Management System for Conservation), 178 puffins (2019 data) were in captivity worldwide, in Lisbon (Portugal), Tenerife (Spain), Bern (Switzerland), Copenhagen, Kastrop (Denmark), Hamburg (Germany), Rotterdam (Netherlands), Singapore, Nasu (Japan) and in 6 zoos in Northern America. During 2019, ZIMS reports that only 3 births were recorded. The puffin is ill-suited to life in captivity despite all the technical and financial efforts made to attempt to recreate, on a small scale, the biotope of their boundless freedom. In a recent note (January 2025), the EAZA (European Association of Zoos and Aquaria) laments that the puffin population held by its members is ageing: "currently, it is not possible to secure the long-time survival of the population with breeding as the main tool for growth. Securing new founders from the wild to keep up the population has turned out to be nearly impossible." It is undoubtedly this impossibility that the 3 German traffickers sought to circumvent. Ludger Bremehr's breeding facility in Verl (North Rhine-Westphalia) is still in operation. Specialising in breeding birds for zoos and private individuals, Bremehr also produces, under the Lundi brand, a range of pellets and dietary supplements for zoos and exotic pets. Its logo features a pair of puffins.⁹⁹

THE HEARTBREAK OF THE ATLANTIC PUFFINS

Atlantic puffins (*Fratercula arctica*, literally “little brother of the Arctic”) inhabit the North Atlantic and the Mediterranean. They are monogamous for as long as their partners survive the harsh winters, oil spills, fishing gear and other perils of the sea. In November, December, and throughout January and February, they devote their energy to recovering their body condition after a summer spent rebuilding and fitting out their burrows, clearing the entrance blocked by the invasive purple loosestrife, breeding, rearing, feeding and protecting their single chick, and remaining vigilant against skuas and gulls.

26 to 29 cm tall, weighing 375 to 550 grams, with a wingspan of 50 to 60 cm and 350 wing beats per minute, puffins fly at a top speed of 80 km/h and manage to make headway at 15 km/h against winds of 100 km/h. But according to the most knowledgeable and experienced experts on the subject, they give up struggling when winds reach or exceed 150 km/h and they stop diving to try and

catch a little something, already struggling under normal circumstances with food shortages and competition from industrial fishing. They remain tossed about by the waves, tormented by hunger and the cold, soaked to the flesh, and a few days later, driven by westerly winds, they wash up on the beaches and rocks of the North-East Atlantic, starved to death, in agony, drowned, or are reported missing at sea.

When it comes to misfortune, the puffin is a pioneer.

- 1960: fatal ingestion of rubber strands
- March 1967: *Torrey Canyon* oil spill
- 1969: fatal ingestion of red and black rubber bands, already lures that had reached the ocean from rivers
- 1969: traces of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls), mercury, DDT and dieldrin in the fat
- 1970: ingestion of plastic pellets
- 1973: traces of PCBs, mercury, DDT and dieldrin in eggs
- 2025: “The current contaminant concentrations indicate that Svalbard puffins are still at low risk for biological effects, but continued monitoring is needed to assess potential future changes” (extract from the article “Anthropogenic compounds in the northernmost Atlantic puffin population”, Arin K.P. Underwood et al., *Marine Pollution Bulletin* n°218, 2025, doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2025.118225)



Photo taken from “The Puffin”, M.P. Harris, Edition T&A D Poyser, 1984



© Carsten Egevang/atlanticeabirds.info

Evidence of puffin hunting dates back to the 17th century. In summer, in the Faroe Islands and Iceland, puffin hunters using a sliding brailer are still at work. In the Faroe Islands, which specialise in the exploitation of local wild resources (see the ‘grind’ p. 115), the capture of puffins—used to make soup and other dishes—is considered far more sustainable than importing meat products from industrial farms. Yet in 50 years, the population has declined by 70 per cent. In Iceland, foreign hunters, don their camouflage gear and armed with their rifles, can for 3,000 to 4,000 US\$ kill 100 puffins and legally take home the whole trophies or their so beautiful beaks. Once stuffed, puffins sell for between 100 and 600 US\$ depending on the size and quality of the taxidermy. Puffins are the great forgotten ones of CITES. They are not even listed in Appendix III.



© Frédérique Carbonnier/Robin des Bois

A puffin washed ashore in Audierne Bay (Brittany) in March 2026. The mystery of the green string tied around its leg. Puffins washed ashore nearby had strings tied around their necks.



© Burstow & Hewett

CROATIA

End of October 2025

Brela, Split-Dalmatia County, Croatia

Seizure by police at the home of a 50-year-old man of 17 live birds, European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine), serins (*Serinus serinus*, Appendix III in Ukraine), common linnets (*Carduelis cannabina*, synonymous with *Linaria cannabina*, Appendix III in Ukraine), Eurasian siskins (*Carduelis spinus*, synonymous with *Spinus spinus*, Appendix III in Ukraine), and European greenfinches (*Chloris chloris*). He had captured them in September.¹⁰⁰

SPAIN

October 11, 2025

Mesón do Vento, Province of A Coruña, Autonomous Community of Galicia, Spain

Discovery by the Guardia Civil of 250 dead animals, dogs and birds, and 171 live animals, dogs, chinchillas, miniature horses, ducks, a scarlet macaw (*Ara macao*, Appendix I), a blue-and-yellow macaw (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II), and 2 roseate cockatoos (*Eolophus roseicapilla*, Appendix II). The living animals were feeding on the dead ones. One arrest. The suspect is charged with animal cruelty, illegal possession of protected species, and the illegal practice of veterinary medicine. The facility was located in the back of a store. The survivors were transferred to shelters, in their best interests. Mesón do Vento (population 280) is on the pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela.¹⁰¹

GREECE

October 30, 2025

Agia Mavra (Peloponnese), Region of West Greece, Greece

A fine of 1,000 € (1,170 US\$) for the capture, possession, and trade of European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine). Four specimens were seized, along with nets and cage traps, by game wardens. The individual denies any commercial activity. "I catch them to make them sing at home."¹⁰²

Poaching and seizures of birds (5,456) between September 1 and October 31, 2025
Map detail

832 European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine)
 821 chaffinches (*Fringilla coelebs*)
 533 thrushes (genus *Turdus*)
 514 song thrushes (*Turdus philomelos*, A. III in Ukraine)
 500 serins (*Serinus serinus*, Appendix III in Ukraine)
 500 European greenfinches (*Chloris chloris*)
 431 European robins (*Erithacus rubecula*, A. III in Ukraine)
 121 tree pipits (*Anthus trivialis*)
 103 Eurasian siskins (*Carduelis spinus*, synonymous with *Spinus spinus*, Appendix III in Ukraine)
 101 Eurasian blackcaps (*Sylvia atricapilla*, Appendix III in Ukraine)
 100 Eurasian bullfinches (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*, A. III in Ukraine)
 100 common reed buntings (*Emberiza schoeniclus*)
 100 bramblings (*Fringilla montifringilla*)
 100 meadow pipits (*Anthus pratensis*)
 51 great spotted woodpeckers (*Dendrocopos major*)
 50 great grey shrikes (*Lanius excubitor*)
 25 European pied flycatchers (*Ficedula hypoleuca*)
 25 Eurasian blue tits (*Cyanistes caeruleus*)
 24 common redstarts (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*)
 23 common blackbirds (*Turdus merula*, A. III in Ukraine)
 20 white wagtails (*Motacilla alba*)
 20 willow tits (*Poecile montanus*)
 17 Eurasian sparrowhawks (*Accipiter nisus*, A. II)
 8 green-cheeked conures (*Pyrrhura molinae*, Appendix II)
 5 spotted flycatchers (*Muscicapa striata*)
 5 great tits (*Parus major*)
 5 western Bonelli's warblers (*Phylloscopus bonelli*)
 5 willow warblers (*Phylloscopus trochilus*)
 4 kestrels (*Falco tinnunculus*, Appendix II)
 4 eastern rosellas (*Platycercus eximius*, Appendix II)
 4 common chiffchaffs (*Phylloscopus collybita*)
 3 marsh harriers (*Circus aeruginosus*, Appendix II)
 3 peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I)
 2 larks (famille Alaudidae)
 2 common buzzards (*Buteo buteo*, Appendix II)
 2 monk parakeets (*Myiopsitta monachus*, A. II)
 2 hermit ibises (*Geronticus eremita*, Annexe I)
 2 yellow-collared lovebirds (*Agapornis personatus*, Appendix II)
 2 finches (family Fringillidae)
 1 short-toed treecreeper (*Certhia brachydactyla*)
 1 grey parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*, Appendix I)
 1 New Zealand parakeet (*Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae*, Appendix I)
 1 black woodpecker (*Dryocopus martius*)
 1 goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*)
 282 unidentified birds

Poaching and seizures of birds (5,456) between September 1 and October 31, 2025



Beginning of October 2025
Stresa, Province of Verbano-Cusio-Ossola, Region of Piedmont, Italy. Border with Switzerland.



An administrative fine of 30,000 € (35,000 US\$) has been imposed on Terre Borromeo, the company that operates the botanical garden and Palazzo Borromeo (Borromeo Palace) on Isola Madre (8 hectares), the largest of the Borromeo Islands on Lake Maggiore. To enhance the visitor experience, Terre Borromeo also operated an illegal zoo featuring exotic birds. The Carabinieri seized a New Zealand parakeet (*Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae*, Appendix I), 8 green-cheeked conures (*Pyrrhura molinae*, Appendix II) native to Latin America, 2 monk parakeets (*Myiopsitta monachus*, Appendix II) native to Latin America, 2 yellow-collared lovebird (*Agapornis personatus*, Appendix II) native to Tanzania, and 4 eastern rosella (*Platycercus eximius*, Appendix II) native to Australia. Terre Borromeo defended itself: "Historically, several aviaries housing parrots, as well as free-roaming pheasants and peafowls, have coexisted with the garden. This cannot be considered a zoo, much less an unauthorized one. We have learned that a specific permit was required, which we were unaware of. A calm dialogue is underway and will continue in a spirit of transparency and openness."¹⁰³

MALTA

September 11, 2025
Southern Region, Malta

A European bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*) has been shot by a firearm. The injuries were too severe to be treated.¹⁰⁴



September 12 – October 5, 2025
Malta

25 poached birds were recovered by BirdLife Malta and the Police Environmental Protection Unit. Marsh harriers (*Circus aeruginosus*, Appendix II) and honey buzzards (*Pernis apivorus*, Appendix II) are the primary victims, followed by kestrels (*Falco tinnunculus*, Appendix II), Eurasian dotterels (*Charadrius morinellus*), and Audouin's gulls (*Ichthyophaga audouinii*). 242 cases of illegal activity were observed during the "Raptor Camp" 2025 organised by BirdLife between September 12 and October 5. The police now have only a single Environmental Protection Unit responsible for combating poaching across the entire island, down from 6 in previous years. Poachers time their raids to coincide with the Unit's off-duty hours (the field is open before 6:20 a.m.) and have plenty of time to flee before the Unit arrives on the scene (an average of 51 minutes after being alerted by NGOs).¹⁰⁵

September 27, 2025
Malta

29 European greenfinches (*Chloris chloris*), including 2 dead birds, have been seized on a car ferry arriving from Tunisia during a joint operation by the Environmental Protection Unit, the Environment and Resources Authority, and the Armed Forces. They were undoubtedly intended to be used as decoys.¹⁰⁶

September 2025
Malta

The poacher of a kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*, Appendix II) has been photographed, filmed, then arrested.¹⁰⁷

Beginning of October 2025
Valletta, Port Region, Malta

A resident of Mgarr has been fined 2,000 € (2,300 US\$). His trapping licence is suspended for 3 years. He had been caught poaching in September 2022. He had managed to kill 2 red-throated pipits (*Anthus cervinus*) (see "On the Trail" n°37, p. 143, ref. 122).¹⁰⁸



Mid-October 2025
Valletta, Port Region, Malta

Sentencing of Jimmy Muscat to a 9,000€ fine (10,500 US\$), revocation of his hunting licence, and suspension of his firearms permit for 3 years for poaching a honey buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*, Appendix II) and a European turtle dove (*Streptopelia turtur*) in April 2021. Alerted by NGOs, the police found the honey buzzard, still warm, under a seat in his vehicle. Muscat had dared to claim that he had simply picked it up. The turtle dove was subsequently seized from his refrigerator. Weapons and stuffed birds were also found at his home and at his parents' home.¹⁰⁹



October 2025

Northern and Southern Region, Malta

- Seizure of 8 electronic bird calls, 22 loudspeakers, 3 traps, and 2 passerine nets during an off-duty operation conducted by the Environmental Protection Unit and the Forest Rangers Unit, with the assistance of BirdLife Malta.

- Dismantling of a "scientific" trapping site set up before the start of the season on October 20. Live chaffinches (*Fringilla coelebs*) and nets were seized.
- Another seizure by the Environmental Protection Unit of 40 passerines on October 21, the day after the opening of the "scientific" campaign. Like all his colleagues for whom this "scientific" hunting charade was invented, the poacher did not release the birds caught in his nets.¹¹⁰



EASTERN EUROPE

BULGARIA

Saturday, September 20, 2025

Zelena Morava, Targovishte Province, Bulgaria

The dead cinereous vulture (*Aegypius monachus*, Appendix II) was found near a road. Initially, a traffic accident was suspected, but an X-ray of the body revealed 15 bullets. The vulture was the victim of a criminal act. It was part of the species restoration project in the Balkans. It was one of the first breeding birds in Bulgaria. This is the 5th case of a cinereous vulture being poached since the launch of the program co-funded by the European Union in 2018.¹¹²

MONTENEGRO

Beginning of September 2025

Drezga, Municipality of Podgorica, Montenegro



A pellet killed a Eurasian golden oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*, Appendix III in Ukraine), the golden [and protected] adornment of the Montenegrin sky.¹¹¹



HUNGARY

October 1, 2025

Budapest, Hungary

The Public Prosecutor's Office confirms that the deaths of one imperial eagle (*Aquila heliaca*, Appendix I) and 5 common buzzards (*Buteo buteo*, Appendix II), reported on March 7 in Süllyás, a merger of the villages of Tápiósáp and Tápiósüly, were caused by carbofuran poisoning. The agricultural pesticide has been banned in the European Union since 2008.¹¹³



POLAND

REPEATED OFFENCE

Mid-October 2025

Jemielnica, Opole Voivodeship, Poland

The 68-year-old illegal trapper and breeder was caught red-handed, hiding in the thicket with a bird in his hands. He tried to flee, but to no avail. Forest rangers searched his home with police backup. European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine), Eurasian bullfinches (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*, Appendix III in Ukraine), common redpolls (*Carduelis flammea*, synonymous with *Acanthis flammea*, Appendix III in Ukraine), red crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra*, Appendix III in Ukraine), and Eurasian siskins (*Carduelis spinus*, synonymous with *Spinus spinus*, Appendix III in Ukraine) were seized in stacked cages, along with various traps. The man, who describes himself as a "nature and birdwatching enthusiast," is already known for similar offences.¹¹⁴



RUSSIA

September 25, 2025

Ivolginsk, Ivolginsky District, Republic of Buryatia, Russia

Two Kyrgyz nationals have been sentenced to 2 years and 3 months and 2 years and 6 months in prison. They had been arrested by the FSB in October 2024 in Sotnikovo whilst transporting a gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*, Appendix I) captured in Transbaikalia to Krasnoyarsk, a journey of at least 1,700 km. A reward of 100,000 roubles (1,000 US\$) had been promised to them by the person who commissioned the transport. The falcon was released.¹¹⁵



October 1, 2025

Kalachinsk, Kalachinsky District, Omsk Oblast, Russia



Seizure in 2 Land Cruisers of 8 peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I) and 2 saker falcons (*Falco cherrug*, Appendix II). Arrest of Ivan Andronov and Viktor Godzhiev. Pre-trial detention until December 3. They were travelling from the Krasnoyarsk Krai in Siberia and were headed toward the Republic of North Ossetia, located 4,500 km away near the Caspian Sea.¹¹⁶

Mid-October 2025

Volkovo, Blagoveshchensky District, Amur Oblast, Russia. Border with China.



Thanks to the vigilance of the villagers (population 250), wildlife officers discovered baited traps hanging from trees that were catching small birds. Twenty sparrows (genus *Passer*) and one Siberian long-tailed rosefinch (*Carpodacus sibiricus*) were rescued. The traps are believed to have been set by "outsiders".¹¹⁷



VARIOUS REPTILE SPECIES



Western spiny-tailed iguana (*Ctenosaura pectinata*). Photo Juan Ramón Manjarrez (BY-NC)

AMERICA

BRAZIL

September 12, 2025

Tapajós river, State of Pará, Brazil

Seizure of 33 turtles, including South American river turtles (*Podocnemis expansa*, Appendix II), yellow-headed sidenecks (*Podocnemis unifilis*, Appendix II), and six-tubercled amazon river turtles (*Podocnemis sextuberculata*, Appendix II), which were released, 11 dead turtles that were returned to the river to feed predatory fish, primarily arapaimas, and 4 skinned black caimans (*Melanosuchus niger*, Appendix II). The 2 dugouts and the dinghy with outboard motor will be handed over to Ibama in Santarém. Total fines of one million reais (185,000 US\$) for the 5 poachers. Two minors were brought before the juvenile court in Itaituba.¹



October 9, 2025

Belo Horizonte, State of Minas Gerais, Brazil

Seizure by the environmental police of a boa (Boidae, Appendix I or II) and a broad-nosed caiman (*Caiman latirostris*, Appendix II) measuring 30 cm in length, still wrapped in a pair of pantyhose that prevented it from moving. They had just arrived from São Paulo via postal package following a payment of 560 reais (110 US\$). They were transferred to a CETAS (Centro de Triagem de Animais Silvestres). The man signed a formal report (TCO, Termo Circunstanciado de Ocorrência) and will have to pay a fine equivalent to 7,000 US\$.²



October 18, 2025

Foz do Iguaçu, State of Paraná, Brazil. Border with Paraguay.

Seizure by federal police in a taxi at the exit of the International Friendship Bridge connecting Paraguay and Brazil of 10 Guichenot's giant geckos (*Correlophus ciliatus*, synonymous with *Rhacodactylus ciliatus*), 12 caimans (Alligatoridae, Appendix I or II), an anaconda (*Eunectes* spp., Appendix II), and a python (Pythonidae, Appendix I or II). The passenger carrying this small zoo of juvenile animals in his luggage stated that he had previously purchased animals in Paraguay on multiple occasions to resell them illegally at a high price in Brazil. According to him, the giant geckos sell for 600 reais each, or 110 US\$, the alligators for 150 reais, or 30 US\$, the anacondas for 800 reais, or 150 US\$, and the pythons for 3,000 reais, or 560 US\$.³

COLOMBIA

October 2, 2025

Medellin, Department of Antioquia, Colombia

- 25 years in captivity for the green iguana (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II). Scaly skin, complete loss of natural behaviours.

- 15 years in captivity for the 3 red-footed tortoises (*Chelonoidis carbonarius*, Appendix II). Due to their inadequate diet and living conditions, they suffer from pyramiding of growths and bumps that form on the shell and deform it.⁴

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ASIA

September 4, 2025

State of Texas, United States of America

Jason Lee Wagner was sentenced to a fine of 15,000 US\$ and 3 years of probation, including 6 months of house arrest, for trafficking reptiles as part of a conspiracy between Mexico and the United States via the US Postal Service (see "On the Trail" n°38, p. 170, ref. 3).⁵



October 17, 2025

El Paso, El Paso County, State of Texas, United States of America

Paul Jacob Elliott Sommers was sentenced to 6 months in prison followed by 3 years of probation for capturing between August 2014 and October 2019, in Mexico with accomplices, and subsequently smuggling into the United States narrow-bridged musk turtles (*Claudius angustatus*, Appendix II), minor lizards (*Sceloporus minor*, Appendix II), Japlan tropical night lizards (*Lepidophyma occulor*), helmeted iguanas (genus *Corytophanes*), knob-scaled lizards (genus *Xenosaurus*), conehead lizards (genus *Laemanctus*), and shovel-headed tree frogs (genus *Triprion*), for the purpose of trading them and delivering them to his customers.⁶



MEXICO

September 6, 2025

Tijuana International Airport, State of Baja California, Mexico

Thanks to the vigilance of a sniffer dog, Profepa was able to seize, from parcels purportedly containing "ornamental fish" destined for export, 12 common box turtles (*Terrapene carolina*, Appendix II), 5 Tabasco mud turtles (*Kinosternon acutum*, Appendix II), 5 Yucatán spiny-tailed iguanas (*Ctenosaura defensor*, Appendix II), 3 western spiny-tailed iguanas (*Ctenosaura pectinata*, Appendix II), 3 Hernandez's helmeted basilisks (*Corytophanes hernandesii*) and 4 lizards (genus *Heloderma*), all of which occur in the wild in Mexico.⁷

October 15 and 16, 2025

San Luis Potosí, State of San Luis Potosí, Mexico

Seizures in packages by Profepa following a report from Estafeta Carga Aérea:

- 3 geckos of the genus *Rhacodactylus*, endemic to New Caledonia.
- 2 juvenile African spurred tortoises (*Centrochelys sulcata*, Appendix II) native to the Sahel region of Africa.
- 3 juvenile Morelet's crocodiles (*Crocodylus moreletii*, Appendix II).⁸

INDIA

September 27, 2025

Rajiv Gandhi Hyderabad International Airport, Ranga Reddy District, State of Telangana, India

Seizure from the luggage of a passenger arriving from Bangkok of a monitor lizard (*Varanus* spp., Appendix II), 4 green iguanas (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II), 12 iguanas of an unspecified species (family Iguanidae), and a red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*). According to customs officials, this was yet another case of a "mule," that is, a smuggler recruited as part of a highly compartmentalized trafficking operation. The young man did not know the identity of the person who initially handed him the packaged animals intended to be concealed in a piece of luggage. Nor did he know the person to whom he was supposed to hand them over upon arrival. The sender had sent a photo of the smuggler to the recipient so that he could spot him upon exiting the airport.⁹

October 23, 2025

Chhatrapati-Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai Suburban District, State of Maharashtra, India

Seizure in the luggage of a woman arriving from Bangkok of 154 exotic animals, including yellow-footed tortoises (*Chelonoidis denticulatus*, Appendix II), red-footed tortoises (*Chelonoidis carbonarius*, Appendix II), snapping turtles (*Chelydra serpentina*, Appendix II), Armadillo girdled lizards (*Ouroborus cataphractus*, Appendix II), iguanas (*Iguana* spp., Appendix II), two-banded monitors (*Varanus salvator*, Appendix II), bearded dragons (genus *Pogona*), California kingsnakes (*Lampropeltis californiae*), hognose snakes (genus *Heterodon*, *Leioheterodon*, or *Lystrophis*), raccoons (*Procyon lotor*), and 4 juvenile yellow anacondas (*Eunectes notaeus*, Appendix II). Native to South America, they weigh 25 to 35 kg and measure 3 to 4 meters in length as adults. "It is very rare to seize anacondas. Our fellow citizens must absolutely stop buying exotic species," says Pawan Sharma, a State honorary wildlife warden and founder of the NGO RAWW (Resqink Association for Wildlife Welfare), which assisted with the identification of the animals and their emergency care.¹⁰

INDONESIA

October 15, 2025

Sorong Regency, Southwest Papua Province, New Guinea Island, Indonesia

On August 3, 2025, 169 wild animals native to Australasia were seized by the maritime and air police from an apartment where Tumbel lived and ran a shadowy company (see "On the Trail" n°47, p. 106, ref. 9). Tumbel had explained that the animals had been "handed over" to him by villagers, as if, as a favour, he were housing this clandestine menagerie free of charge. Tumbel then disappeared from the scene and did not respond to summonses from investigators who wanted to know more. Tumbel's status shifted from witness to suspect, while 46 green tree pythons (*Morelia viridis*, Appendix II) and 2 emerald monitors (*Varanus prasinus*, Appendix II) were released. On this occasion, the BKSDA issued a poetic statement: "Behind their bars, they were waiting for the forest that once sheltered them, the humid air, and the leaves where they grew up. Today, that wait is over. This small step heralds a great hope: that of seeing wild animals return to their natural habitat. Justice for nature must be defended, and we humans must choose to contribute to its restoration, not its destruction. Protecting nature is also protecting our future." The release ceremony took place in the presence of the BKSDA leadership in West Papua, the prosecutor, the river police, senior officers from the Indonesian National Police, and the Southwest Papua Police.

116 of the wild animals seized from Tumbel died as a result of their mistreatment. Tumbel remains at large to this day.¹¹



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IRAN

Mid-October 2025

Parand, Robot Karim County, Tehran Province, Iran

Seizure by the police, in coordination with judicial authorities, of 16 exotic animals from a private residence, including pythons (Pythonidae, Appendix I or II), boas (*Boa* spp., Appendix I or II), geckos (family Gekkonidae), bearded dragons (genus *Pogona*), and tarantulas (family Theraphosidae). The prefecture's director of the environment stated that combating wildlife trafficking is one of his department's top priorities.¹²

SINGAPORE

October 9, 2025

Singapore

Six simultaneous raids at 6 different locations. Seizure of 16 animals, including a leopard tortoise (*Stigmochelys pardalis*, Appendix II), a ridgetail monitor (*Varanus acanthurus*, Appendix II), a black-and-white tegu (*Salvator merianae*, Appendix II), Klemmer's day geckos (*Phelsuma klemmeri*, Appendix II), and a Central bearded dragon (*Pogona vitticeps*). Klemmer's day geckos are native to Madagascar. *Phelsuma klemmeri* are diurnal. They measure 8 to 10 cm in length. They are also known as neon geckos.¹³



THAILAND

REPEATED OFFENCE

October 15, 2025

Don Muang International Airport of Bangkok, Thailand

New arrest (see page 158 ref. 55) of 3 Taiwanese nationals about to board a flight to Kaohsiung. Hsu Ching Chung, Hong Zhi-Xian, and Yang Tsung-Ju were concealing in their luggage and on their persons 4 big-headed turtles (*Platysternon megacephalum*, Appendix I), 2 tricarinate hill turtles (*Melanochelys tricarinata*, Appendix I), 45 Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix I), 32 of which were barely hatched, one spider tortoise (*Pyxis arachnoides*, Appendix I), 3 spiny turtles (*Heosemys spinosa*, Appendix II), and 7 Chinese crocodile lizards (*Shinisaurus crocodilurus*, Appendix I). The modus operandi to avoid searches at departure and arrival airports and to prevent any incidents during the flight (a 4-hour journey) involved a series of cruel measures: stuffing the animals into socks, tying their legs, and wrapping them in clothing, as well as sedatives for the animals attached with adhesive tape to the traffickers' legs. The 3 Taiwanese men presented themselves as smugglers recruited by the supplier in Bangkok and the seller in Taiwan in exchange for a commission of 30,000 baht (930 US\$) per round trip. This was reportedly their 3rd such trip.¹⁴



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UNITED KINGDOM

September 25, 2025

**Shrewsbury, Shropshire County,
England, United Kingdom**



That's a small price to pay for a pet business that generated over 2.5 million pounds in revenue, or more than 3.3 million US\$ (see "On the Trail" n°31 p.185, ref.91). David Johnson was sentenced to a 24-week suspended prison term and 125 hours of community service for possessing, in December 2020, at Cosford Grange Farm (Albrighton), at the Senorita Sparkles beauty salon (Newport), in Wrockwardine, and in the Telford area, 294 African spurred tortoises (*Centrochelys sulcata*, Appendix II) native to the Sahelian region of Africa, 73 leopard tortoises (*Stigmochelys pardalis*, Appendix II) native to South Africa, 73 Hermann's tortoises (*Testudo hermanni*, Appendix II) native to the Mediterranean basin, 18 reticulated pythons (*Malayopython reticulatus*, synonymous with *Python reticulatus*, Appendix II) native to Southeast Asia, a monitor lizard (*Varanus* spp., Appendix I or II), 14 Chinese water dragons (*Physignathus cocincinus*, Appendix II), 1,061 leopard geckos (*Eublepharis macularius*) native to South Asia, 22 rose-belly lizards (*Sceloporus variabilis*) native to Central and South America, 47 green basilisks (*Basiliscus plumifrons*) native to Central America, 10 smooth helmeted iguanas (*Corytophanes cristatus*) native to South America, one Guichenot's giant gecko (*Correlophus ciliatus*, synonymous with *Rhacodactylus ciliatus*) native to New Caledonia, and 2 grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*, Appendix I) native to West and Central Africa. 399 animals were finished off due to their poor, irreversible health. Many reptiles died from the cold. The vivariums and terrariums were not heated.

His partner, Tara Janine Watt, was sentenced in May 2025 to a 12-week suspended prison term.¹⁵

TORTOISES AND FRESHWATER TURTLES



Tortue mauresque de Tunisie (*Testudo graeca nabeulensis*). Photo Royle Safaris (BY-NC)

AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

End of September 2025

St Francis Bay, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa

- Rescue by law enforcement officers Johnny Hayward and Kevin Burger of a leopard tortoise (*Stigmochelys pardalis*, Appendix II) that had been chained to the pavement in a courtyard. It was unable to eat or drink. It was released into the grass beside the St Francis Links golf course.
- Another rescue of an illegally kept tortoise. It only emerged from its shell once it had been placed in the grass beside the golf course and then walked away.¹



FRANCE (REUNION)

September 15 and October 1, 2025

Saint-Benoît, Department of La Réunion, France

- Seizure at Noëlo Abelard's home by the gendarmerie, the OFB, and the APEBA (Association for Education in Animal Welfare) of 11 radiated tortoises (*Astrochelys radiata*, Appendix I), fighting cocks, guinea pigs, hunting dogs, and puppies. The conditions in which all wild and domestic animals were housed and cared for were denounced by APEBA as catastrophic and indicative of abuse.
- Abelard contests the seizure and the allegations of abuse. He has the support of a group of local residents and member of parliament Jean-Hugues Ratenon, who, regarding the fighting cocks, cites "traditional Reunionese practices". The prosecutor's office states that "the seizure could be lifted as soon as the owner demonstrates that his home has been restored to proper condition and that suitable spaces have been made available for the animals." Lifting the seizure for the radiated tortoises appears legally impossible, even if Abelard justifies their possession as an inheritance handover.²

MADAGASCAR

December 24, 2024, April 18, October 13 and 21, 2025, January 9, 2026
Ambohibao, Analamanga Region, Antananarivo, Antananarivo Region, Tsiafahy, Analamanga Region, Madagascar



A turtle trafficker is not a political prisoner.

- December 24, 2024. During the night, on Christmas Eve, Representative Ramanatanana believes the timing is right—the cops are off duty or overwhelmed—to transfer 2 suitcases in Ambohibao (Analamanga region) from his vehicle to another coming from the south of the Big Island. The National Gendarmerie, on a routine patrol, caught him in the act and asked to see the suitcases. Inside the 2 suitcases were 112 spider tortoises (*Pyxis arachnoides*, Appendix I) and radiated tortoises (*Astrochelys radiata*, Appendix I) stacked on top of one another. Those at the bottom were beginning to suffocate. Ramanatanana was unable to invoke his parliamentary immunity, as the events took place outside of the parliamentary session.

- April 18, 2025. The Antananarivo Anti-Corruption Unit sentenced Ramanatanana to 10 years in prison for trafficking in natural resources, along with 4 accomplices, 2 of whom were his parliamentary assistants, he is jointly liable for a fine of 60 million ariary (13,340 US\$) and 2 billion ariary (444,660 US\$) in damages.

- October 13, 2025. Outgoing President Andry Rajoelina grants a pardon to political prisoners, and without fanfare, Ramanatanana benefits from it.

- October 21, 2025. Transparency International – Madagascar Initiative strikes back: “Ramanatanana is not a political prisoner; he is a common criminal convicted of turtle trafficking and money laundering.”

- January 9, 2026. Representative Ramanatanana turns himself in to judicial authorities and returns to the Tsiafahy prison.³



NAMIBIA

Beginning of October 2025
Oshakati, Oshana Region, Namibia

Seizure by the police of 2 live tortoises (*Testudiniidae*, Appendix I or II) from a chicken farm. One suspect fled the scene.

The tortoise species most commonly found on the black market in Southern Africa is the leopard tortoises (*Stigmochelys pardalis*, Appendix II).⁴

Mid-October 2025
Oshakati, Oshana Region, Namibia. Border with Angola.

At the home of a sun-worshipping religious preacher who, according to media reports, did not obey the commandment “Thou shalt not steal,” authorities seized 4 solar panels, a solar battery charger, a solar inverter worth 1,200 US\$ and a leopard tortoise (*Stigmochelys pardalis*, Appendix II) locked inside a barrel. The police did not disclose the name of the clergyman.⁵

TANZANIA

Beginning of October 2025
Dar es Salaam, Dar es Salaam Region, Tanzania



Seizure of 396 turtles, including radiated tortoises (*Astrochelys radiata*, Appendix I), spider tortoises (*Pyxis arachnoides*, Appendix I), and Madagascar tortoises (*Astrochelys yniphora*, Appendix I), on a dhow arriving from Moroni (Comoros), 700 km away. All are endemic to Madagascar, 540 km from Moroni. Operation carried out by the Port Control Unit with the support of the Passenger and Cargo Control Programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.⁶

NORTHERN AMERICA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ANIMAL CRUSHING



September 17, 2025

Minneapolis, Hennepin County, State of Minnesota, United States of America

Bryan Wesley Edison, 32, has been charged with animal crushing. Since 2022, Edison has posted 350 videos on YouTube depicting the torture of animals, including snapping turtles (*Chelydra serpentina*, Appendix II), lizards, birds, and hamsters. Impalement, crushing, drowning, suffocation, skinning, and dismemberment were the common themes of his "creations." He sold them via subscription for between 0.99 and 99.99 US\$ per month. He had embellished his videos with various logos and descriptors: "slow death," "shred," "cracks head open," "screaming," "tear apart," and "THAT REALLY HURTS" He commented on the videos as if they were football games. "Shredder, do your worst." "there's nothing I can do to save you." "The squeal of displeasure, now the panic sets in."⁷

October 11-12, and October 26, 2025

Indianapolis, Marion County, and Pendleton, Madison County, State of Indiana, United States of America

- An Egyptian tortoise (*Testudo kleinmanni*, Appendix I) native to the Middle East and a Northern spider tortoise (*Pyxis arachnoides brygooi*, Appendix I) native to Madagascar were stolen from the zoo.

- They were found in a cardboard box with a piece of paper referencing the Indianapolis Zoo on a sidewalk behind Falls Park, which today spans 114 hectares in Pendleton and was established in 1920 on a former landfill site.⁸

October 23, 2025

Brooklyn, Kings County, State of New York, United States of America

Russell Milis, a Brooklyn resident, was sentenced to a fine of 18,900 US\$ and 4 years probation for exporting to mainland China and Hong Kong, between November 2019 and November 2020, without a licence and under false labels, 390 turtles, including Eastern box turtles (*Terrapene carolina carolina*, Appendix II) and three-toed box turtles (*Terrapene carolina triunguis*, Appendix II), with a total black market value of approximately 700,000 US\$, or 1,750 US\$ per turtle.⁹



LATIN AMERICA

ARGENTINA

September 18, 2025

Santiago del Estero, Province of Santiago del Estero, Argentina



Early Thursday when the sun was rising, at the home of a certain Jiménez, 13 tortoises (*Chelonoidis* spp., Appendix II) were seized. They were released into the Tara Inti Island Nature Reserve on the Rio Dulce.¹⁰

October 16, 2025

Totoras, Province of Santa Fe, Argentina

Routine check on National Highway 34. Discovery under the tarpaulin of a truck trailer heading toward Buenos Aires of 4 jute sacks containing 155 Argentine tortoises (*Chelonoidis chilensis*, Appendix II). Their value is estimated at 900,000 pesos, or 620 US\$ and 4 US\$ per tortoise. The trailer also contained 2 small cages holding 9 buffy-fronted seedeaters (*Sporophila frontalis*) and one rusty-collared seedeater (*Sporophila collaris*).¹¹

BRAZIL

September-october 2025

State of Rondônia, Brazil

Between Porto Velho and Jirau, Madeira River, September 11. The river patrols of the Environmental Military Police and the Chico Mendes Institute detect unusual activity in a nesting area of the South American river turtle (*Podocnemis expansa*, Appendix II), seize and destroy 100-meter-long gillnets intended to capture females laying eggs, and find that several turtle nests have been ransacked and emptied of their eggs.(.../...)

(.../...) Faced with the ongoing and aggressive encroachment of land grabbers of all kinds, poachers of jaguars, capuchin monkeys, parrots, and harpy eagles, gold miners, cattle ranchers, land clearers, and illegal charcoal producers in the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau indigenous territory (18,600 km²), the federal government, relying on a decision by the STF (Supremo Tribunal Federal), mobilized the Federal Police, the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, the Brazilian Intelligence Agency, and the Funai to destroy all illegal equipment and evacuate the workers. Logs were seized by Ibama and the police.¹²



September 15, 2025
Altos, State of Piauí, Brazil

The Environmental Protection Battalion seized 17 juvenile leatherback tortoises (*Chelonoidis carbonarius* or *Chelonoidis denticulatus*, Appendix II) being kept in captivity at a leisure centre. The operation was triggered by an anonymous tip-off. The turtles were handed over to the local CETAS.¹³

September 22, 2025
Itaituba, State of Pará, Brazil

In the middle of the night, the federal highway police stopped a Volkswagen on the BR-230. The driver did not have a driving licence and, instead of the coconuts he claimed to be transporting, the officers found 10 South American river turtles (*Podocnemis expansa*, Appendix II) in bags.¹⁴

September 24, 2025
Borba, Careiro Castanho, Humaitá, Lábrea, Pauini, Canutama and Tapauá, State of Amazonas, Brazil

The joint operation by Ibama, the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation, and the National Foundation for Indigenous Peoples (Funai) in the southern part of the State had the delicate goal of simultaneously conducting seizures and raising awareness about conservation programs for turtles and arapaimas, the ban on fishing for fish below the minimum size limit, and the damage caused by unregulated land clearing. Seizure of 335 turtles, including yellow-headed sidenecks (*Podocnemis unifilis*, Appendix II) and six-tubercled amazon river turtles (*Podocnemis sextuberculata*, Appendix II), as well as 3,324 eggs, 10 nets, and 4 boats. Some communities in the Ituxi, Médio Purus, and Canutama extractive reserves were surprised to learn that catching turtles and arapaimas could be considered an environmental offence depending on

the season, size, and number of catches. Extractive reserves are protected areas reserved primarily for indigenous communities. They may live there while engaging in strictly traditional practices of fishing, hunting, gathering, and livestock raising.¹⁵



September 24, 2025
Parintins, State of Amazonas, Brazil

Municipal officers, the military police and the Navy seized 49 South American river turtles (*Podocnemis expansa*, Appendix II) from a alongside the quay boat arriving from Santarém (Pará). Confined in sacks, they were travelling alongside gas cylinders. Three were already dead. The ship's owner was arrested. Instead of ending up on dinner plates, they will be treated before being released, if possible.¹⁶

September 25, 2025
Indaiatuba, State of São Paulo, Brazil

Seizure of 2 black-bellied sliders (*Trachemys dorbigni*) in a parcel. They fit in the palm of the hand, whereas an adult specimen measures between 15 and 20 cm. They were detected by X-ray. They were handed over to the Associação Mata Ciliar in Jundiá. The contact details of the sender and recipient were obtained by the police.¹⁷



October 1, 2025

Lucélia, State of São Paulo, Brazil

A fine of 1,500 reais (280 US\$) for a 61-year-old man who was keeping 3 tortoises (*Chelonoidis carbonarius* or *Chelonoidis denticulatus*, Appendix II) at his home. The environmental military police released them back into the wild.¹⁸



October 7, 2025

Novo Airão, State of Amazonas, Brazil



Seizure by Ibama and the Chico Mendes Institute of 117 river turtles (*Podocnemis* spp., Appendix II) hidden under fruit aboard a fishing boat on the Rio Negro, a tributary of the Amazon, originating from Jaú National Park and bound for Novo Airão. Fine of 585,000 reais (109,700 US\$). The law stipulates a fine of 5,000 reais for the poaching of an animal listed on the official Brazilian endangered wildlife lists. The Amazonian turtle protection program managed by Ibama aims to protect 3 species: the South American river turtle (*Podocnemis expansa*, Appendix II), the six-tubercled amazon river turtle (*Podocnemis sextuberculata*, Appendix II), and the yellow-headed sideneck (*Podocnemis unifilis*, Appendix II).¹⁹



October 9, 2025

Caseara, State of Tocantins, Brazil

At 3 a.m., a military police patrol operating under the "Protection of Biomes" operation spotted a boat on the Araguaia River that was too inconspicuous not to attract attention. Seizure of 530 eggs, 15 South American river turtles (*Podocnemis expansa*, Appendix II), and 480 kg of fish caught during the fishing moratorium. Two arrests. Fine of 10,200 reais (1,910 US\$). The turtles were released back into the water, the eggs placed in artificial incubation, and the fish donated to the Association of Parents and Friends of the Disabled in Palmas.²⁰



October 20, 2025

Coari, State of Amazonas, Brazil

Military police discovered on board the *Araber IX*, which had departed from Juruá and was headed for Manaus, 5 adult yellow-headed sidenecks (*Podocnemis unifilis*, Appendix II), 25 juveniles, and 26 eggs hidden in burlap sacks. A 29-year-old man was arrested. He stated that he intended to deliver them to family members. After a health assessment, the turtles were released. The fate of the eggs is unclear.²¹

COLOMBIA

October 3, 2025

La Dorada, Department of Caldas, Colombia

Seizure by the Carabineros and the environmental police of 2 red-footed tortoises (*Chelonoidis carbonarius*, Appendix II) being kept as pets. They were handed over to Corpocaldas (Corporación Autónoma Regional de Caldas) for rehabilitation and release.²²

MEXICO

September 25, 2025

San Pedro Tlaquepaque, State of Jalisco, and Tijuana, State of Baja California, Mexico

Seizure of 2,339 turtles, including 12 mud turtles (*Kinosternon* spp., Appendix I or II). They were transferred to a UMA (Unidad de Manejo para la Conservación de la Vida Silvestre). Arrest of Yaoqin Su, a Chinese national, Miguel Angel Abad, and Marco Antonio Corral.²³



ASIA

BANGLADESH

September 12, 2025

Mondolpara, Noakhali District, Chittagong Division, Bangladesh

Seizure by the WCCU (Wildlife Crime Control Unit) from an abandoned house near the Loknath Temple of 425 turtles, including 100 dead ones, kori kaitta, dhum kachim, and sundhi kachim, vernacular names for the Indian roofed turtles (*Pangshura tecta*, Appendix I), the Indian peacock softshell turtles (*Nilssonina hurum*, Appendix I), and the Indian flapshell turtles (*Lissemys punctata*, Appendix II). The traffickers who managed to escape reportedly intended to sell them during the Durga Puja festival, a Hindu celebration honoring Durga, one of the principal deities of the Hindu pantheon. The survivors were released into the water in Noakhali District and neighbouring districts.²⁴

September 30, 2025

Hazrat Shahjalal Dhaka International Airport, Dhaka Division, Bangladesh

Seizure of 925 juvenile turtles in 2 suitcases, including 780 Indian roofed turtles (*Pangshura tecta*, Appendix I) and 145 Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix I), with an average weight of 62 grammes per turtle. An adult female Indian star tortoise weighs an average of 3 kg, a male 1 kg. An adult female Indian roofed turtle weighs an average of 440 grammes, a male 90 grammes. Arrest of Mohammad Shaukat Ali Bhuiyan as he was about to fly to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He fled just before his interrogation.²⁵

CHINA

September 16, 2025

Shenzhen Bay Control Point, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China. Border with China Mainland.



The truck is one of the priority targets. A thorough customs inspection reveals a hidden compartment under the trailer's chassis containing 18 moving trash bags. Seizure of 324 turtles, including sred-cheeked mud turtle (*Kinosternon scorpioides cruentatum*, Appendix II) originating from Latin America, with a black market value of 3.2 million Hong Kong dollars, or 410,550 US\$, ie 1,260 US\$ per turtle.²⁶

September 2025

Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport, Guangdong Province, China

Seizure from a parcel destined for overseas, declared to contain 'plastic toilet seats,' consisting of 5 plastic boxes containing 2 spotted pond turtles (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*, Appendix I), 2 common musk turtles (*Sternotherus odoratus*, Appendix II) and 48 pond sliders (*Trachemys scripta*), all alive.²⁷



Mid-October 2025

Wenjindu Checkpoint, Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, China. Border with Hong Kong.



- A woman is stopped by customs officers, alerted by her suspicious manner. Under her loose skirt, leggings pulled up to her thighs concealed 39 live freshwater turtles, African dwarf mud turtles (*Pelusios nanus*).



- A few minutes later, history repeats itself. Another woman with a suspicious gait, also attempting to enter mainland China without declaring anything to customs, is intercepted. She was carrying 29 live African dwarf mud turtles.

The African dwarf mud turtle is native to the African continent and is the smallest turtle of the genus *Pelusios*. It can measure up to 12 cm.²⁸



African dwarf mud turtle (*Pelusios nanus*)

INDIA

September 9, 2025

Lucknow, Lucknow District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India

Arrest of Vishal Mishra. He was transporting an adult Indian star tortoise (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix I) on a scooter. His mission was to deliver it to Nepal via the Sitapur border crossing.²⁹

Mid-September 2025

Lucknow District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India

Seizure of 24 Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix I) and arrest of a trafficker by federal agents from the WCCB and State police and forest officials.³⁰



OPERATION WILEP

September 18, 2025

Baleswar, Baleswar District, State of Odisha, India

Seizure by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) of 17 live Indian softshell turtles (*Nilssonina gangetica*, Appendix I) on train 68050 from Bhadrak (Odisha) to Kharagpur (West Bengal). Two arrests.³¹

FAMILY AFFAIRS / REPEATED OFFENCE

September 20, 2025

Khetasarai, Jaunpur District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India

Seizure of 60 Indian flapshell turtles (*Lissemys punctata*, Appendix II) distributed among 4 bags, 102 box turtles in a water tank, and 13 bags of shells. Arrest of Mamta and her husband Motilal. Flight of Mustaq. The trio is already implicated in other wildlife trafficking cases.³²

October 17, 2025

Siliguri, Darjeeling District, State of West Bengal, India



Ujjwal Paul was sentenced to 4 years in prison and fined 25,000 rupees (280 US\$) for transporting and offering for sale in 2022 a dead Indian roofed turtle (*Pangshura tecta*, Appendix I) and a live brown roofed turtle (*Pangshura smithii*, Appendix II). If the fine is not paid, he will serve an additional 6 months in prison.³³

OPERATION WILEP

Last week of October 2025

Bamangachhi, North 24 Parganas District, State of West Bengal, India

Apprehended at the rail yard, where they were attempting to conceal the 50 live turtles they were transporting in 2 nets, a man and a minor were handed over to the Forest Department by federal police officers from the Railway Protection Force.³⁴

October 29, 2025

Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru Rural District, State of Karnataka, India

Arrest of Abdul Rahim Mohammed Kasim, arriving from Abu Dhabi. He was wanted by the authorities. In early August 2025, he had attempted to export nearly a thousand Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix I) from Bengaluru, "the exotic hub," to Kuala Lumpur (see "On the Trail" n°47, p. 143, ref. 69). At the last moment, he had abandoned his luggage, and his escape was captured on camera by airport security. He has been placed in pretrial detention for 14 days.³⁵

JAPAN

September 11 - October 3, 2025

Kumejima Island, Okinawa Prefecture, Japan

Arrest of 2 men and 2 women of Chinese nationality who were posing as tourists for attempting, between September 4 and October 30, to export 107 Ryukyu black-breasted leaf turtles (*Geoemyda japonica*, Appendix II), 2 Yamashina's ground geckos (*Goniurosaurus yamashinae*, Appendix III), and a Holst's frog (*Babina holsti*) that they had just captured.³⁶

October 13, 2025

Taketomi Island, Yaeyama Islands, Okinawa Prefecture, Japan

On the Japanese island located 250 km from Taiwan and 2,000 km from Tokyo, the police, alerted by a local resident, seized from a Chinese citizen's rental car 35 yellow-margined box turtles (*Cuora flavomarginata*, Appendix II) that he had just collected without authorization from the Agency for Cultural Affairs. They were released back into the wild.³⁷

SRI LANKA

End of October 2025

Gampaha, Western Province, Sri Lanka

Arrest by the Department of Wildlife Conservation mobile unit of a man in possession of 2 Indian black turtles (*Melanochelys trijuga*, Appendix II), 2 snapping turtles (*Chelydra serpentina*, Appendix II) native to North America, and 2 red-eared sliders (*Trachemys scripta elegans*). He intended to sell them. He was released on bail of 500,000 rupees (1,600 US\$). The turtles were handed over to the National Zoological Gardens.³⁸

THAILAND

OPERATION THUNDER

September 11, 2025

Suvarnabhumi International Airport, Bangkok, Thailand



Seizure from 2 suitcases belonging to an Egyptian citizen in transit, about to board a flight to Vientiane, Laos, of 187 Egyptian tortoises (*Testudo kleinmanni*, Appendix I) and 2 shells lacking an export certificate issued by the Egyptian CITES authorities. Steps will be taken to return the tortoises to their country of origin. The species' range covers Libya, Egypt, and Israel. It is extinct in Palestine.³⁹

VIET NAM

September 22, 2025

Can Tho Municipality, Viet Nam

Seizure of 21 Mekong snail-eating turtles (*Malayemys subtrijuga*, Appendix II) that were being sold at a market stall.⁴⁰

Beginning of October 2025

Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam

Seizure of 2 yellow-headed temple turtles (*Heosemys annandalii*, Appendix II) in a cafe following an alert on the ENV Wildlife Crime Hotline.⁴¹

October 4, 2025

Hanoi City, Viet Nam

- N.A.Q., a 20-year-old architecture student at Hanoi University, was caught red-handed transporting 10 spotted pond turtles (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*, Appendix II). He was selling them online. Arrest of H.T.A., the supplier, 19, from whose home 26 additional spotted pond turtles were seized.

- H.T.A. was sentenced to 5 years in prison and N.A.Q. to 3 years in prison.⁴²



October 22, 2025

Long Binh, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam

Seizure by police of a giant Asian pond turtle (*Heosemys grandis*, Appendix II) and 2 Mekong snail-eating turtles (*Malayemys subtrijuga*, Appendix II) from a street vendor. The turtles were transferred to the Cu Chi Wildlife Centre.⁴³

EUROPE

GERMANY

Mid-October 2025

Munich International Airport, Bavaria Land, Germany

Customs officials discovered 7 Tunisian tortoises (*Testudo graeca nabeulensis*, Appendix II) in a traveller's suitcase; the animals had been secured with adhesive tape. They were handed over to the city's reptile rescue centre.

Tunisian tortoises are found in Tunisia and Libya. They are among the smallest African tortoises (between 13 and 16 cm in length as adults). Their shells are generally lighter in colour than those of other African tortoises and they have a yellow patch on the top of their heads.⁴⁴

AUSTRIA

OPERATION THUNDER

15 September–15 October 2025

Vienna, Vienna State, Austria

As part of Operation Thunder, coordinated by Interpol and the World Customs Organisation, customs officers intercepted a Hermann's tortoise (*Testudo hermanni*, Appendix II) in the possession of travellers. The tortoise had begun a long journey from Bosnia and Herzegovina, its native habitat, to the United States of America.⁴⁵

BULGARIA

Night of Wednesday, September 10 to Thursday, September 11, 2025

Banya, Burgas Province, Bulgaria

Theft of 20 turtles, including Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix I), pancake tortoise (*Malacochersus tornieri*, Appendix I, East Africa), radiated tortoises (*Astrochelys radiata*, Appendix I, Madagascar), leopard tortoises (*Stigmochelys pardalis*, Appendix II, South Africa), and African spurred tortoises (*Centrochelys sulcata*, Appendix II, Sahelian Africa) at the centre for turtle rehabilitation and breeding of endangered species with the aim of reintroducing them into their countries of origin. The black market value of each turtle is estimated to be between 80 and 2,000 € (90 to 230 US\$).⁴⁶

SPAIN

October 20, 2025

Molina de Segura, Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia, Spain

Seizure by Sepro-na of 3 female Hermann's tortoises (*Testudo hermanni*, Appendix II), 2 Greek tortoises (*Testudo graeca*, Appendix II), one male and one female, and one female Horsfield's tortoise (*Testudo horsfieldii*, Appendix II) native to Central Asia from a resident. They were transferred to the El Valle Wildlife Rescue Centre in Murcia.⁴⁷



FRANCE

September 4, 2025

Saint-Etienne, Department of Loire, France



Sentence of a street vendor and online seller of contraband cigarettes and 4 Hermann's tortoises (*Testudo hermanni*, Appendix II) to 200 daily fines of 10 € (2,000 €, 2,335 US\$), 500 € (585 US\$) in damages, and 1,000 € (1,170 US\$) in court costs to be paid to the Stéphane Lamart Association (see "On the Trail" n°45, p. 100, ref. 44).⁴⁸

September 24, 2025

Bourg-de-Péage, Department of Drôme, France

A Hermann's tortoise (*Testudo hermanni*, Appendix II) found on the street was transferred to Upie Zoo. It was not microchipped and had not been registered with the prefecture. It was therefore being kept illegally.⁴⁹

October 14, 2025

Poitiers, Department of Vienne, France



A fine of 600 € (700 US\$), 500 of which are suspended, was imposed on a 53-year-old Moroccan father who tried in court to shift the blame for the case, namely, the possession of a Greek tortoise (*Testudo graeca*, Appendix II), onto his daughter, claiming she had found it in a public park in Chauvigny. For its part, the OFB, alerted by neighbours, had found the tortoise basking in the summer sun in a concrete courtyard with cat food nearby. The house was empty. The tortoise was seized and released into the wild in November 2023.⁵⁰

ITALY

FAMILY AFFAIRS

September 23, 2025

Olbia, Province of Sassari, Autonomous Region of Sardinia, Italy

At the port, a couple of tourists bound for Civitavecchia were found to be hiding in their luggage pebbles collected from the beaches and a tortoise (*Testudo* spp., Appendix II) that had been collected in the scrubland or purchased from a local trafficker. There are 3 species of tortoises in Sardinia: the Greek tortoise (*Testudo graeca*), the Hermann's tortoise (*Testudo hermanni*), and the marginated tortoise (*Testudo marginata*).⁵¹

RUSSIA

Beginning of October 2025

Moscow Federal City, Russia

At the request of the environmental prosecutor, the Cheremushkinsky District Court has banned nationwide access to websites offering Greek tortoises (*Testudo graeca*, Appendix II) for sale. 'Such advertisements facilitate the illegal trade of rare animal species and encourage citizens to commit offences.'⁵²



Aesculapian ratsnake (*Zamenis longissimus*) © n_bonassin (CC BY-NC)

ASIA

BANGLADESH

October 14, 2025

Talbaria Tripurapara, Chittagong District, Chittagong Division, Bangladesh

Abdur Rahman and Kefayet Ullah played a key role in the rescue of an injured, toothless king cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*, Appendix II) that was being held by a snake charmer, who used it to scare people and extort money from them. The snake charmer was a blackmailer. His captive was also occasionally exploited in roadside shows. Sohail Rana Soikat and Naimul Islam Niloy are doing everything they can to care for it. They are members of the WSRTBD (Wildlife and Snake Rescue Team in Bangladesh).¹



INDIA

September 7, 2025

Nagpur, Nagpur District, State of Maharashtra, India

In the religious and cultural district of Jaripatka, a Ganesh Visarjan (tribute to Ganesh) ended in an environmental scandal. A 1.8-meter-long Asiatic rock python (*Python molurus*, Appendix I) was paraded by performers in front of a crowd of onlookers. The python's mouth was muzzled with black double-sided tape. The Help for Animal Welfare organisation and its network managed to locate the scene of the offence, a shop selling mobile phones. Its president, Ashish Khade, points out that the exploitation of a protected species for entertainment purposes is prohibited. The event organiser, the Kings Events company, is attempting to evade legal investigation. "We had four visarjan programmes that day. I wasn't at the one with the reptile. The client wanted aghori-style performers [inspired by a branch of Hinduism], so we outsourced it to a vendor. I don't know where the snake came from." According to forestry officials, "This is a serious violation; investigations are underway, and those responsible will be brought to book." Wildlife experts are noting that snakes, although revered in Indian culture, are increasingly being exploited for commercial purposes during festivals and religious ceremonies.²

September 9, 2025

Khanjarpur, Haridwar District, State of Uttarakhand, India

Seizure of 70 Indian cobras (*Naja naja*, Appendix II) and 16 Russell's vipers (*Daboia russelii*, Appendix III in India) at an illegal venom extraction facility in the forest near Khanjarpur (population 9,300). Arrest of Vishnu, the snake keeper and venom collector. The ringleader, Nitin Kumar, a resident of Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh, 60 km from Khanjarpur, was not present at the scene. From December 2022 to December 2023, he had been authorized to operate a venom collection centre in Bishanpur, but this authorization had not been renewed. He moved to Khanjarpur with his snakes and equipment. He sells the venom to unscrupulous biotech companies.³

September 9 and 15, 2025

Bahulkheda, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar District, State of Maharashtra, India

Lynching and skinning of a female Asiatic rock python (*Python molurus*, Appendix I) to extract the body of a goat it had just swallowed, followed by the ostentatious posting of the video by the 3 perpetrators, who fled the scene. Two were arrested shortly thereafter. They are 21 and 31 years old. They are being held in pretrial detention for at least 3 days. The manhunt continues to capture the third suspect. Kishor Pathak, an honorary wildlife warden in the district, condemns the act and mourns the python. "If the incident of python killing goes unpunished, it will set a wrong precedent." "Everybody knows that the forest department awards compensation for losses incurred due to attacks by wild animals." For their part, wildlife advocates accuse forest rangers of pocketing kickbacks to allow herders to take their herds to graze in forests where pythons and other wild animals live.⁴

September 11, 2025

Panapuzha, Kannur District, State of Kerala, India

Arrest of Pramod and Bineesh for tracking an adult python from a rubber tree plantation to their home, killing it, roasting it, and seasoning it with curry. Slices of the meat were seized. Police are investigating whether others were involved in the killing and the feast. The 3 species of pythons found in India, the Asiatic rock python (*Python molurus*, Appendix I), the Burmese python (*Python bivittatus*, Appendix II), and the reticulated python (*Malayopython reticulatus*, synonymous with *Python reticulatus*, Appendix II), have the same protection status as tigers and elephants.⁵

September 15, 2025

Sulebailu, Shivamogga District, State of Karnataka, India

Seizure at the home of a self-proclaimed snake rescuer of 3 Asiatic rock pythons (*Python molurus*, Appendix I) and 2 Indian cobras (*Naja naja*, Appendix II). He had drawn the attention of the public and the police by displaying them, their mouths sealed with black tape, on the roof of a car, on a friend's shoulders, and dragged by a rope along a road. To remove the tape, forest rangers had to call in real snake rescuers whose job is to intervene and remove snakes from residential areas after floods. After being carried by the rising waters, the snakes end up in yards, gardens, fields, and homes.⁶

UZBEKISTAN

**Beginning of September 2025
Zilha and Boston Buvo, Fergana Region, Uzbekistan**



Despite educational efforts by the government and local authorities, Tartary sand boas (*Eryx tataricus*, Appendix II) continue to fall victim to an age-old rumour that, when consumed in various forms, they can cure a host of illnesses. Arrest of a cook-apothecary who promoted his soups made from Tartary sand boas and hedgehogs on social media. There are 2 species of hedgehogs in Uzbekistan: Brandt's hedgehog (*Paraechinus hypomelas*) and long-eared hedgehog (*Hemiechinus auritus*).

Tatarian sand boa, see "On the Trail" n°38 p.183 (ref.14), n°46 p.111 (ref.15 and 16) and n°47 p.117 (ref.21).⁷

SRI LANKA

**Beginning of September 2025
Colombo-Bandaranaike International Airport, Western Province, Sri Lanka**

Arrest by the Sri Lanka customs Narcotic Control Unit and the Biodiversity, Cultural and National Heritage Protection Unit of a woman travelling from Bangkok via Chennai, and seizure of a yellow anaconda (*Eunectes notaeus*, Appendix II) (yet another one, see page 122 ref.10), a royal python (*Python regius*, Appendix II) native to Africa, a speckled kingsnake (*Lampropeltis holbrookii*) native to the United States of America, and 3 Honduran milk snakes (*Lampropeltis abnorma*) in glass or plastic containers.⁸

EUROPE

BULGARIA

End of October 2025

Sofia, Sofia City Province, Bulgaria

A man discovers an Aesculapian ratsnake (*Zamenis longissimus*) in his home. The Regional Inspectorate for Environment and Water is alerted and realises that the snake has escaped. Another Aesculapian snake and 2 royal pythons (*Python regius*, Appendix II) are seized from the neighbour's property and transferred to the city zoo's rescue centre.

Aesculapian snakes can grow to 1.5 or even 2 metres in length. They are arboreal. Some have been spotted at heights of over 10 metres.⁹

FRANCE

Saturday, September 13, 2025

Haudricourt, Department of Seine-Maritime, France

A look back at the Reptile and Amphibian Terraristika Fair in Hamm, Germany. The OFB, customs, and the gendarmerie are well aware of the routes taken by collectors and, potentially, traffickers. About a hundred vehicles were inspected at the highway toll booth. Dozens of snakes are confined in crates, and salamanders (family Salamandridae) are found on seats or in the back. After reviewing the accompanying documents, the OFB determines that most of the animals are being transported legally. However, the importation of an emerald tree boa (*Corallus caninus*, Appendix II) native to South America and a Gaboon viper (*Bitis gabonica*) may be illegal. Investigations are ongoing.¹⁰

Terraristika, see also opposite in the United Kingdom and p. 145, ref. 9.

POLAND

Beginning of September 2025

Korcowa, Subcarpathian Voivodeship, Poland. Border with Ukraine.

Seizure of a jacket and a cap made of python skin (Pythonidae, Appendix I or II) from the car of a Ukrainian national attempting to cross the border.¹¹



UNITED KINGDOM

OPERATION THUNDER

September 13 – October 15 2025

Dover, Kent County, England, United Kingdom

As part of Operation Thunder, coordinated by Interpol and the World Customs Organisation, the Border Force seized 2 rainbow boas (*Epicrates cenchria*, Appendix II) from a vehicle arriving on a ferry. The driver had purchased them in Germany without a licence. The Terraristika reptile fair was being held in Hamm on September 13. He had been there.¹²

Terraristika; see also opposite (France) and p. 145, ref. 9.

OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA

Beginning of October 2025

Armadale, State of Western Australia, Australia



A man living in Chittering was fined 5,189 Australian dollars (3,390 US\$) and given a suspended fine of 1,000 Australian dollars (650 US\$) with no criminal record for the illegal possession of exotic snakes.¹³



Panther chameleon (*Furcifer pardalis*). Photo Cyril Voss (BY-NC)

ASIA

CHINA

September 10, 2025
Lok Ma Chau Checkpoint, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China. Border with Mainland China.



Seizure on the stomach of a 59-year-old passenger of 3 blue-tongued skinks (genus *Tiliqua*) native to Australia, with an estimated value of 14,000 Hong Kong dollars (1,800 US\$ or 600 US\$ per specimen).¹

October 2025
Futian Border Post, Shenzhen Prefecture, Guangdong Province, China. Border with Hong Kong.

Seizure of 4 live panther chameleons (*Furcifer pardalis*, Appendix II) from the left trouser pocket of a traveller attempting to enter mainland China; they had been concealed in two white cloth bags. His strange gait alerted the customs officers.²



October 2025
Futian Checkpoint, Shenzhen Prefecture, Guangdong Province, China. Border with Hong Kong.

Seizure of one panther chameleon (*Furcifer pardalis*, Appendix II) and 2 veiled chameleons (*Chamaeleo calyptratus*, Appendix II), all alive, which a traveller attempting to enter continental China had concealed in 2 plastic boxes carefully secured inside each of his socks at calf height.³

INDIA

September 8, 2025

Tipeshwar Wildlife Sanctuary, Yavatmal District, State of Maharashtra, India

Overnight, a patrol in the Parva Forest brought to light the poaching of a Bengal monitor lizard (*Varanus bengalensis*, Appendix I). Five men are in custody pending the investigation.⁴

September 10, 2025

Rajiv Gandhi Hyderabad International Airport, Ranga Reddy District, State of Telangana, India

Gold, weed, and reptiles from Bangkok. Over the past 6 years, customs officials have seized 413 kg of gold at the airport, and on Wednesday, September 10, they seized 13 kg of hydroponic ganja, 2 monitor lizards (*Varanus* spp., Appendix I or II), 10 lizards of the genus *Cordylus* (*Cordylus* spp., Appendix II) native to East and Southern Africa, and 4 green keel-bellied lizards (*Gastropholis prasina*) native to Kenya and Tanzania.⁵

OPERATION WILEP

September 13, 2025

Hijli Railway Station, Paschim Medinipur District, State of West Bengal, India

The bag left on platform 1 caught the attention of the railway police, much to the relief of a two-banded monitor lizard (*Varanus salvator*, Appendix II) that was trapped inside, destined for a sinister process of having its flesh, hemipenis, and skin stripped away and its fat extracted by some tantric sorcerer. It was handed over to the Department of Forestry.⁶

September 26, 2025

Baksa District, State of Assam, India. Border with Bhutan.

Arrest of an individual in possession of a 50 g gecko skin (family Gekkonidae) near the border by a joint patrol of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) paramilitary force and the Forest Department.⁷

October 23, 2025

Chepauk, Chennai District, State of Tamil Nadu, India

An accountant affiliated with the Madras Cricket Club (MCC) beat a Bengal monitor lizard (*Varanus bengalensis*, Appendix I) to death with a crowbar after it wandered onto the green. He claims he was frightened by the lizard (approximately 90 cm long). Rescuers could do nothing but confirm the animal's death and the severity of the blows. Monitor lizards are relatively common on golf and cricket courses and do not pose a threat to players. "This is a clear case of wildlife cruelty and ignorance," said one of the rescuers. The Bengal monitor lizard is at the top of the list of protected species. If investigators confirm the crime, the MCC employee will not be released on bail pending trial.⁸

SINGAPORE

September 17, 2025

Singapore

A fine of 2,000 Singapore dollars (1,560 US\$) for offering a bearded dragon (genus *Pogona*) for sale in April 2021 to a purported buyer who was actually a National Parks officer on an undercover assignment, and for keeping 6 others in his girlfriend's apartment. The National Parks Board reports: "There were 42 cases of animal smuggling caught at Singapore's borders in 2024, the highest number of such attempts in recent years."⁹



EUROPE

GERMANY

Beginning of September 2025

Munich International Airport, Bavaria Land, Germany

Customs officials seized dried monitor lizard meat (*Varanus* spp., Appendix I or II) from the luggage of a passenger arriving from Nigeria. According to the passenger, it was a gift for his relatives. The meat was immediately destroyed for health reasons. There are 3 species of monitor lizards in Nigeria: the savannah monitor (*Varanus exanthematicus*, Appendix II), the Nile monitor (*Varanus niloticus*, Appendix II), and the ornate monitor lizard (*Varanus ornatus*, Appendix II).¹⁰

FRANCE

October 10, 2025

Paris, France

Conviction of Ricardo B., a Mexican citizen, in absentia and without legal representation, to a 10-month suspended prison sentence and a fine of 10,000 € (11,700 US\$) for attempting to bring into France via the Gare de l'Est station, upon disembarking from a train arriving from Stuttgart, Germany, 21 reptiles, most of which, 6 Chinese crocodile lizards (*Shinisaurus crocodilurus*, Appendix I), 4 iguanas, including a Lau banded iguana (*Brachylophus fasciatus*, Appendix I), and 2 horned lizards (*Phrynosoma* spp., Appendix II), are listed in CITES Appendices I and II, and for carrying 15,000 € in cash without declaring it (see "On the Trail" n°44, p. 167, ref. 19).¹¹





Cuvier's smooth-fronted caiman (*Paleosuchus palpebrosus*). Khristian Venegas Valencia (BY-NC)

NORTHERN AMERICA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

September 18, 2025

Washington, District of Columbia, United States of America

A tribute to Phoenix Norwood. To rid the Washington Canal of an unwanted guest that had been irresponsibly abandoned and to respond to the dockmaster's alert, Norwood armed himself with a trap, patience, and determination, for it was no easy task to haul in the 75-centimeter-long, struggling catch, even with the help, at the last moment, of a patrol boat that came to the rescue. The American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II) was first transferred to the Brandywine Valley SPCA and then to the aquatic sanctuary in Scranton, Pennsylvania. The District of Columbia Animal Control Unit reminds the public that it is illegal to own an alligator and, of course, to release it into ponds, rivers, wells, or drainage systems.¹

FLORIDA

September 22, and end of September 2025 Brevard County, State of Florida, United States of America

- Arrest of Jacob Latreille, 21, from Mims, suspected of illegally killing 13 American alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II) on April 19, 24, and 29 on the St. Johns River.

- Arrest of Luke David Michael Landry, 25, and indictment of Wyatt Scott Lowe, 24, and Robert Gage Martin, 28, from Titusville, considered accomplices. The group was hunting alligators from Jacob Latreille's hovercraft.²



October 18, 20 and December 11, 12, 2025
Key Largo Island, Monroe County, State of Florida, United States of America

- On Saturday, October 18, a 2.4-meter-long American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*, Appendix I) was spotted off the coast of the Mile Marker 101 tourist area, swimming with a 90-centimeter-long spear tip lodged in the back of its head. Qualified staff from the Miami Zoo attempted to capture it to establish a diagnosis and, if possible, a survival protocol.



- The 10- to 11-year-old female crocodile was finally immobilized on the night of Monday, October 20, with the assistance of agents from the FWC (Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission). It was transported to the Miami Zoo, where veterinarians Gwen Myers and Nick Buscaglia successfully removed the projectile; however, follow-up X-rays confirmed that a bullet is lodged in its left eye, causing irreparable damage. The crocodile, treated with painkillers, antibiotics, and IV fluids, appears to be on the right track. After leaving the operating room, it immediately showed signs of recovery and a return to normal life outdoors.



- On the afternoon of Thursday, December 11, it was put under anaesthesia for another surgery. Blood tests had detected acid-soluble lead levels far exceeding warning and intervention thresholds. The surgical team therefore attempted to remove the fishing weights and bullets from its stomach, knowing that the lead in its left eye could not be extracted. The spread of lead in its bloodstream had caused various persistent health issues. Lead poisoning leads to anemia, chronic diarrhea, and loss of weight, mobility, and appetite. Throughout its adult life, the American crocodile ingested lead weights while catching fish in fishing nets or eating iguanas killed by bullets that eventually drowned at sea.

- Friday the 12th, "Britney" dies from complications of anaesthesia combined with anemia. Lead poisoning killed it just as much as the assault it suffered.³

CROCODILES HARASSED BY HUMANS AND POISONED BY LEAD

Lead is a toxic metal for humans and other animals, even in minute doses. There is no safe threshold for exposure. Prolonged exposure to acid-soluble lead through ingestion causes a range of harmful effects, affecting everything from the nervous system to the bones. Crocodiles are not immune to the curse of lead. In Lake St. Lucia (80 km long, 23 km wide) in South Africa (KwaZulu-Natal province), where recreational fishing has been practiced for a century, the roughly one thousand Nile crocodiles, by ingesting dead or live fish laden with fishing weights, can reach exceptionally high levels of lead in their blood—perhaps the highest among vertebrates (13,100 micrograms per litre of blood). The average level is 6,000 micrograms per litre, which already causes through the ingestion of contaminated prey mobility and reproductive impairments and tooth loss—a major handicap and source of vulnerability for a crocodile.

The case of "Britney" demonstrates that crocodiles in the open sea—dominated by recreational and commercial fishing and polluted by excessive use of lead weights—are exposed to the same risks as crocodiles confined to a lake.

Source: Marc Humphries, Jan Myburgh, Robert Campbell and Xander Combrink, "High lead exposure and clinical signs of toxicosis in wild Nile crocodiles (*Crocodylus niloticus*) from a World Heritage site: Lake St Lucia estuarine system, South Africa", *Chemosphere*, Volume 303, partie 1, September 2022, doi: [10.1016/j.chemosphere.2022.134977](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2022.134977)

TEXAS

Mid-September 2025
Lake Bob Sandlin, Titus and Camp Counties, State of Texas, United States of America

Discovery of a dead American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II) in the artificial Bob Sandlin Lake (38 km²). It was floating on the surface of the water despite the concrete block tied to its neck and a gunshot wound. Rangers combed the surrounding area and found a house containing the same type of concrete block. The owner of the property confessed to the crime. Bob Sandlin reservoir dates from the construction of the Fort Sherman dam (1977).⁴

LATIN AMERICA

BRAZIL

September 20, 2025

Salvador, State of Bahia, Brazil

Rescue by police of a Cuvier's smooth-fronted caiman (*Paleosuchus palpebrosus*, Appendix II) that had been tied to a post in the Paripe neighbourhood.⁵

October 1, 2025

Coxim, State of Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil

The pick-up truck stopped by rural police on Route MS-423 was carrying 4 dead caimans (Alligatoridae, Appendix I or II) in its bed, each shot in the head. Inside the cab, a revolver with the serial number filed off, a modified air rifle, and 4 knives were seized. Three men were arrested and questioned by the police, and the one who admitted to possessing the unmarked revolver was held in custody pending the outcome of the investigation and trial.⁶

MEXICO

October 31, 2025

Pachuca, State of Hidalgo, Mexico

Seizure by Profepa, following a tip from a courier company, of 2 juvenile Morelet's crocodiles (*Crocodylus moreletii*, Appendix II) in a package originating from the neighbouring State of Mexico. They were transferred to a wildlife rescue centre. Measuring just a few centimeters in length, they will grow to 2 meters in length as adults.⁷



ASIA

CHINA

September 2025

Futian Checkpoint, Shenzhen Prefecture, Guangdong Province, China. Border with Hong Kong.

Seizure from the luggage of a female traveller entering continental China of 26 Siamese crocodile (*Crocodylus siamensis*, Appendix I) legs, weighing 1.7 kg.⁸



INDONESIA

October 13, 2025

Kuala Kurun, Gunung Mas Regency, Central Kalimantan Province, Borneo Island, Indonesia

A 5-year-old salt-water crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*, Appendix II), which had spent its entire life in captivity, was voluntarily handed over to the BKSDA by local residents. It is currently in a transit enclosure and officials have not yet been able to determine whether "Dragon" is male or female. At maturity (12 years for females, 16 for males), a female reaches 3 metres in length and a male 6 metres.⁹

EUROPE

AUSTRIA

OPERATION THUNDER

September 15 - October 15 2025

Vienna, Vienna State, Austria

As part of Operation Thunder, coordinated by Interpol and the World Customs Organisation, customs officers seized a watch with an alligator leather strap (Alligatoridae, Appendix I or II) from a parcel originating in Türkiye.¹⁰

ITALY

October 30, 2025

Cremona, Province of Cremona, Region of Lombardy, Italy

Albanian "artist" fined 10,000 € (11,700 US\$) (see "On the Trail" n°43, p. 111, ref. 10) for displaying the skin of an Australian freshwater crocodile (*Crocodylus johnstoni*, Appendix II) native to Australia in a cabinet of curiosities. The fine for violating the 1992 Law on the Implementation of CITES Decisions will not be entered on his criminal record. He claims to have bought it for 100 € from a Senegalese man at a flea market in Turin, unaware that it was a genuine crocodile skin. The story does not say how much he hoped to make from the eventual sale of his "work of art."¹¹



LITHUANIA

October 28, 2025

Silute District Municipality, Lithuania

Seizure on warrant from the public prosecutor by wildlife protection officers of a spectacled caiman (*Caiman crocodilus*, Appendix I or II) weighing 16 kg in a private residence. Not only did its owner have no legal documents to justify its possession, but it was confined to an aquarium measuring 1.42 m x 0.68 m, whereas national law requires crocodylians to have at least 8 m² of space at ground. It was taken to the Naujieji Muniškiai wildlife care centre.¹²

RUSSIA

End of October 2025

Spichenkovo-Novokuznetsk International Airport, Kemerovo Oblast, Russia

Seizure of a stuffed juvenile Siamese crocodile (*Crocodylus siamensis*, Appendix I) (528 grammes, 73 cm long) in the luggage of a woman returning from Cam Ranh, Viet Nam. An adult Siamese crocodile measures between 2 and 3 metres.¹³

OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA

September 5, 2025

Lockhart River, State of Queensland, Australia



An American influencer who presents himself on social media as a Tarzan lookalike captured an Australian freshwater crocodile (*Crocodylus johnstoni*, Appendix II) at the mouth of the Lockhart River and brandished it as a trophy. The C.R.O.C. (Community Representation of Crocodiles) immediately issued a statement condemning Holston's violation and arrogant behaviour. According to the NGO PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), Holston operates an illegal roadside zoo in Temecula, California, and uses the animals as props to boost viewership.¹⁴

Beginning of October 2025

Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia

Harassment of Estuarine Crocodiles

Alexander "Wookie" Williams, a tour guide and naturalist at the mouth of the Adelaide River, observed that a 2-meter-long juvenile salt-water crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*, Appendix II) had its mouth muzzled with zip ties. This is more than just bullying, it is a death sentence by starvation and the inability to defend itself against attacks from a predator, including an adult crocodile. After 40 minutes, through sheer patience, Wookie managed to remove the instruments of torture. "It was an exhausting experience."

Salt-water crocodiles in Australia, see "On the Trail" n°29 p.145 (ref.15), n°30 p.146 (ref.12), n°31 p.162 (ref.12), n°39 p.138 (ref.10), n°40 p.186 (ref.32 and 34), n°41 p.163 (ref.33), n°46 p.119 (ref.17) and n°47 p.126 (ref.19).¹⁵

AMPHIBIANS



Asiatic toad (*Bufo gargarizans*). Photo Amaël Borzée (BY-NC)

AMERICA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

September 28, 2025

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, State of Oklahoma, United States of America

Seizure of 20 axolotls (*Ambystoma mexicanum*, Appendix II), 4 rabbits, 4 ferrets, 4 turtles, 2 hamsters, and 28 birds at the home of a woman who had been reported to the Oklahoma City Animal Control Unit as early as March 2025. On 3 occasions, a city investigator visited her home between April and September. On 3 occasions, he informed her that the axolotls could not all live together in the same tank due to their tendency toward cannibalism and that the turtles needed to be housed in a tank allowing them to come ashore regularly to prevent their shells from rotting. Noting during his last visit that the housing conditions for all the animals had not been improved and that, “due to lack of money,” the owner had not heeded his advice, the investigator requested that the judicial authorities seize the animals.

After reviewing the case, the court ordered the return of one ferret, 7 birds, 2 rabbits, 4 dogs, and 2 cats following flea treatment. Before they could return to the owner’s care, she was required to

pay 3,430 US\$ in boarding fees at specialised shelters. The animal control unit will conduct weekly inspections of the cages and other housing facilities to verify that they comply with regulations and to ensure that the animals are not infested with cockroaches or other insects.¹

ASIA

CHINA

October 2025

Pujiang County, Chengdu Prefecture, Sichuan Province, China

Taking into account his remorse, the circumstances of the offence—he had suddenly needed money to pay for his son’s treatment for pneumonia—and “the complex interplay of legal and emotional considerations,” and also considering the fact that he released the 1,249 Asiatic toads (*Bufo gargarizans*) that he had captured in a single night along the banks of the Tiexi River, the prosecutor, the county People’s Congress, and the departments of natural resources, water, public security, agriculture, and rural affairs decided not to prosecute “Zhao” and even, in a second step, to waive the administrative fine. The estimated value of the 1,249 toads was equivalent to 17,540 US\$, or 14 US\$ per specimen.²



Chalcosoma chiron. Photo Darryl Ryan (BY-NC)

AMERICA

BRAZIL

OPERATION TARANTULAS

September 8, 2025

Salvador, State of Bahia, Brazil

The military police seized 224 tarantulas, including 4 dead ones, 14 scorpions, including one dead one, 2 centipedes, cockroaches and mealworms intended to feed them, 25 terrariums, and 60 plastic boxes from the home of a man suspected of engaging in the international trafficking of arachnids. He was not at home at the time of the raid. CETAS specialists began the identification process using magnifying glasses the very next day. They have already identified a species native to Mexico, another from the Amazon rainforest, specimens of the genus *Grammostola* native to South America, and emperor scorpions (*Pandinus imperator*, Appendix II) native to West Africa. "Most of the tarantulas come from the Atlantic Forest biome. Our aim is to release them into a suitable habitat following a thorough assessment."¹



FRANCE (GUYANE)

October 9, 2025

Cayenne, Territorial Collectivity of Guiana, France

Traffic checkpoint. The driver did not have a licence, the car was uninsured, and 28 live tarantulas locked in individual plastic bags, juvenile tarantulas, and tarantula eggs were being transported in the trunk. According to the police statement, these are tarantulas not protected in French Guiana of the genus *Theraphosa*. One of the species present is the Goliath birdeater (*Theraphosa blondi*), known for its 30 cm leg span. The driver is being investigated for traffic violations, and the passenger for possession of tarantulas, which is punishable by a fine of 135 € (160 US\$). The adult tarantulas were taken into custody by the National Forest Service and released into the wild. The eggs were placed in an incubator.²



MEXICO

October 15, 2025

San Luis Potosí, State of San Luis Potosí, Mexico

Seizure by Profepa, following a report from the company Estafeta Carga Aérea, of an emperor scorpion (*Pandinus imperator*, Appendix II) native to West Africa found in a package.³

ASIA

CHINA

Beginning of September 2025

Shenzhen Bao'an International Airport, Guangdong Province, China

Seizure from the carry-on luggage of a passenger disembarking from an international flight of 256 beetles. According to customs officials, 66 specimens—including *Chalcosoma chiron*, *Odontolabis stevensi*, *Hexarthrius mandibularis*, *Chalcosoma atlas*, and *Serrognathus eurycephalus*—originate from South-East Asia.⁴

Beginning of October 2025

Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport, Guangdong Province, China



Seizure from the handbag of a passenger disembarking from an international flight of 7 live beetles of the species *Chalcosoma chiron*, whose range is concentrated in Malaysia, Indonesia, and Thailand.⁵

October 2025

Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport, Guangdong Province, China

Seizure from the carry-on luggage of a passenger disembarking from an international flight of 7 live Atlas beetles (*Chalcosoma atlas*). The species is native to South-East Asia.⁶

PHILIPPINES

September 16, 2025

General Santos International Airport, Province of South Cotabato, Philippines

Seizure of 278 orb-weaver spiders (genus *Neoscona*) packed into 6 boxes bound for Tarlac, Lipa, Valenzuela, Carmona, and Ibaan. Spider fights are a part of daily life in the Philippines. Despite the expected disappearance in the not-too-distant future, the species *Neoscona vigilans* and *Neoscona punctigera* are the most sought-after, especially the females, which are the largest and most valiant (see "On the Trail" n°47, pp. 128–129, ref. 4). The operation is credited to the PNP AVSEGROUP (Philippine National Police - Aviation Security Group).⁷

EUROPE

ITALY

October 2025

Metropolitan City of Milan, Region of Lombardy, Italy

Seized by the Carabinieri, the 21 tarantulas, including Mexican redknee tarantulas (*Brachypelma smithi*, Appendix II), curly-haired tarantulas (*Tliltocatl albopilosum*, Appendix II) native to Central America, tiger tarantulas (*Davus pentaloris*) native to Central America, and "baboon" tarantulas (family Theraphosidae) native to Africa. They were transferred to the Natura Viva Park in Bussolengo (Region of Veneto) and welcomed into the new "spider house." "During special Halloween evenings, families will be able to observe these fascinating arachnids even at night."⁸

UNITED KINGDOM

OPERATION THUNDER

September 13 – October 15 2025

United Kingdom

As part of Operation Thunder, coordinated by Interpol and the World Customs Organisation, the Border Force seized 2,000 tarantulas, including 300 protected species, from a vehicle arriving from the European Union. The total value is estimated at 70,000 £ (94,000 US\$). Depending on the species, they could have been sold for between 50 £ and 500 £ (67 US\$ and 670 US\$) each. The Terraristika trade fair for "terrarium and exotic animals" was being held in Hamm, Germany, from 13 September (see page 136 ref.10 and 12).⁹

Events concerning among others elephants, rhinos, felines, bears or pangolins and their by-products are indicated by these pictograms:



Cases concerning exclusively elephants and rhinoceroses, see page 25.

OPERATION THUNDER

September 15-October 15, 2025

International

Operation Thunder took place between September 15 and October 15. Thunder is coordinated by Interpol and the World Customs Organization with support from the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC), the UK Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), and the NICFI (Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative). Law enforcement agencies (police, customs, border guards, wildlife and forestry authorities) from 134 countries (not listed in the Interpol press release) were the backbone of this high-profile enforcement operation, which resulted in 69 red notices, purple, and blue notices. Only one notice for a wildlife trafficker is available on the Interpol website. It concerns Ahmed Mohamed Salah, alias Ahmed Mahabub Gedi, whose schemes, arrest, and release on bail for ivory trafficking between Kenya and Hong Kong were detailed in "On the Trail" (see n°17 p.89, ref. 11, and n°46 p.14, ref. 18). The only information provided by this notice is that Gedi, the Wanted man, is 1.64 m tall, 40 years old, and has black hair. No facial photo is provided, which deprives local NGOs and those in the Horn of Africa of a concrete means to actively participate in locating the individual in question. Neither the blue notices requesting additional information on a person in connection with a criminal investigation, in this case regarding the trafficking of endangered species, nor the purple notices requesting information on modus operandi, objects, devices, and concealment methods used by criminals, in this case wildlife traffickers, are available, thereby depriving NGOs and other watchdogs whose mission is to uncover and help dismantle trafficking networks of vital information. Reading Interpol's press release, one might get the impression that all seizures and arrests related to wildlife trafficking worldwide between September 15 and October



15 were made possible by Operation Thunder, and this impression does not correspond to reality. Eight countries (South Africa, Canada, United States of America, United Kingdom, Germany, Austria, Belgium, France), through their governments, issued a final statement on Operation Thunder. The most detailed statements, namely those from South Africa, the United Kingdom, and Austria, have been distributed in this issue 48 of "On the Trail" by Robin des Bois, species by species, under the heading Operation Thunder.¹

NORTHERN AFRICA

MOROCCO

Sunday, October 5, 2025

Sidi Bouknadel, Rabat-Salé-Kénitra Region, Morocco

The Royal Gendarmerie, the police, and the ANEF (National Water and Forestry Agency) raided an illegal warehouse cleverly concealed within a residential area 15 km north of Rabat, near Nations Beach, acting on a warrant issued by the public prosecutor. Seizure from 2 aviaries of 201 birds, including grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*, Appendix I), blue-and-yellow macaws (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II), Eclectus parrots (*Eclectus* spp., Appendix II), budgerigars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*), and other parrots (family Psittacidae, Appendix I or II), lorises (*Nycticebus* spp., Appendix I), a python (Pythonidae, Appendix I or II), a scorpion (family Scorpionidae), and a tarantula (family Theraphosidae).²

WESTERN AFRICA

COTE D'IVOIRE

September 1, 2025

Zatta, Yamoussoukro District, Côte d'Ivoire

A high-impact operation was carried out at checkpoints along logistics corridors, notably at Zatta, with the seizure from a bus coming from Korhogo of a shipment of African dwarf crocodiles (*Osteolaemus tetraspis*, Appendix I), lace monitors (*Varanus varius*, Appendix II), mummified rhinoceros vipers (*Bitis nasicornis*), snake skins, Senegal parrots (*Poicephalus senegalus*, Appendix II), skulls of Guinea fowl (*Numida meleagris*), European hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*), spotted hyaenas (*Crocuta crocuta*), side-striped jackals (*Canis adustus*), all destined for traditional medicine and quackery networks. According to Lieutenant Colonel Batto, regional director of Water and Forests for the Yamoussoukro Autonomous District, "this is a trade that never stops, a regular business that could be fueling cross-border criminal networks." Korhogo is 100 km from the border with Mali and Burkina Faso.³

NIGERIA

October 28, 2025

Nigeria

The Senate has approved an Endangered Species Conservation and Protection Bill proposed by Senator Michael Bamidele Opeyemi. The bill aims to strengthen penalties for wildlife crimes, including the trafficking of pangolin scales and ivory, enhance judges' capacity to handle wildlife-related cases, grant investigators the right to trace financial transactions and conduct intelligence operations, facilitate the recovery of assets derived from illegal activities, and promote the strict enforcement of international treaties signed by Nigeria. The bill is being heralded in the press as transformative, with the potential to significantly bolster Nigeria's fight against organised wildlife trafficking.⁴

CENTRAL AFRICA

ANGOLA

The bright arils of *Guibourtia coleosperma* attract glossy starlings, parrots and monkeys, which feed on them, disperse the seeds and thus promote the regeneration of the species. Its main range extends from the south of the Democratic Republic of the Congo through western Zambia to northern Southern Africa. The species is strictly protected in Namibia, Botswana and Angola.



Guibourtia coleosperma



September 25, 2025

Maondo, Moxico Leste Province, Angola. Border with Zambia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Seizure of several logs of *Guibourtia coleosperma*, known in Africa as mussivi, sold under the false names of rosewood or African teak, and exported to Asia, Europe, the Middle East and North America for use in parquet flooring, furniture and luxury cabinetry. Arrest of 11 Zambian nationals who had been working in illegal logging camps since March under the supervision of Asian foremen.

A decree issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in 2024 suspended logging operations to protect the species from plundering.

March 4, 2026

Luanda, Luanda Province, Angola

Sixteen 40-foot containers loaded with *Guibourtia coleosperma* planks intended for export to Viet Nam were seized by customs officials in the Luanda port area. They were awaiting loading into CMA-CGM containers. The French shipping company has a significant presence in Angola. It has previously faced legal disputes in 2010 in Madagascar through its former subsidiary Delmas, involving a shipment of *Dalbergia maritima* (Appendix II) or Madagascar rosewood destined for China, and in summer 2020 in Gambia involving African teak (*Pterocarpus erinaceus*, Appendix II), which also goes by the flattering name of African rosewood. CMA-CGM subsequently suspended timber exports from the port of Banjul and decided to load only non-CITES-listed timber at African ports, without taking into account that certain non-CITES-listed species may be strictly protected by national regulations.

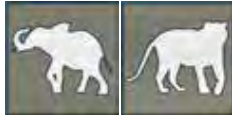
The CMA-CGM office in Luanda was duped by forged documents from a company called Kai-fu, run with others by Chinese nationals Yan Jun and Li Wei, against whom arrest warrants have been issued.⁵



CAMEROON

Night of September 25–26, 2025

Sangmélima, South Region, Cameroon



A routine check by forest rangers led to an extraordinary seizure on board an intercity bus: 6 elephant tails, one gorilla head, and 4 gorilla hands (*Gorilla* spp., Appendix I), 4 chimpanzee hands (*Pan troglodytes*, Appendix I), 7 mandrill teeth, and 3 mandrill skulls (*Mandrillus sphinx*, Appendix I), 5 leopard skins (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I), 8 grey parrot heads (*Psittacus erithacus*, Appendix I), 4 bundles of grey parrot feathers, 11 helmets, and 3 dead hornbills (*Ceratogymna* spp., Appendix II). Arrest of the driver, Njoudiyimoun Issofa, 21 years old. All seized species are found in the Dja Wildlife Reserve (5,260 km²). Intercity buses connect Djoum (population 20,000), located 30 km from the Dja Reserve, to Yaoundé, the capital of Cameroon.⁶



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EASTERN AFRICA

MOZAMBIQUE

End of September 2025
Massangena District, Gaza Province, Mozambique



Arrest of 4 men in possession of a live Temminck's ground pangolin and 16 claws, 18 bones, and teeth belonging to a lion (*Panthera leo*, Appendix II). They were attempting to do business with a traditional healer in Eswatini, 900 km away. The location where the lion was poached is currently being identified by SERNIC (Serviço Nacional de Investigação Criminal).⁷

NORTHERN AMERICA

CANADA

FAMILY AFFAIRS
Mid-September 2025
Province of Alberta, Canada



Charges have been filed against Sophia Soriano and James Brittain of Calgary, Alberta; Teresa and Eli Snow of Morley, Alberta; and Simon Paul of Montana, United States of America. Paul is accused of shooting eagles in November 2024 on the territories of the Stoney Nakoda and Eden Valley First Nations and of selling a headdress made of bald eagle feathers (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, Appendix II), a ritual dance staff made from a raptor's talon, and necklaces made from American black bear claws (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) with the assistance of James Brittain and Eli Snow. Paul and Snow are also accused of shooting eagles and hawks in Cochrane from their truck in March 2025. A search of their vehicle and residence led to the seizure of legs with claws, feathers, other raptor parts, and unsecured firearms. Simon Paul was wanted in Montana for repeatedly killing raptors and selling their parts. He had since evaded all court summonses. He had fled to Canada to engage in the same activities with local specialists.⁸

OPERATION THUNDER
September 15-October 15,
2025
Canada



According to a press release from the Ministry of the Environment, Operation Thunder led to the seizure of boots made from pangolin scales, carved elephant ivory, sperm whale teeth (*Physeter macrocephalus*, Appendix I), rhino horn powder, bear gallbladders, and bottles of bear bile (Ursidae, Appendix I or II), pills made from saiga antelope horns (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II), the head trophy of a blackbuck (*Antilope cervicapra*, Appendix III in Pakistan and Nepal), accessories made from python skin (Pythonidae, Appendix I or II) and American alligator skin (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II), reptiles, shark fins, and plant species or by-products of plant species such as orchids, desert cistanches (*Cistanche deserticola*, Appendix II), cibotas (*Cibotium barometz*, Appendix II), and extracts of African cherry (*Prunus africana*, Appendix II).⁹

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

September 17 and 19, 2025
Warwick, Orange County, State of New York,
United States of America

- On Wednesday, first search at Linda Hickey's residence on Old Dutch Hollow Road. Seizure of 66 wild animals, including prairie dogs (genus *Cynomys*), peafowls (*Pavo spp.*, Appendix II or III in Pakistan), parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II except for 3 species), hedgehogs (family Erinaceidae), ferrets (*Mustela furo*), a wallaby (family Macropodidae), and seizure of domestic animals, including cats, dogs, and ducks.

- Friday, second search conducted by Sheriff Paul Arteta, assisted by the Warwick Valley Humane Society and Animal Nation. Seizure of hens, roosters, and pigs. An emu (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*), a swan (genus *Cygnus*), 4 peafowls, and geese disappeared between the 2 searches.

Linda Hickey, 61, worked for years at All Creatures Wildlife Rehabilitation in Warwick, where, according to her employer, she had genuine expertise. She lost that expertise over time as a retiree. As early as 2024, about a hundred animals had been removed from her home following reports from neighbours. She was no longer engaged in rehabilitation, she was merely collecting animals and accumulating neglect and abuse.¹⁰

FAMILY AFFAIRS
September 26, 2025
Rock Springs, Sweetwater
County, State of Wyoming,
United States of America



Sean Thomas, a resident of Farson, Wyoming, was sentenced to fines totaling 9,070 US\$, of which 7,070 US\$ is suspended; 6,000 US\$ in restitution to the Wyoming Wildlife Protectors Association; 24 months of probation; 365 days in prison, 40 of which are to be served without parole, and a 20-year suspension of his hunting, fishing, and trapping licences for illegally obtaining a hunting licence in Wyoming and for poaching 3 pronghorns (*Antilocapra americana*, Appendix I for the population of Mexico) and at least 3 elk (*Cervus canadensis*).

This conviction marks the conclusion of an 8-year investigation that began in 2017, led by the Wyoming Game & Fish Department in collaboration with its counterparts in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Utah. After moving to Wyoming in 2014, Sean Thomas, operating under the banner of Great Basin Outfitters, engaged in numerous acts of illegal hunting in Wyoming in association with Michael Jordan of Minnesota, members of their families, and friends. The other individuals involved were convicted earlier:

- Kristine Thomas, a resident of Farson, on April 11, 2024, to fines totaling 6,770 US\$, of which 5,000 US\$ is suspended, 90 days of suspended jail time, and a 5-year suspension of her hunting licence, for illegally obtaining a Wyoming hunting licence and poaching at least one juvenile elk;

- Wesley Thomas, a resident of Farson, on May 16, 2024, to a fine of 5,070 US\$, of which 5,000 US\$ is suspended, 6,000 US\$ in restitution to the Wyoming Wildlife Protectors Association, and a 3-year suspension of his hunting licence, for illegally obtaining a hunting licence in Wyoming and for poaching a male elk;

- Taylor Thomas, a resident of Farson, on May 31, 2024, to fines of 570 US\$, 300 US\$ in restitution to the Wyoming Wildlife Protectors Association, 250 US\$ in fees for the court-appointed attorney, and a one-year suspension of his hunting licence for hunting a bobcat (*Lynx rufus*, Appendix II);

- Roger Thomas, a resident of Ferron, Utah, on July 1, 2024, to fines of 5,470 US\$, of which 5,000 US\$ is suspended, 6,000 US\$ in restitution, 90 days of suspended imprisonment, and a 2-year suspension of his hunting licence, for illegally obtaining a hunting licence in Wyoming and for poaching a male elk;

- Michael Jordan, a resident of Stillwater, Minnesota, on July 21, 2023, to 180 days of suspended jail time, a 1,070 US\$ fine, 6,000 US\$ in restitution to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and a one-year suspension of his hunting and trapping licences, for hunting pronghorns without a licence; (.../...)

ARGENTINA

(.../...) - Austin Jordan, on August 8, 2023, to 2 days in jail, a 570 fine US\$, 3,000 US\$ in restitution, and a one-year suspension of his hunting and trapping licences, for hunting a female pronghorn without a licence;

- Joseph Jordan, on August 28, 2023, to 2 days in jail, a 70 US\$ fine, 5,000 US\$ in restitution to the Wyoming Wildlife Protectors Association, and a one-year suspension of his hunting licence, for hunting a male pronghorn without a licence;

- Tommie Mount, on September 25, 2024, to 1,040 US\$ in fines for illegally obtaining a hunting licence in Wyoming, and David Pehrson to 350 US\$ in fines for shooting an elk in a no-hunting zone.

For all of them, the firearms and trophies of elk, mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), pronghorn, American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II), bobcat, and American badger (*Taxidea taxus*) discovered during the searches are permanently confiscated for the benefit of the State.¹¹

REPEATED OFFENCE**October 22, 2025**

Anzalduas International Bridge, Hidalgo County, State of Texas, United States of America. Border with Mexico.

Seizure in a van bound for Mexico of 166 animals, the majority of which are exotic species in the United States of America. Arrest of Sebastian Cruz-Amaya, a Mexican citizen. He stated that he would have been paid 500 to 600 US\$ by the client in Mexico if the mission had been successful, that he had already carried out about a hundred shipments over the past 5 years, and that before to be smuggled into Mexico, the animals were shipped within the United States via FedEx and UPS. He was carrying an invoice dated October 21 issued by an Ohio-based company that had shipped 54 snakes to be picked up at the UPS warehouse in McAllen, located immediately adjacent to the Mexican border in Hidalgo County. The inventory of the seized animals is as follows:

- Exotics: one Indian star tortoise (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix I), 40 royal pythons (*Python regius*, Appendix II), 2 green tree pythons (*Morelia viridis*, Appendix II), one timor python (*Malayopython timoriensis*, Appendix II), one carpet python (*Morelia spilota*, Appendix II), one Boa constrictor (*Boa constrictor*, Appendix II), 10 red-eyed treefrogs (*Agalychnis callidryas*, Appendix II), 6 "horned" frogs (genus *Ceratophrys*), 3 savannah monitors (*Varanus exanthematicus*, Appendix II), 2 ornate monitor lizards (*Varanus ornatus*, Appendix II), 2 Chinese cave geckos (*Goniurosaurus hainanensis*, Appendix II), 2 veiled chameleons (*Chamaeleo calytratus*, Appendix II), 3 blue-tongued skinks (genus *Tiliqua*), 3 black-soil bearded dragons (*Pogona henrylawsoni*), 3 bearded dragons (genus *Pogona*), one fire skink (*Mochlus fernandi*), and 3 Chilean rose tarantulas (*Grammostola rosea*).

- Natives: 22 milk snakes (*Lampropeltis triangulum*), 10 Mexican black kingsnakes (*Lampropeltis getula nigrita*), 11 California kingsnakes (*Lampropeltis californiae*), 6 corn snakes (*Pantherophis guttatus*), one garter snake (genus *Thamnophis*), 11 spotted salamanders (*Ambystoma maculatum*), and 15 green anoles (*Anolis carolinensis*), 4 tarantulas, and 2 centipedes.¹²

Beginning of September 2025

Peruggorria, Province of Corrientes, Argentina

Rural police officers were on patrol to prevent cattle theft, illegal slaughter, and poaching. Two poachers were caught red-handed with nine-banded armadillo (*Dasybus novemcinctus*), plains viscacha (*Lagostomus maximus*), and spotted deer (*Axis axis*) meat in their possession.¹³

September 6, 2025

Villa María, Province of Córdoba, Argentina

The illegal zoo displayed 3 blue-fronted amazons (*Amazona aestiva*, Appendix II), 12 turtles, 2 collared peccaries (*Pecari tajacu*, Appendix II), a capybara (*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*), and a wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) to the public. The animals were seized by the environmental police and transferred to the Tatú Carreta wildlife rehabilitation centre.¹⁴

September 18, 2025

Salta, Province of Salta, Argentina

The Rural and Environmental Police discovered posts on social media offering wild animal skins for sale. The Investigative Unit identified the seller and their address. A 36-year-old man admitted to the charges and handed over a puma skin (*Puma concolor*, Appendix II), an ocelot skin (*Leopardus pardalis*, Appendix I), 11 collared peccary skins (*Pecari tajacu*, Appendix II), and a European hare skin (*Lepus europaeus*). The court will rule on his guilt and the fate of the skins.¹⁵

**September 24, 2025**

Villa Urquiza, Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, Argentina

Seizure in a house for sale of a very special wardrobe consisting of jaguar-skin coats (*Panthera onca*, Appendix I) adorned with teeth and bones on the sleeves, ocelot-skin jackets (*Leopardus pardalis*, Appendix I), bags, hats, and belts made with skins of boa (Boidae, Appendix I or II), nutria (*Myocastor coypus*), American mink (*Mustela vison*), Geoffroy's cat (*Leopardus geoffroyi*, Appendix I), and Himalayan tahr (*Hemitragus jemlahicus*), and seizure of a stock of skins of all kinds and exotic feathers, clearly the unsold inventory left behind by a thriving workshop that once delighted the elegant ladies and dandies of Buenos Aires and perhaps still today exotic buyers from the Middle East and Asia.¹⁶



October 8 and 18, November 13, 2025, January 12, and February 1, 2026

Posadas, Province of Misiones, Argentina

- It's a backwards world. The gendarmerie, the environmental police, agents from the Misiones Ministry of Ecology, and specialists from the Ohana Wildlife Centre, managed by the Fundación Dante Piescode, discovered 114 wild animals in distress at a veterinary clinic, without care and with empty water and food bowls, and 14 animals in a freezer, including common marmosets (*Callithrix jacchus*, Appendix II), red-footed tortoises (*Chelonoidis carbonarius*, Appendix II), caimans (*Caiman* spp., Appendix I or II), black-and-white tegu (*Salvator merianae*, Appendix II), Central bearded dragon (*Pogona vitticeps*), iguanas (family Iguanidae), and snakes, all juveniles. The stench of death permeates from the few available news articles, a wasteland devoid of men, women, white coats, or a welcoming presence.

- All wildlife possession and management permits held by Lorena Roxana Soledad Colman, the clinic's owner, are suspended following this raid.

- The Posadas court ordered the transfer of the animals to the Ohana Centre for proper veterinary care and eventual release. Ultimately, this did not take place. According to the Fundación Dante Piescode, Lorena Roxana Soledad Colman enjoys political protection.

- At the request of Deputy Judge Fernando Luis Verón, who is now in charge of the case, a new inspection of the clinic is conducted. Thirty-four animals have gone missing since October, with no death certificates or veterinary reports providing an explanation. On the contrary, 63 bearded dragon eggs, and 10 new wild animals were "admitted" despite the suspension of Colman's permit.

- The Fundación Dante Piescode has filed a civil suit and is requesting the transfer of the animals ordered in November and the indictment of Colman.¹⁷

BOLIVIA

September 25, 2025

Department of Oruro, Bolivia

Rescue by the department's environmental authorities of 3 tufted capuchins (*Cebus apella*, synonymous with *Sapajus apella*, Appendix II), one Bolivian red howler (*Alouatta sara*, Appendix II), and 2 red-footed tortoises (*Chelonoidis carbonarius*, Appendix II) that had fallen victim to trafficking. They were transferred to the Senda Verde rehabilitation centre in Yolosa, in the Department of La Paz.¹⁸

BRAZIL

September 1, 2025

Ressaquinha, State of Minas Gerais, Brazil



Kilometer 675 of the expressway heading toward São Paulo. Inspection of a car by the environmental military police. Seizure of 9 macaw chicks (*Ara* spp., Appendix I or II), one howler monkey (*Alouatta* spp., Appendix I or II), 2 juvenile caimans (Alligatoridae, Appendix I or II), and 2 iguanas (family Iguanidae). A fine of 206,500 reais (38,200 US\$) for each of the passengers aged 20 to 35.¹⁹

September 4, 2025

Tiros, State of Minas Gerais, Brazil



Arrest of a poacher by the environmental police and seizure at his home of 9 caged birds, including a chestnut-bellied seed finch (*Oryzoborus angolensis*, synonymous with *Sporophila angolensis*), the skin of a cascabel rattlesnake (*Crotalus durissus*, Appendix III in Honduras), and paca meat (*Cuniculus paca*, Appendix III in Honduras). A fine of 47,898 reais (8,900 US\$) was imposed for the environmental offences. The birds were handed over to the CETAS in Patos de Minas. The police also seized firearms, ammunition, narcotics, and 2 motorcycles.²⁰

September 5, 2025

Sorocaba, State of São Paulo, Brazil



Raid by the environmental police and the special task force against organised crime on 2 workshops run by "baloeiros", manufacturers of balloons and sky lanterns, the use of which is prohibited in Brazil due to the risk of fires in rural and urban areas and the danger to air traffic. All equipment was seized, along with a tortoise (*Chelonoidis carbonarius* or *Chelonoidis denticulatus*, Appendix II) and an amazon parrot (*Amazona* spp., Appendix I or II). Total fine of 500,000 reais (92,450 US\$).²¹

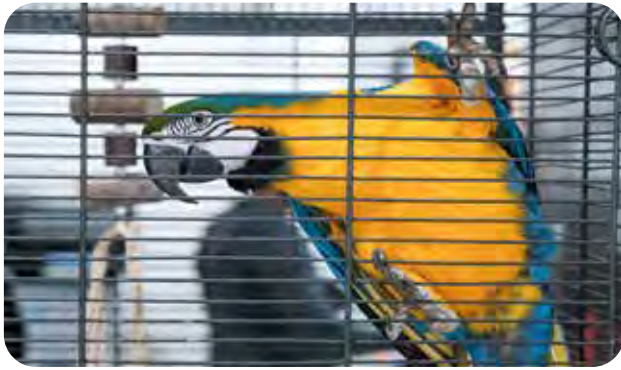
September 9, 2025

Gurupi, State of Tocantins, Brazil

The man at mile marker 694 on the expressway refused to stop. Traffic police shot out a tire, handcuffed the driver, and discovered 108 furry, feathered, and scaly animals in plastic crates and cardboard boxes: 3 red-handed tamarins (*Saguinus midas*, Appendix II), 9 capuchins (*Cebus* spp., synonymous with *Sapajus* spp., Appendix II), 3 tortoises (*Chelonoidis carbonarius* or *Chelonoidis denticulatus*, Appendix II), 5 hyacinth macaws (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*, Appendix I), 3 orange-winged amazons (*Amazona amazonica*, Appendix II), 54 jandaya conures (*Aratinga jandaya*, Appendix II), 2 other parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II), one greater rhea (*Rhea americana*, Appendix II), 16 chopi blackbird (*Gnorimopsar chopi*), and 12 passerines (family Thraupidae). Some were already dead. The chopi blackbirds and the passerines were released on the spot.²²

September 16, 2025

State of Rio de Janeiro, State of São Paulo, State of Minas Gerais, Brazil



Preliminary detention of 47 people and seizure of approximately 800 wild animals, including macaws and toucans, several firearms, ammunition, and an explosive belt. During the searches, one suspect was seriously injured in an exchange of gunfire and a police officer was wounded in the leg. His life is not believed to be in danger. Operation São Francisco was led by the environmental police, the federal police, the highway patrol, Ibama, the State Environmental Institute, and the Rio de Janeiro Attorney General's Office. Among the suspects is Thiago Raimundo dos Santos Silva, alias TH Joias. He is said to have purchased 4 monkeys. The monkeys were captured in the Tijuca and Horto forests (Rio de Janeiro) and transported, under sedation, to the cities.

TH Joias owes his nickname to his work as a jeweler and jewellery designer for prestigious clients such as soccer stars Neymar and Vinícius Júnior. He has already been sentenced to prison for drug trafficking. He is suspected of arms trafficking on behalf of the Comando Vermelho. The criminal organisation is involved in trafficking animals and ammunition, providing official documents and seals, and drug trafficking with distribution hubs and dealing points in Pavuna and Duque de Caxias (State of Rio de Janeiro). All these "skeletons in the closet" did not prevent him from serving as a State representative in the Rio de Janeiro State Government under the Movimento Democrático Brasileiro banner from July 5, 2024, to September 3, 2025. He was responsible for coordinating natural and industrial disaster prevention plans in the State.²³

September 18, 2025

Luziânia, Federal District, Brazil

The parrot and the tortoises (*Chelonoidis carbonarius* or *Chelonoidis denticulatus*, Appendix II) were being sold online. The military police, with the assistance of the Instituto Guarda Nacional de Defesa Ambiental, managed to locate the source. The animals were taken to CETAS. A man was detained and released after the signing of a report. The Instituto Guarda Nacional de Defesa Ambiental states that it does not receive government funding.²⁴

September 18-22, 2025

Santarém, State of Pará, Brazil

Seizure by Ibama during the Sairé festival, which celebrates through the sales of tickets and VIP boxes Amazonian culture and traditions, of 41 pairs of earrings and a necklace made from the feathers of parrots, raptors, herons, and curassows, as well as 2 pairs of earrings made from boa constrictor bone and shark teeth. For several years, Ibama has been conducting a communication campaign to discourage the use of feathers and other wildlife byproducts in costumes and ornaments, and to prevent the sale of these byproducts at such events.²⁵



"Don't take the feathers out of life"

September 22, 2025

Tartarugalzinho, State of Amapá, Brazil

Nighttime vehicle inspection by environmental police. Seizure of 35 kg of fish, including 15 kg of peacock bass (genus *Cichla*), caiman meat (Alligatoridae, Appendix I or II), 2 armadillo carcasses (family Dasypodidae or Chlamyphoridae), 2 paca carcasses (*Cuniculus paca*, Appendix III in Honduras), and capybara meat (*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*). Three arrests.²⁶

REPEATED OFFENCE

September 26, 2025

Xanxerê, State of Santa Catarina, Brazil

Seized from a breeding facility housing 174 animals, including amazon parrots (*Amazona* spp., Appendix I or II) and marmosets (*Callithrix* spp., Appendix I or II), sold at prices starting at 4,000 reais (740 US\$) after being displayed on social media drinking from bottles or wearing baby diapers, poses that appeal to a wide clientele ranging from people longing for children to large families eager to add a new member to their lineage. The operator of this breeding facility is known for animal abuse, which has already resulted in fines and a ban on operations issued in 2024 following lengthy proceedings.²⁷



October 1, 2025

Fortaleza, State of Ceara, Brazil

Seizure by police at a private residence in the Edson Queiroz neighbourhood of a blue-winged macaw (*Primolius maracana*, Appendix I), 2 rufous-bellied thrushes (*Turdus rufiventris*), and a yellow-headed sideneck (*Podocnemis unifilis*, Appendix II). They were transferred to a CETAS. Seizure of 45 rabbits bred more for ornamental purposes than for food, who were victims of abuse. They were taken in by the NGO APA (Anjos da Proteção Animal).²⁸



(order Passeriformes). They were languishing in cages with no ventilation and no sanitation. The smell was foul. Dead bodies were found in the corners. Director Cristiane Monteiro used her 13-year-old son to promote on social media her publicly accessible, for-profit facility, pompously titled the Environmental and Educational Institute. It had already been temporarily shut down in 2024 for animal abuse.³¹



October 8, 2025

São Paulo, State of São Paulo, Brazil

Seized by the environmental military police, a blue-fronted amazon (*Amazona aestiva*, Appendix II) and a tufted capuchin (*Cebus apella*, synonymous with *Sapajus apella*, Appendix II) were transferred to CETAS in Tietê. Administrative fine equal to 190 US\$ for the owner.²⁹



October 16, 2025

Parnaíba, State of Piauí, Brazil

Release of a capuchin (*Cebus* spp., synonymous with *Sapajus* spp., Appendix II) and 2 rufous-collared sparrows (*Zonotrichia capensis*) that were in cages, stolen from the remnants of the caatinga ("white forest," an arid region in northeastern Brazil composed of small thorny trees, cacti, grasses, and shrubs). The police were alerted by an anonymous phone call. At L. F. S. S.'s residence, there were also many empty cages, indicating the constant movement of animals and possibly an active trade.³⁰

REPEATED OFFENCE

October 21, 2025

Armação dos Búzios, State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Seizure at the Larissa Saruê Institute of 93 wild animals: 2 marmosets (*Callithrix* spp., Appendix II), 65 opossums (genus *Didelphis*), 3 porcupines (family Erethizontidae), a boa (Boidae, Appendix I or II), a corn snake (*Pantherophis guttatus*), 9 tortoises (*Chelonoidis carbonarius* or *Chelonoidis denticulatus*, Appendix II), 2 black-bellied sliders (*Trachemys dorbigni*), an iguana (family Iguanidae), 3 red-browed amazons (*Amazona rhodocorytha*, Appendix I), 2 mottled owls (*Ciccaba virgata*, Appendix II), a tawny-browed owl (*Pulsatrix koenigswaldiana*, Appendix II), a yellow-headed caracara (*Milvago chimachima*, Appendix II), a rose-ringed parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*), and a passerine



October 29, 2025

Rosana, State of São Paulo, Brazil

Seizure by the environmental police at a farm of 4 caiman skins (Alligatoridae, Appendix I or II), 40 kg of capybara meat (*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*), a nine-banded armadillo carcass (*Dasypus novemcinctus*), a handgun, and 23 grammes of marijuana. A fine of 23,200 reais (4,350 US\$) for the environmental violations and detention for the other offences.³²



COLOMBIA

September 12, 2025

Bucaramanga, Department of Santander, Colombia



Seizure by the environmental police in the Morrорico neighbourhood of a young white-fronted capuchin (*Cebus albifrons*, Appendix II) suffering from rickets and unable to be released into the wild, 2 orange-winged amazons (*Amazona amazonica*, Appendix II) and a yellow-crowned amazon (*Amazona ochrocephala*, Appendix II), whose suitability for release is currently under review. "Often, animals in captivity suffer from conditions that condemn them to live in captivity for the rest of their lives because of a crime they did not commit," states veterinarian Juan Sebastián Mejía of the department's wildlife care and assessment centre.³³

September 18, 2025

Dagua, Department of Valle del Cauca, Colombia

Seizure on a rural property of 7 birds with clipped wings: 2 scarlet macaws (*Ara macao*, Appendix I), 2 blue-and-yellow macaws (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II), 2 red-and-green macaws (*Ara chloropterus*, Appendix II), and a keel-billed toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*, Appendix II), as well as a cotton-headed tamarin (*Saguinus oedipus*, Appendix I). They were transferred to the San Emigdio Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre in Palmira. Since the beginning of the year, 1,699 wild animals have been admitted there, including 643 birds, 564 mammals, and 465 reptiles; during the same period, 634 animals were released back into their natural habitat, including 134 birds, 180 mammals, and 315 reptiles.³⁴

OPERATION AQUI SI PASA

October 6-12, 2025

Bogotá, Colombia

Seizure at the international airport, the Salitre bus station, and other locations of 600 grammes of shark meat from the species *Mustelus whitneyi*, 3 tarantulas (family Theraphosidae), 2 red-footed tortoises (*Chelonoidis carbonarius*, Appendix II), one corn snake (*Pantherophis guttatus*), 3 yellow-crowned amazons (*Amazona ochrocephala*, Appendix II), 2 brown-throated conures (*Aratinga pertinax*, Appendix II), and wild orchids of the genus *Cattleya*. A baby red howler (*Alouatta seniculus*, Appendix II) was abandoned in front of a police station in the southern part of the city.³⁵

October 24, 2025

Cúcuta, Department of Norte de Santander, Colombia. Border with Venezuela.



Seizure in several locations throughout the city of 11 wild animals being kept in captivity, including an oncilla (*Leopardus tigrinus*, Appendix I), a yellow-crowned amazon (*Amazona ochrocephala*, Appendix II), 2 other parrots, and an opossum (family Didelphidae).³⁶

MEXICO

September 6 and 7, 2025

Centro, State of Tabasco, Mexico

Seizure by the National Guard, military personnel, and veterinarians, under the supervision of the public prosecutor's office, of 2 military macaws (*Ara militaris*, Appendix I), 3 yellow-headed amazons (*Amazona oratrix*, Appendix I), one blue-and-yellow macaw (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II), 2 ostriches (*Struthio camelus*, Appendix I in Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and Sudan), one mountain zebra (*Equus zebra*, Appendix II), and one African spurred tortoise (*Centrochelys sulcata*, Appendix II). The villa in the Altozano neighbourhood had been reported to the Authority by local residents who were surprised by the intermittent presence of armed men.³⁷

September 18-19, 2025

Huimanguillo, State of Tabasco, Mexico

Action against the sale of wildlife on the Cárdenas-Coatzacoalcos highway near the Sánchez Magallanes toll booth. Seizure by the Huimanguillo Municipal Police and the Veracruz State Police of 4 green iguanas (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II), 6 Morelet's crocodiles (*Crocodylus moreletii*, Appendix II), 7 white-fronted amazons (*Amazona albifrons*, Appendix II), 3 red-lored amazons (*Amazona autumnalis*, Appendix II), and 20 olive-throated conures (*Eupsittula nana*, Appendix II), which were for sale and tied to sticks, placed in cardboard boxes, held at arm's length. Several motorcycles were also seized at the same time. All the sellers fled.³⁸

October 1, 2025
Santa Lucía del Camino, State of Oaxaca, Mexico



Seizure of one caiman skin (*Caiman* spp., Appendix II) and 19 pairs of sandals made from caiman skin, python skin (Pythonidae, Appendix I or II), stingray skin (genus *Dasyatis*), and ostrich skin (*Struthio camelus*, Appendix I in 12 African countries). Shutdown of the store.³⁹



October 19, 2025
Mexico City, Mexico

Two individuals were reported to the police. They were wandering around the Cuauhtémoc neighbourhood, in the middle of tourists and the historic district, carrying plastic boxes through which a monkey, a snake, and a crocodile-like animal were clearly visible. The police cornered them at the corner of Madero and Monte de Piedad streets. They were from the State of Tamaulipas. They were informed, in case they were unaware, that they were caught in the act of transporting wild specimens, which, after a brief examination, were identified as a capuchin (*Cebus* spp., synonymous with *Sapajus* spp., Appendix II), a Burmese python (*Python bivittatus*, Appendix II), and a spectacled caiman (*Caiman crocodilus*, Appendix II).⁴⁰

PERU

October 22, 2025
Yarinacocha, Province of Coronel Portillo, Department of Ucayali, Peru

Seizure of one woolly monkey (*Oreonax flavicauda*, Appendix I, or *Lagothrix* spp., Appendix II) and 4 sloths (genus *Bradypus* or *Choloepus*) in captivity and of 23 stuffed butterflies and one tarantula (family Theraphosidae). The animals and “decorative” items were handed over to the department’s Environmental Division for health assessment and species identification.

Department of Ucayali, see “On the Trail” n°5 p.116 and p.120, n°6 p.109 (ref.34) and p.111 (ref.39), n°7 p.13 (ref.3), n°9 p.10, n°19 p.41 (ref.61), n°24 p.41 (ref.55) and p.87 (ref.35), n°34 p.218 (ref.45), n°41 p.115 (ref.76), n°45 p.73 (ref.42), n°47 p.31 (ref.29) and p.87 (ref.26).⁴¹



EASTERN ASIA

CHINA

Beginning of September 2025
Shennongjia District, Hubei Province, China



Hunting is prohibited in the district from January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2029. This did not prevent Qian (not his real name) from setting traps there and capturing and selling one Chinese goral (*Naemorhedus griseus*, Appendix I), one Chinese serow (*Capricornis milneedwardsii*, Appendix I), a tufted deer (*Elaphodus cephalophus*), a Reeves’ muntjac (*Muntiacus reevesi*), a masked palm civet (*Paguma larvata*, Appendix III in India), and a wild boar (*Sus scrofa*). Several of Qian’s trophies are considered valuable, primarily the Chinese goral and the Chinese serow, whose ecological values are estimated at 50,000 yuan each, or 7,000 US\$. Qian was sentenced to 2 years in prison, fined 4,000 yuan (560 US\$), and ordered to pay 100,000 yuan (14,000 US\$), of which 20,000 must be paid in cash and 80,000 in the form of 5 years of community service for the forestry department.⁴²

September 2025

Beijing-Daxing International Airport, Beijing Autonomous Municipality, China



Seizure from the luggage of 4 passengers disembarking from an international flight of carved ivory items, including 17 bracelets, and 10 dried seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp., Appendix II).⁴³

October 2025

Beijing-Daxing International Airport, Beijing Autonomous Municipality, China



Seizure from the luggage of a passenger disembarking from an international flight of 4 carved ivory items with a total weight of 114 grammes, and 10 dried seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp., Appendix II) with a total weight of 56 grammes.⁴⁴

SOUTHEASTERN ASIA

INDONESIA

September 9, 2025

Hang Nadim International Airport, Batam City, Riau Islands Province, Riau Archipelago, Indonesia



Seizure by customs from a shipment declared to contain "motorcycle accessories" of 10 helmeted hornbill helmets (*Rhinoplax vigil*, Appendix I) and 43 Malayan sun bear teeth (*Helarctos malayanus*, Appendix I).⁴⁵



REPEATED OFFENCE

September 11, 2025

Medan City, North Sumatra Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia

Stevanus Deo Bangun, alias Evan, a 26-year-old student, was sentenced to 3 years in prison and a fine of 500 million rupiah (30,000 US\$), with an additional 2 months in prison in the event of non-payment, for keeping at his home with the intention of selling them 5 eclectus parrots (*Eclectus roratus*, Appendix II) and 2 eggs, as well as 2 Asian giant tortoises (*Manouria emys*, Appendix II), also known as elephant-footed turtles, all of which were seized from his home on November 15, 2024. He had previously sold an eclectus parrot in July 2023 via the GOJEK app for the equivalent of 220 US\$ and, 2 years later, was attempting to sell each eclectus for the equivalent of 480 US\$.⁴⁶

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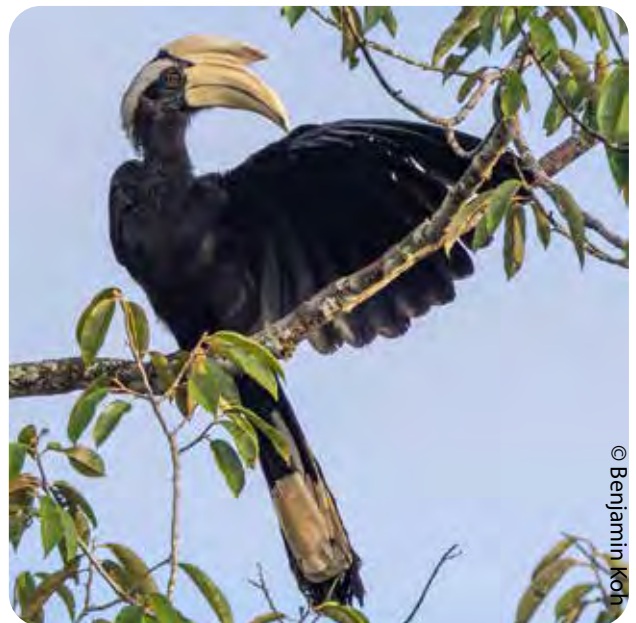


September 17, 2025

Martapura, Banjar Regency, South Kalimantan Province, Borneo Island, Indonesia



Seizure by the Banjar Criminal Police in cooperation with the BKSDA from a shop operated by a certain H.A. of 4 helmets of the helmeted hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*, Appendix I), 5 helmets and 621 feathers of the wreathed hornbill (*Rhyticeros undulatus*, Appendix II), 3 helmets of the rhinoceros hornbill (*Buceros rhinoceros*, Appendix II), one skull of a black hornbill (*Anthracoceros malayanus*, Appendix II), 1,065 feathers of a great argus (*Argusianus argus*, Appendix II), one skull and 2 teeth of a Malayan sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*, Appendix I), 19 sambar deer skulls (*Rusa unicolor*), 43 skulls, 11 teeth, and 58 pipes made from muntjac antlers, 29 sabers with deer antler handles, and 77 machete handles made from deer antler. His main supplier is a certain A., a resident of the Hulu Sungai Tengah regency.⁴⁷



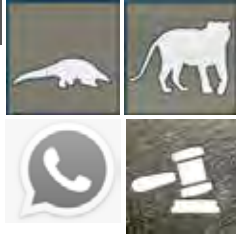
Black hornbill (*Anthracoceros malayanus*)



Wreathed hornbill (*Rhyticeros undulatus*)

October 2, 2025
Dadirejo, Pati
Regency, Central Java
Province, Java
Indonesia

facebook



Agung Riyanto, S.T., a 36-year-old street vendor of birds, was sentenced to 3 years in prison and a fine of 50 million rupiah (3,000 US\$), which will be converted to an additional month in prison if unpaid, for trafficking several wild animals protected by law: a Sunda pangolin purchased for 300,000 rupiah (18 US\$) and sold for 500,000 rupiah (30 US\$), a female Javan langur (*Trachypithecus auratus*, Appendix II) purchased for 250,000 rupiah (15 US\$) and sold for 600,000 rupiah (36 US\$) and 3 leopard cats (*Prionailurus bengalensis*, Appendix II) purchased for 200,000 rupiah (12 US\$) each and sold for 300,000 rupiah (18 US\$). Riyanto used the Facebook group called Hewan KUDUS (Sacred Animal). He was caught in the act in June 2025 in the parking lot of a gas station by police who were well-informed of the delivery location (and for good reason: the buyer was an undercover officer). The langur was about one month old, and the 3 leopard cats were only a few days old. All 4 died a few hours after Riyanto's arrest.⁴⁸

October 3, 2025
Batang Regency, Central Java Province,
Java Island, Indonesia



It was an online patrol that brought this distressing and disturbing case to light. A 16-year-old minor who was trafficking wildlife online was arrested, and a Sunda pangolin, a Javan slow loris (*Nycticebus javanicus*, Appendix I), and a black-capped lory (*Lorius lory*, Appendix II) were seized from a hiding place. A.H. falls into the category of children "in conflict with the law." He is being tried in juvenile court. He has not been imprisoned. However, he faces up to 15 years in prison, and his parents face a maximum fine of 2 billion rupiah, or 120,000 US\$. In Batang Regency, wildlife crimes are shifting to the digital realm, and the involvement of minors is on the rise.⁴⁹

October 14, 2025
Bondowoso, Bondowoso
Regency, East Java Province,
Java Island, Indonesia



Muhammad Salwa Arifin, a 27-year-old farmer, was sentenced to 3 years in prison and a fine of 200 million rupiah (12,000 US\$), with an additional 3 months in prison in the event of non-payment, for the illegal possession of wild animals. In May 2025, a man named Niman, whom we happened to meet on the path through the rice fields, was carrying a trash bag containing 5 live Javan langurs (*Trachypithecus auratus*, Appendix II), 2 red and 3 black. Arifin bought them for 200,000 rupiah (12 US\$) per specimen. Arifin also bought 2 leopard kittens (*Prionailurus bengalensis*, Appendix II) from an "unknown person" in the neighbouring village of Taman Krocok for 50,000 rupiah (3 US\$) each. The red langurs died on June 10 and 12. The surviving animals were seized from

his home on June 13. Hariyanto and Ardianto of the criminal police, who were on a mission to investigate the keeping of wild animals in the regency, had heard about Arifin's activities. At the time of the search, he was preparing to bury the second dead langur.⁵⁰

LAOS

September 25, 2025
Houaphanh Province, Laos. Border with Viet Nam.

Seizure in a van of 135 lesser bamboo rats (*Cannomys badius*) and 7 civets (family Viverridae). Four species of civets are found in Laos: the masked palm civet (*Paguma larvata*, Appendix III in India), the Asian palm civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*, Appendix III in India), the large Indian civet (*Viverra zibetha*, Appendix III in India), and the small Indian civet (*Viverricula indica*, Appendix III in India). In July 2025, the Supreme People's Prosecutor formally prioritized wildlife and natural resource crimes for legal action, banning out-of-court settlements and urging deeper investigations into related offences such as money laundering.⁵¹

MALAYSIA

Sunday, September 28, 2025
Kuala Lumpur International Airport, State of Selangor, Malaysia

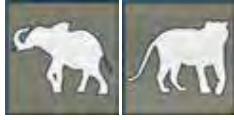
S. Balachandran, identifying himself as an insurance agent and acting as a wildlife smuggler, was apprehended overnight with a baby gibbon (Hylobatidae, Appendix I) and 2 small cuscuses (family Phalangeridae). He was about to fly to Mumbai, India.⁵²



September 30, 2025

Bandar Baru Bangi, State of Selangor, Malaysia

Seizure of a "kris," a local dagger with an ivory handle, a sambar deer antler (*Rusa unicolor*), 3 leopard cats (*Prionailurus bengalensis*, Appendix I or II), 2 civets (family Viverridae), a crocodile (Crocodylia, Appendix I or II), 2 African spurred tortoises (*Centrochelys sulcata*, Appendix II), and a tarantula, in glass jars filled with formaldehyde. The man claims it is a hobby. The police believe they are dealing with an illegal taxidermist and a trade of the morbid kind.⁵³



OPERATION BERSEPADU KHAZANAH

October 16, 2025

Johor Bahru, State of Johor, Malaysia. Border with Singapore.

A room in a seedy hotel was being used by an Indian man and woman as a workshop for packaging parts of wild animals. At midnight during the search, parts of tigers, bears and wolves were seized from 28 plastic bags. Two other bags and a tin can contained unidentified animal parts. The total value is estimated at 652,500 ringgits (166,000 US\$). The bags were distributed among several suitcases. Credit for this operation is due to Perhilitan, the 4th Criminal Investigation Battalion, members of the Negeri Sembilan State Reserve Army, and the Economic Intelligence Services.⁵⁴



THAILAND

October 7, 2025

Don Muang International Airport, Bangkok, Thailand

Seizure from Chiu Kuo-Shu, a Taiwanese citizen who was scheduled to depart at 2:35 a.m. for Kaohsiung on a Thai AirAsia flight, of 8 animals, all of which juveniles, 2 loris (*Nycticebus* spp., Appendix I), 3 otters (*Lutrinae*, Appendix I or II), a squirrel (family Sciuridae), and 2 spiny turtles (*Heosemys spinosa*, Appendix II).⁵⁵



VIET NAM

September 17, 2025

Lam Dong Province, Viet Nam

Seizure, following an ENV alert, of 3 long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*, Appendix II), one stump-tailed macaque (*Macaca arctoides*, Appendix II), and one changeable hawk-eagle (*Spizaetus cirrhatus*, Appendix II) kept behind fences at an activity centre.⁵⁶



October 3, 2025

Thanh Phong, Vinh Long Province, Viet Nam

Seizure aboard 2 wooden fishing boats at the mouth of the Co Chien River, a tributary of the Mekong, of 4.2 tonnes of Sunda pangolin scales, 150 python skins (Pythonidae, Appendix I or II), 40 kg of bear bile (Ursidae, Appendix I or II), 1.6 tonnes of fish skins, 2.3 kg of fish gills, 210 teeth (including feline teeth), 39 helmets of helmeted hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*, Appendix I), 36 kg of bones from unidentified animal species, and 30 bottles believed to contain honey. Arrest of Pham Van Hoan, a Vietnamese national, and Syamsadi, an Indonesian national. The entire shipment is believed to have originated in Indonesia. No invoices or other traceability documents are available. The 4.2 tonnes of pangolin scales are equivalent to approximately 12,000 live pangolins. These 2 frail, heavily laden skiffs, completely diverted from their intended purpose, likely did not cross the South China Sea. A transshipment is suspected, and the 2 suspects are not the "big fish" in the trafficking operation.⁵⁷



SOUTHERN ASIA

BANGLADESH

September 18, 2025

Lohagara Upazila, Narail District, Khulna Division, Bangladesh

Seizure at a roadside tourist zoo, 60 km south of Chittagong, of a python (Pythonidae, Appendix I or II) measuring 2.13 meters in length, 2 macaques (*Macaca* spp., Appendix I or II), a fishing cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*, Appendix II), 4 Indian peafowls (*Pavo cristatus*, Appendix III in Pakistan), 8 purple swamphens (*Porphyrio porphyrio*), and 6 other animals.⁵⁸



INDIA

September 1, 2025

Bindhakata, Dibrugarh District, State of Assam, India

Seizure of a pangolin armour, skin, skull, 7 teeth, and leopard bones (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I). Arrest of Bipul Dang. Hemanta Narah, his accomplice, fled by jumping into the water despite 3 warning shots. The 2 men were in a boat on the banks of the Brahmaputra River. The river has long been used as a logistics corridor and poaching ground. "The river's vastness makes it a perfect hideout for smugglers," laments an animal rights activist.⁵⁹

Sunday, September 14, 2025

Chhatrapati-Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai Suburban District, State of Maharashtra, India

It's the end of the business weekend in Bangkok for the "kuruvis," and customs officials are on high alert. Seizure of 4 large fig-parrots (*Psittaculirostris desmarestii*, Appendix II) native to New Guinea that had suffocated to death in a cardboard box, and 64 live animals, including 20 leopard tortoises (*Stigmochelys pardalis*, Appendix II) native to South Africa, 4 albino red-eared sliders (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) native to North America, one Dumeril monitor (*Varanus dumerilii*, Appendix II) native to Southeast Asia, 2 quince monitors (*Varanus melinus*, Appendix II) native to Indonesia, 5 two-banded monitors (*Varanus salvator*, Appendix II) native to Southeast Asia, 2 blue-tongued lizards (*Tiliqua scincoides*, Appendix III in Australia) native to Australia, 12 bearded dragons (genus *Pogona*) native to Australia, 5 green basilisks (*Basiliscus plumifrons*) native to Central America, 2 meerkats (*Suricata suricatta*) native to southern Africa, 2 hyraxes (family Hyracoidea) native to Africa, and 4 sugar gliders (*Petaurus breviceps*) native to Oceania. The NGO RAWW (Resqink Association for Wildlife Welfare) assisted with the rescue, identification, first aid, and stabilization of the animals while awaiting their return to Bangkok.⁶⁰



September 15, 2025

Keshdiha, Mayurbhanj District, State of Odisha, India

Identification and arrest of a poacher thanks to a camera trap set at the edge of the Similipal Forest, and seizure at his home of 4 sambar deer antlers (*Rusa unicolor*), the State animal of Odisha, a hornbill beak, 137 bird traps, 3 bows, and 8 arrows. Four species of hornbill live in the State: the concave-casqued hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*, Appendix I), the Malabar pied hornbill (*Anthracoceros coronatus*, Appendix II), the oriental pied hornbill (*Anthracoceros albirostris*, Appendix II), and the Indian grey hornbill (*Ocyroceros birostris*).⁶¹



September 17, 2025

Patna, Patna District, State of Bihar, India

At the home of the 2 alleged monks of the Order of Mendicants, the DRI (Directorate of Revenue Intelligence) seized the fresh skin of a leopard (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) and the hemipenis of a Bengal monitor lizard (*Varanus bengalensis*, Appendix I).⁶²



Saturday, October 4, 2025

Chhatrapati-Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai Suburban District, State of Maharashtra, India

The kuruvis are starting to return from their trip to Bangkok (see above). The two little Central American squirrel monkey (*Saimiri oerstedii*, Appendix I) originating from Central America suffocated to death side by side amid the chocolates and sweets in the King Safari trolley of Harish Saravanan, a native of Tamil Nadu, along with 3 squirrels (family Sciuridae, 4 species in Appendix II) who were dead or dying, a dead raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), along with 19 iguanas (family Iguanidae), a quince monitor (*Varanus melinus*, Appendix II), and 10 central bearded dragons (*Pogona vitticeps*) originating from Australia, all juveniles, and still alive. Saravanan is believed to have been recruited by the Chennai gang already mentioned in this publication (see page 75 ref.41). The operation is credited to the AIU (Air Intelligence Unit) of airport customs.⁶³



October 9, 2025

Jhunjhunu, Jhunjhunu District, State of Rajasthan, India



Sahil Gaur, a spiritual and greedy guru, sold “tantric packages” containing owl claws (*Strigiformes*, Appendix I or II), musk deer glands (*Moschus* spp., Appendix I or II), and wild boar teeth (*Sus scrofa*), for between 50,000 and 300,000 rupees (560 and 3,380 US\$), depending on the quantities. He was arrested at the train station. He was on his way to deliver one of his miracle packages, guaranteeing “business success and prosperity,” to a decoy customer behind whom WCCB agents were hiding.⁶⁴

October 10, 2025

Chhatrapati-Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai Suburban District, State of Maharashtra, India



Seized from the luggage of Mr. Mohamed, an Indian national, upon landing from Thai Vietjet Air flight VZ 760 from Bangkok: a Mexican fireleg tarantula (*Brachypelma boehmei*, Appendix II), a *Cyriocosmus leetzi* (a mygalomorph spider found in Colombia and Venezuela), 2 red tegus (*Salvator rufescens*, Appendix II, South America), 7 black-and-white tegu (*Salvator merianae*, Appendix II, South America), 3 rainbow boas (*Epicrates cenchria*, Appendix II, South America), 7 Honduran milk snakes (*Lampropeltis triangulum hondurensis*, Central America), one California kingsnake (*Lampropeltis californiae*, North America), 2 juvenile Aldabra giant tortoises (*Aldabrachelys gigantea*, Appendix II, endemic to the Seychelles), 17 iguanas (*Iguana* spp., Appendix II, Central and South America), 11 central bearded dragons (*Pogona vitticeps*, endemic to Australia), 3 blue-tongued lizards (*Tiliqua scincoides*, Appendix III in Australia), one common spotted cuscus (*Spilocuscus maculatus*, Appendix II, Australia, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea), and 5 “horned” frogs (genus *Ceratophrys*, 8 species native to South America). The animals were in plastic boxes with holes or in baskets.

The entire shipment was immediately returned on the return flight VZ 761 and seized for the second time on October 12 by customs officials at Bangkok International Airport.⁶⁵



October 18, 2025

Padra, Vadodara District, State of Gujarat, India



Kalidas was found to be in possession of 2 deer antlers, a leopard claw, the remains of snakes and other wild animals, as well as 2 live turtles, which he claimed had been given to him by a Girnari Babu (a religious ascetic from the Girnar mountain range) to protect him from bad fortune and the evil eye. The information reached the attentive ears of the wildlife protectors at the Gujarat Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GSPCA), who alerted the Forest Department. Kalidas denies any intention of using these animal remains for occult rituals during Kali Chaudas, which celebrates Krishna’s victory over the demon Narakasura on the second day of the Diwali festival. The items were seized, and Kalidas was charged.⁶⁶

IRAN

REPEATED OFFENCE

October 2025

Eqbaliyeh, Qazvin Province, Iran

Agents from the Environmental Protection Unit, in collaboration with law enforcement, arrested a man described as “the province’s biggest poacher” by the Director General of Environmental Protection. He was already known for his crimes. At the time of his arrest, he had in his home a stuffed porcupine (family Hystricidae), a porcupine skin, two fox skins, a stuffed eagle, and dead and live birds.⁶⁷

WESTERN ASIA

ISRAEL

REPEATED OFFENCE

September 8, 2025

Umm al-Fahm, Haifa District, Israel

Seizure of 2 young mountain gazelles (*Gazella gazella*) and 13 passerines, including 3 Eurasian siskins (*Carduelis spinus*, synonymous with *Spinus spinus*, Appendix III in Ukraine), all alive, at the home of a man already known for trafficking endangered species. The police had gone to his home on suspicion of drug trafficking. “Animal trafficking is one of the most lucrative sectors in the world, alongside the illegal trade in weapons, drugs, and human beings. It is no coincidence that criminals involved in one form of trafficking are also involved in the others,” says Nathan Bainusowitz of the Israel Nature and Parks Authority, who laments that the penalties faced by wildlife traffickers are not sufficiently deterrent. The suspect is on the run.⁶⁸



NORTHERN EUROPE

UNITED KINGDOM

OPERATION THUNDER September 13 – October 15 2025 United Kingdom



As part of Operation Thunder, coordinated by Interpol and the World Customs Organisation, the Border Force seized more than 250 live or dead animals, animal parts, and derivatives at airports, ports, and courier warehouses, representing a 73% increase compared with 2024. Officers found in parcels a blacktip shark (*Carcharhinus limbatus*, Appendix II) jaw from Australia, an elephant hair bracelet from the United States of America, and king cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*, Appendix II) venom ointment from Thailand.⁶⁹

WESTERN EUROPE

GERMANY

OPERATION THUNDER September 15 – October 15 2025 Frankfurt International Airport, Hesse Land, Germany



As part of Operation Thunder, coordinated by Interpol and the World Customs Organisation, airport customs officers made 37 seizures: a pendant featuring a claw and a feline fang, a baboon skull and fur (*Papio* spp., Appendix II), crocodile meat (*Crocodylia*, Appendix I or II), a crocodile leather handbag, a python leather wallet (*Pythonidae*, Appendix I or II), Thai balm containing king cobra venom (*Ophiophagus hannah*, Appendix II), 5 milk shark carcasses (*Rhizoprionodon acutus*, Appendix II), dietary supplements containing requiem shark liver oil (*Carcharhinidae*, Appendix II), sturgeon caviar (*Acipenseridae*, Appendix I or II), stony corals (*Scleractinia*, Appendix II), a pendant made from a nautilus shell (*Nautilidae*, Appendix II), orchids, cacti, a tree fern root, dietary supplements containing African cherry (*Prunus africana*, Appendix II), costus root (*Saussurea costus*, Appendix I), and aloe extracts.⁷⁰



OPERATION THUNDER September 15–October 15, 2025 Belgium



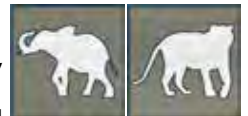
According to a press release from the Federal Public Service for Public Health, Food Chain Safety, and the Environment, several targeted operations were carried out as part of Operation Thunder:

- E-commerce and postal shipments: seizures of cacti (*Hoodia* spp., Appendix II) native to southern Africa and dietary supplements made from costus root (*Saussurea costus*, Appendix I) from India and African cherry (*Prunus africana*, Appendix II).
- “Bacon Action” at Brussels Airport: seizures of 10.82 kg of meat from monkeys (Primates, Appendix I or II) (7.12 kg), pangolins (2.2 kg), and Nile crocodiles (*Crocodylus niloticus*, Appendix I or II) (1.5 kg).
- Inspection at the Duystere Markt (curiosity and oddity fair) in Roeselare, West Flanders province: inspection of 18 stalls and seizure of “several CITES specimens.”

Note from Robin des Bois: according to its website, “De Duystere Markt is the first expo in Europe specialised in curiosities and oddities. If you’re interested in dark art, photography, skulls, taxidermy, handcrafted decoration, jewellery,.... The Duystere Markt is the place to be.”⁷¹

FRANCE

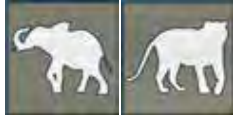
September 4, 2025 Reims, Department of Marne, France



Regarding the 78-year-old hunter sentenced at first instance to a fine of 8,000 €, half of which was suspended, for possessing several protected stuffed animals or animal parts at his home and at the hunting club’s lodge of which he is a member (see “On the Trail” n°41, p. 179, ref. 61), the Court of Appeals showed flexibility. It accepted previously unpublished documentary evidence submitted by the defendant’s attorney seeking to establish the rightful ownership by the hunter, an enthusiast of safaris in Africa, of 2 stools made from elephant feet. They were returned to him. The Court of Appeal also overturned the order to publish excerpts from the judgment in the regional newspaper L’Union for 3 days.⁷²



OPERATION THUNDER
September 15 – October 15
2025
France



As part of Operation Thunder, coordinated by Interpol and the World Customs Organisation between 15 September and 15 October 2025, French customs officers seized:

- live animals: a yellow-naped amazon (*Amazona auropalliata*, Appendix I), another parrot (Psittaciformes, Appendix I or II except for 4 species), European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine) and other passerines, Hermann's tortoises (*Testudo hermanni*, Appendix II), as well as a serval and a caracal (see page 41 ref. 51);
- stuffed animals and animal parts: elephant skulls, feet, and tusks, a stuffed cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*, Appendix I), sea turtle shells (Appendix I), shark teeth, 346 peafowl feathers (*Pavo spp.*, Appendix II or III);



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- animal-derived products: 107 statuettes, jewellery and other items made of ivory, 1,373 pieces of coral and shells (see page 164 ref.3), 2 kg of sturgeon caviar (Acipenseridae, Appendix I or II);
- over 25 tonnes of timber, including Peruvian cumaru (*Dipteryx spp.*, Appendix II), Madagascar rosewood (*Dalbergia spp.*, Appendix II) and African teak (*Pterocarpus erinaceus*, Appendix II) originating from West and Central Africa.⁷³

EASTERN EUROPE

RUSSIA

Mid-September 2025
Kamen-Rybolov, Khankaysky
District, Primorsky Krai,
Russia



Following an attempt to smuggle a variety of products, including pelts from Siberian tigers (*Panthera tigris altaica*, Appendix I), claws from Asian black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I) and brown bears (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II), and frog testicles across the frozen Lake Khanka to smuggle them from Russia to China (see "On the Trail" n°20, p. 129, ref. 80), the ringleader was sentenced to 15 years in a high-security penal colony. A woman was previously sentenced in October 2018 to 3 years and 6 months in a general-regime penal colony, a fine of 1.3 million roubles (20,000 US\$) and 6 months of restricted freedom. Three Chinese nationals were sentenced in February 2019 to 4 years and 10 months in prison in a high-security penal colony.⁷⁴



Государственный
 биосферный заповедник Ханкайский
 природный

Lake Khanka

End of September 2025
Poltavka Border Post,
Oktyabrsky District,
Primorsky Krai,
Border with China.



Customs officials seized the upper and lower jawbone of a Siberian tiger (*Panthera tigris altaica*, Appendix I) with fangs, as well as 2 kneecaps and 10 bear paws (*Ursus* spp., Appendix I or II), all frozen in the lorry of a 55-year-old “foreigner” travelling to China.⁷⁵

October 16 and 28, 2025
Rukel, Derbentsky District, Republic of Dagestan, Russia



Rukel (population 3,000). Unauthorized use of 44 wild animals on agricultural land for entertainment purposes, including 2 African lions (*Panthera leo*, Appendix II, exotic species), servals (*Leptailurus serval*, Appendix II, exotic), brown bears (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II), grey wolves (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II), rhesus macaques (*Macaca mulatta*, Appendix II, exotic), long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*, Appendix II, exotic), foxes (family Canidae), white-tailed eagles (*Haliaeetus albicilla*, Appendix I), griffon vultures (*Gyps fulvus*, Appendix II), golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*, Appendix II), eagle-owls (*Bubo* spp., Appendix II), pythons (Pythonidae, Appendix I or II, exotic), boas (Boidae, Appendix I or II, exotic), and anacondas (*Eunectes* spp., Appendix II, exotic).

Two griffon vultures were transferred to the Saint Petersburg Zoo (2,600 km away) on October 16. Two brown bears were transferred to the Saint Petersburg Tiger House on the 28th. A wolf, a white-tailed eagle, a golden eagle, an anaconda, a boa, a python, a macaque, and six eagle-owls were transferred to authorized facilities. The remaining animals will be transferred as opportunities arise.⁷⁶



October 22, 2025
Moscow Federal City, Russia

Following a ruling by the Tverskoy District Court, websites selling lynxes (*Lynx* spp., Appendix I or II), grey wolves (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II), bison (genus *Bison*), greater flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus*, Appendix II), and snapping turtles (family Chelydridae) are now prohibited.⁷⁷

UKRAINE

Mid-October 2025
Kyiv City, Ukraine



Nine stuffed animals were seized by customs: a wild cat (*Felis silvestris*, Appendix II), 2 Eurasian eagle-owls (*Bubo bubo*, Appendix II), a tawny owl (*Strix aluco*, Appendix II), a lesser kestrel (*Falco naumanni*, Appendix II), a Eurasian sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*, Appendix II), a long-eared owl (*Asio otus*, Appendix II), and 2 little owls (*Athene noctua*, Appendix II). They were destined for the United States of America. A similar seizure had taken place in August (see “On the Trail” n°47, p. 149, ref. 90).⁷⁸



OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA

Beginning of October 2025
Armadale, State of Western Australia, Australia



A man living in Huntingdale was fined 3,189 Australian dollars (2,080 US\$) for the illegal possession of an exotic crocodile (Crocodylidae, Appendix I or II) and a grey parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*, Appendix I).⁷⁹

VARIOUS MARINE SPECIES



Triton's trumpet shell (*Charonia tritonis*). Photo Robin White (BY-NC)

AMERICA

BRAZIL

September 25, 2025
Parnaíba, State of Piauí, Brazil



Seizure of approximately 2 tonnes of shark fins and seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp., Appendix II) in a house. The alert was raised by neighbours bothered by a very strong smell of rot. Two Chinese nationals were arrested after initially refusing to allow health officials access to their home-workshop. Federal police were called in for backup. The 2 suspects offered no further resistance. They were handed over to the authorities.¹

MEXICO

September 23-28, 2025
Guadalajara, State of Jalisco, and Tijuana, State of Baja California, Mexico

Seizure during 4 searches of 1,569 kg of sea cucumbers, 1,188 kg of shark fins, and 39 kg of totoaba swim bladders (*Totoaba macdonaldi*, Appendix I). Arrest of Yaoqin Su, a Chinese national, Miguel Angel Abad, and Marco Antonio Corral. The operation was carried out by the Mexican Navy, the Ministry of Security and Citizen Protection, the Federal Attorney General's Office for Environmental Protection (Profepa), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.²

SAINT-MARTIN (FRANCE)

OPERATION THUNDER

October 3, 2025

Overseas Collectivity of Saint-Martin, France

As part of Operation Thunder, customs officers in Saint Martin seized more than 15 conch shells (*Strombus gigas*, Appendix II) and other conch shells of various sizes, as well as coral.³

ASIA

INDONESIA

Beginning of September 2025
Sam Ratulangi International Airport, Manado City, North Sulawesi Province, Sulawesi Island, Indonesia

Seizure by North Sulawesi quarantine officers of 2 kg of sea cucumbers, 2 small bags of corals, and 3 triton's trumpet shells (*Charonia tritonis*) bound for China.⁴

ASIA

CHINA

September 18, 2025

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China

Sentencing for money laundering under the Organised and Serious Crimes Ordinance of a 37-year-old Hong Kong resident to 40 months in prison for attempting, in the midst of Covid-19 restrictions (July 2022), to smuggle exotic fruits, vegetables, frozen fish and meat, and live coral with a total value of 1.5 million Hong Kong dollars (191,000 US\$).¹



September 2025

Dalian Zhoushuizi International Airport, Liaoning Province, China

Seizure from a parcel destined for overseas that was declared to contain "ornaments" of 2 ammonite fossils (order Ammonoidea), an organ pipe coral (*Tubipora musica*, Appendix II), and a stony coral (*Scleractinia*, Appendix II).²

October 2025

Dunhuang Mogao International Airport, Gansu Province, China

Seizure from the luggage of a passenger from abroad of a necklace comprising 157 beads. A detailed examination confirmed that 17 of the beads were made with red coral (genus *Corallium*).³

IRAN

Mid-October 2025

Qeshm, Hormozgan Province, Iran

Seizure during a search of 22 kg of coral (species unspecified). According to the Supreme Council for the Environment, the cost of the ecological damage is estimated at 236 million rials per kilo, or 5,610 US\$.⁴

EUROPE

GERMANY

September 2025

Singen, Konstanz District, Baden-Württemberg Land, Germany. Border with Switzerland.

While inspecting the Audi belonging to a German family returning from Thailand via Zurich Airport in Switzerland, customs officials discovered several luxury items and a piece of stony coral (*Scleractinia*, Appendix II) hidden under a straw hat. Import duties were paid on the luxury goods, and the coral, described as "dead rock" by the head of the family, was seized.⁵

ITALY

Mid-October 2025

Marettimo Island, Free Municipal Consortium of Trapani, Region of Sicily, Italy

The Guardia di Finanza spotted by plane a speedboat coming from the Maghreb. It immediately dispatched one of its patrol boats to attempt to board the suspicious vessel, which appeared to have 3 human figures on board. Seizure of 22 packages, totaling 700 kg of red coral (*Corallium rubrum*), with an estimated international market value of 586,000 US\$, or 840 US\$/kg.

The island of Marettimo (12 km²), located 38 km west of Sicily, is part of the Egadi Islands archipelago. It has a population of about 300 in winter, who make their living from fishing, crafts, and tourism, and 700 in summer. The only village is a former fishing port.⁶

POLAND

Beginning of September 2025

Rzeszów-Jasionka International Airport, Subcarpathian Voivodeship, Poland

Seizure of 11 stony corals (*Scleractinia*, Appendix II) and 8 shells from the luggage of a woman returning from Egypt.⁷

MARINE MOLLUSCS AND GOOSENECK BARNACLES

AMERICA

BELIZE

October 23, 2025

Sapodilla Cayes Atoll, Toledo District, Belize

The atoll is supposed to be uninhabited, but this Thursday, a patrol from TIDE (Toledo Institute for Development and Environment) stumbled upon a camp where 82 regulation-sized queen conches (*Strombus gigas*, Appendix II) and 72 undersized ones were awaiting shipment to an unknown country. The Sapodilla Cayes atoll is 33 km from Belize and Guatemala and 45 km from Honduras. The live conches were released back into the sea. TIDE was founded in 1997 by civil society to combat illegal fishing and the poaching of North American manatees. It currently manages 4 protected areas.¹



ASIA

CHINA

September 2025

Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport, Shanghai Autonomous Municipality, China



Seizure of 2 queen conch shells (*Strombus gigas*, Appendix II) from the luggage of a passenger disembarking from an international flight. Total weight: 3.38 kg.²

September 2025

Shenzhen Bay Control Point, Guangdong Province, China. Border with Hong Kong.

Seizure from the carry-on luggage of a female traveller entering Chinese territory of an 1.1 kg queen conch shell (*Strombus gigas*, Appendix II).³

Beginning of October 2025

Luohu Border Post, Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, China. Border with Hong Kong.



An X-ray scan of the wheeled suitcase belonging to the traveller arriving from Hong Kong passed through the newspaper in which the large decorated shell of a giant clam (*Tridacnidae*, Appendix II) was wrapped.⁴

EUROPE

SPAIN

REPEATED OFFENCE

September 20, October 7 and 14, 2025

Laxe and A Coruña, Province of A Coruña, Autonomous Community of Galicia, Spain

Beds of gooseneck barnacles continue to attract poachers.

- A difficult arrest of a repeat poacher. He evaded the fisheries inspector and the Civil Guard patrol. He was arrested by the municipal police. Seizure of 10 kg of gooseneck barnacles (*Pollicipes pollicipes*).
- Seizure by the coast guard and police of 13 kg of gooseneck barnacles near the Finisterrae Aquarium, next to the historic Tower of Hercules lighthouse. They were given to a charity.

- The fight against poaching at the foot of the Tower of Hercules is no walk in the park either. The 4 poachers were handcuffed after a chase through the rocks. Seizure of 25 kg of gooseneck barnacles. They were given to 2 local charities in the city.⁵



Tower of Hercules



Laxe lighthouse

October 8, 2025

Madrid, Spain

Gooseneck barnacles before court

May 18, 2020. O Vicedo, Province of Lugo, Autonomous Community of Galicia.

There is no Covid truce for gooseneck barnacles (*Pollicipes pollicipes*). Juan Manuel and Angel Jesús, at the foot of the cliffs of "O Fuciño do Porco," are caught red-handed poaching barnacles by the Civil Guard. Seizure of 12 kg of gooseneck barnacles and diving suits. A third man escapes by swimming.



April 6, 2022. In the first instance, the Provincial Court of Lugo sentenced Juan Manuel and Angel Jesús to fines of 8 months at a rate of 12 € per day (2,880 €, 3,200 US\$), a 3-year ban on fishing, confiscation of the means and instruments used to commit the crime, and court costs.

November 22, 2022. The Lugo Court of Appeals reduced Angel Jesús's fine to 6 € per day because he was receiving only a 900 € pension and was supporting a son in his twenties, and reduced the duration of the daily fine imposed on Juan Manuel to 6 months because in the absence of a repeated offence, the judges see no reason to maintain the maximum duration of the sentence provided for in the Criminal Code.

October 8, 2025. The Court of Cassation, finding that the Organic Law of March 28, 2023, was retroactive, dismissed the aggravating circumstance of committing the offence as part of a group and ruled that, consequently, the penalties imposed on Juan Manuel and Angel Jesús should be reduced to a fine of 4 months and a one-year ban on hunting and fishing. Otherwise, the Court of Cassation rejected the defence's argument that the mere mention of the weight of the poached gooseneck barnacles (12 kg) was insufficient to prove that significant impacts would compromise the sustainability of the shellfish bed.⁶

ITALY

October 21, 2025

Molfetta, Bari, Bitonto, Giovinazzo and Terlizzi, Metropolitan City of Bari, Barletta, Bisceglie and Margherita di Savoia, Province of Barletta-Andria-Trani, Region of Apulia, Italy

"The gang of the date mussel" (*Lithophaga lithophaga*) was well-organised, with harvesters using ice axes and jackhammers, middlemen, and sellers, foremost among whom were fishmongers and restaurant owners. Nitti, the prosecutor in Trani, explains that the suspects are charged with criminal conspiracy, destruction of geological and landscape heritage, pollution, environmental disaster, and threats against law enforcement officers. Muscariello, the head of the Coast Guard, states that the estimated profit is 500,000 € (586,000 US\$). Apulia ranks second among regions affected by poaching and trafficking of endangered species, after Sicily. The military operation, which mobilized 250 men, a helicopter, scuba divers, and 4 Guardia Costiera vessels, resulted in the indictment of 48 suspects aged 22 to 72 and the seizure of 10 boats. The investigation, including surveillance, wiretaps, and observations, had begun in early 2024.⁷

ABALONES



South African abalone (*Haliotis midae*). Photo Carel van der Colff (BY-NC)

Haliotis spp.

AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

September 5, 2025

Cape Town, Western Cape Province, South Africa
Strand neighbourhood. Seizure in a house of 206 abalones waiting to be dried. One arrest.¹

September 12, 2025

Worcester, Western Cape Province, South Africa
Seizure in a car of 287 abalones, 10 galjoen or blackfish (*Dichistius capensis*), and 180 South African turban (*Turbo sarmaticus*). One arrest.²

September 22, 2025

Rawsonville, Western Cape Province, South Africa
Seizure in a truck bound for Cape Town of 13,341 abalones with an estimated value of 3.3 million rand (190,880 US\$ or 14 US\$ per abalone). Arrest of a woman and a man.³

September 23 and 25, 2025

Gqeberha, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa
- On Tafat Street, seizure in a drying house/workshop of 571 fresh abalones with an estimated value of 6,710 US\$ (12 US\$ per abalone), 3 rubber ducks, diving equipment, and 3 vehicles. Arrest of Zukile Mazibukwana, Nomawethu Mazibukwana, Mxoleleli Mazibukwana, and Xola Dinizulu.
- They were released on bail of 10,000 rand (580 US\$) each.⁴

September 24, 2025

Cape Town, Western Cape Province, South Africa
Gordons Bay neighbourhood, seizure of fresh abalones. Two arrests.⁵

OPERATION SHANELLA II

29 September - 5 October 2025

Beginning of October 2025

South Africa

As the holiday season approaches, the SAPS (South African Police Service) and all police forces are committed to protecting the safety and property of citizens, tourists, and foreign workers. According to official figures, thousands of people suspected of murder, theft, rape, carjacking, and trafficking in weapons, drugs, and alcohol have been arrested, and among the seizures reported are 24,000 litres of adulterated alcohol, 125 firearms, 81 vehicles, and 1,397 abalones.⁶

OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA

Beginning of October 2025 Moorabbin, State of Victoria, Australia

An abalone poacher was fined 5,000 Australian dollars (3,270 US\$) and banned for life from fishing for abalone in the State of Victoria. He was caught in March 2025 on the shore at Mordialloc with 113 abalones, 108 of which were undersized (10 cm). According to Ian Parks, Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) Director of Community Engagement and Major Crime, "This type of excessive abalone collection, and its illegal sale on the black market, threatens the sustainability of wild stocks, the viability of legitimate commercial abalone licence holders, and food safety standards for seafood consumers".⁹



NEW ZEALAND

Beginning of October 2025 Waihau beach, Gisborne Region, New Zealand

Seizure of 157 undersized abalones from 2 beachcombers. The minimum legal size for catch is 12.5 cm, and the limit is 5 abalones per person per day. "People who take more than their share are stealing from us all," rails Jordan Cooper, regional fisheries manager.¹⁰

October 1, 2025 Gqeberha, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa



Schoenmakerskop neighbourhood, seizure of 322 abalones with an estimated value of 85,500 rand (4,930 US\$ and 15 US\$ per abalone), 6 tanks and other diving equipment. Arrest of 6 divers.⁷

October 14, 2025 Gonubie, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa

Seizure at the seaside resort of 6,000 abalones with an estimated value of 1.8 million rand (103,730 US\$ or 17 US\$ per abalone) at a drying facility. Arrest of 6 suspects, 5 of whom are foreign nationals.⁸

SEA CUCUMBERS AND SEA URCHINS



Brownfish (*Actinopyga echinites*). Photo Claire Goiran (BY-NC)

AMERICA

BRAZIL

October 15, 2025

São Paulo, State of São Paulo, Brazil

Seizure by the 3rd Battalion of the Environmental Police of 3,500 chocolate chip sea cucumber (*Isostichopus badionotus*) (59 kg, 17 grammes per specimen) that were being dried on private property. Samples were sent to the University of São Paulo and the Federal Police to identify a possible link to international trafficking via São Paulo/Guarulhos Airport.¹

MEXICO

September 28 and 30, 2025

Dzilam de Bravo, State of Yucatán, Mexico

- A cave between the mangroves of Dzilam de Bravo and San Felipe. This is where "Budy," Margaro, and Esaú cooked sea cucumbers. They communicated with the mainland using 2 inflatable boats. They were evicted by agents from Conapesca (Comisión Nacional de Acuacultura y Pesca), the amphibious brigade of the Ministry of Public Security, and the Navy. They were transferred to the Tizimín prison. After cooking, the sea cucumbers were unloaded onto the dock in front of the Mamá Conchi restaurant and the city's main fish wholesaler, who is also the mayor. Seizure of 400 kg of cooked sea cucumbers, equivalent to 4 tonnes of fresh sea cucumbers.

- Additional seizure of 170.9 kg of chocolate chip sea cucumbers (*Isostichopus badionotus*). Arrest warrants issued for Wilberth "N.," Aslan "N.," and José "N."²



Chocolate chip sea cucumber (*Isostichopus badionotus*)

ASIA

CHINA

October 18, 2025

Hong Kong International Airport, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China

Seizure of 202 kg of sea cucumbers with an estimated value of 520,000 Hong Kong dollars (66,800 US\$, or 330 US\$ per kg) in a package from Saudi Arabia that was declared to contain "dried fish." The recipient has been arrested. Further arrests cannot be ruled out.³

INDIA

September 10, 2025

Interview Island, North and Middle Andaman District, Territory of the Union of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India

Another 11 unfortunate Burmese fishermen from the Coco Islands, who risked their lives travelling 150 km in their wooden boat to fish for sea cucumbers and other marine treasures, are being pursued by the coast guard. Once again, risking their lives, jump into the sea to try to become new Robinson Crusoes in the island's jungle, living off foraging and poaching while waiting to be picked up by new Burmese fishermen who have come to try their luck in the archipelago 1,380 km from mainland India.

Interview Island (101 km²) is uninhabited except for a few guards with a military rather than a naturalist background and Burmese refugee fishermen awaiting return to their country.

Burmese fishermen in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, see "On the Trail" n°31 p.200 (ref.6), n°33 p.243 (ref.11), n°34 p.243 (ref.10), n°41 p.195 (ref.8), n°45 p.141 (ref.10) and n°47 p.160 (ref.7).⁴

October 2, 2025

Ramanathapuram District, State of Tamil Nadu, India



Customs officers and coastguard personnel intercepted an Indian fishing boat caught in the act of poaching. One arrest and the seizure of approximately 800 kg of sea cucumbers, with an estimated value of 35 million rupees (394,364 US\$ or 493 US\$/kg).⁵

October 4, 2025

Pattinamkathan, Ramanathapuram District, State of Tamil Nadu, India

Cooking pots, gas cylinders, plastic crates, 250 kg of sea cucumbers, 3 men on the run, and Shahjahan, 48, who was caught. A failed smuggling attempt by boat bound for Sri Lanka. They had purchased the sea cucumbers for 30 rupees (0.33 US\$) each in the port of Devipattinam.⁶

INDONESIA

October 15, 2025

Yos Sudarso Port, Ambon, Maluku Province, Maluku Archipelago, Indonesia

Return of the *Labobar* (see 'On the Trail' n°46, p. 59, ref. 14; n°47, p. 58, ref. 16; and this issue page 65 réf.25). Best known for trafficking birds and deer antlers, this time it is implicated in the smuggling of sea cucumbers. Several sacks were seized by the BKSDA, the police and security officers. The vessel had come from Kaimana (West Papua) and had called at Fakfak (West Papua), Dobo, Tual, Banda and Ambon (Moluccas).⁷

SRI LANKA

October 14, 2025

Jaffna, Northern Province, Sri Lanka

Arrests by the Navy and the Police Special Task Force of 2 men during a coastal inspection. They were transporting 1,240 sea cucumbers in a cab. Seizure of the sea cucumbers and the vehicle.⁸

EUROPE

ITALY

Mid-September 2025

Sciaccia, Free Municipal Consortium of Agrigento, Region of Sicily, Italy

Sentencing of a 61-year-old Chinese national to pay a fine of 4,000 € (4,670 US\$) for catching 25 kg of sea cucumbers in July 2021.⁹



End of September 2025

Scicli, Free Municipal Consortium of Ragusa, Region of Sicily, Italy

Return to the sea by the Guardia di Finanza of 709 purple sea urchins (*Paracentrotus lividus*) caught by 2 poacher-divers. Their diving equipment was seized. The maximum limit for recreational fishermen is 50 specimens per day.¹⁰

Beginning of October 2025

Nardò, Province of Lecce, Region of Apulia, Italy

Seizure of 200 purple sea urchins (*Paracentrotus lividus*) and release back into the water. A fine of 2,000 € (2,340 US\$) was imposed on the diver, and his equipment was seized. The Guardia di Finanza (financial police) in Gallipoli continues its efforts to combat the illegal exploitation of marine treasures.¹¹



RUSSIA

September 22, 2025

Vladivostok, Primorsky Krai, Russia

A fish farmer has been ordered to pay 92 million roubles (1.1 million US\$) in damages for illegally catching more than 67,000 Japanese sea cucumbers (*Apostichopus japonicus*) in an area of the Far East Marine Nature Reserve.¹²



September 26, 2025

Korsakov, Korsakovsky District, Sakhalin Oblast, Russia

Four residents of the district were fined 125,000 roubles (1,560 US\$) each for catching 1,134 Japanese sea cucumbers (*Apostichopus japonicus*) in Aniva Bay in February. The sea cucumbers, still alive at the time of the FSB's intervention, were released immediately, sparing the poachers a fine of 1.5 million roubles (15,700 US\$), but their boat and car were confiscated and all their diving equipment was destroyed.¹³



OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA

REPEATED OFFENCE

September 10 and 30 2025

Off Wessel Islands and Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia

- Boarding of an Indonesian fishing vessel. Seizure of 1,200 kg of sea cucumbers. The vessel was scuttled at sea in accordance with Australian law. Three other vessels, on board which more than 2,000 kg of salt were seized, were boarded and sunk between 7 and 11 September.

- Sentencing of a repeat-offender captain to 2 months in prison and a fine of 5,000 Australian dollars (3,270 US\$), along with a 2-year probation order. A second captain was fined 6,000 Australian dollars (3,300 US\$) and ordered to be on good behaviour for 3 years. The remaining 2 captains were each fined 5,000 Australian dollars and ordered to be on good behaviour for 2 years. Five crew members were fined 4,000 Australian dollars (2,600 US\$) and ordered to sign a 2-year good conduct bond, 3 others were fined 3,000 Australian dollars (1,960 US\$) with a 3-year good behaviour bond, and the remaining 6 were fined 2,000 Australian dollars (1,300 US\$) with a 2-year good behaviour bond.¹⁴



REPEATED OFFENCE

**September 15 and October 20 2025
Off Cobourg Peninsula, and Darwin,
Northern Territory, Australia**

- Boarding of an Indonesian fishing vessel with 4 crew members on board. Seizure of 265 kg of sea cucumbers, 6 kg of crabs and fishing gear. The vessel was sunk at sea in accordance with Australian law.

- Each crew member was fined 7,000 Australian dollars (4,570 US\$), payable within 28 days. In the event of non-payment, additional prison sentences may be imposed. They were also sentenced to 10 days in prison for previous offences of a similar nature for which they were the subject of arrest warrants.¹⁵



REPEATED OFFENCE

**September 19 and October 15 2025
Junction Bay and Darwin, Northern
Territory, Australia**

- Boarding of an Indonesian fishing vessel with 4 crew members on board. Seizure of 800 kg of sea cucumbers, 150 kg of salt, and fishing equipment. The vessel was scuttled at sea in accordance with Australian law.

- Sentencing of the captain to 8 weeks in prison and to pay a fine of 5,000 Australian dollars (3,260 US\$), along with a 5-year good behaviour bond. He was already subject to a good behaviour bond for illegal fishing at the time of the offence and was therefore fined an additional 3,000 Australian dollars (2,000 US\$). One of the crew members was also sentenced to 8 weeks in prison and a fine of 5,000 Australian dollars, accompanied by a 5-year good behaviour bond, as well as an additional 4 weeks in prison for breaching a previous good behaviour bond. The remaining 2 crew members were fined 2,000 Australian dollars (1,300 US\$) and given 3-year good behaviour bonds.¹⁶



**September 27 and October 28 2025
Kimberley Marine Park, State of
Western Australia, and Darwin,
Northern Territory, Australia**

- Boarding of an Indonesian fishing vessel. Seizure of 500 kg of sea cucumbers, 90 kg of salt, and fishing equipment. The vessel was scuttled at sea in accordance with Australian law.

- The captain was fined 10,000 Australian dollars (6,500 US\$).¹⁷



REPEATED OFFENCE

**September 28 and mid-October 2025
Off West Arnhem and Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia**



- Boarding of an Indonesian fishing vessel with 3 crew members on board. Seizure of 350 kg of sea cucumbers and fishing equipment. The vessel was scuttled at sea in accordance with Australian law.

- The captain was fined 3,000 Australian dollars (2,000 US\$) and given a 3-year good behaviour bond. One of the crew members was sentenced to 6 weeks in prison, a fine of 5,000 Australian dollars (3,260 US\$) with a 5-year good behaviour bond, and an additional fine of 3,000 Australian dollars for breaching a previous good behaviour bond. The other was fined 2,000 Australian dollars (1,300 US\$) and given a 3-year good behaviour bond.¹⁸

REPEATED OFFENCE

**October 7 and 28 2025
Kimberley Marine Park, State of Western Australia, and Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia**



- Boarding of an Indonesian fishing vessel with 4 crew members on board. Seizure of 15 kg of sea cucumbers. The vessel was scuttled at sea in accordance with Australian law.

- The repeat offender captain was sentenced to 15 weeks in prison, to commence on the date of the boarding. The 3 crew members were each fined 3,000 Australian dollars (1,960 US\$), payable within 28 days. In the event of non-payment, prison sentences may be imposed.¹⁹

REPEATED OFFENCE

**October 28, and November 12, 2025
Off Ashmore Reef, State of Western Australia, and Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia**



- Boarding of an Indonesian fishing vessel with 5 sailors on board. Seizure of a "small" quantity of sea cucumbers, 50 kg of salt and fishing equipment. Destruction of the vessel at sea in accordance with Australian law.

- Conviction of the repeat offender captain to 20 days in prison and a fine of 15,000 Australian dollars (9,800 US\$). The 4 crew members were fined between 2,000 and 5,000 Australian dollars (1,300 to 3,300 US\$).²⁰

**October 30, November 11-12, 2025
Off Braithwaite Point and Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia**



- Boarding of an Indonesian fishing vessel with 4 sailors on board. Seizure of 120 kg of sea cucumbers, 280 kg of salt and various fishing equipment. Destruction of the vessel at sea in accordance with Australian law.

- Sentencing of the captain to 4 months in prison, commuted to a 5-year good behaviour bond. The 3 crew members were fined between 2,000 and 7,000 Australian dollars (1,300 to 4,600 US\$).²¹

First half of October 2025

Off Shortland Islands, Solomon Islands. Maritime border with Papua-New-Guinea.

Over the course of 2 weeks, about a dozen boats from Bougainville Island (Papua New Guinea) entered Solomon Islands waters, passed the Solomon Islands' Shortland Islands, and unloaded tonnes and tonnes of sea cucumbers in Taro, Choiseul Province, and in Gizo, the capital of the Western Province. This trade follows the lifting of the ban on selling sea cucumbers in the Solomon Islands, while the ban remains in place in Papua New Guinea to protect the resource. It is true that trade between Bougainville and the Solomon Islands is deeply rooted and forms part of their cultural and commercial ties. "For decades, traders have travelled between Bougainville, the Shortlands, Choiseul, and Gizo to exchange goods such as outboard motor (OBM) engines, fiberglass ray boats, and other commodities — often in exchange for goods and cartons of beer," reports the Solomon Star News. But more and more Chinese traders, both retailers and wholesalers, are taking over the market for sea cucumbers and other seafood products. More and more Chinese fishing boats are being registered in the Solomon Islands. Traditional fishermen are concerned about this unfair and invasive competition. The Solomon Islands government, open to yuan diplomacy, has not recognized Taiwan's independence since 2019.²²

OPERATION KURUKURU 2025

October 24, 2025

Indispensable Reefs, Rennell and Bellona Province, Solomon Islands

Boarding of the MV *Hua Sheng 1* (IMO 1095947), chartered by the Chinese company Ocean Skipper and flying the flag of the Solomon Islands. She was engaged in the harvesting of sea cucumbers and the plundering of coral reefs, aided by 60 divers and 13 motorboats. The *Hua Sheng 1* was escorted to the Aola naval base, 500 km north of the Indispensable Reefs. She was detained for 72 hours, allowing the maritime police, the Fisheries Agency, and immigration services, with support from regional partners including the Australian Defence Force, to investigate her exact status.

The Indispensable Reefs are a chain of 3 coral atolls stretching 110 km long with an average width of 18 km. The 3 atolls are separated by passes 2 to 3 km wide. The exceptional richness of their biodiversity (sharks, turtles, giant clams, and migration routes between the Great Barrier Reef and the western Pacific Ocean) has not yet been fully documented. It is better known to illegal fishing vessels than to scientific research vessels.²³

MARINE OR FRESHWATER FISH

SEAHORSES



Yellowtail damselfish (*Microspathodon chrysurus*). Photo Terence Zahner (BY-NC)

AFRICA

MOZAMBIQUE

End of September 2025

Bilene, Gaza Province, Mozambique

Trafficking in lions' teeth, trafficking in pangolins, and now trafficking in seafood in the province of Gaza. A seizure of 5 kg of seahorses. The 2 suspects say they hoped to sell them for 35,000 meticaís (550 US\$ or 110 US\$/kg).¹

NORTHERN AMERICA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

OPERATION THUNDER

October 2025

Anchorage, State of Alaska, Louisville, Jefferson County, State of Kentucky, and Cincinnati, Hamilton County, State of Ohio, United States of America

Following the discovery of 26 boxes of dried shark fins at the port of Anchorage, officers from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service traced the shipment and intercepted around 20 consignments at various

ports across the country, including Louisville and Cincinnati. All had originated in Mexico, were bound for Hong Kong, and were declared as containing "car parts". In total, 50,000 dried fins weighing 725 kg were seized. Their value is estimated at over 1 million US\$, or 1,400 US\$ per kg and 20 US\$ per fin. The main species targeted by the trafficking were silky sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*, Appendix II) and bigeye thresher sharks (*Alopias superciliosus*, Appendix II).²



LATIN AMERICA

BRAZIL

September 5, 2025

Between Porto Velho and Jirau, Madeira River, State of Rondônia, Brazil



The river patrols of the Environmental Military Police and the Chico Mendes Institute seized aboard 2 boats 650 kg of arapaima (*Arapaima gigas*, Appendix II) that were undersized, along with gillnets. The fish were donated to charities.³

October 6, 2025

Coarí, State of Amazonas, Brazil



Seizure by military police aboard the *Arafer IX* of 5 arapaimas (*Arapaima gigas*, Appendix II) (240 kg in total). An adult weighs between 100 and 200 kg.⁴

COLOMBIA

September 22, 2025

Cartagena de Indias, Department of Bolívar, Colombia

Seizure in a restaurant owned by a Chinese citizen of a package containing 26 dried shark fins, with an estimated value of 90 million pesos, i.e. 22,300 US\$, or 860 US\$ per fin.⁵

EASTERN ASIA

CHINA

Beginning of September 2025

Beijing Capital International Airport, Beijing Autonomous Municipality, China

Seizure from the luggage of a passenger from an international flight of 913 shark fins, weighing 83.45 kg. Seven species were identified: the bull shark (*Carcharhinus leucas*, Appendix II), the spottail shark (*Carcharhinus sorrah*, Appendix II), the blacktip shark (*Carcharhinus limbatus*, Appendix II), the great hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna mokarran*, Appendix II), the pigeye shark (*Carcharhinus amboinensis*, Appendix II), the scalloped hammerhead (*Sphyrna lewini*, Appendix II), the tiger shark (*Galeocerdo cuvier*), and a species of freshwater shark, the Ganges shark (*Glyphis gangeticus*, Appendix II).⁶



September 11, 2025

Jinan Yaoqiang International Airport, Shandong Province, China



Seizure from the suitcase of a traveller arriving from abroad of 26 guppies (*Poecilia reticulata*) carefully packed individually in plastic bags filled with water. The guppy is native to South America and the Caribbean and has been introduced to many countries.⁷

September 20, 2025

Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge Border Post, Guangdong Province, China. Border with Hong Kong and Macau.

Seizure of 192 live ornamental fish in a car attempting to enter mainland China. They were distributed in small bags filled with water that had been concealed in the spare tire compartment. There were flame angelfish (*Centropyge loriculus* native to the central and western Pacific Ocean), yellow-tail damselfish (*Microspathodon chrysurus*), porkfish (*Anisotremus virginicus*), and blue tangs (*Acanthurus coeruleus*) native to the western Atlantic Ocean.⁸



Flame angelfish
(*Centropyge loriculus*)



Blue tang (*Acanthurus coeruleus*)

September 25, 2025

Hengqin Checkpoint, Zhuhai Prefecture, Guangdong Province, China. Border with Macau.

Seizure from the suitcase of a man arriving from Macau of 160 shark fins, weighing 9.14 kg. Among the identified species were the grey reef shark (*Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos*, Appendix II), the blacktip shark (*Carcharhinus limbatus*, Appendix II), the bignose shark (*Carcharhinus altimus*, Appendix II), and the sandbar shark (*Carcharhinus plumbeus*, Appendix II).⁹

September 2025

Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, China



Seizure from a package shipped from abroad of 2,031 grammes of arapaima scales (*Arapaima gigas*, Appendix II), which is more than 500 scales. The arapaima is the giant fish native to the Amazon Basin.¹⁰

October 2, 2025

Hengqin Checkpoint, Zhuhai Prefecture, Guangdong Province, China. Border with Macau.

Seizure from the trunk of a passenger car about to enter mainland China, inside plastic bags, of 182 shark and ray fins weighing a total of 14 kg. Among the identified species are the bull shark (*Carcharhinus leucas*, Appendix II), the grey reef shark (*Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos*, Appendix II), the spottail shark (*Carcharhinus sorrah*, Appendix II), and the white-spotted wedgetfish (*Rhynchobatus australiae*, Appendix II).¹¹

October 3, 2025

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China

A large quantity of contraband goods, including cigars, cell phones, pharmaceuticals, and shark fins, was seized on a riverboat bound for Macau.¹²

October 2025

Beijing Capital International Airport, Beijing Autonomous Municipality, China

Seizure from the luggage of a passenger from an international flight of 593 shark fins. Among the identified species were the bull shark (*Carcharhinus leucas*, Appendix II), the blacktip shark (*Carcharhinus limbatus*, Appendix II), the great hammerhead (*Sphyrna mokarran*, Appendix II), and the scalloped hammerhead (*Sphyrna lewini*, Appendix II). Seizure of an additional 12.75 kg of soft-shelled turtle meat. The species identified are the Indian peacock softshell turtle (*Nilssonina hurum*, Appendix I), the Indian softshell turtle (*Nilssonina gangetica*, Appendix I), and the Indian narrow-headed softshell turtle (*Chitra indica*, Appendix II).¹³

SOUTHEASTERN ASIA

SINGAPORE

October 14, 2025

Woodlands Checkpoint, Singapore. Border with Malaysia.



Routine inspection of a vehicle registered in Malaysia and driven by a Singaporean citizen. Seizure of 5 ornamental fish from the rear floor, including 2 Asian arawona (*Scleropages formosus*, Appendix I). The Asian arawona is considered a good-luck charm in Asia. An adult specimen sells for an average of 50,000 US\$ and can sometimes fetch over 200,000 US\$. The driver was sentenced to 2 weeks in prison.

Asian arawona, see "On the Trail" n°5 p.7, n°8 p.6, n°11 p.7 (ref.13), n°18 p.12 (ref.17), n°19 p.123 (ref.17), n°23 p.17 (ref.38), n°25 p.19 (ref.42), n°26 p.16 (ref.25), n°30 p.191 (ref.23), n°31 p.206 (ref.9), n°33 p.243 (ref.10) and p.264 (ref.20), n°35 p.206 (ref.50) and n°41 p.203 (ref.24).¹⁴

SOUTHERN ASIA

IRAN

Beginning of September 2025

Parsian County, Hormozgan Province, Iran. Persian Gulf.

Seizure of 2 tonnes of sharks and 16 fishing boats following a coordinated operation by border guards and the Navy of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. The statement is terse. It does not specify whether the vessels in question are small, unlicensed Iranian boats, fishing boats from one of the neighbouring countries, or Chinese trawlers, which have been increasingly present in the Gulf since 2014. They are reportedly only authorised to catch lanternfish, which for religious reasons are not part of the diet of most of the Iranian population, but the Chinese trawlers catch all marine creatures, including dolphins. Fishing vessels caught in the act of illegal activities are detained at the quay for a month and then resume their activities.

70% of the population of Hormozgan province (200,000 inhabitants) depends on fishing for its livelihood and food supply. On May 11, 2022, 2,355 fins were seized from a boat on Kich Island in Hormozgan province (see "On the Trail" n°36 p. 219, ref. 36).

Although shark fishing is banned in Iran for environmental and religious reasons, "On the Trail" reports seizures of sharks cut into pieces, shark fins and shark meat on board vessels, in cold stores, in lorries heading for Afghanistan or in inland markets where sharks are sold under the name of tuna. The warehouses at the port of Chabahar (Sistan and Baluchestan province) gather products from the illegal shark catch. In 2022, 8,000 frozen sharks, including great white sharks, and 8,000 fins were seized by the province's Directorate-General for Environmental Protection (see "On the Trail" n°36 p. 220, ref. 37).

Contrary to popular belief, the Gulf, which is partially closed by the Strait of Hormuz, is far from being a biological wasteland. The Gulf's biome has 3 pillars:

- the mangroves that protect the coral reefs by absorbing sediment and mud resulting from natural erosion and human activities on land. The mangroves are home to one of the most beautiful remaining colonies of dugongs in the world. The mangroves protect the seaweed beds and coral reefs from silting up.

- coral reefs that can withstand temperatures above 36°C are home to 500 species of fish and attract sea turtles, whitetip reef sharks, blacktip reef sharks, hammerhead sharks and dolphins. It's teeming with life.

- the combined freshwater inflows from the Shatt al-Arab (Iraq), the Karun (Iran), and other rivers originating in the Zagros Mountains, which facilitate the hatching of shrimp larvae, their growth and their reproduction.

The abundance of shrimps and other forms of zooplankton attracts humpback whales, Bryde's whales and whale sharks.

Along Iran's 1,800 km of coastline, there are 198 small-scale fishing cooperatives in operation. The main resources are green tiger prawns (*Penaeus semisulcatus*), penaeid shrimps, skipjack tunas (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), yellowfin tunas (*Thunnus albacares*), little tunas (*Euthynnus affinis*), longtail tunas (*Thunnus tonggol*), silver pomfrets (*Pampus argenteus*) and narrow-barred spanish mackerels (*Scomberomorus commerson*).

All sedentary or migratory marine species in the Persian Gulf are threatened by the fossil fuel industry. They are on the defensive. However, fishermen in the Persian Gulf – whether Iranian or Omani – derive some benefit from them. They catch the sardinellas that seek refuge in the cold waters beneath anchored tankers and use them to bait tuna. Stationary tankers act, in a way, as fish aggregating devices.

Wars, with their explosions, toxic plumes, and black or chemical spills, and the release of persistent pollutants such as PCBs from shipwrecks and PFAS from fire-fighting foams used to extinguish fires at refineries and on tankers, are obviously additional pressures whose catastrophic effects are only fully measured months or years after the ceasefires.

Sharks in Iran, see "On the Trail" n°11 p.7 (ref.12), n°20 p.16 (ref.17), n°34 p.252 (ref.31), n°35 p.203 (ref.28), n°36 p.219 (ref.36) and p.220 (ref.37), n°37 p.217 (ref.50), n°40 p.238 (ref.32 and 33), n°41 p.204 (ref.29), n°42 p.155 (ref.23), n°45 p.149 (ref.29), n°46 p.159 (ref.17) and n°47 p.167 (ref.13).¹⁵

SRI LANKA

October 29, 2025

Galle, Southern Province, Sri Lanka

The Coast Guard arrested 7 fishermen. There were 5.7 kg of dried thresher shark fins (*Alopias* spp., Appendix II) hidden on board their fishing boat. The fins and the boat were seized.¹⁶

NORTHERN EUROPE

ESTONIA

October 8, 2025

Narva, Ida-Viru County, Estonia. Border with Russia.

Seizure of 200 grammes of sturgeon caviar (Acipenseridae, Appendix I or II) and one round of ammunition from a French national. He was fined 120 € (140 US\$).¹⁷

LITHUANIA

End of September 2025
Vilnius, Lithuania

Seizure of a sawfish rostrum (Pristidae, Appendix I). Officials from the Department of the Environment spotted the classified ad on Facebook and caught the seller by posing as buyers. He faces a fine of 500 € to 3,800 € (580 US\$ to 4,400 US\$). A rostrum sells for around 2,500 € (2,900 US\$).¹⁸

facebook



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October 1, 2025
Curonian Lagoon, Klaipėda Region, Lithuania

Officials from the Department of Environmental Protection, accompanied by volunteers from the salmonid conservation NGO Lašišos dienoraštis (Salmon Diary), catch professional fishermen in the act of unloading fish into the reeds before continuing to unload at their designated spot.

They concealed 11 European eels (*Anguilla anguilla*, Appendix II), which are prohibited from being caught year-round, 66 pikeperch (*Sander lucioperca*) under the minimum size limit, and 4 brown trout (*Salmo trutta*). The vessel owner must pay damages of 25,000 € (29,300 US\$), and his fishing licence is suspended for one year. The Curonian Lagoon is shared between Lithuania and the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad. It covers an area of 1,580 km², of which less than 400 km² belong to Lithuania, and has an average depth of 3.8 metres. It is separated from the Baltic Sea by the Curonian Spit. It is the largest lagoon in Europe.¹⁹



October 15, 2025

Svenčionys District Municipality, Lithuania

Arrest by officers from the Department of Environmental Protection of a man caught in the act of poaching in the Kretuona River, which flows into Lake Zeimena. He already had 6 European eels (*Anguilla anguilla*, Appendix II) in his nets. Inspections are being conducted as part of the "Save the Eels" operation from September 1 to October 30.²⁰

WESTERN EUROPE

AUSTRIA

OPERATION THUNDER

September 15–October 15, 2025

Vienna, State of Vienna, Austria

As part of Operation Thunder, coordinated by Interpol and the World Customs Organisation, customs officials seized 230 grammes of beluga caviar (*Huso huso*, Appendix II) from a package.²¹

FRANCE

September 16, 2025

Narbonne, Department of Aude, France

Twelve sport and recreational fishermen were sentenced to suspended fines ranging from 700 to 15,000 € (815 to 17,500 US\$), a one-year fishing ban, and the posting of the conviction notice outside the premises of the Association Narbonne Pêche au Gros (ANPG, Narbonne Deep-Sea Fishing), of which they are all members, for illegally catching and consuming during festive and communal meals at least 160 Atlantic bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*). The investigation began in 2019 at the initiative of the OFB, whose attention had been drawn to a poster in the port of Narbonne-Plage calling on ANPG supporters to participate in a "thonade," that is, an Atlantic bluefin tuna banquet.²²



FAMILY AFFAIRS / REPEATED OFFENCE

October 7, 2025

Nantes, Department of Loire-Atlantique, France

- Sentencing in absentia of 2 men, aged 24 and 26, to a 6-month suspended prison term and a fine of 3,000 € (3,500 US\$). On January 7, 2023, they were caught red-handed by the gendarmerie transporting 1.5 kg of European glass eels (*Anguilla anguilla*, Appendix II) and fishing equipment in the trunk of their vehicle. They had previously been convicted of similar offences.

- Sentencing of 3 brothers, one of whom was absent from the hearing, and a 4th accomplice who was not part of the Traveller community, to fines ranging from 2,000 to 3,000 € (2,300 to 3,500 US\$). They had been caught red-handed fishing for glass eel on March 3, 2025, around 5 a.m. near the Buzay Canal in Le Pellerin, in the Loire estuary.²³



SWITZERLAND

October 2, 2025

Novazzano, Canton of Ticino, Switzerland. Border with Italy.

Seizure during a roadside inspection of 7.5 kg of sturgeon caviar (*Acipenseridae*, Appendix I or II) from 2 vans registered in Ukraine. The 3 men and one woman, all Ukrainian nationals, had just crossed the Ponte Faloppia border crossing. They were also transporting 62.1 kg of meat and 7.8 litres of undeclared alcohol. They were fined and required to pay customs duties.²⁴



SOUTHERN EUROPE

CROATIA

FAMILY AFFAIRS

October 23, 2025

Vir Island, Zadar County, Croatia



Disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against Šime Dabičić, who, with his mother, caught a 40-kilogram duckbill eagle ray (*Aetomylaeus bovinus*), a species listed as prohibited for fishing and transport, and boasted about it on social media.²⁵

October 2025

Omiš, Split-Dalmatia County, Croatia

Nature conservation officers from More i krš (Caring for the River) and fisheries officers from the Gubavica Sport Fishing Association located and removed several fishing nets and other fish traps from the Cetina coastal river. Several European eels (*Anguilla anguilla*, Appendix II) were released back into the wild.²⁶

ITALY

September 25, 2025

Lecce, Province of Lecce, Region of Apulia, Italy

The 3 large Atlantic bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) seized by the Brindisi and Otranto coast guard at a fish market in Lecce were donated to the Fasano Zoo.²⁷

October 13, 2025

Crotone, Province of Crotone, Region of Calabria, Italy

To the great satisfaction of charities in Crotone, the Coast Guard seized aboard a fishing boat 25 albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*), the catch of which is prohibited between October 1 and November 30. Each tuna weighed an average of 10 kg. Administrative fines totaling 3,500 € (4,100 US\$).²⁸



EASTERN EUROPE

ROMANIA

October 1, 2025

Galati County, Romania

Anti-poaching operation on the Danube. Removal of 13 nets with a total length of 350 meters by the environmental protection agency and the maritime police, and seizure of 2 gillnets. Three starry sturgeons (*Acipenser stellatus*, Appendix II) were released.²⁹

RUSSIA

September 15, 2025

Alexandrovskoye, Alexandrovsky District, Tomsk Oblast, Russia

Sentencing of a resident of Strezhevoy to 200 hours of community service and having his motorboat confiscated. He had poached 15 sterlet sturgeons (*Acipenser ruthenus*, Appendix II) in June 2025 in the Ob River. He voluntarily paid the ecological damages, estimated at 137,000 roubles (1,700 US\$).³⁰



September 22, 2025

Moscow Federal City, Russia

Sentencing of Lilian Durnya and Ion Cojocararu to a suspended prison sentence of 5 years with 3 years of probation. In March 2025, they had purchased 119 carcasses of Russian sturgeons (*Acipenser gueldenstaedtii*, Appendix II) poached in the Caspian Sea for resale.³¹





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October 2025, Astrakhan Oblast, Russia



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October 14, 2025, Odessa Oblast, Ukraine



© МВД России по ДФО

October 2025, Republic of Sakha, Russia
OPERATION POUTINE



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September 2025, Republic of Dagestan Russia



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Early September 2025, Azerbaijan



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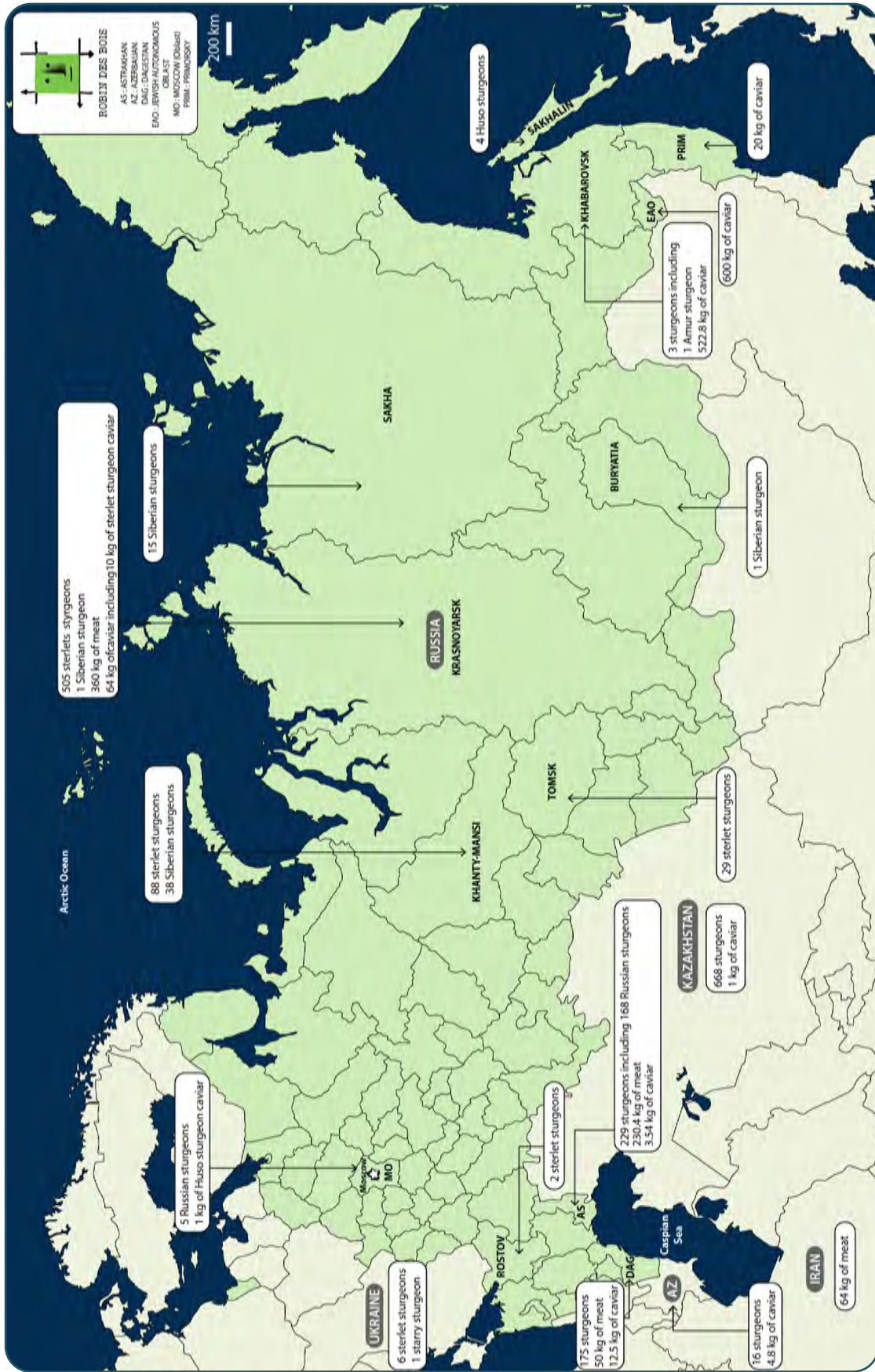
October 1, 2025, Khabarovsk Krai, Russia



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Late October 2025, Primorsky Krai, Russia

Seizures of caviar (1,229.64 kg). Poaching and seizures of sturgeons (1,786 specimens + 704.4 kg of meat) between September 1 and October 31, 2025



Sturgeon, unidentified species (*Acipenseridae*, Appendix I or II)
 Amur sturgeon (*Acipenser baerii*, Appendix II)
 Starry sturgeon (*Acipenser stellatus*, Appendix II)
 Russian sturgeon (*Acipenser gueldenstaedtii*, Appendix II)

Siberian sturgeon (*Acipenser baerii*, Appendix II)
 Huso sturgeon (*Huso dauricus*, Appendix II)
 Sterlet sturgeon (*Acipenser ruthenus*, Appendix II)

Based on a minimum price on the black market of 20,000 roubles/kg (250 US\$) of caviar, the minimum value of the caviar seized is 307,410 US\$.

September 23, 2025
Turukhansk, Turukhansky District,
Krasnoyarsk Krai, Russia



Caught in July 2024 by law enforcement with a Siberian sturgeon (*Acipenser baerii*, Appendix II) freshly poached in the Podkamennaya Tunguska, a tributary of the Yenisei, a 37-year-old man was sentenced to one year and 2 months of probation and a fine of 500,000 roubles (6,240 US\$). As an aggravating factor, he was using a samolov (a net with hooks for sturgeon).³²

September 28, 2025
Amursk, Khabarovsk Krai, Russia



A man was sentenced to 90 hours of community service for purchasing caviar and 5 fillets of Huso sturgeon (*Huso dauricus*, Appendix II) and saving them for "a special occasion," without anticipating that the police would come by. "The court also deemed it necessary to confiscate the defendant's car, refrigerator, and freezers, as they were used to commit the offence."³³

End of September 2025
Yenotayevka, Yenotayevsky District,
Astrakhan Oblast, Russia



The 2 men had caught a Russian sturgeon (*Acipenser gueldenstaedtii*, Appendix II) in the Volga River in March. They have now been sentenced to a 5-year suspended prison term and 2 and a half years of probation, in addition to the 138,000 roubles (1,700 US\$) in damages they voluntarily reimbursed prior to the trial, and the permanent confiscation of their boat and its engine.³⁴

September 2025
Yarensk, Lensky District, Arkhangelsk
Oblast, Russia



A 41-year-old man received a suspended prison sentence of 2 and a half years for poaching 135 fish, including 15 sterlet sturgeons (*Acipenser ruthenus*, Appendix II) in the Vytchegda River, a tributary of the Northern Dvina. Since he was reluctant to pay the 707,000 roubles (8,800 US\$) in damages, bailiffs froze his bank accounts, requested that his car be deregistered, and threatened to auction it off. "After weighing the pros and cons, the man promptly paid the fine, and the damage caused by the illegal fishing was quickly repaired," concluded the Federal Bailiffs' Office.³⁵

October 2, 2025
Astrakhan, Astrakhan Oblast, Russia



Sentencing of 2 men to 5 years in prison in a general-regime penal colony and to pay a fine of 500,000 roubles (6,000 US\$) each. In 2024, the first man had asked the second to purchase 5 kg of Amur sturgeon caviar (*Acipenser schrenckii*, Appendix II) on the black market in Saint Petersburg and arrange for its transport to Astrakhan by train (2000 km). He was arrested on December 23.³⁶

October 14, 2025
Bolotnoye, Bolotninsky District,
Novosibirsk Oblast, Russia



Sentencing of a resident of Baturino, Tomsk Oblast, to 6 months of community service, with 10% of his salary to be deducted and paid to the State. He was caught on May 20, 2025, with 4 sterlet sturgeons (*Acipenser ruthenus*, Appendix II) that had just been caught in the Bolotninsky District, on the opposite bank of the Ob River, which marks the border between Tomsk Oblast and Novosibirsk Oblast.³⁷

October 15, 2025
Federal City of Saint Petersburg, Russia



Sentencing of Oleg Ataman to a 2½-year suspended prison term, with a 3-year probation period, for transporting, along with 3 accomplices, Siberian sturgeon (*Acipenser baerii*, Appendix II) and Amur sturgeon (*Acipenser schrenckii*, Appendix II) caviar acquired fraudulently, and for delivering it to the luxury fish market "Crab on Kalininskaya," which boasts online of offering exclusively top-quality products from "trusted suppliers." Ataman received leniency from the court due to his "humanitarian aid" provided to the fighters of the "special military operation" in Ukraine and to the residents of the Donetsk People's Republic, the Luhansk People's Republic, and the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson oblasts. His accomplices Semendyaev, Podlesny, and Gavrilenko did not receive the same leniency. On March 31, 2025, they were sentenced to 5 years of suspended imprisonment with a 2-year probation period.³⁸

October 17, 2025
Khabarovsk, Khabarovsk Krai, Russia



A 2-year and 7-month suspended prison sentence and 3 years of probation for a man who purchased 30 kg of sturgeon fillets (*Acipenseridae*, Appendix I or II) and 150 kg of caviar in October 2024 in the Ulchsky District with the intent to resell them in Khabarovsk (400 km away). His refrigerated trailer, parked in a parking lot, caught the attention of the FSB.³⁹

October 24, 2025
Barnaul, Altai Krai, Russia



The July 17, 2025, sentence of one year of hard labour, with 10% of his monthly wages withheld for the benefit of the State, was upheld on appeal. The poacher must also pay damages of 480,000 roubles (5,800 US\$) and hand over his fishing boat. He had been arrested in June 2024 in the Kalmansky District after catching a Siberian sturgeon (*Acipenser baerii*, Appendix II) in the Ob River.⁴⁰

October 24, 2025

Uvat, Uvatsky District, Tyumen Oblast, Russia

Mikhail A., 58, was sentenced to 250 hours of community service and ordered to pay 1.4 million roubles in damages (17,350 US\$) for poaching 3 Siberian sturgeons (*Acipenser baerii*, Appendix II) in the Irtysh River in August 2022 (see "On the Trail" n°37, p. 224).⁴¹



October 31, 2025

Murom, Vladimirov Oblast, Russia

A fine of 500,000 roubles (6,000 US\$) for each of the 2 fishermen caught in June 2025 while catching 100 sterlet sturgeons (*Acipenser ruthenus*, Appendix II) and other fish in the Oka River, a tributary of the Volga. The court took into account their bad state of health and the damages they voluntarily paid.⁴²



OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA

End of September - beginning of October 2025

Geraldton, State of Western Australia, Australia

A Geraldton resident was fined 28,000 Australian dollars (18,300 US\$) and banned from fishing for 5 months. Between June 2021 and April 2023, he had poached 2 yellowfin tunas (*Thunnus albacares*) and other fish: 98 kg of flathead mullet (*Mugil cephalus*), at least 15 mulloways (*Argyrosomus japonicus*), one orange-spotted grouper (*Epinephelus coioides*), 2 samson fish (*Seriola hippos*), and some bluefish (*Pomatomus saltatrix*). He had also sold western rock lobsters (*Panulirus cygnus*) caught by a recreational fisherman without license.⁴³



September 30 and October 1, 2025

Sahul Banks, State of Western Australia, Australia

Boarding of 2 Indonesian fishing vessels. Seizure of 140 shark fins, 2,838 kg of fish, 690 kg of salt, and fishing gear. The vessels were sunk at sea in accordance with Australian law.⁴⁴

October 29, and November 11, 2025
Off Cartier Island, State of Western Australia, and Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia



- Boarding of an Indonesian fishing vessel with 7 sailors on board. Seizure of 500 kg of fish, 2 kg of shark fins, 4 tonnes of ice and various fishing and catching equipment. Destruction of the vessel at sea in accordance with Australian law.

- The captain was fined 15,000 Australian dollars (9,800 US\$) and the 6 crew members were fined between 2,000 and 7,000 Australian dollars (1,300 to 4,600 US\$).⁴⁵

MARINE TURTLES



Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*). Photo Hinnogec (BY-NC)

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*), leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and flatback turtles (*Natator depressus*).

AFRICA

FRANCE (MAYOTTE)

October 2, 2025

Mamoudzou, Department of Mayotte, France

Sentencing of Abdel Bacar, a Comorian national, to 4 years in prison and a 5-year ban from the country, and of Ayad Mouhamadi, a Comorian national, to 5 months in prison and a 10-year ban from the country for having, in late August 2025, captured a green turtle on the beaches of Kani Kéli, turned it onto its back, gutted it, and loaded the meat into rice sacks to sell it.¹

NIGERIA

October 18, 2025

Lagos, Lagos State, Nigeria

Three Ridley sea turtles that had been caught in fishermen's nets and exchanged for fishing gear by the NGO Greenfingers Wildlife Conservation Initiative were released back into the sea as school-children looked on, after being brought to a private beach in Lagos.²



AMERICA

BELIZE

October 13 and 15, 2025

Belize City, Belize District, Belize

A fine equal to 9,450 US\$ was imposed on Daniel Marvin Hughes Jr. On Monday, October 13, aboard his *Timeless*, sea turtle meat was found, and a search of his freezer on shore doubled the amount. There were inside 14 pieces of hawksbill turtle meat.³



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

September 16, 2025

Beaufort County, State of South Carolina, United States of America

John Maurice Trask III pleaded guilty to fraudulently importing a stuffed green turtle head. The incident occurred in September 2023.⁴

MEXICO

September 2, 4, 25 and 26, 2025

Lázaro Cárdenas, State of Michoacán, Mexico

- Seizure of 408 sea turtle eggs and arrest of the 2 men transporting them in a cooler. Joint operation by the Navy, the Army, the Civil Guard, and the municipal police.

The sea turtles found in Michoacán are Ridley sea turtles, green turtles, and leatherback turtles.

- In addition, within the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve, 6 illegal sawmills were shut down under the supervision of Profepa, and 600 cubic meters of lumber were seized.⁵

September 14, 2025

El Cocoyul, State of Guerrero, Mexico

Seizure of 707 sea turtle eggs, and arrest of the 2 men transporting them on a motorcycle. This was a joint operation by the Environmental Police, the Ministry of the Navy, and the National Guard.

The sea turtles found in Guerrero are Ridley sea turtles, green turtles, and leatherback turtles.⁶

September 15, 2025

Acapulco, State of Guerrero, Mexico

Seizure around midnight of 84 sea turtle eggs, and arrest of 2 men and one woman on Hornos Beach.⁷

October 16 and 29, 2025

Acapulco, State of Guerrero, Mexico

- Arrest by the environmental police of a turtle nest poacher caught in the act on Barra Vieja Beach. He had already collected 360 eggs in his bucket. They were "handed over to the appropriate authorities for the necessary legal proceedings." The beach is visited by Ridley sea turtles, among others.



- Arrest by the environmental police of another turtle nest poacher in action on La Gloria Beach. Seizure of 48 eggs.⁸

PERU

September 9, 2025

Paracas, Province of Pisco, Department of Ica, Peru

Seizure by Serfor of 3 stuffed green turtles and one stuffed hawksbill turtle from the Paracas Luxury Hotel. According to management, they were left behind by the previous owners.⁹

ASIA

CHINA

September 2025

Zhengzhou, Henan Province, China



Seizure in an international package declared to contain "handicrafts" of a jewellery box made from shell of hawksbill turtle.¹⁰

INDONESIA

September 18, 2025

Marampa Port, Manokwari Regency, West Papua Province, New Guinea Island, Indonesia

Two green turtles were seized aboard the *Kasuari Pasifik IV*, which had arrived from Biak Island, nearly 300 km away. One is in good health and will be released the following day; the other requires medical attention: it has spear wounds.

Kasuari Pasifik IV. IMO 8746337. Length: 48 metres. Deadweight: 420 tonnes. Flag: Indonesia. Classification society: Biro Klasifikasi Indonesia. Built in 2009 in Surabaya, Indonesia, by PT. Dumas Tanjung Perak Shipyard. Owner: ASDP Indonesia Ferry. Official capacity: 221 passengers and 19 cars.¹¹



Kasuari Pasifik IV between Nabire, Central Papua, and Biak Island

REPEATED OFFENCE

October 30 and December 11, 2025

Tanjung Redeb, Berau Regency, and Samarinda City, East Kalimantan Province, Borneo Island, Indonesia

- Syahdani, alias Ganul, was sentenced to 2 years and 6 months in prison and a fine of 200 million rupiah (12,000 US\$), with an additional 2 months in prison if the fine is not paid, for having, along with 2 accomplices who fled, stolen 13 green turtle eggs on the beach of Bilang-bilangan Island (2.5 km in circumference, 60 km from the island of Borneo). Bilang-bilangan Island and the neighbouring island of Mataha are known as prime nesting and hatching sites for green turtles. They are estimated to host between 3,000 and 6,000 green turtles each year. An estimated 800,000 eggs are laid throughout the year, and at the height of the season, between 60 and 70 green turtles are said to dig nests on the beaches of Bilang-bilangan every night. Poaching is creeping there. In Tanjung Redeb and other towns, turtle eggs are sold in packs of 10 for 125,000 rupiah (7.5 US\$).

- Sentenced on appeal, at the prosecutor's request, to 3 years and 6 months in prison and a fine of 200 million rupiah, with an additional 4 months in prison in case of non-payment. Syahdani is a repeat offender in wildlife trafficking. His accomplices fled on a speedboat. He refused to return the eggs to their nest. He threatened the guards of Yayasan Penyu Indonesia (Indonesian Foundation for the Protection of Sea Turtles) with a machete.¹²

PHILIPPINES

September 13, 2025

Maasim, Sarangani Province, Philippines



The butchered sea turtle was floating in a pot, making it impossible to tell whether it was, in its heyday as it swam in Sarangani Bay, a green turtle, a Ridley sea turtle, a hawksbill turtle, or a loggerhead turtle. Arrest of 3 of the cooks who were preparing a banquet in which the pawikan, the local name for sea turtles, was going to be the highlight.¹³

SRI LANKA

October 8, 2025

Talaimannar, Northern Province, Sri Lanka

Seizure of 13 kg of sea turtle meat and arrest of 2 suspects.¹⁴

Mid-October 2025

Jaffna, Northern Province, Sri Lanka

Seizure of 35.4 kg of turtle meat and arrest of one person.¹⁵

OCEANIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (GUAM)

October 3, 2025

Hågat, Territory of Guam, United States of America

Arrest of Frank Benjamin Camp, age 60, following reports of poaching at the marina. He had harpooned a green turtle, which was taken into custody by the Division of Wildlife and Aquatic Resources. A canoe and fishing equipment were seized.¹⁶

FRANCE (NEW CALEDONIA, WALLIS AND FUTUNA, FRENCH POLYNESIA)

Sunday, September 14, 2025

Dumbéa, South Province, Overseas Collectivity of New Caledonia, France

Rescue of a loggerhead turtle, locally known as the "grosse tête" (big head) turtle. It was tied to the roots of a mangrove tree in the Koutio mangrove forest. Estimated to be between 25 and 30 years old, it was transported by boat and then by road to the Aquarium des Lagons in Nouméa. "It shows deep ligature marks on its right flippers, evidence of its restraints, which caused minor necrosis in the flippers," says the aquarium's veterinarian, who remains optimistic about the turtle's recovery. It is on antibiotics to prevent the infection from spreading. "It was certainly not born here. It was likely born in the waters of the Pacific, perhaps near Australia or Papua New Guinea. It came to settle in New Caledonia." "It is a resident turtle," says another specialist at the Aquarium des Lagons.¹⁷

September 25, 2025

Mata-Utu, Overseas Collectivity of Wallis and Futuna, France



This marks a first in the collectivity's legal history. Three men and one woman were fined 75,000 Pacific francs (730 US\$) for capturing and butchering a hawksbill turtle and offering traditional dishes for sale via the Internet.¹⁸

October 19, 2025

Papeete, Overseas Collectivity of French Polynesia, France

Seizure aboard the multipurpose cargo ship *Mareva Nui* of more than 6 kg of sea turtle meat. Two arrests. The *Mareva Nui* (IMO 7637333), 60 meters long, built in 1978 in Denmark, classified by Bureau Veritas, had just arrived from the Tuamotu Islands and was scheduled to depart on October 23 for Makatea, Mataiva, Tikehau, Rangiroa, Ahe, Manihi, Takaroa, Takapoto, Kauehi, Raraka, Makemo, Fakarava, Niau, Apataki, Arutua, and Kaukura. Authorities have announced that inspections will be stepped up in the run-up to the Hawaiki Nui Va'a 2025, a Polynesian canoe race taking place from October 29 to 31 between the islands of Huahine, Raiatea, Taha'a, and Bora Bora—as paddlers might be tempted to consume extra turtle meat, which is considered a tonic—and as the end-of-year holidays approach.¹⁹



Mareva Nui, July 20, 2020 in Rotoava



Sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*) and striped dolphin (*Stenella coeruleoalba*)
Photo My World of Bird Photography (BY NC)

AMERICA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mid-September 2025

Charleston, Charleston County, State of South Carolina, United States of America



Lauren Deloach was sentenced to 30 days of house arrest, 2 years' probation, and a 15,000 US\$ fine to be paid to the Lacey Act Reward Fund for illegally importing between September 2021 and September 2024, using false descriptions, and selling approximately 47 teeth and 2 ear bones of sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*, Appendix I).¹

ASIA

INDIA

September – October 2025

States of Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu, India

Seizures by the police, the Department of Forestry, and customs of 35.6 kg of suspected sperm whale ambergris (*Physeter macrocephalus*, Appendix I):

- 7.6 kg with an estimated value of 75 million rupees (856,401 US\$, or 112,684 US\$/kg) on September 5 in a car in Thatchankulam, Cuddalore District, State of Tamil Nadu. One arrest.

- 5.72 kg with an estimated value of 57 million rupees (650,865 US\$, or 113,787 US\$/kg) on September 20 from a passenger getting off a bus in Varachha, Surat district, State of Gujarat. According to the police, Vipul Bambhaniya claims to have found the amber

on a beach in Bhavnagar, on the other side of the Gulf of Khambhat, 4 months earlier but was unable to sell it there. Vipul's lawyer challenged the police's expertise by presenting the court with a sample of charcoal from a farm in Bhavnagar that resembled the so-called ambergris that had been seized. The lack of analysis and Vipul's clean criminal record convinced the court to grant him bail pending the results from the Kolkata laboratory, which would not arrive for another 4 months.

- 5.049 kg with an estimated value of 50.4 million rupees (575,501 US\$, or 114,000 US\$/kg) on September 23, 2025, in Bhattha, Surat district, State of Gujarat, from Usamkhan Badruddin Pathan, a textile merchant, Moinuddin Mansoori, a travel agent, and Wasim Iqbal Mulla, a seafood exporter. The 3 men were handed over to the Forest Department.

- 2,199 kg in 40 pieces of various sizes with an estimated value of 21.9 million rupees (246,759 US\$, or 112,214 US\$/kg) on September 28 in Varsada, Amreli District, State of Gujarat. One arrest.

- 8.7 kg with an estimated value of 87.7 million rupees (1,001,418 US\$, or 115,105 US\$/kg) on September 29 in a car in Umra, Surat district, State of Gujarat. Nine arrests. The traffickers were also from Bhavnagar and were heading to Surat on the other side of the Gulf of Khambhat to sell the suspected ambergris.

- 1.5 kg with an estimated value of 15 million rupees (169,013 US\$, or 112,675 US\$/kg) on October 5 on a moped in Edathala, Ernakulam district, State of Kerala. Four arrests.

- 4.833 kg in a car on October 17, 2025, in Dapoli, Ratnagiri district, State of Maharashtra. Four arrests.²

EUROPE

DENMARK

January-September 2025

Faroe Islands, Denmark

The “grind,” the targeted hunt of dolphin communities by a semicircle of fishing and pleasure boats, disoriented by the roar of their engines, resembles a massive hunt at sea, and on land, when the dolphins have no way out and struggle against their fate, a squalid slaughterhouse, as if the men in front of their young boys were freed from all compassion and restraint. The most disturbing aspect of this liberation is its consistency. It is not an orgy of violence, a kind of isolated and localized bacchanal. In 2025, from January to the end of September, at least 10 grinds cornered dolphin pods in the fjords and fishing ports from Hvalba in the south to Fuglafjørður in the north, from Tjørnuvík in the west to Hvannasund in the east. The capital is not spared. On the contrary, the grind of August 26th in Tórshavn, at the height of the tourist season, was a display of unprecedented violence and barbarity due to the insufficient number of off-board killers tasked with stabbing the dolphins in the head to prevent irreparable suffering and, above all, to avoid damage to the meat and liver, which still constitute an official alibi for this satiated nation. This year, according to Sea Shepherd’s counts, 567 tonnes of edible meat and offal were harvested from 868 long-finned pilot whales (*Globicephala melas*, Appendix II with reservation from Iceland) and 50 Atlantic white-sided dolphins (*Lagenorhynchus acutus*, Appendix II with reservation from Iceland) killed in this slaughter, at the end of which none of the victims, not even pregnant mothers or calves, are or can be spared. 567 tonnes and some change, or more or less 10 kg/inhabitant, assuming that the meat is distributed fairly and that the largest share does not end up in landfills, zoos, mink farms or other uses.³

NORWAY

April 1, 1st week of September 2025

Norway

During the whaling season from April 1 to September 7, 2025, 428 minke whales (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*, Appendix I with reservations from Norway and Japan) (average length 7.5 meters, average weight 7.5 tonnes) were caught. The quota for the 2025 season was 1,406. It was 1,157 in 2024. The increase stems from unused quotas from previous years that were carried over to 2025. The last 3 marine mammals were caught during the first week of September. According to the Norwegian Whaling Association, 10 vessels participated in the 2025 campaign. In 2024, there were 11 vessels, and the catch totaled 415 individuals. There has therefore been a decrease in the number of vessels and an increase in the catch compared to 2024.⁴

OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA

September 30, 2025

Portland, State of Victoria, Australia

A very young Cape fur seal (*Arctocephalus pusillus*, Appendix II) was found in a trash can. His fate is now in the hands of experts at the Melbourne Sea Life Centre.⁵



© Conservation Regulator Victoria

FRANCE (NEW CALEDONIA)

Sunday, September 14, 2025

Dumbéa, South Province, Overseas Collectivity of New Caledonia, France

“An adult female dugong (*Dugong dugon*, Appendix I) was found dead in the mangrove forest in Dumbéa. The animal was discovered through the stranding network. A necropsy was performed to determine the cause of death. Preliminary findings indicate that the animal likely died from a puncture wound to the thorax caused by a harpoon. (...)” Excerpt from the press release by the Dugong Action Plan and the New Caledonian Biodiversity Agency. The Dumbéa mangrove is also a place of torment for sea turtles (see page 186 ref. 17).⁶



Ambergris of sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*, Appendix I)

N°23 p.20 (ref.5). **N°25** p.19 (ref.5). **N°27** p.23 (ref.6, 7 and 8). **N°28** p.23 (ref.2). **N°31** p.219 (ref.1). **N°32** p.248 (ref.105), p.302 (ref.13) and p.303 (ref.14). **N°33** p.284 and p.285. **N°34** p.220 (ref.63) and p.269. **N°35** p.216 and p.217 (ref.8). **N°36** p.234 (ref.4 and 6) and p.235 (ref.7, 8 and 9). **N°37** p.229 (ref.2), p.230 and p.231 (ref.6, 7 and 8). **N°38** p.252 (ref.6 and 7), p.253 (ref.8, 9 and 10) and p.254 (ref.14). **N°39** p.188 (ref.4, 5, 6, 7 and 8). **N°40** p.254 (ref.3) and p.255. **N°41** p.217 (ref.9) and p.218 (ref.12). **N°42** p.164 (ref.5, 6 and 7) and p.166 (ref.11). **N°43** p.150 (ref.6, 7, 8 and 9). **N°44** p.228 (ref.6 and 7) and p.229 (ref.8 and 9). **N°45** p.158 (ref.6 and 7). **N°46** p.169 (ref.3, 4 and 5). **N°47** p.179 (ref.2 and 3). **N°48** p.188 (ref.2).

Angelfish (family Pomacanthidae)

N°31 p.210 (ref.38). **N°37** p.196 (ref.2) and p.219 (ref.64). **N°39** p.174 (ref.10). **N°41** p.183 (ref.2). **N°42** p.154 (ref.13). **N°43** p.134 (ref.3). **N°45** p.148 (ref.22). **N°47** p.150 (ref.1) and p.166 (ref.9). **N°48** p.176 (ref.8).

Angul District, State of Odisha, India

N°14 p.93 (ref.113). **N°18** p.100 (ref.124). **N°20** p.104 (ref.102). **N°23** p.89 (ref.65) and p.130 (ref.124). **N°26** p.27 (ref.7). **N°29** p.18 (ref.26, 27 and 28). **N°30** p.38 (ref.139). **N°31** p.32 (ref.106) and p.162 (ref.8). **N°32** p.246 (ref.93). **N°33** p.50 (ref.193) and p.209 (ref.12). **N°34** p.40 (ref.144), p.41 (ref.148 and 154), p.42 (ref.158) and p.75 (ref.87). **N°35** p.31 (ref.110). **N°36** p.37 (ref.106 and 111) and p.64 (ref.56). **N°37** p.30 and p.31 (map). **N°38** p.31 (ref.106), p.33 (ref.113) and p.58 (ref.54). **N°39** p.87 (ref.5). **N°41** p.27 (ref.72). **N°42** p.22 (ref.62). **N°43** p.8 (ref.19). **N°44** p.43 (ref.47). **N°45** p.20 (ref.48). **N°46** p.20 (ref.54). **N°48** p.22 (ref.54 and 58).

Animal experimentation (capture, trafficking or use of animals)

N°9 p.40 (ref.30). **N°12** p.47 (ref.32). **N°15** p.79 (ref.25). **N°17** p.91 (ref.25). **N°26** p.54 (ref.11) and p.59 (ref.37). **N°27** p.69 (ref.27). **Covid-19 Special Edition** p.5. **N°30** p.91 (ref.18) and p.97 (ref.60). **N°31** p.99 (ref.19) and p.182 (ref.73). **N°32** p.304 (ref.16). **N°33** p.63 (ref.10), p.142 (ref.55) and p.281 (ref.3). **N°35** p.97-98 (ref.30). **N°37** p.100 (ref.23). **N°38** p.109 (ref.23) and p.111 (ref.31). **N°39** p.76 (ref.19), p.80 (ref.37 and 39) and p.83 (ref.54). **N°40** p.101 (ref.19), p.110 (ref.60 and 62), p.111 (ref.65 and 67) and p.113-114 (ref.79). **N°41** p.94 (ref.44 and 47) and p.220. **N°43** p.68 (ref.29). **N°44** p.88 (ref.24) and p.89 (ref.34). **N°46** p.155 (ref.1). **N°48** p.69 (ref.10) and p.77 (ref.49).

Asian arawonas (*Scleropages formosus*, Appendix I)

N°5 p.7. **N°8** p.6. **N°11** p.7 (ref.13). **N°18** p.12 (ref.17). **N°19** p.123 (ref.17). **N°23** p.17 (ref.38). **N°25** p.19 (ref.42). **N°26** p.16 (ref.25). **N°30** p.191 (ref.23). **N°31** p.206 (ref.9). **N°33** p.243 (ref.10) and p.264 (ref.20). **N°35** p.206 (ref.50). **N°41** p.203 (ref.24). **N°48** p.177 (ref.14).

Asiatic toads (*Bufo gargarizans*)

N°31 p.177 (ref.49). **N°32** p.222 (ref.2, 3 and 4) and p.223 (ref.6). **N°33** p.211 (ref.3) and p.212 (ref.5, 6, 7 and 8). **N°34** p.205 (ref.1, 2 and 4) and p.206 (ref.5 and 7). **N°35** p.170 (ref.1). **N°37** p.177 (ref.4 and 5). **N°38** p.194 (ref.2 and 3). **N°40** p.187 (ref.3 and 4). **N°41** p.165 (ref.5). **N°42** p.126 (ref.3). **N°45** p.112 (ref.4, 5 and 6). **N°46** p.120 (ref.2). **N°48** p.143 (ref.2).

Axolotls (*Ambystoma mexicanum*, Appendix II)

N°5 p.32. **N°13** p.105 (ref.26). **N°18** p.116 (ref.30). **N°19** p.129 (ref.57). **N°20** p.120 (ref.33). **N°24** p.87 (ref.27). **N°26** p.34 (ref.1). **N°29** p.114 (ref.15). **N°35** p.178 (ref.25). **N°36** p.181 (ref.1). **N°38** p.204 (ref.28). **N°39** p.148 (ref.18). **N°40** p.187 (ref.2) and p.199 (ref.40). **N°41** p.164 (ref.2). **N°42** p.126 (ref.1), p.127 (ref.6), p.133 (ref.19) and p.134 (ref.22). **N°43** p.112 (ref.1). **N°44** p.170 (ref.2). **N°46** p.130 (ref.32). **N°47** p.127 (ref.1) and p.135 (ref.26 and 30). **N°48** p.143 (ref.1).

Bait (fruit, cereal balls, etc.) trapped by an unconventional explosive and farm bombs ("avuttukkai" in India, "hakka patas" in Sri Lanka)

N°18 p.105 (ref.148). **N°19** p.81 (ref.6). **N°20** p.64 (ref.18). **N°21** p.97 (ref.106) and p.99 (ref.124). **N°22** p.98. **N°23** p.134 (ref.150). **N°25** p.94 (ref.131). **N°29** p.38 (ref.104 and 107). **N°30** p.36 (ref.118) and p.38 (ref.138). **N°31** p.72 (ref.6). **N°32** p.52 (ref.217) and p.119 (ref.5). **N°33** p.92 (ref. 94) and p.209 (ref.12). **N°35** p.32 (ref.120). **N°37** p.37 (ref.123 and 124). **N°40** p.31 (ref.86). **N°42** p.22 (ref.61). **N°43** p.18 (ref.53), p.20 (ref.63) and p.31 (ref.18). **N°44** p.25 (ref.90). **N°45** p.19 (ref.43). **N°46** p.21 (ref.61).

Barca snakeheads (*Channa barca*)

N°22 p.12. **N°36** p.219 (ref.35). **N°37** p.216 (ref.49). **N°38** p.237 (ref.39). **N°41** p.203 (ref.28). **N°42** p.155 (ref.22). **N°43** p.137 (ref.20). **N°44** p.217 (ref.41). **N°45** p.149 (ref.26 and 28). **N°47** p.166-167 (ref.11).

Bear (*Ursidae*, Appendix I or II) bile and gallbladders

N°2 p.37, p.38 and p.41-42. **N°3** p.46, p.55, p.74 and p.76. **N°4** p.20, p.61 and p.101. **N°5** p.67, p.122-123 and p.125. **N°6** p.58 (ref.8) and p.114 (ref.57). **N°7** p.56 (ref.69), p.59 (ref.5 and 6), p.61 (ref.14), p.111 (ref.42), p.112 (ref.44) and p.116 (ref.71). **N°8** p.53 (ref.1 and 3) and p.54 (ref.7 and 8). **N°9** p.56 (ref.3 and 4) and p.57 (ref.6). **N°10** p.44 (ref.12 and 13). **N°11** p.9, p.53 (ref.2), p.54 (ref.5) and p.55 (ref.12). **N°12** p.63 (ref.1 and 7), p.64 (ref.8 and 14), p.108 (ref.31, 32 and 34) and p.110 (ref.41). **N°14** p.55 (ref.3 and 4), p.56 (ref.6, 7, 14 and 15), p.90 (ref.93), p.106 (ref.25) and p.108 (ref.33). **N°15** p.70 (ref.3 and 8), p.71, p.117 (ref.48, 49 and 51) and p.118 (ref.58). **N°16** p.50 (ref.10), p.59 (ref.4) and p.102 (ref.56). **N°17** p.70 (ref.4), p.71 (ref.6 and 8), p.120 (ref.54), p.121 (ref.58) and p.122 (ref.64). **N°18** p.63 (ref.4), p.64 (ref.5 and 6) and p.65 (ref.12). **N°19** p.80 (ref.2), p.82 (ref.12) and p.127 (ref.42). **N°20** p.76 (ref.3) and p.122 (ref.44). **N°21** p.72 (ref.4), p.96 (ref.99), p.115 (ref.48) and p.116 (ref.50 and 56). **N°22** p.72, p.73, p.74 and p.117. **N°25** p.74 (ref.15 and 17), p.111 (ref.64), p.112 (ref.72) and p.117 (ref.103). **N°26** p.72 (ref.1), p.74 (ref.15) and p.107 (ref.45). **N°27** p.82 (ref.2 and 4), p.120 (ref.42), p.121 (ref.45) and p.124 (ref.54). **Covid-19 Special Edition** p.3 and p.20 (ref.84). **N°28** p.88 (ref.7 and 9), p.90 (ref.20) and p.128 (ref.45, 47 and 48). **N°29** p.73 (ref.8), p.74 (ref.9, 11 and 12), p.75 (ref.15), p.158 (ref.56) and p.159 (ref.63). **N°30** p.72 (ref.9, 10 and 12), p.73 (ref.16), p.164 (ref.42) and p.176 (ref.106). **N°31** p.76 (ref.10 and 14), p.77 (ref.15 and 19) and p.78 (ref.23). **N°32** p.105 (ref.16 and 17) and p.247 (ref.96). **N°33** p.104 (ref.20), p.105 (ref.21 and 22), p.110 (ref.55), p.231 (ref.77), p.234 (ref.96), p.238 (ref.120) and p.240 (ref.127). **N°34** p.92 (ref.17), p.93 (ref.28), p.94 (ref.31 and 32), p.95 (ref.36 and 37), p.213 (ref.17), p.214 (ref.21), p.223 (ref.79) and p.230 (ref.114). **N°35** p.48 (ref.22), p.69 (ref.1), p.70 (ref.6) and p.71 (ref.16, 17 and 18). **N°36** p.79 (ref.26), p.80 (ref.37), p.81 (ref.40, 43, 44 and 45), p.188 (ref.16) and p.189 (ref.21). **N°37** p.68 (ref.40, 41 and 43), p.188 (ref.54) and p.191 (ref.73). **N°38** p.79 (ref.35 and 36), p.80 (ref.38) and p.207 (ref.45). **N°39** p.54 (ref.7 and 10) and p.149 (ref.27). **N°40** p.202 (ref.57). **N°41** p.62 (ref.4), p.63 (ref.10), p.65 (ref.20), p.66 (ref.33), p.67 (ref.34), p.70 (ref.52) and p.169 (ref.4). **N°42** p.42 (ref.3), p.44 (ref.16), p.46 (ref.28) and p.137 (ref.41). **N°43** p.43 (ref.9 and 11) and p.59 (ref.41). **N°44** p.192 (ref.97). **N°45** p.39 (ref.7), p.41 (ref.17, 19 and 22) and p.132 (ref.88). **N°46** p.45 (ref.35) and p.136 (ref.67). **N°47** p.44 (ref.11), p.45 (ref.14 and 16), p.141 (ref.56) and p.148 (ref.87). **N°48** p.49 (ref.26), p.50 (ref.29), p.149 (ref.9) and p.158 (ref.57).

Bengal foxes (*Vulpes bengalensis*, Appendix III in India)

N°35 p.183 (ref.55). **N°38** p.209 (ref.55) and p.210 (ref.62). **N°39** p.48 (ref.5). **N°40** p.32 (ref.92) and p.144 (ref.90). **N°41** p.176 (ref.46). **N°42** p.40 (ref.3). **N°44** p.187 (ref.75). **N°48** p.43 (ref.5).

Bishnoi

N°9 p. 91 (ref.11). **N°19** p. 117 (ref.16). **N°21** p. 106 (ref.22). **N°28** p. 119 (ref.20). **N°29** p.80 (ref.25) and p.81 (ref.32). **N°31** p.83 (ref.16) and p.184 (ref.83). **N°32** p.246 (ref.92). **N°35** p.75 (ref.5). **N°40** p.79 (ref.8). **N°41** p.72 (ref.7 and 8). **N°48** p.5 (ref.1).

Brahmaputra River

N°1 p.19. **N°2** p.6, p.44, p.48 and p.50. **N°3** p.53 and p.54. **N°4** p.68. **N°5** p.79. **N°6** p.18 (ref.22) and p.69 (ref.48). **N°7** p.72 (ref.59). **N°8** p.65 (ref.49). **N°9** p.67 (ref.53). **N°11** p.62 (ref.42). **N°12** p.35 (ref.2) and p.73 (ref.50 and 54). **N°13** p.75 (ref.55). **N°15** p.60 (ref.25). **N°17** p.24 (ref.5). **N°18** p.79 (ref.69) and p.102 (ref.130). **N°19** p.88 (ref.33) and p.110 (ref.123). **N°20** p.84 (ref.40). **N°21** p.80 (ref.59). **N°22** p.23. **N°27** p.90 (ref.27). **N°28** p.23 (ref.1). **N°29** p.37 (ref.128) and p.50 (ref.31). **N°30** p.50 (ref.42) and p.51 (ref.46). **N°31** p.151 (ref.31). **N°33** p.283 (ref.11). **N°34** p.16 (ref.65). **N°35** p.42 (ref.35). **N°36** p.219 (ref.35). **N°37** p.216 (ref.49). **N°40** p.7 (ref.10). **N°41** p.28 (ref.85), p.43 (ref.10), p.203 (ref.28) and p.218 (ref.10). **N°42** p.155 (ref.22). **N°43** p.87 (ref.66), p.137 (ref.20) and p.147 (ref.12). **N°44** p.33 (ref.23). **N°48** p.23 (ref.59) and p.159 (ref.59).

Brown bears (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) in Italy

N°16 p.60 (ref.7). **N°18** p.65 (ref.13). **N°29** p.160 (ref.67). **N°32** p.106 (ref.19). **N°41** p.67 (ref.37) and p.68 (ref.38 and 39). **N°42** p.47 (ref.33). **N°48** p.50 (ref.30).

Brown bears (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) in Slovakia

N°35 p.73 (ref.30). **N°37** p.73 (ref.66). **N°38** p.82 (ref.55). **N°40** p.77 (ref.45). **N°44** p.63 (ref.22). **N°46** p.45 (ref.36). **N°47** p.48 (ref.34).

Brown-throated three-toed sloths (*Bradypus variegatus*, Appendix II)

N°2 p.71. **N°4** p.96. **N°5** p.115. **N°6** p.105 (ref.16). **N°7** p.96 (ref.4). **N°8** p.97 (ref.23). **N°12** p.99 (ref.10) and p.105 (ref.17). **N°15** p.25 (ref.2) and p.108 (ref.11). **N°16** p.92 (ref.15). **N°19** p.116 (ref.12). **N°21** p.111 (ref.26). **N°32** p.147 (ref.5) and p.237 (ref.37). **N°38** p.130 (ref.40). **N°40** p.118 (ref.6) and p.196 (ref.23). **N°44** p.100 (ref.3). **N°45** p.122 (ref.32). **N°47** p.74 (ref.6).

Calipee (gelatin that coats the underside of the shells of softshell turtles)

N°20 p.25 (ref.24). **N°26** p.24 (ref.21). **N°31** p.151 (ref.31) and p.152 (ref.37). **N°34** p.189 (ref.34). **N°36** p.167 (ref.34). **N°38** p.176 (ref.26). **N°44** p.156 (ref.33).

Cape fur seals (*Arctocephalus pusillus*, Appendix II)

N°14 p.17 (ref.2). **N°15** p.10 (ref.1). **N°26** p.17 (ref.1 and 2). **N°33** p.281 (ref.2). **N°39** p.187 (ref.1). **N°41** p.215 (ref.1 and 4). **N°42** p.163 (ref.1). **N°48** p.189 (ref.5).

Caracals (*Caracal caracal*, Appendix I or II) as pets in Europe

N°28 p.85 (ref.66, 67 and 68). **N°33** p.90 (ref.86) and p.96 (ref.114 and 115). **N°34** p.83-84 (ref.135). **N°35** p.62 (ref.123). **N°36** p.66 (ref.67 and 68). **N°37** p.193 (ref.82) and p.195 (ref.92). **N°38** p.62 (ref.74), p.66 (ref.94) and p.67 (ref.95). **N°39** p.40 (ref.49). **N°40** p.59 (ref.75). **N°41** p.50 (ref.62) and p.51 (ref.63 and 64). **N°43** p.33 (ref.30). **N°44** p.46 (ref.70) and p.190 (ref.88 and 91). **N°47** p.148 (ref.84). **N°48** p.40 (ref.48), p.41 (ref.51 and 52) and p.162 (ref.73).

Cashew nut network (smuggling concealed in cashew nuts)

N°3 p.66. **N°6** p.95 (ref.123). **N°16** p.71 (ref.49). **N°21** p.48 (ref.27). **N°25** p.52 (ref.26). **Covid-19 Special Edition** p.21 (ref.88). **N°28** p.65 (ref.41). **N°33** p.70-71 (ref.47). **N°35** p.15 (ref.8). **N°44** p.10 (ref.33) and p.21 (ref.61).

Cheetas (*Acinonyx jubatus*, Appendix I) in Somaliland (Somalia)

N°25 p.67 (ref.46). **N°27** p.77 (ref.42). **N°29** p.65 (ref.66). **N°30** p.63 (ref.65 and 66). **N°31** p.64 (ref.87). **N°33** p.90 (ref.85). **N°34** p.77 (ref.101 and 102). **N°35** p.57 (ref.92). **N°38** p.61 (ref.72). **N°39** p.40 (ref.48). **N°40** p.59 (ref.74). **N°42** p.35 (ref.40). **N°43** p.32 (ref.29). **N°46** p.32 (ref.43). **N°47** p.28 (ref.5). **N°48** p.33 (ref.4).

Crested porcupines (*Hystrix cristata*)

N°13 p.101 (ref.2). **N°30** p.16-18. **N°31** p.133 (ref.110). **N°33** p.149 (ref.23). **N°34** p.229 (ref.109). **N°35** p.112 (ref.12) and p.185 (ref.69). **N°36** p.121 (ref.10). **N°37** p.115 (ref.17 and 18) and p.181 (ref.12). **N°39** p.88 (ref.12 and 14). **N°41** p.99 (ref.9 and 11). **N°42** p.140 (ref.55). **N°43** p.72 (ref.6).

Cyanide poisoning in Hwange National Park (Zimbabwe) and seizures resulting from this poaching

N°2 p.2-3. **N°3** p.56. **N°4** p.81. **N°7** p.81 (ref.27). **N°8** p.74 (ref.24). **N°10** p.61 (ref.72). **N°11** p.72 (ref.29). **N°14** p.81 (ref.49 and 51). **N°15** p.92 (ref.32). **N°17** p.95 (ref.54). **N°18** p.89 (ref.49, 51, 52 and 53) and p.90 (ref.56, 60 and 61). **N°19** p.98 (ref.47). **N°20** p.93 (ref.30). **N°26** p.84 (ref.34 and 37). **N°27** p.63 (ref.1). **Covid-19 Special Edition** p.11 (ref.24). **N°28** p.102 (ref.21). **N°29** p.27 (ref.44). **N°44** p.19 (ref.45).

Date mussels (*Lithophaga lithophaga*, Appendix II)

N°15 p.9 (ref.16). **N°21** p.6 (ref.4 and 5) and p.7 (ref.6, 7 and 8). **N°23** p.8 (ref.2 and 3) and p.9 (ref.4). **N°26** p.11 (ref.4) and p.12 (ref.5). **N°28** p.12 (ref.19 and 20). **N°29** p.164 (ref.12). **N°31** p.195 (ref.10 and 11). **N°32** p.262 (ref.14 and 15). **N°33** p.249 (ref.12 and 13). **N°34** p.237 (ref.8, 9 and 10). **N°35** p.192 (ref.9, 10, 11 and 12). **N°37** p.196 (ref.3) and p.201 (ref.19, 20 and 22). **N°38** p.223 (ref.13 and 14). **N°39** p.160 (ref.11). **N°40** p.218 (ref.14). **N°41** p.187 (ref.11, 14 and 15). **N°42** p.145 (ref.12 and 13). **N°43** p.127 (ref.7). **N°44** p.200 (ref.12). **N°45** p.136 (ref.11). **N°47** p.154 (ref.10 and 11). **N°48** p.167 (ref.7).

Donkeys in Pakistan

N°16 p.113 (ref.28, 29 and 30). **N°17** p.126 (ref.15). **N°24** p.91 (ref.2). **N°37** p.88 (ref.24). **N°46** p.55 (ref.6). **N°47** p.55 (ref.3). **N°48** p.60 (ref.5).

Ejjiao (donkey-skin gelatine, *Equus asinus*)

N°15 p.119 and p.120 (ref.3). **N°16** p.109-110 (ref.3), p.110-111 (ref.12). **N°18** p.122 (ref.9). **N°19** p.132 (ref.4 and 6). **N°20** p.130-131 (ref.6), p.131 (ref.8 and 9). **N°21** p.122 (ref.5, 7 and 9). **N°24** p.91 (ref.2). **N°25** p.121 (ref.3). **Covid-19 Special Edition** p.3-4. **N°28** p.135 (ref.1). **N°31** p.86 (ref.3). **N°32** p.115 (ref.1). **N°33** p.123 (ref.14). **N°38** p.93 (ref.13). **N°44** p.72 (ref.2). **N°46** p.55 (ref.6). **N°48** p.60 (ref.4).

Electrocution or attempted electrocution of elephants

N°2 p.58 and p.64. **N°5** p.103. **N°7** p.84 (ref.38), p.92 (ref.89) and p.93 (ref.95). **N°9** p.87 (ref.77). **N°10** p.63 (ref.81). **N°11** p.84 (ref.83). **N°12** p.93 (ref.105) and p.94 (ref.108). **N°14** p.93 (ref.113 and 114). **N°15** p.101 (ref.93, 95 and 99) and p.102 (ref.104). **N°19** p.105 (ref.95), p.106 (ref.99, 101 and 103), p.109 (ref.116) and p.110 (ref.124 and 128). **N°20** p.104 (ref.102 and 105), p.105 (ref.106 and 111) and p.108 (ref.128). **N°21** p.95 (ref.91, 96 and 97) and p.97 (ref.104), p.99 (ref.126). **N°22** p.98, p.99 and p.101. **N°23** p.130 (ref.124, 125 and 127), p.131 (ref.129 and 132), p.132 (ref.137 and 141), p.133 (ref.148) and p.134 (ref.150). **N°24** p.78 (ref.103) and p.79 (ref.104). **N°25** p.94 (ref.126, 132 and 133), p.95 (ref.137 and 139), p.96 (ref.141), p.97 (ref.149) and p.103 (ref.1). **N°26** p.81 (ref.14), p.92 (ref.109 and 114) and p.93 (ref.119). **N°27** p.106 (ref.102 and 103), p.107 (ref.104, 105, 109 and 111) and p.108 (ref.114). **N°28** p.111 (ref.75 and 79), p.112 (ref.88, 89, 90 and 91), p.113 (ref.94) and p.114 (ref.105). **N°29** p.25 (ref.25), p.35 (ref.93), p.36 (ref.94, 97, 98 and 99), p.37 (ref.100, 101, 102 and 103) and p.38 (ref.104, 106 and 108). **N°30** p.35 (ref.114), p.36 (ref.122, 125 and 126), p.37 (ref.132), p.38 (ref.140, 141 and 143) and p.39 (ref.144). **N°31** p.32 (ref.103, 104, 106, 107 and 109), p.33 (ref.110, 112 and 113), p.34 (ref.124 and 125), p.35 (ref.127), p.36 (ref.129, 131, 132 and 133), p.37 (ref.136, 137 and 140), p.38 (ref.141 and 144) and p.39 (ref.145). **N°32** p.28 (ref.56), p.42 (ref.177), p.46 (ref.186), p.47 (ref.189 and 190), p.48 (ref.194, 200 and 201), p.49 (ref.205), p.50 (ref.211) and p.52 (ref.217). **N°33** p.45 (ref.169), p.48 (ref.179, 180, 181, 182 and 184), p.50 (ref.187, 192 and 193), p.51 (ref.198 and 199), p.52 (ref.200, 201 and 205) and p.53 (ref.206, 209, 210 and 211). **N°34** p.39 (ref.134, 136, 137 and 138), p.40 (ref.139, 140, 141 and 144), p.41 (ref.151 and 154), p.42 (ref.157), p.43 (ref.168 and 169), p.45 (ref.176) and p.46 (ref.181). **N°35** p.29 (ref.99), p.30 (ref.106), p.31 (ref.110 and 112), p.32 (ref.116 and 119), p.33 (ref.127) and p.34 (ref.129). **N°36** p.36 (ref.102) and p.37 (ref.110). **N°37** p.30, p.33 (ref.96 and 99), p.35 (ref.112), p.36 (ref.122), p.37 (ref.123 and 124) and p.189 (ref.61). **N°38** p.29 (ref.99), p.30 (ref.101), p.31 (ref.110), p.32 and p.35 (ref.124). **N°39** p.20 (ref.54), p.21 (ref.56 and 57), p.22 (ref.61 and 64), p.23 (ref.70) and p.24 (ref.75). **N°40** p.31 (ref.84 and 88), p.32 (ref.89 and 93) and p.33 (ref.94, 95 and 97). (.../...)

(.../...) **N°41** p.27 (ref.67, 73 and 76), p.28 (ref.77, 80, 83 and 87) and p.29 (ref.90 and 92). **N°42** p.22 (ref.60, 62 and 63), p.23 (ref.68 and 73) and p.24 (ref.76 and 80). **N°43** p.18 (ref.48, 49, 51, 52 and 54), p.19 (ref.55 and 60) and p.20 (ref.63). **N°44** p.24 (ref.81), p.25 (ref.84, 87 and 90) and p.26 (ref.92). **N°45** p.18 (ref.35) and p.20 (ref.47, 48 and 53). **N°46** p.19 (ref.46 and 47), p.20 (ref.51, 53 and 54). **N°47** p.19 (ref.34, 37 and 39) and p.20 (ref.46) and p.21 (ref.47 and 48). **N°48** p.21 (ref.45 and 49), p.22 (ref.52, 53 and 56) and p.23 (ref.59 and 62).

Electrocution or attempted electrocution of tigers (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I)

N°5 p.63. **N°8** p.48 (ref.45). **N°9** p.45 (ref.20). **N°10** p.40 (ref.46). **N°11** p.95 (ref.37). **N°12** p.57 (ref.44). **N°15** p.61 (ref.31), p.62 (ref.32 and 35) and p.63 (ref.41). **N°17** p.59 (ref.40 and 41) and p.61 (ref.51). **N°19** p.68 (ref.41), p.69-70 (ref.44) and p.72 (ref.54). **N°20** p.70 (ref.54 and 60). **N°22** p.68. **N°23** p.89 (ref.69) and p.90 (ref.72). **N°24** p.55 (ref.3). **N°25** p.62 (ref.8 and 9). **N°26** p.60 (ref.2) and p.61 (ref.5). **N°27** p.71 (ref.3). **N°28** p.75 (ref.9). **N°30** p.54 (ref.6). **N°31** p.53 (ref.7 and 8) and p.54 (ref.9 and 14). **N°32** p.72 (ref.15) and p.75 (ref.33). **N°33** p.79 (ref.16). **N°34** p.62 (ref.4, 10 and 11), p.64 (ref.12, 14, 16 and 17) and p.66 (ref.23). **N°35** p.44 (ref.3 and 5), p.45 (ref.7), p.46 (ref.14 and 15), p.47 (ref.17) and p.48 (ref.26). **N°36** p.56 (ref.5). **N°37** p.47 (ref.6). **N°38** p.49 (ref.2) and p.50 (ref.8). **N°39** p.32 (ref.5 and 6) and p.33 (ref.9, 10, 11 and 12). **N°40** p.50 (ref.9 and 11). **N°41** p.44 (ref.13, 14, 16, 17 and 19). **N°42** p.30 (ref.7). **N°43** p.29 (ref.2 and 3). **N°44** p.36 (ref.9) and p.37 (ref.13). **N°46** p.27 (ref.7). **N°47** p.33 (ref.39) and p.35 (ref.50).

Elephant foot stools

N°8 p.89 (ref.104). **N°20** p.109 (ref.138) and p.128 (ref.74). **N°21** p.25 (ref.3). **N°24** p.79 (ref.110). **N°25** p.86 (ref.43) and p.98 (ref.162). **N°30** p.27 (ref.51) and p.29 (ref.70). **N°35** p.34 (ref.131). **N°36** p.40 (ref.126) and p.199 (ref.79). **N°42** p.23 (ref.65). **N°48** p.161 (ref.72).

Elephant ivory dyed black

N°5 p.95. **N°6** p.77 (ref.18). **N°8** p.85 (ref.78). **N°9** p.75 (ref.16). **N°12** p.79 (ref.18). **N°18** p.78 (ref.67). **N°22** p.97 (United Arab Emirates). **N°25** p.97 (ref.156) and p.112 (ref.77). **N°33** p.41 (ref.135). **N°34** p.18 (ref.2). **N°38** p.31 (ref.111). **N°40** p.23 (ref.33) and p.28 (ref.67). **N°42** p.21 (ref.54). **N°44** p.24 (ref.77). **N°48** p.20 (ref.39).

Elephant tusks and raw ivory in Italy

N°8 p.68 (ref.6) and p.89 (ref.105). **N°12** p.96 (ref.128 and 130). **N°23** p.161 (ref.111). **N°24** p.80 (ref.113). **N°27** p.111 (ref.133). **N°28** p.115 (ref.114). **N°29** p.40 (ref.121). **N°30** p.39 (ref.149). **N°31** p.40 (ref.152 and 153). **N°33** p.57 (ref.233). **N°34** p.47 (ref.188, 189 and 190). **N°35** p.34 (ref.132). **N°36** p.40 (ref.126 and 127). **N°38** p.36 (ref.129). **N°39** p.25 (ref.81). **N°40** p.35 (ref.115). **N°42** p.25 (ref.84). **N°44** p.27 (ref.101). **N°45** p.22 (ref.2). **N°48** p.25 (ref.69).

Erhus made of python skin (*Pythonidae*, Appendix I or II)

N°10 p.18 (ref.2). **N°12** p.23 (ref.6). **N°24** p.25 (ref.4). **N°25** p.29 (ref.4) and p.112 (ref.73). **N°31** p.155 (ref.10). **N°32** p.210 (ref.16, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23) and p.241 (ref.62). **N°33** p.199 (ref.16). **N°34** p.194 (ref.7) and p.195 (ref.9). **N°35** p.160 (ref.14 and 15). **N°36** p.172 (ref.6 and 7). **N°37** p.163 (ref.9, 11 and 12). **N°40** p.174 (ref.4 and 5). **N°43** p.105 (ref.3 and 5). **N°46** p.109 (ref.5). **N°47** p.116 (ref.14).

European glass eels (*Anguilla anguilla*, Appendix II) (seizures and convictions in France and Spain)

N°4 p.10. **N°5** p.10. **N°12** p.9 (ref.12). **N°13** p.11 (ref.14 and 14bis). **N°16** p.9 (ref.19 and 20) and p.10 (ref.21, 22, 23, 24 and 25). **N°18** p.12 (ref.15). **N°20** p.18 (ref.24 and 25). **N°21** p.11 (ref.20 and 21), p.12 (ref.22, 23 and 25), p.119 (ref.74). **N°22** p.13. **N°23** p.16 (ref.32 and 33). **N°24** p.15 (ref.16, 17, 18 and 19). **N°25** p.17 (ref.30 and 34) and p.18 (ref.37). **N°27** p.21 (ref.41). **N°28** p.19 (ref.20, 21, 22, 23 and 24). **N°31** p.211 (ref.41). **N°32** p.288 (ref.65, 66, 67, 68 and 69). **N°33** p.266 (ref.38) and p.267 (ref.41). **N°34** p.253 (ref.36 and 37). **N°35** p.205 (ref.43, 44 and 45) and p.206 (ref.46, 47, 48 and 49). **N°36** p.221 (ref.43 and 44). **N°37** p.218 (ref.59). **N°38** p.239 (ref.52, 54 and 55). **N°39** p.177 (ref.29), p.178 (ref.31) and p.179 (ref.33). **N°40** p.240 (ref.49, 50 and 51). **N°41** p.204 (ref.33). **N°42** p.156 (ref.27, 28 and 29) and p.157 (ref.31). **N°43** p.137 (ref.21) and p.138 (ref.23, 24 and 27). **N°44** p.217 (ref.43 and 44), p.218 and p.219 (ref.46 and 49). **N°45** p.150 (ref.31). **N°47** p.168 (ref.17). **N°48** p.178 (ref.23).

European hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*) in the United Kingdom

N°29 p.109 (ref.13). **N°31** p.111 (ref.17) and p.112 (ref.20). **N°32** p.148 (ref.14). **N°33** p.149 (ref.24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30). **N°34** p.137 (ref.32, 33, 34 and 35). **N°35** p.112 (ref.11). **N°36** p.122 (ref.12, 13 and 14). **N°40** p.122 (ref.23). **N°41** p.99 (ref.13). **N°42** p.74 (ref.14). **N°44** p.102 (ref.12). **N°45** p.63 (ref.6). **N°47** p.77 (ref.23).

Fat dormice (*Glis glis*) in Italy

N°30 p.102 (ref.5) and p.176 (ref.105). **N°32** p.253 (ref.125). **N°34** p.136 (ref.27 and 28), p.137 (ref.29 and 30) and p.229 (ref.106). **N°36** p.121 (ref.9) and p.200 (ref.81). **N°38** p.123 (ref.14). **N°39** p.88 (ref.13). **N°41** p.99 (ref.10). **N°43** p.72 (ref.7). **N°46** p.39 (ref.7).

Fishing flies

N°10 p.26 (ref.42). **N°38** p.154 (ref.129). **N°41** p.122 (ref.107). **N°44** p.127 (ref.123). **N°45** p.81 (ref.70). **N°46** p.92 (ref.38). **N°47** p.98 (ref.65).

Flying foxes (*Pteropus* spp., Appendix I or II, or *Notopteris neocaledonicus*) in New Caledonia (France)
N°8 p.93 (ref.3). N°9 p.92 (ref.17). N°10 p.70 (ref.27). N°11 p.89 (ref.17). N°32 p.148 (ref.16). N°40 p.116 (ref.2 and 3). N°41 p.99 (ref.14).

Formosan black bears (*Ursus thibetanus formosanus*, Appendix I)
N°29 p.154 (ref.33). N°30 p.165 (ref.44). N°38 p.79 (ref.34) and p.205 (ref.31). N°40 p.74 (ref.24 and 25). N°41 p.66 (ref.30 and 31). N°42 p.46 (ref.27). N°43 p.43 (ref.14). N°44 p.61 (ref.15).

Frankfurt, Hesse State, Germany (wildlife smuggling via the international airport)
N°4 p.38. N°5 p.31. N°6 p.18 (ref.23), p.32 (ref.37) and p.96 (ref.126). N°7 p.75 (ref.78). N°11 p.63 (ref.52). N°15 p.24 (ref.4). N°18 p.21 (ref.22). N°23 p.15 (ref.27) and p.134 (ref.156). N°26 p.43 (ref.35) and p.96 (ref.138). N°28 p.8 (ref.11), p.34 (ref.17), p.90 (ref.17) and p.115 (ref.107). N°29 p.91 (ref.23). N°33 p.230 (ref.72). N°36 p.204 (ref.8). N°39 p.25 (ref.80). N°41 p.179 (ref.60). N°43 p.126 (ref.6). N°44 p.201 (ref.16). N°48 p.161 (ref.70).

Gaja Muthu or elephant beads
N°15 p. 101 (ref.97). N°19 p. 112 (ref.139). N°22 p. 100. N°23 p.134 (ref.151). N°24 p.79 (ref.106). N°32 p.51 (ref.215). N°35 p.33 (ref.122 and 125). N°36 p.39 (ref.120). N°37 p.37 (ref.125). N°41 p.27 (ref.74). N°48 p.24 (ref.65).

Gang Mabuza-Nyalunga-Mnisi (rhinos South Africa)
N°6 p.62-63 (ref.16). N°7 p.62 (ref.5). N°9 p.66 (ref.44). N°12 p.69 (ref.19). N°15 p.82 (ref.41). N°21 p.77 (ref.30). N°22 p.79 and p.81. N°23 p.104 (ref.26). N°28 p.4, ref.4. N°30 p.45 (ref.18). N°40 p.43 (ref.11) and p.45 (ref.25).

Geoffroy's spider monkeys (*Ateles geoffroyi*, Appendix I or II)
N°2 p.27, p.71 and p.73. N°3 p.36. N°4 p.99. N°5 p.118-119. N°6 p.43 and p.110. N°7 p.106. N°8 p.36 (ref.7), p.97 (ref.20) and p.98 (ref.26). N°9 p.24 (ref.23) and p.97 (ref.36). N°10 p.32 (ref.9 and 13), p.73 (ref.24) and p.75 (ref.34). N°12 p.106 (ref.23). N°13 p.106 (ref.30 and 31). N°14 p.105 (ref.16). N°16 p.43 (ref.9) and p.97 (ref.22). N°17 p.46 (ref.19). N°18 p.41 (ref.11). N°19 p.57 (ref.8) and p.126 (ref.31). N°21 p.51 (ref.16 and 17), p.113 (ref.32 and 37) and p.114 (ref.42). N°26 p.106 (ref.36). N°27 p.119 (ref.31). N°29 p.95 (ref.11). N°31 p.99 (ref.25). N°35 p.98 (ref.32). N°37 p.100 (ref.24). N°38 p.112 (ref.32) and p.203 (ref.22). N°40 p.106 (ref.45). N°41 p.89 (ref.27). N°42 p.68 (ref.26, 27 and 29). N°43 p.65 (ref.11) and p.66 (ref.21). N°44 p.177 (ref.12) and p.182 (ref.44). N°45 p.56 (ref.21 and 22) and p.124 (ref.42). N°46 p.63 (ref.9 and 11), p.65 (ref.26 and 27), p.132 (ref.44 and 46) and p.133 (ref.47 and 49). N°47 p.63 (ref.7), p.64 (ref.9), p.65 (ref.17) and p.136 (ref.31).

Ghariais (*Gavialis gangeticus*, Appendix I)
N°5 p.29. N°8 p.18 (ref.5). N°12 p.25 (ref.2). N°18 p.26 (ref. 6). N°27 p.37 (ref.7). N°29 p.145 (ref.12). N°41 p.163 (ref.32). N°47 p.105 (ref.8).

Giant pangolins (*Manis gigantea*, Appendix I)
N°2 p.25. N°5 p.46. N°9 p.93 (ref.8). N°10 p.28 (ref.5). N°11 p.30 (ref.3) and p.92 (ref.13). N°13 p.36 (ref.2) and p.37 (ref.5). N°20 p.55 (ref.4) and p.115 (ref.4). N°26 p.52 (ref.4). N°33 p.16 (ref.60), p.21 (ref.7) and p.130 (ref.9). N°34 p.10 (ref.9). N°35 p.7 (ref.3 and 4) and p.14 (ref.4). N°37 p.9 (ref.8). N°38 p.8 (ref.6), p.9 (ref.7) and p.12 (ref.39). N°40 p.10 (ref.4) and p.11 (ref.9). N°41 p.8 (ref.6) and p.12 (ref.39). N°42 p.11 (ref.5). N°45 p.9 (ref.17). N°46 p.11 (ref.2). N°47 p.6 (ref.2), p.7 (ref.6) and p.12 (ref.6). N°48 p.7 (ref.6).

Gobabis, Omaheke Region, Namibia
N°15 p.84 (ref.53). N°16 p.69 (ref.28). N°29 p.48 (ref.19). N°31 p.47 (ref.28). N°32 p.64 (ref.36). N°33 p.68 (ref.40). N°37 p.43 (ref.19) and p.44 (ref.27). N°38 p.11 (ref.32). N°45 p.24 (ref.9).

Golden jackals (*Canis aureus*, Appendix III in India)
N°7 p.97 (ref.12), p.100 (ref.16) and p.112 (ref.47). N°8 p.92 (ref.3 and 8) N°12 p.103 (ref.5). N°13 p.101 (ref.3) and p.109 (ref.49). N°14 p.108 (ref.34). N°16 p.103 (ref.60). N°17 p.25 (ref.8). N°25 p.71 (ref.1) and p.114 (ref.88). N°26 p.108 (ref.52). N°27 p.81 (ref.1). N°28 p.130 (ref.56) and p.135 (ref.78). N°29 p.71 (ref.10, 11 and 12) and p.158 (ref.57). N°30 p.166 (ref.48), p.170 (ref.74) and p.172 (ref.81 and 85). N°31 p.72 (ref.6 and 10), p.183 (ref.78) and p.184 (ref.83 and 84). N°32 p.232 (ref.5). N°33 p.88 (ref.70), p.236 (ref.106 and 108) and p.237 (ref.115). N°34 p.115 (ref.16). N°35 p.130 (ref.63), p.143 (ref.148) and p.186 (ref.79). N°36 p.7 (ref.9), p.71 (ref.2), p.74 (ref.16) and p.155 (ref.135). N°37 p.190 (ref.64 and 66). N°38 p.209 (ref.56) and p.210 (ref.63). N°39 p.32 (ref.7), p.144 (ref.1) and p.151 (ref.37 and 39). N°40 p.147 (ref.104) and p.204 (ref.73). N°41 p.125 (ref.116) and p.177 (ref.53). N°43 p.39 (ref.12), p.92 (ref.103) and p.121 (ref.31). N°44 p.53 (ref.8), p.57 (ref.27), p.129 (ref.131 and 134) and p.191 (ref.93 and 95). N°45 p.129 (ref.76 and 78) and p.130 (ref.81). N°46 p.138 (ref.78). N°47 p.42 (ref.7). N°48 p.44 (ref.10).

Gopher tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*, Appendix II)
N°6 p.14 (ref.7). N°14 p.19 (ref.7). N°26 p.33 (ref.2). N°35 p.152 (ref.5). N°36 p.164 (ref.14, 16, 17 and 18). N°37 p.181 (ref.14). N°38 p.174 (ref.9). N°40 p.168 (ref.5) and p.169 (ref.8 and 12). N°41 p.140 (ref.3), p.144 (ref.17, 18 and 20) and p.145 (ref.22, 23 and 24). N°42 p.109 (ref.7 and 8) and p.110 (ref.9 and 10). N°45 p.92 (ref.7) and p.95 (ref.3). N°47 p.108 (ref.5).

Green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*, Appendix I) in French Polynesia

N°8 p.11 (ref.11). **N°13** p.14 (ref.11 and 12). **N°18** p.18 (ref.5). **N°32** p.298 (ref.24). **N°37** p.228 (ref.21 and 22). **N°42** p.162 (ref.12). **N°46** p.167 (ref.17).

Grey wolves (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) in Czechia

N°34 p.231 (ref.117). **N°35** p.68 (ref.32). **N°36** p.201 (ref.88). **N°40** p.69 (ref.29 and 30). **N°43** p.40 (ref.15). **N°45** p.37 (ref.13).

Grey wolves (*Canis lupus*, Annexe II) in Poland

N°32 p.99 (ref.27, 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32). **N°33** p.99 (ref.11 and 12). **N°34** p.89 (ref.22 and 23) and p.230 (ref.111). **N°35** p.67 (ref.25 and 26) and p.68 (ref.27, 28, 29, 30 and 31). **N°36** p.74 (ref.15). **N°37** p.61 (ref.10). **N°38** p.72 (ref.23 and 24) and p.73 (ref.25). **N°39** p.51 (ref.22 and 23) and p.155 (ref.54). **N°40** p.68 (ref.23 and 24) and p.69 (ref.25 and 26). **N°43** p.40 (ref.14). **N°44** p.57 (ref.30 and 31). **N°47** p.42 (ref.9).

Hair curler network (smuggling of songbirds concealed in curlers)

N°20 p.43 (ref.91). **N°23** p.43 (ref.15). **N°25** p.42 (ref.18). **N°28** p.45 (ref.19). **N°32** p.153 (ref.22) and p.154 (ref.29). **N°37** p.121 (ref.27) and p.124 (ref.32). **N°39** p.92 (ref.16). **N°41** p.112 (ref.56). **N°47** p.81 (ref.14).

Holy Week, Easter and Lent in Latin America (Trafficking during the period)

N°5 p.44-45. **N°8** p.97 (ref.22) and p.101 (ref.40). **N°9** p.12 (ref.6). **N°12** p.105 (ref.17). **N°17** p.116 (ref.29). **N°20** p.28 (ref.3 and 4). **N°24** p.22 (ref.5). **N°25** p.13 (ref.4), p.22 (ref.3), p.25 (ref.6, 7 and 8), p.108 (ref.41) and p.110 (ref.57 and 58). **N°28** p.35 (ref.2 and 4). **N°29** p.152 (ref.22). **N°32** p.203 (ref.15 and 16) and p.238 (ref.44). **N°36** p.118 (ref.1), p.165 (ref.23), p.192 (ref.39) and p.201 (ref.2). **N°39** p.127 (ref.7). **N°40** p.135 (ref.52), p.169 (ref.15) and p.198 (ref.35 and 37). **N°44** p.114 (ref.62), p.147 (ref.5 and 6), p.153 (ref.19), p.154 (ref.20 and 21), p.165 (ref.4 and 5), p.166 (ref.12 and 13) and p.181 (ref.39 and 41). **N°45** p.104 (ref.2) and p.155 (ref.5).

Hornbills (family Bucerotidae) on Borneo Island, Indonesia (Seizure of specimens and helmets)

N°8 p.25. **N°12** p.110 (ref.42). **N°13** p.110 (ref.54). **N°24** p.89 (ref.46). **N°26** p.110 (ref.63). **N°27** p.124 (ref.54 and 55). **Covid-19 Special Edition** p.20 (ref.84). **N°37** p.187 (ref.48). **N°43** p.119 (ref.20). **N°44** p.119 (ref.96). **N°45** p.76 (map). **N°48** p.101 (ref.40) and p.156 (ref.47).

Indian peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*, Appendix III in Pakistan) feathers (International trafficking from India)

N°7 p.25 (ref.29). **N°9** p.26 (ref.33). **N°24** p.42 (ref.63). **N°25** p.44 (ref.32). **N°26** p.41 (ref.26). **N°32** p.174 (ref.123 and 124). **N°41** p.122 (ref.107). **N°42** p.92 (ref.77). **N°44** p.127 (ref.122). **N°46** p.92 (ref.38). **N°47** p.94 (ref.47).

Jaguars (*Panthera onca*, Appendix I) in Peru

N°7 p.108 (ref.30). **N°10** p.73 (ref.22). **N°13** p.106 (ref.33). **N°19** p.126 (ref.33). **N°22** p.115. **N°23** p.91 (ref.83). **N°27** p.78 (ref.48). **N°37** p.186 (ref.38). **N°39** p.43 (ref.60) and p.148 (ref.23). **N°41** p.54 (ref.79) and p.174 (ref.30). **N°46** p.34 (ref.51). **N°47** p.31 (ref.29).

Joe Exotic (Joseph Maldonado-Passage)

N°23 p.150 (ref.45). **N°28** p.74 (ref.1). **N°29** p.53 (ref.2). **N°32** p.76 (ref.40), p.102 (ref.4) and p.103 (ref.14). **N°33** p.103 (ref.14). **N°42** p.39 (ref.61). **N°46** p.63 (ref.12).

Kinkajous (*Potos flavus*)

N°4 p.97. **N°7** p.106 (ref.18). **N°8** p.98 (ref.26). **N°15** p.118 (ref.55bis). **N°17** p.116 (ref.31). **N°21** p.113 (ref.37). **N°26** p.105 (ref.35). **N°27** p.66 (ref.7), p.114 (ref.11) and p.126 (ref.71). **N°33** p.146 (ref.6) and p.222 (ref.15). **N°34** p.218 (ref.49). **N°35** p.110 (ref.3) and p.176 (ref.12). **N°37** p.181 (ref.12). **N°40** p.118 (ref.7). **N°44** p.87 (ref.21) and p.183 (ref.49). **N°45** p.61 (ref.10), p.62 (ref.1) and p.123 (ref.37). **N°46** p.127 (ref.92) and p.139 (ref.79). **N°47** p.143-144 (ref.71) and p.148 (ref.84).

Lemurs (Lemuriformes, Appendix I) in Madagascar

N°14 p.36 (ref.5). **N°20** p.56 (ref.3). **N°21** p.49 (ref.4). **N°31** p.97 (ref.13). **N°36** p.105 (ref.19). **N°40** p.101 (ref.17). **N°44** p.86 (ref.15). **N°46** p.62 (ref.4) and p.126 (ref.10). **N°47** p.131 (ref.4).

Lemurs (Lemuriformes, Appendix I) out of Madagascar

N°1 p.15. **N°4** p.49. **N°5** p.57. **N°6** p.105 (ref.14). **N°8** p.96 (ref.14). **N°9** p.38 (ref.15) and p.102 (ref.71). **N°10** p.73 (ref.20 and 25). **N°14** p.105 (ref.17). **N°16** p.11 (ref.1). **N°22** p.116. **N°23** p.150 (ref.45) and p.156 (ref.81). **N°25** p.110 (ref.53) and p.119 (ref.120). **N°26** p.54 (ref.8). **N°27** p.126 (ref.71). **N°30** p.98 (ref.64). **N°31** p.98 (ref.18). **N°32** p.234 (ref.18) and p.251 (ref.119). **N°33** p.144 (ref.66 and 68). **N°34** p.124 (ref.32), p.131 (ref.65) and p.227 (ref.96). **N°35** p.62 (ref.124), p.97 (ref.29), p.106 (ref.76), p.176 (ref.12) and p.185 (ref.69). **N°36** p.107 (ref.27). **N°37** p.181 (ref.12). **N°38** p.67 (ref.95), p.108 (ref.21) and p.109 (ref.24). **N°39** p.76 (ref.15), p.83 (ref.54), p.84 (ref.56) and p.152 (ref.41). **N°40** p.113 (ref.77), p.114 (ref.80 and 82), p.193 (ref.10), p.199 (ref.41) and p.208 (ref.90). **N°42** p.66 (ref.12 and 13). **N°45** p.54 (ref.7) and p.127 (ref.61). **N°46** p.69 (ref.41), p.127 (ref.13) and p.133 (ref.47). **N°47** p.71 (ref.43) and p.148 (ref.84).

Leopards (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) and tea plantations

N°12 p.53 (ref.17). **N°17** p.55 (ref.5) and p.56 (ref.18). **N°21** p.58 (ref.21). **N°23** p.85 (ref.25 and 26). **N°24** p.58 (ref.23). **N°25** p.65 (ref.31) and p.66 (ref.40). **N°28** p.80 (ref.34). **N°29** p.62 (ref.53) and p.64 (ref.64). **N°30** p.62 (ref.62). **N°31** p.60 (ref.51), p.61 (ref.53) and p.63 (ref.76). **N°32** p.82 (ref.72) and p.84 (ref.88). **N°33** p.89 (ref.80). **N°34** p.75 (ref.86) and p.76 (ref.94). **N°35** p.52 (ref.51) and p.55 (ref.73 and 77). **N°36** p.62 (ref.42 and 43) and p.63 (ref.49). **N°37** p.54 (ref.57). **N°38** p.59 (ref.59). **N°43** p.31 (ref.20). **N°44** p.43 (ref.45). **N°47** p.34 (ref.41).

Loudspeaker and audio speaker network (smuggling concealed in loudspeakers and audio speakers)

N°11 p.63 (ref.52). **N°18** p.25 (ref.6). **N°19** p.26 (ref.18) and p.123 (ref.17). **N°20** p.29 (ref.5), p.99 (ref.75) and p.102 (ref.90). **N°22** p.6. **N°24** p.32 (ref.2) and p.80 (ref.113). **N°25** p.31 (ref.20) and p.32 (ref.3). **N°26** p.42 (ref.28). **N°32** p.34 (ref.95) and p.39 (ref.147). **N°34** p.60 (ref.60). **N°36** p.53 (ref.45). **N°39** p.121 (ref.138). **N°44** p.118 (ref.91).

Lwiro (Primate Rehabilitation Centre), Bukavu, South Kivu Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo

N°6 p.41. **N°8** p.35 (ref.1). **N°9** p.36 (ref.2 and 3) and p.37 (ref.7 and 11). **N°11** p.37 (ref.1 and 4) and p.38 (ref.7 and 8). **N°12** p.27 (ref.2) and p.41 (ref.5, 6 and 7). **N°13** p.43 (ref.8 and 9) and p.44 (ref.11 and 12). **N°14** p.37 (ref.8 and 10). **N°15** p.50 (ref.6). **N°16** p.41 (ref.2 and 3). **N°17** p.45 (ref.6 and 7). **N°19** p.56 (ref.4 and 5). **N°20** p.57 (ref.4). **N°23** p.72 (ref.9 and 10). **N°25** p.54 (ref.1). **N°27** p.64 (ref.1). **N°28** p.67 (ref.3). **N°30** p.90 (ref.10) and p.91 (ref.13 and 14). **N°31** p.97 (ref.12) and p.114 (ref.7). **N°32** p.128 (ref.10 and 11) and p.129 (ref.12, 15, 16, 17 and 18). **N°33** p.132 (ref.15 and 16). **N°34** p.120 (map) and p.140 (ref.16). **N°35** p.94 (ref.9 and 10). **N°36** p.104 (ref.12 and 13), p.105 (ref.15) and p.124 (ref.8). **N°37** p.97 (map), p.98 (ref.10) and p.117 (ref.5). **N°38** p.106 (map). **N°39** p.74 (ref.6). **N°40** p.99 (map). **N°41** p.85 (map). **N°44** p.86 (ref.10).

Mammoth ivory

N°3 p.76. **N°7** p.71 and p.88 (ref.63). **N°8** p.82-84. **N°9** p.103 (ref.80). **N°11** p.9 (map), p.83 (ref.76), p.87 (ref.1) and p.97 (ref.49). **N°12** p.92 (ref.94 and 102). **N°13** p.77 (ref.5) and p.95 (ref.100). **N°14** p.88-89 (ref.87) and p.110 (ref.43). **N°15** p.87 (ref.1) and p.105 (ref.120). **N°16** p.82 (ref.75) and p.90 (ref.1 and 2). **N°17** p.108 (ref.1 and 2). **N°18** p.106 (ref.149). **N°20** p.101 (ref.79), p.110 (ref.1) and p.111 (ref.2). **N°21** p.102 (ref.1) and p.116 (ref.50). **N°23** p.135 (ref.1 and 2), p.136 and p.151 (ref.49). **N°24** p. 80 and p.81 (ref.1 and ref.1, left column). **N°26** p.97 (ref.1). **N°27** p.83 (ref.9 and 10) and p.129 (ref.82). **N°29** p.32 (ref.68) and p.41 (ref.126). **N°30** p.163 (ref.39). **N°31** p.40 (ref.1) and p.41 (ref.4). **N°32** p.52 (ref.221) and p.54 (ref.2). **N°33** p.39 (ref.111) and p.231 (ref.77). **N°34** p.33 (ref.82) and p.48 (ref.1, 2 and 3). **N°38** p.37 (ref.1 and 2). **N°40** p.36 (ref.1 and 2). **N°41** p.31. **N°43** p.22 (ref.4), p.23 (ref.2), p.122 (ref.39) and p.124 (ref.47). **N°44** p.188 (ref.81). **N°45** p.18 (ref.38) and p.22 (ref.1). **N°46** p.18 (ref.42) and p.22 (ref.1). **N°47** p.21 (ref.1).

Marine turtles in Limón Province, Costa Rica

N°2 p.14-15. **N°6** p.9 (ref.2). **N°8** p.10 (ref.5). **N°10** p.10 (ref.6 and 9) and p.11 (ref.13). **N°13** p.13 (ref.3). **N°14** p.14 (ref.5, 7 and 9). **N°18** p.15 (ref.2). **N°23** p.22 (ref.5). **N°25** p.22 (ref.4) and p.23 (ref.5). **N°26** p.20 (ref.3 and 4). **N°29** p.177 (ref.6). **N°33** p.277 (ref.6 and 7). **N°37** p.226 (ref.5). **N°41** p.212 (ref.7). **N°42** p.161 (ref.2). **N°46** p.165 (ref.3 and 4). **N°47** p.172 (ref.5 and 6).

Marmots (genus *Marmota*) in Mongolia

N°35 p.111 (ref.7). **N°36** p.73 (ref.9). **N°37** p.109 (ref.1 and 2) and p.110 (ref.3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8). **N°38** p.122 (ref.6, 7 and 8). **N°42** p.74 (ref.8, 9, 10, 11 and 12). **N°44** p.101 (ref.11). **N°47** p.76 (ref.15). **N°48** p.81 (ref.12 and 13).

Merida, State of Yucatan, Mexico (wildlife smuggling via the international airport)

N°2 p.18 and p.19. **N°4** p.27 and p.33. **N°5** p.27. **N°19** p.9 (ref.8). **N°20** p.12 (ref.2 and 4). **N°21** p.8 (ref.3) and p.25 (ref.4). **N°24** p.61 (ref.48). **N°25** p.12 (ref.6), p.15 (ref.18 and 20) and p.32 (ref.5). **N°26** p.54 (ref.9). **N°28** p.45 (ref.23). **N°29** p.115 (ref.34). **N°34** p.115 (ref.14) and p.146 (ref.47). **N°35** p.44 (ref.1). **N°36** p. 69 (ref.77).

Mohol galagos (*Galago moholi*, Appendix II)

N°29 p.93 (ref.2). **N°33** p.134 (ref.28). **N°34** p.123 (ref.25). **N°37** p.100 (ref.20). **N°40** p.103 (ref.28). **N°46** p.62 (ref.8).

Monitor lizard (*Varanus spp.*, Appendix I or II) hemipenes

N°17 p.24 (ref.4) and p.25 (ref.7 and 8). **N°18** p.24 (ref.1). **N°22** p.29. **N°23** p.34 (ref.5). **N°26** p.30 (ref.10). **N°28** p.36 (ref.10). **N°30** p.170 (ref.72), p.171 (ref.79) and p.172 (ref.82, 85 and 87). **N°31** p.182 (ref.74), p.183 (ref.79) and p.184 (ref.84). **N°33** p.205 (ref.16), p.236 (ref.106 and 108) and p.237 (ref.115). **N°34** p.200 (ref.14), p.224 (ref.80 and 82) and p.225 (ref.86 and 87). **N°35** p.183 (ref.57) and p.184 (ref.63). **N°36** p.197 (ref.69). **N°37** p.168 (ref.9), p.189 (ref.60) and p.190 (ref.63 and 66). **N°38** p.209 (ref.53 and 56) and p.210 (ref.59). **N°39** p.151 (ref.37). **N°40** p.206 (ref.78). **N°41** p.176 (ref.46) and p.177 (ref.53). **N°44** p.186 (ref.69). **N°45** p.104 (ref.5), p.105 (ref.6 and 8) and p.129 (ref.76 and 78). **N°46** p.138 (ref.78). **N°47** p.121 (ref.7), p.142 (ref.64) and p.143 (ref.68). **N°48** p.159 (ref.62).

Musical instruments with ivory parts (pianos, violins, cellos, etc.)

N°5 p.95. **N°22** p.102 (New Zealand). **N°28** p.110 (ref.70). **N°29** p.31 (ref.63). **N°32** p.36 (ref.117), p.37 (ref.122) and p.42 (ref.176). **N°33** p.38, p.39 (ref.109) and p.44 (ref.161). **N°34** p.37 (ref.125). **N°35** p.27 (ref.85). **N°37** p.27 (ref.61) and p.37 (ref.127). **N°38** p.27 (ref.74) and p.36 (ref.131). **N°39** p.17 (ref.39) and p.18 (ref.46). **N°40** p.28 (ref.67). **N°43** p.17 (ref.39) and p.20 (ref.67). **N°44** p.22 (ref.64 and 68).

Muti (traditional medicine of South Africa)

N°4 p.51. **N°8** p.61 (ref.26). **N°11** p.74 (ref.46) and p.77. **N°15** p.10 (ref.1), p.18 (ref.1), p.40 (ref.1) and p.65 (ref.52). **N°16** p.54 (ref.36). **N°18** p.57 (ref.46). **N°19** p.33 (ref.2), p.99 (ref.56) and p.121 (ref.2). **N°21** p.61 (ref.37). **N°25** p.38 (ref.3). **N°26** p.101 (ref.1). **N°27** p.73 (ref.12 and 13). **N°33** p.207 (ref.1). **N°43** p.116 (ref.3). **N°46** p.78 (ref.5). **N°48** p.84 (ref.3).

Nilgiris District, State of Tamil Nadu, India

N°7 p.50 (ref.30). **N°12** p.94 (ref.116). **N°13** p.57 (ref.23). **N°16** p.85 (ref.96). **N°19** p.70 (ref.48), p.108 (ref.113) and p.110 (ref.121 and 122). **N°20** p.106 (ref.113). **N°21** p.58 (ref.21). **N°25** p.65 (ref.31) and p.73 (ref.8). **N°26** p.93 (ref.122). **N°27** p.76 (ref.34) and p.107 (ref.107). **N°30** p.37 (ref.134), p.70 (ref.9) and p.172 (ref.83). **N°31** p.33 (ref.112), p.54 (ref.10), p.61 (ref.53 and 59) and p.72 (ref.9). **N°32** p.46 (ref.188), p.73 (ref.23) and p.119 (ref.5). **N°33** p.88 (ref.72) and p.237 (ref.111). **N°34** p.41 (ref.149). **N°35** p.52 (ref.51) and p.56 (ref.83). **N°37** p.33 (ref.99) and p.189 (ref.61). **N°38** p.57 (ref.47). **N°39** p.46 (ref.74). **N°42** p.29 (ref.2). **N°43** p.31 (ref.20). **N°44** p.74 (ref.2). **N°45** p.49 (ref.1). **N°46** p.56 (ref.1). **N°47** p.19 (ref.43), p.34 (ref.41), p.35 (ref.51) and p.142 (ref.60).

Poisoning by agricultural toxins (pesticides, insecticides, rodenticides, such as: aldicarb, bendiocarb, brodifacoum, bromadiolone, carbofuran, chlorpyrifos, Curater, endosulfan, fenthion, Furadan, metaldehyde, monocrotophos, parathion, sulfotep, Temik, Thimet, ...)

N°2 p.37. **N°4** p.30, p.54 and p.83. **N°7** p.20 (ref.1) and p.27 (ref.39). **N°8** p.20 (ref.2), p.26 (ref.32) and p.75 (ref.30). **N°10** p.69 (ref.15). **N°11** p.51 (ref.44), p.74 (ref.46) and p.84 (ref.83). **N°12** p.27 (ref.3), p.57 (ref.25) and p.102 (ref.2). **N°13** p.59 (ref.37), p.61 (ref.52), p.102 (ref.10) and p.103 (ref.14). **N°14** p.27 (ref.1). **N°15** p.36 (ref.59), p.64 (ref.50), p.65 (ref.52) and p.101 (ref.94). **N°16** p.75 (ref.10). **N°17** p.38 (ref.69) and p.55 (ref.5). **N°18** p.32 (ref.32), p.34 (ref.49), p.54-55 (ref.26), p.58 (ref.59) and p.85 (ref.20). **N°19** p.33 (ref.2) and p.71 (p.50). **N°20** p.34 (ref.4), p.46 (ref.109), p.48 (ref.121), p.69 (ref.55) and p.106 (ref.118). **N°21** p.37 (ref.72 and 75), p.52 (ref.19), p.69 (ref.86) and p.98 (ref.113). **N°22** p.44 (July 27, 2018) and p.56 (August 12, 2018). **N°23** p.46 (ref.36), p.50 (ref.59), p.55 (ref.84, 85, 88 and 89), p.89 (ref.67), p.94 (ref.92), p.114 (ref.10) and p.118 (ref.36). **N°24** p.43 (ref.65). **N°25** p.42 (ref.16), p.44 (ref.35) and p.116 (ref.98). **N°26** p.36 (ref.1), p.47 (ref.55), p.61 (ref.3), p.62 (ref.8 and 10), p.64 (ref.22) and p.66 (ref.39). **N°27** p.41 (ref.2), p.42 (ref.5), p.48 (ref.33) and p.49 (ref.40). **N°28** p.47 (ref.39 and 41), p.80 (ref.39), p.93 (ref.3) and p.135 (ref.78). **N°29** p.54 (ref.7), p.55 (ref.12), p.56 (ref.15), p.68 (ref.82), p.118 (ref.44), p.126 (ref.102), p.128, p.129 (ref.110) and p.131 (ref.129). **N°30** p.119 (map). **N°31** p.68 (ref.103), p.72 (ref.9), p.110 (ref.8), p.114 (ref.9), p.116 (ref.19), p.133 (ref.110) and p.181 (ref.66). **N°32** p.70 (ref.6), p.73 (ref.23), p.78 (ref.51), p.100 (ref.34), p.145 (ref.6), p.156 (ref.39), p.172 (ref.108), p.173, p.180 (ref.156 and 157), p.181 (ref.163), p.182 (ref.170 and 171), p.183 (ref.175 and 176), p.194 (ref.243) and p.195 (ref.244 and 246). **N°33** p.46 (ref.172), p.87 (ref.60), p.115 (ref.25), p.169 (map), p.172 (ref.102), p.173 (map), p.179 (ref.132), p.182 (ref.140) and p.239 (ref.122). **N°34** p.41 (ref.148), p.156 (map), p.161 (map), p.162 (ref.109) and p.179 (ref.217). **N°35** p.52 (ref.54), p.67 (ref.18), p.128 (map), p.133 (ref.80), p.134 (ref.91), p.135 (ref.99), p.136 (ref.106 and 109), p.143 (ref.147), p.145 (ref.163), p.146 (ref.167) and p.185 (ref.71). **N°36** p.59 (ref.23), p.71 (ref.2), p.138 (ref.62), p.144 (ref.92), p.145 (ref.97 and 98), p.146 (ref.101), p.147 (ref.110), p.155 (ref.135), p.159 (ref.162) and p.191 (ref.34). **N°37** p.133 (map), p.137 (ref.86 and 90), p.138 (ref.94), p.140 (ref.110), p.147 (ref.144 and 146) and p.176 (ref.1). **N°38** p.50 (ref.8), p.68 (ref.1), p.70 (ref.12), p.71 (ref.14), p.73 (ref.26), p.148 (map), p.154 (ref.127), p.155 (map), p.156 (ref.133), p.159 (ref.157), p.161 (ref.173), p.164 (ref.185) and p.169 (ref.209). **N°39** p.34 (ref.14), p.109 (ref.85), p.111 (ref.97 and 99), p.112 (ref.102), p.119 (ref.129 and 131) and p.122 (ref.146). **N°40** p.21 (ref.22), p.50 (ref.12), p.51 (ref.20), p.52 (ref.25), p.53 (ref.36), p.56 (ref.52 and 57), p.67 (ref.16 and 17), p.69 (ref.27), p.89 (ref.1), p.113 (ref.78), p.124 (ref.5), p.131 (ref.44), p.144 (ref.90), p.145 (ref.94, 95 and 96), p.147 (ref.104 and 108), p.148 (ref.111), p.149 (map), p.150 (ref.116, 117 and 118), p.151 (ref.123, 124 and 125), p.153 (ref.135), p.155 (ref.145), p.158 (ref.154 and 155), p.159 (ref.157, 158 and 159), p.160 (ref.163), p.161 (ref.168), p.163 (ref.180 and 183), p.204 (ref.73), p.209 (ref.95). **N°41** p.25 (ref.62), p.26 (ref.63), p.49 (ref.47), p.50 (ref.55), p.59 (ref.10), p.95 (ref.50), p.102 (ref.9), p.103 (ref.14), p.125 (ref.116), p.128 (ref.124 and 129), p.129 (ref.133 and 134), p.131 (ref.144), p.137 (ref.175), p.180 (ref.65) and p.203 (ref.25). **N°42** p.29 (ref.2), p.92 (ref.78) and p.103 (ref.140). **N°43** p.37 (ref.1), p.39 (ref.8 and 10), p.90 (ref.88), p.92 (ref.99 and 103) and p.97 (ref.121). **N°44** p.23 (ref.72), p.42 (ref.35), p.44 (ref.58), p.104 (ref.7), p.126 (ref.111), p.129 (ref.134), p.134 (ref.160), p.138 (ref.183), p.145 (ref.218) and p.193 (ref.106). **N°45** p.18 (ref.36), p.80 (ref.67), p.84 (ref.87, 89 and 90) and p.85 (ref.92, 93, 94 and 96). **N°46** p.14 (r.13), p.28 (ref.10), p.36 (ref.57), p.38 (ref.4), p.39 (ref.7), p.44 (ref.31), p.78 (ref.5), p.94 (ref.45), p.95 (ref.47 and 50), p.96 (ref.53), p.99 (ref.69), p.100 (ref.73) and p.168 (ref.1). **N°47** p.34 (ref.42), p.47-48 (ref.29), p.78-79 (ref.3), p.97 (ref.64), p.98 (ref.68), p.101 (ref.76), p.102 (ref.82) and p.102-103 (ref.84). **N°48** p.32 (ref.2), p.38 (ref.35), p.43 (ref.4), p.75 (ref.40 and 42), p.85 (ref.5), p.87 (ref.11), p.110 (ref.82), p.112 (ref.88) and p.119 (ref.113).

Poland-Ukraine border (seizures at the)

N°26 p.34 (ref.10). **N°28** p.20 (ref.27). **N°33** p.108 (ref.42), p.144 (ref.70), p.210 (ref.21), p.217 (ref.33) and p.260 (ref.12). **N°34** p.193 (ref.56 and 57), p.198 (ref.23) and p.235 (ref.9). **N°35** p.72 (ref.24) and p.189 (ref.5). **N°36** p.206 (ref.12) and p.212 (ref.2). **N°37** p.145 (ref.130) p.161 (ref.63) and p.175 (ref.38). **N°38** p.167 (ref.195 and 196) and p.198 (ref.24). **N°39** p.119 (ref.130 and 132), p.120 (ref.133 and 134), p.132 (ref.39) and p.135 (ref.12). **N°40** p.68 (ref.24), p.173 (ref.44), p.177 (ref.23 and 24), p.186 (ref.30) and p.213 (ref.14). **N°41** p.137 (ref.176), p.154 (ref.24) and p.185 (ref.8). **N°42** p.118 (ref.15), p.127 (ref.6) and p.140 (ref.58). **N°43** p.34 (ref.40), p.96 (ref.112), p.100 (ref.12), p.133 (ref.2) and p.150 (ref.12). **N°44** p.50 (ref.95), p.143 (ref.207), p.163 (ref.23), p.192 (ref.97), p.196 (ref.10), p.210 (ref.5 and 7) and p.229 (ref.14). **N°45** p.144 (ref.3, 4 and 5). **N°46** p.111 (ref.17), p.112 (ref.18, 19, 20, 21 and 22), p.147 (ref.12). **N°47** p.119 (ref.27). **N°48** p.136 (ref.11).

Polar bears (*Ursus maritimus*, Appendix II)

N°1 p.20 and p.28. **N°5** p.67. **N°7** p.60 (ref.12). **N°8** p.55 (ref.14). **N°12** p.65 (ref.17 and 18). **N°13** p.66 (ref.10) and p.113 (ref.73). **N°14** p.55 (ref.1) and p.58. **N°16** p.12 (ref.4), p.59 (ref.1), p.99 (ref.35) and p.100 (ref.40). **N°18** p.65 (ref.15). **N°19** p.80 (ref.1) and p.130 (ref.60). **N°21** p.119 (ref.74). **N°22** p.74, p.123 and p.124. **N°24** p.16 (ref.2). **N°25** p.72 (ref.2). **N°26** p.72 (ref.4). **N°27** p.82 (ref.3). **N°28** p.88 (ref.7). **N°32** p.101 (ref.1), p.104 (ref.11) and p.300 (ref.3). **N°33** p.221 (ref.12) and p.240 (ref.130). **N°34** p.228 (ref.100). **N°36** p.82 (ref.51), p.189 (ref.24) and p.199 (ref.79). **N°37** p.71-72 (ref.63). **N°38** p.200 (ref.5) and p.214 (ref.80). **N°40** p.75 (ref.34) and p.208 (ref.89). **N°42** p.42 (ref.1). **N°44** p.59 (ref.1) and p.188 (ref.81). **N°45** p.40 (ref.13) and p.130 (ref.84). **N°46** p.44 (ref.32).

Powdered milk network (smuggling concealed in powdered milk boxes)

N°6 p.95 (ref.119). **N°8** p.87 (ref.88). **N°14** p.72 (ref.73) and p.90 (ref.98). **N°17** p.43 (ref.3). **N°20** p.102 (ref.90). **N°21** p.11 (ref.16) and p.93 (ref.76). **N°22** p.84. **N°24** p.73 (ref.36). **N°25** p.80 (ref.40). **N°26** p.24 (ref.16), p.88 (ref.70) and p.89 (ref.81). **N°27** p.105 (ref.97). **N°28** p.7 (ref.4). **N°31** p.30 (ref.90) and p.174 (ref.33). **N°32** p.39 (ref.144), p.202 (ref.9) and p.260 (ref.2). **N°33** p.24 (ref.14), p.230 (ref.72) and p.247 (ref.2). **N°34** p.34 (ref.86). **N°36** p.33 (ref.82). **N°38** p.27 (ref.72). **N°40** p.181 (ref.13). **N°41** p.24 (ref.55). **N°42** p.21 (ref.54). **N°44** p.8 (ref.19) and p.21 (ref.60). **N°45** p.17 (ref.33).

Queen conches (*Tridacnidae*, Appendix II) in Philippines (Seizures of conches)

N°5 p.126. **N°6** p.5 (ref.2). **N°27** p.11 (ref.14). **N°28** p.11 (ref.12). **N°31** p.195 (ref.8). **N°32** p.261 (ref.10, 11, 12 and 13). **N°33** p.243 (ref.14) and p.248 (ref.9). **N°34** p.236 (ref.4 and 6). **N°36** p.205 (ref.7). **N°38** p.222 (ref.9 and 10). **N°44** p.200 (ref.10 and 11). **N°45** p.136 (ref.7). **N°48** p.166 (ref.4).

Radiated tortoises (*Astrochelys radiata*, Appendix I) in Madagascar

N°5 p.17. **N°9** p.11 (ref.1 and 4). **N°10** p.13 (ref.3). **N°11** p.12 (ref.1 and 3) and p.13 (ref.4, 5, 6 and 7). **N°12** p.16 (ref.2) and p.17 (ref.4). **N°14** p.18 (ref.2, 3 and 4). **N°15** p.18 (ref.2 and 3). **N°17** p.19 (ref.3 and 4). **N°19** p.20 (ref.2 and 3). **N°20** p.23 (ref.1, 2, 3 and 5). **N°21** p.19 (ref.1, 2, 3 and 4). **N°23** p.25 (ref.1 and 1bis) and p.144 (ref.8). **N°24** p.21 (ref.1). **N°25** p.24 (ref.2) and p.25 (ref.3). **N°26** p.22 (ref.1 and 2). **N°27** p.27 (ref.2 and 3). **N°28** p.27 (ref.2). **N°29** p.133 (ref.1 and 2). **N°31** p.147 (ref.2) and p.148 (ref.3 and 4). **N°32** p.200 (ref.1 and 2) and p.201 (ref.4). **N°33** p.189 (ref.2). **N°34** p.184 (ref.2, 3, 4 and 5). **N°35** p.151 (ref.1 and 3). **N°36** p.162-163 (ref.4) and p.163 (ref.5 and 6). **N°37** p.152 (ref.1). **N°39** p.126 (ref.3). **N°40** p.167 (ref.2). **N°41** p.142 (ref.2) and p.143 (ref.3, 4 and 5). **N°42** p.108 (ref.2) and p.109 (ref.3). **N°44** p.151 (ref.4, 5 and 6). **N°46** p.126 (ref.10). **N°47** p.107 (ref.2 and 3) and p.131 (ref.4). **N°48** p.126 (ref.3).

Radiated tortoises (*Astrochelys radiata*, Appendix I) out of Madagascar

N°3 p.11. **N°4** p.28. **N°6** p.13 (ref.1) and p.18 (ref.21bis). **N°7** p.15 (ref.18). **N°8** p.104 (ref.59). **N°10** p.15 (ref.17) and p.16 (ref.22). **N°12** p.20 (ref.23) and p.22 (ref.34). **N°13** p.15 (ref.2), p.16 (ref.8) and p.17 (ref.17). **N°14** p.19 (ref.8bis). **N°15** p.20 (ref.18). **N°16** p.102 (ref.57). **N°17** p.21 (ref.21). **N°22** p.25. **N°23** p.28 (ref.27) and p.154 (ref.72). **N°25** p.27 (ref.23). **N°26** p.24 (ref.17) and p.26. **N°29** p.135 (ref.11 and 12) and p.136 (ref.23). **N°30** p.130 (ref.8) and p.131 (ref.15). **N°31** p.124 (ref.48) and p.148 (ref.5). **N°32** p.201 (ref.5), p.204 (ref.24), p.205 (ref.32) and p.234 (ref.18). **N°34** p.187 (ref.20), p.191 (ref.44) and p.191-192 (ref.48). **N°35** p.152 (ref.6). **N°36** p.162 (ref.3). **N°37** p.152 (ref.2), p.158 (ref.42) and p.159 (ref.44). **N°38** p.46 (ref.31), p.173 (ref.3) and p.174 (ref.4 and 5). **N°39** p.131 (ref.34). **N°42** p.139-140 (ref.54). **N°43** p.100 (ref.8) and p.103 (ref.17). **N°45** p.127 (ref.61 and 62). **N°47** p.109 (ref.12) and p.140 (ref.52). **N°48** p.125 (ref.2), p.126 (ref.6) and p.133 (ref.46).

Rathkeale Rovers

N°1 p.22. **N°2** p. 48, 49, 50, 52 and 53. **N°4** p.67 and p.69-70. **N°5** p.76. **N°7** p.75 (ref.78). **N°8** p.66 (ref.55 and box). **N°9** p.69. **N°10** p.49 (ref.49bis). **N°12** p.72 (ref.48/49). **N°13** p.76 (ref.61). **N°14** p.97 (ref.129). **N°15** p.86 (ref.75). **N°16** p.70 (ref.37). **N°18** p.78 (ref.70). **N°19** p.87 (ref.28 and 29). **N°27** p.88 (ref.23). **N°30** p.49 (ref.37bis). **N°32** p.55-58. **N°34** p.60 (ref.62). **N°40** p.39 (ref.9).

Rhinoceroses in Chitwan National Park (Nepal)

N°1 p.26. **N°2** p.42 and p.50. **N°3** p.48. **N°4** p.68. **N°5** p.78. **N°6** p.71 (ref.58). **N°8** p.64 (ref.43). **N°9** p.68 (ref.57 and 62). **N°11** p.63 (ref.50). **N°12** p.73 (ref.56). **N°13** p.76 (ref.60). **N°14** p.72 (ref.69 and 70). **N°16** p.71 (ref.48). **N°17** p.84 (ref.84), p.107 (ref.8 and 9) and p.122 (ref.64). **N°18** p.79 (ref.75). **N°20** p.85 (ref.44). **N°21** p.80 (ref.60). **N°23** p.109 (ref.64 and 65). **N°25** p.80 (ref.38). **N°31** p.50 (ref.40 and 41). **N°32** p.66 (ref.50). **N°33** p.73 (ref.57, 58 and 59). **N°34** p.59 (ref.54 and 55). **N°36** p.53 (ref.44). **N°38** p.47 (ref.36 and 37). **N°41** p.39 (ref.26). **N°42** p.27 (ref.10). **N°43** p.27 (ref.13). **N°44** p.34 (ref.27). **N°47** p.26 (ref.11). **N°48** p.30 (ref.24).

Rhinoceroses in Pongola (KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa)

N°2 p.45. **N°8** p.60 (ref.13). **N°10** p.47 (ref.26). **N°13** p.71 (ref.26). **N°16** p.67 (ref.17). **N°17** p.80 (ref.57). **N°23** p.102 (ref.16) and p.103 (ref.25). **N°46** p.23 (ref.2).

River stingrays (family Potamotrygonidae)

N°3 p.77. **N°8** p.4 (ref.1). **N°16** p.8 (ref.8). **N°17** p.9 (ref.7). **N°19** p.11 (ref.7). **N°28** p.21 (ref.33). **N°29** p.171 (ref.11). **N°30** p.190 (ref.19). **N°31** p.206 (ref.13). **N°33** p.222 (ref.14). **N°43** p.135 (ref.8). **N°45** p.146 (ref.13). **N°46** p.130 (ref.31) and p.131 (ref.35). **N°47** p.167 (ref.14).

Salt-water crocodiles (*Crocodylus porosus*, Appendix I)

N°2 p.20 and p.70. **N°5** p.13-14 and p.123. **N°8** p.101 (ref.41). **N°13** p.114 (ref.76). **N°15** p.116 (ref.45). **N°16** p.104 (ref.63). **N°20** p.31 (ref.4). **N°21** p.25 (ref.5). **N°22** p.31 and p.121. **N°24** p.29 (ref.6) and p.89 (ref.46 and 47). **N°29** p.144 (ref.11) and p.145 (ref.15). **N°30** p.146 (ref.12) and p.167 (ref.55). **N°31** p.162 (ref.9 and 12). **N°32** p.220 (ref.13). **N°34** p.220 (ref.58). **N°36** p.180 (ref.21). **N°38** p.193 (ref.18), p.194 (ref.21) and p.205 (ref.33). **N°39** p.125 (ref.8) and p.138 (ref.7 and 10). **N°40** p.185 (ref.28), p.186 (ref.32 and 34) and p.208 (ref.89). **N°41** p.163 (ref.30, 31 and 33). **N°42** p.136 (ref.36). **N°43** p.111 (ref.8 and 9) and p.119 (ref.20). **N°44** p.184 (ref.55). **N°45** p.109 (ref.17 and 18) and p.110 (ref.25). **N°46** p.118 (ref.9) and p.119 (ref.17). **N°47** p.126 (ref.18 and 19) and p.139 (ref.46 and 48). **N°48** p.141 (ref.9) and p.142 (ref.15).

Satpura Tiger Reserve, Narmadapuram District, State of Madhya Pradesh, India

N°4 p.56. **N°10** p.40 (ref.43). **N°11** p.47 (ref.21). **N°23** p.89 (ref.70). **N°25** p.113 (ref.83). **N°41** p.42 (ref.7). **N°42** p.112 (ref.26). **N°44** p.36 (ref.8). **N°47** p.35 (ref.50).

Scorpions of the genus *Pandinus*

N°1 p.40. **N°5** p.19. **N°6** p.107 (ref.21) and p.118 (ref.76). **N°10** p.21 (ref.1). **N°13** p.24 (ref.3). **N°17** p.117 (ref.36). **N°20** p.128 (ref.76). **N°22** p.34. **N°25** p.36 (ref.1). **N°33** p.220 (ref.9). **N°34** p.226 (ref.93). **N°45** p.114 (ref.8) and p.130 (ref.79). **N°47** p.128 (ref.1). **N°48** p.144 (ref.1) and p.145 (ref.3).

Servals (*Leptailurus serval*, Appendix II) alive in Europe and Northern America

N°11 p.52 (ref.51). **N°26** p.68 (ref.52). **N°27** p.79 (ref.57). **N°28** p.86 (ref.69 and 70). **N°31** p.66 (ref.92). **N°32** p.88 (ref.117, 118 and 119) and p.251 (ref.119). **N°33** p.91 (ref.87 and 88) and p.96 (ref.114). **N°34** p.78 (ref.106, 107 and 108), p.82 (ref.131), p.83-84 (ref.135) and p.227 (ref.98). **N°35** p.58 (ref.94), p.62 (ref.123) and p.187 (ref.84). **N°36** p.66 (ref.69 and 70) and p.67 (ref.71). **N°37** p.55 (ref.60). **N°38** p.62 (ref.76), p.66 (ref.94), p.67 (ref.95) and p.214 (ref.81). **N°39** p.41 (ref.51, 52 and 54). **N°40** p.59 (ref.77 and 78), p.60 (ref.79). **N°41** p.51 (ref.66), p.52 (ref.68, 69, 70, 71 and 72) and p.53 (ref.73 and 74). **N°42** p.35 (ref.42 and 43) and p.36 (ref.44 and 45). **N°43** p.33 (ref.31, 32 and 33). **N°44** p.46 (ref.71, 72, 73 and 74), p.189 (ref.84 and 85) and p.190 (ref.91). **N°46** p.127 (ref.12). **N°47** p.29 (ref.12 and 15), p.38 (ref.65 and 66) and p.148 (ref.84). **N°48** p.40 (ref.47), p.41 (ref.51), p.77 (ref.50), p.162 (ref.73) and p.163 (ref.76).

Shahtoosh (stoles made from the wool of the Tibetan antelope *Pantholops hodgsonii*, Appendix I)

N°3 p.76. **N°5** p.109. **N°6** p.100 (ref.10). **N°8** p.93 (ref.12). **N°9** p.91 (ref.13). **N°11** p.49 (ref.30). **N°16** p.103 (ref.61). **N°20** p.114 (ref.24). **N°23** p.140 (ref.26) and p.142 (ref.45). **N°28** p.119 (ref.23). **N°32** p.109 (ref.6). **N°33** p.113 (ref.13). **N°34** p.101 (ref.15). **N°35** p.75 (ref.7) and p.76 (ref.11). **N°40** p.79 (ref.10), p. 80 (ref.11). **N°43** p.46 (ref.6) and p.47 (ref.8).

Sharks in Iran

N°11 p.7 (ref.12). **N°20** p.16 (ref.17). **N°34** p.252 (ref.31). **N°35** p.203 (ref.28). **N°36** p.219 (ref.36) and p.220 (ref.37). **N°37** p.217 (ref.50). **N°40** p.238 (ref.32 and 33). **N°41** p.204 (ref.29). **N°42** p.155 (ref.23). **N°45** p.149 (ref.29). **N°46** p.159 (ref.17). **N°47** p.167 (ref.13). **N°48** p.177 (ref.15).

Similipal National Park, Mayurbhanj District, State of Odisha, India

N°1 p.18 and p.30. **N°3** p.42. **N°8** p.49 (ref.54) and p.102 (ref.51). **N°9** p.50 (ref.42). **N°10** p.38 (ref.26 and 27) and p.39 (ref.39). **N°12** p.94 (ref.109). **N°15** p.56 (ref.9). **N°17** p.100 (ref.82). **N°19** p.63 (ref.10 and 11). **N°34** p.79 (ref.112). **N°38** p.33-34 (ref.115) and p.50 (ref.10). **N°39** p.22 (ref.63), p.23 (ref.69 and 71) and p.151 (ref.38). **N°40** p.8 (ref.11 and 12) and p.33 (ref.98). **N°41** p.6 (ref.5), p.15 (ref.65) and p.49 (ref.51). **N°42** p.34 (ref.31). **N°43** p.17 (ref.43) and p.18 (ref.50). **N°44** p.24 (ref.78) and p.25 (ref.88). **N°46** p.27 (ref.4) and p.59 (ref.12). **N°47** p.34 (ref.43). **N°48** p.21 (ref.51), p.39 (ref.39) and p.159 (ref.61).

Skulls of human and non-human primates (seizures)

N°1 p.15. **N°2** p.26-27. **N°5** p.52-53, p.113 and p.128. **N°6** p.41 (ref.2), p.43 (ref.6), p.102 (ref.3), p.103 (ref.9) and p.120 (ref.86). **N°7** p.36 (ref.2, 3 and 4), p.37 (ref.5, 3 and 8), p.38 (ref.11), p.80 (ref.21), p.107 (ref.22) and p.116-117 (ref.73). **N°8** p.35 (ref.2, 4 and 5) and p.94 (ref.6). **N°9** p.36 (ref.4), p.37 (ref.10 and 13), p.93 (ref.8), p.94 (ref.11), p.102 (ref.72) and p.103 (ref.76). **N°10** p.31 (ref.1, 5, 6 and 7), p.71 (ref.8) and p.72 (ref.13). **N°11** p.37 (ref.3 and 6), p.44 (ref.43) and p.93 (ref.20). **N°12** p.40 (ref.1, 2 and 3), p.106 (ref.21), p.110 (ref.42) and p.111 (ref.49). **N°13** p.42 (ref.1 and 2), p.43 (ref.5), p.45 (ref.19), p.101 (ref.4), p.106 (ref.29), p.110 (ref.54) and p.114 (ref.76). **N°14** p.38 (ref.14), p.46 (ref.1), p.107 (ref.31) and p.109 (ref.41). **N°15** p.110 (ref.3). **N°16** p.107 (ref.75). **N°17** p.113 (ref.11). **N°18** p.47 (ref.50 and 51). **N°19** p.129 (ref.59) and p.130 (ref.60). **N°20** p.129 (ref.81). **N°21** p.111 (ref.24) and p.119 (ref.74). **N°22** p.123 and p.124. **N°23** p.162 (ref.116). **N°24** p.89 (ref.46). **N°25** p.120 (ref.126). **N°26** p.53 (ref.3) and p.59 (ref.36). **N°27** p.124 (ref.52) and p.129 (ref.82). **N°28** p.115 (ref.110). **N°31** p.179 (ref.60), p.186 (ref.95) and p.188 (ref.103). **N°32** p.31 (ref.73) and p.236 (ref.25). **N°33** p.86 (ref.53), p.218 (ref.3), p.221 (ref.12) and p.241 (ref.131). **N°34** p.228 (ref.100). **N°35** p.105 (ref.68), p.174 (ref.2) and p.176 (ref.8). **N°36** p.103 (ref.5) and p.189 (ref.24). **N°37** p.193 (ref.83). **N°38** p.213 (ref.79). **N°39** p.144 (ref.1), p.145 (ref.5) and p.154 (ref.51). **N°40** p.38 (ref.7) and p.208 (ref.89). **N°42** p.71 (ref.37). **N°44** p.184 (ref.57) and p.190 (ref.90). **N°45** p.118 (ref.4). **N°46** p.71 (ref.50). **N°47** p.138 (ref.44) and p.139 (ref.48). **N°48** p.75 (ref.39), p.148 (ref.6) and p.161 (ref.70).

Snake venom (seizures)

N°3 p.15-16. **N°4** p.23. **N°5** p.22. **N°6** p.21. **N°9** p.17 (ref.6 and 8). **N°10** p.19 (ref.6). **N°14** p.22 (ref.5). **N°15** p.23 (ref.8). **N°18** p.22 (ref.2) and p.23 (ref.5). **N°19** p.26 (ref.17). **N°20** p.27 (ref.8). **N°23** p.31 (ref.10) and p.32 (ref.21). **N°24** p.25 (ref.6) and p.26 (ref.8 and 12). **N°25** p.30 (ref.10 and 16). **N°26** p.35 (ref.4). **N°27** p.32 (ref.6). **N°28** p.32 (ref.6) and p.33 (ref.10). **N°29** p.139 (ref.11). **N°31** p.156 (ref.15 and 16) and p.157 (ref.28). **N°32** p.211 (ref.28 and 29) and p.213 (ref.40 and 46). **N°34** p.196. **N°35** p.160 (ref.12) and p.161-162. **N°37** p.164. **N°38** p.181 (ref.4), p.182 (ref. 8) and p.183 (ref.12). **N°40** p.176 (ref.12). **N°41** p.153 (ref.15 and 18). **N°42** p.117 (ref.10). **N°43** p.105 (ref.6) and p.106 (ref.13). **N°44** p.161 (ref.12) and p.162 (ref.14). **N°45** p.102 (ref.8 and 9). **N°48** p.135 (ref.3) and p.161 (ref.69 and 70).

Sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*, Appendix I) ivory (teeth thefts, ivory seizures and convictions)

N°2 p.5, p.70 and p.77. **N°3** p.76. **N°4** p.13. **N°7** p.116 (ref.69). **N°9** p.88-89 (ref.95). **N°10** p.9 (ref.3). **N°11** p.12 (Various marine species), p.97 (ref.49) and 98 (ref.55). **N°12** p.12 (ref.6). **N°13** p.114 (ref.74 and 75). **N°15** p.11 (ref.6) and p.87 (ref.1). **N°16** p.12 (ref.1). **N°17** p.16 (ref.10), p.99 (ref.74) and p.117 (ref.33). **N°18** p.13 (ref.2). **N°20** p.128 (ref.78). **N°21** p.14 (ref.1). **N°22** p.124 (August 2018). **N°24** p.17 (ref.5 and 8). **N°25** p.19 (ref.4), p.20 (ref.10) and p.111 (ref.69). **N°26** p.18 (ref.7). **N°27** p.23 (ref.1) and p.127 (ref.74). **N°29** p.41 (ref.124 and 126) and p.180 (ref.6 and 7). **N°30** p.174 (ref.95), p.179 (ref.8), p.197 (ref.6) and p.200 (ref.17). **N°31** p.41 (ref.2 and 4) and p.188 (ref.103 and ref.2). **N°32** p.241 (ref.61) and p.305 (ref.22). **N°33** p.59 (ref.4, 5 and 6) and p.282 (ref.8). **N°34** p.49 (ref.1 and 6) and p.227 (ref.97). **N°35** p.35 (ref.5), p.215 (ref.2) and p.217 (ref.9 and 10). **N°36** p.43 (ref.2). **N°37** p.197 (ref.4), p.232 (ref.12) and p.233 (ref.13). **N°38** p.213 (ref.77) and p.252 (ref.4). **N°40** p.38 (ref.6). **N°41** p.216 (ref.7) and p.219 (ref.14). **N°42** p.163 (ref.3). **N°43** p.22 (ref.6), p.122 (ref.39) and p.124 (ref.47). **N°44** p.227 (ref.3). **N°45** p.157 (ref.2) and p.158 (ref.8). **N°46** p.22 (ref.2). **N°47** p.137 (ref.37), p.147 (ref.81) and p.148 (ref.87). **N°48** p.149 (ref.9) and p.188 (ref.1).

Spiders in and from Poland

N°25 p.37 (ref.4). **N°31** p.166 (ref.10). **N°33** p.217 (ref.30). **N°34** p.208 (ref.10 and 12) and p.209 (ref.13). **N°37** p.178 (ref.9 and 10). **N°40** p.190 (ref. 19). **N°44** p.173 (ref.10). **N°45** p.115 (ref.12). **N°46** p.143 (ref.100). **N°47** p.129 (ref.5).

Titicaca water frogs (*Telmatobius culeus*, Appendix I)

N°8 p.19 (ref.1). **N°10** p.72 (ref.16). **N°18** p.28 (ref.1). **N°22** p.34. **N°25** p.36 (ref.2). **N°33** p.211 (ref.2). **N°38** p.194 (ref.1). **N°42** p.126 (ref.2). **N°46** p.120 (ref.1).

Totoaba (*Totoaba macdonaldi*) swim bladders

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Ucayali (Department of), Peru

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Vaquitas (*Phocoena sinus*, Appendix I)

N°16 p.16 (ref.2). **N°17** p.10 (ref.15) and p.11 (ref.14). **N°19** p.15 (ref.1). **N°22** p.19. **N°27** p.20 (ref.27). **N°32** p.301 (ref.7). **N°33** p.282 (ref.7). **N°40** p.211 (ref.3). **N°42** p.153 (ref.6). **N°44** p.213 (ref.18).

Vultures (Accipitridae, Appendix I or II) in Europe

N°5 p.41 and p.42-43. **N°6** p.32 (ref.38), p.33 (ref.39) and p.120 (ref.86). **N°7** p.26 (ref.36). **N°16** p.106 (ref.77) and p.107 (ref.75). **N°19** p.46 (ref.91). **N°21** p.43 (ref.108). **N°22** p.47. **N°23** p.55 (ref.84). **N°24** p.45 (ref.85). **N°25** p.46 (ref.52). **N°28** p.55 (ref.85). **N°29** p.129 (ref.110) and p.131 (ref.124 and 126). **N°31** p.136 (ref.119), p.139 (ref.137 and 138) and p.141 (ref.139). **N°32** p.186 (ref.199), p.189 (ref.215 and 216), p.192 (ref.231) and p.193 (ref.235). **N°33** p.178 (ref.125 and 129), p.179 (ref.130, 131 and 132) and p.182 (ref.138). **N°34** p.172 (map), p.173 (ref.176), p.174 (ref.181) and p.176 (ref.189). **N°35** p.134 (ref.92), p.136 (ref.105 and 106), p.139 (ref.125), p.143 (ref.148), p.145 (ref.159) and p.185 (ref.71). **N°36** p.154 (ref.133) and p.200 (ref.86). **N°37** p.141 (ref.118), p.144 (ref.127), p.145 (ref.131) and p.193 (ref.85). **N°38** p.158 (ref.152), p.159 (ref.155), p.160 (ref.164 and 165), p.161 (ref.173), p.165 (ref.187) and p.166 (ref.192). **N°39** p.113 (ref.109) and p.119 (ref.128). **N°40** p.156-157 (map), p.158 (ref.154) and p.209 (ref.95 and 98). **N°41** p.131 (ref.148), p.134-135 (map) and p.180 (ref.65). **N°42** p.100-101 (map) and p.141 (ref.59). **N°43** p.93 (ref.104) and p.95 (ref.109). **N°44** p.138 (ref.186), p.190 (ref.88 and 90) and p.191 (ref.93). **N°45** p.90 (ref.124) and p.132 (ref.87). **N°46** p.99 (ref.69). **N°47** p.101 (ref.76). **N°48** p.85 (box), p.113 (ref.92), p.119 (ref.112) and p.163 (ref.76).

Waza National Park, Extreme North Region, Cameroon

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Woolly rhinoceroses (*Coelodonta antiquitatis*) (Seizures of horns and bones)

N°16 p.90 (ref.1). **N°34** p.48 (ref.1). **N°38** p.37 (ref.1). **N°40** p.202 (ref.58). **N°43** p.23 (ref.1 and 3). **N°44** p.34 (ref.1).

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Detailed sources for each event are available on request by e-mail to contact@robindesbois.org indicating the "On the Trail" issue number, chapter and reference of the event.

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Brazil: 180graus; A Gazeta; A Hora; A Tribuna; Ac24Horas; Agro2; Aratu On; Bahia Notícias; Environmental Military Police Battalion of Paraná; Blog do B. Silva; BOQUIRA EM AÇÃO; Campo Grande News; Campo Maior Em Foco; Canal Rural; Catu Acontece; catve.com; Cidade Itapetinga; ClicRDC; Independent Specialised Police Company - Chapada; Correio Braziliense; Di Regional; Diário da Região; Diário de Guanabara; Diário de Petrópolis; Diário do Vale; Disque Denúncia; Em Tempo; Estado de Minas; Extra; Extra de Rondônia; Farol de Notícias; Folha Patoense; Folha Vitória; G1; G1 AM; G1 AP; G1 BA; G1 CE; G1 MG; G1 MT; G1 PA; G1 PI; G1 RJ; G1 SP; G1 TO; Gazeta do Interior; Gazeta do Sul; Gazeta Itapireense; Gerais News; Bahia State Government; Rio de Janeiro State Government; Ceará State Government; Minas Gerais Government; Paraná State Government; Grupo Rio Claro SP; Guarulhos Hoje; Hoje em Dia; Ibama; Independente; Itatiaia; JF Informa; JM Online; Jornal A Voz da Cidade; Jornal Correio; Jornal da Nova; Jornal de Alagoas; Jornal de Brasília; Jornal do Meio Ambiente do Estado de São Paulo; Jornal Jangadeiro; Jornal Ponto; Jornal Razão; Jornal Tempo Novo; Leiagora; Litoralmania; Lupa 1; Maringá Post; Mario Adolfo; Metrôpoles; Ministry of Indigenous Peoples; Public Prosecutor's Office of the State of Rio de Janeiro; Public Prosecutor's Office of Santa Catarina; Public Prosecutor's Office of Mato Grosso do Sul; Public Prosecutor's Office of Rio Grande do Sul; MZ Notícias; Nossa Gente; Notícias de Belford Roxo; Notícias Interativa; NP Expresso; NSC Total; O Dia; O Imparcial; O Tempo; Oeste Mais; Panorama Parintins; Paracatu News; Parnaíba Agora; Perfil Multi; Pernambuco Notícias; Perrengue MT; Espírito Santo State Civil Police; Federal Highway Police; Espírito Santo Military Police; Sao Paulo State Military Police; Ceará Military Police; Federal District Military Police; Portal Caparaó; Portal Clube News; Portal da Cidade Atibaia; Portal da Cidade Foz; Portal Hertz Notícias; Portal O Norte; Portal Onda Sul; Portal R10; Portal R7; Portal Rio Pardo; Portal Rios de Notícias; Porto Ferreira Hoje; Porto Ferreira Online; Povos Indígenas no Brasil; ppnews; Prensa de Babel; PSNotícias; R7; Radar Geral; Rádio Alto Uruguaí; Radio Minuano; Rádio Tapejara; RD News; Rede 98; Regionalzão; Ronda 180; São Carlos Agora; SBT News; Se Liga Chapada; Sherpa.

Chile: Diario Angamos Online; National Customs Directorate; Mendoza Government.

Colombia: Metropolitan Area of Valle de Aburrá; Análisis Urbano; Canal Tro; Caracol Radio; Regional Autonomous Corporation of Valle del Cauca; Regional Autonomous Corporation of Rios Negro and Nare; Regional Autonomous Corporation of Corpoboyacá; Regional Autonomous Corporation for the Defense of the Bucaramanga Plateau; Diario Editorial; El Frente; El Herald (Colombia); El Tiempo; La Patria; Mayor's Office of Bogotá; Mayor's Office of Santiago de Cali; MiOriente; Noticias Caracol; Metropolitan Police of Cúcuta; National Police of Colombia; Primera Edición Col; Secretary of the Environment of Bogotá; Teleantioquia.

El Salvador: Attorney General's Office of the Republic of Salvador; Diario1; El Mundo (El Salvador); La Prensa Gráfica.

Ecuador: Diario Expreso; National Police of Ecuador.

France (Guiana): Guiana National Police.

Guyana: Stabroek News.

Honduras: Diario Tiempo; Forest Conservation Institute.

Mexico: Acapulco Rojo; Adiscusion; Amexi; Cursor en la noticia Hidalgo; Diario de Yucatán; El Imparcial; El Sol de Morelia; El Universal (Mexico); Estado Actual; National Guard; Hidalgo Noticias Informa; Infobae; Informa Oriente; La Jornada; La Vanguardia Síntesis; Meganoticias; Milenio; Oliva Noticias.

Panama: Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Panama.

Paraguay: ABC Digital; ADN Paraguayo; Diario Vanguardia; RDN.

Peru: Loreto Regional Forestry and Wildlife Development Management; Inforegión; Public Prosecutor's Office of the Nation.

Suriname: Department of Nature Conservation.

Uruguay: El Observador.

Venezuela: Scientific, Penal and Criminalistic Investigation Service Corps.

THE CARIBBEAN

France (Saint Martin): French Customs.

ASIA

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan: Astana TV; Karaganda Region Police Department; West Kazakhstan Region Police Department; ERTIS; Aktobe Regional Territorial Inspectorate of Forestry and Wildlife; Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan; Orda.kz; PavlodarNews.kz; Border Service of the National Security Committee of the Republic of Kazakhstan; Courts of Kostanay; Turan Times.

Kyrgyzstan: AKIpress News Agency; Main Department of Internal Affairs of Issyk-Kul Region; Main Department of Internal Affairs of Chüy Region; Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision.

Uzbekistan: State Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan; ekolog.uz; Kursiv Media; Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan; News from Uzbekistan.

EASTERN ASIA

China: ADM Capital Foundation; China National Radio; Cover News; Cqrb.cn; Ctddb.net; Chinese Customs; Beijing Customs; Gongbei Customs; Global Times; Hangzhou Daily; hk01.com; Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department; Innovative Travelers of Altan Guir; Jintai.com; Modern Express; Red Star News; Rthk.hk; South China Morning Post; Southern News Network; The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; The Paper; Xiamen Radio and Television.

Japan: Okinawa Regional Customs; The Mainichi Newspapers; The Ryukyu Shimpo.

Mongolia: Electronic database of court decisions of Mongolia; Capital Environmental Protection Department; Derbes Television; Zindaa.mn.

Taiwan: Focus Taiwan; Raptor Research Group of Taiwan.

SOUTHEASTERN ASIA

Indonesia: Indonesian Quarantine Agency; Antara News; Banjarmasin Post; Borneo Bulletin ; Borneo News; Central Java Natural Resources Conservation Center (BBKSDA Jawa Tengah); West Java Natural Resources Conservation Center (BBKSDA Jawa Barat); Papua Natural Resources Conservation Center (BBKSDA Papua); Southwest Papua Natural Resources Conservation Center (BBKSDA Papua Barat Daya); Maluku Natural Resources Conservation Center (BKSDA Maluku); Pasaman District Natural Resources Conservation Center (BKSDA Resor Pasaman); Central Kalimantan Natural Resources Conservation Center (BKSDA Kalimantan Tengah); North Sulawesi Agriculture Quarantine Center; East Java Animal, Fish and Plant Quarantine Center; West Papua Animal, Fish and Plant Quarantine Center; Papua Animal, Fish and Plant Quarantine Center; West Kalimantan Quarantine Center; Directorate General of Forestry Law Enforcement, Ministry of Forestry; Directorate General of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Conservation; Disway Jogja; Indonesian Customs; FLIGHT – Protecting Indonesia's Birds; Garda Animalia; Harian Singgalang; IDN Times Lampung; IFAW; International Animal Rescue; Jakarta Animal Aid Network; Jakarta Globe; Klikkalteng.id; Kompas.com; Kumparan; Liputan6.com; Media Indonesia; Baluran National Park; Banjar Police; PT Industrial Forest Plantation; Radar Sampit; Directory of Decisions - Supreme Court of the Republic of Indonesia; Sauvons la Forêt; Suara; Tempo; The Jakarta Post; Tribun Kalteng; Tribun Lampung.

Laos: The Laotian Times.

Malaysia: Free Malaysia Today; Harian Metro; Malay Mail; New Straits Times; See Hua Daily News; Sinar Daily; The Star (Malaysia); Traffic.

Myanmar: The Irrawaddy.

Philippines: Daily Tribune; Department of Environment and Natural Resources Soccsksargen; Philippine National Police Aviation Security Group.

Singapore: Channel News Asia; Immigration & Checkpoints Authority; The Straits Times.

Thailand: Bangkok Post; Central Investigation Bureau; Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation; Thai PBS; The Government Public Relations Department (Thailand); WFFT.

Viet Nam: Báo Sức khỏe & Đời sống; ENV; Lao Dong; Mongabay; SVW; Thue & Hai quan; Toi La Rac; Tuoi Tre Online; VietnamDaily.

SOUTHERN ASIA

Afghanistan: National Environmental Protection Agency.

Bangladesh: Bdnews24.com; Daily Observer; Prothom Alo; The Business Standard; United News of Bangladesh.

India: 24th Battalion Sashastra Seema Bal; Ahmedabad Mirror; Bombay Samachar; Country and Politics; Daijiworld; Dainik Bhaskar; Deccan Chronicle; Deccan Herald; DeshGujarat; Devdiscourse; Ei Samay; ETV Bharat; Forest Department, Government of West Bengal; Gujarat First; Gujarat Vandan; Guwahati Wildlife Division; Hindustan Times; Hyderabad Mail; IBC24 News; Indian Coast Guard; Kalinga TV; Khabarhub; Lalluram; Live Law; Lokmat Times; Metro India; Mid-Day; Millennium Post; Mumbai Customs-III; Mumbai Police; Nagpur Today; Navbharat Times; NDTV; New Delhi Television; News Drum; Newsland; Northeast Now; Northeast Today; Odisha Bytes; Odisha TV; Ommcom News; Orissa Post; Patna Press; Patrika; Prag News; Pragativadi; Press Post; Press Trust of India; Railway Protection Force Eastern Railway; Railway Protection Force South Eastern Railway; Sashastra Seema Bal; Suddi Bindu; Supreme Today; Swadesi; Telangana Today; The Assam Tribune; The Blunt Times; The CSR Journal; The Federal; The Free Press Journal; The Hans India; The Hills Times; The Hindu; The Hitavada; The Indian Express; The Indian Witness; The New Indian Express; The News Observer; The Rakyat Post; The Sentinel; The Siasat Daily; The Telegraph India; The Times of India; The Tribune (India); TV9 Bharatvarsh; Udaipur Kiran; United News of India; Wildlife Crime Control Bureau; Zee News.

Iran: Al Jazeera; Asrehamoon.ir; Department of Environmental Protection - Alborz Province; Department of Environmental Protection - Isfahan Province; Department of Environmental Protection - Fars Province; Department of Environmental Protection - Kerman Province; Department of Environmental Protection - Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province; Department of Environmental Protection - West Azerbaijan Province; Department of Environmental Protection - Lorestan Province; Department of Environmental Protection - Mazandaran Province; Department of Environmental Protection - Tehran Province; Department of Environmental Protection - Hormozgan Province; Department of Environmental Protection - Khuzestan Province; Department of Environmental Protection - Kurdistan Province; EBSCO; Emrooz.ir; France 24 (with AFP); Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRA); Iranian Labour News Agency; Iranian Students' News Agency; Iranibe.ir; Irib News Agency; Khabarpu.com; Mehr News Agency; Middle East Institute; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; Sapiens; SEVENSEAS Media; Tabnak; Tasnim News Agency; The Islamic Republic News Agency; The Observers; The Pew Charitable Trusts; Young Journalists Club.

Nepal: Asia News Network; Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha; myRepublica; Nepal News; The Kathmandu Post.

Pakistan: Arab News; ARY News; Associated Press of Pakistan; Bloom Pakistan; Dawn; Dera Ismail Khan Wildlife Division; The Express Tribune; The Nation (Pakistan).

Sri Lanka: Barron's; Daily Mirror; Daily News (Sri Lanka); Hiru News; IBC Tamil; Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR); Lankasara.com; Sri Lanka Coast Guard; Sri Lanka Navy; The Sunday Times.

WESTERN ASIA

Saudi Arabia: Al-hadath.com.

Armenia: Hetq; Environmental Protection and Mining Inspection Body of the Republic of Armenia; Police of the Republic of Armenia.

Azerbaijan: International Dialogue for Environmental Action; Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan; Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan; Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Cyprus: Committee Against Bird Slaughter; Cyprus Mail; In-Cyprus.com; Game and Wildlife Service.

Georgia: PrimeTime.ge.

Iraq: Almasra; Kurdistan.Ru.

Israel: Israel Nature and Parks Authority; Kore.co.il.

Lebanon: Annahar; Committee Against Bird Slaughter; Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon.

Sultanate of Oman: Environment Authority of the Sultanate of Oman; Muscat Daily.

Türkiye: Anadolu Agency; Memurlar.net; Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Türkiye; PASA; Roots & Shoots TR; Yeni Ankara.

Yemen: 26sep.net.

NORTHERN EUROPE

Denmark: Dansk Ornitologisk Forening / BirdLife Denmark; Sea Shepherd; Stop the Grind; Whales and whaling in the Faroe Islands.

Estonia: Tax and Customs Board.

Finland: Ilta-Sanomat; Yle.

Latvia: Nature Conservation Agency; Apollo.lv; Delfi; Public broadcasting of Latvia; State Forest Service.

Lithuania: Environmental Protection Department; Lašišos dienoraštis.

Norway: Government.no; NRK.

United Kingdom: Police Scotland North East; Raptor Persecution UK; Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; Shropshire Star; The Echo; The Mirror; UK Government.

Sweden: Jakt & Jägare; Sveriges Television.

WESTERN EUROPE

Germany: Main Customs Office Munich; Committee Against Bird Slaughter; German Customs; Greifvogelzentrum Falconis Filstal e.V.; inFranken.de; Celle Police Inspectorate; Jäger; LAND & FORST; Nordkurier.

Austria: BirdLife Österreich; Burgenländische Volkszeitung; MeinBezirk.at; Federal Ministry of Finance; ORF.

Belgium: Natuurhulpcentrum Opplabbeek; Nieuwsblad; SFederal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment; VRT.

France: Actu Paris; Actu Toulouse; Actu Var; Alpes 1; Courier picard; Dernières Nouvelles d'Alsace; French Customs; France 3 Bourgogne-Franche-Comté; France 3 Bretagne; France 3 Grand Est; France 3 Occitanie; Gendarmerie of Seine-Maritime; ici Alsace; ici Breizh Izel; ici Nord; ici Provence; L'Union; La Dépêche du Midi; La Gazette de Montpellier; La Nouvelle République; La Tanière; La Voix du Nord; Le Parisien; Le Progrès; Le Réveil; Le Télégramme; Lille Actu; Nice-Matin; French Biodiversity Agency; Montpellier Municipal Police; Deux-Sèvres National Police; Presse Océan; Tarbes-infos.com; Tonga Terre d'Accueil; City of Bourg-de-Péage.

The Netherlands: Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority; BBC; Dutch Customs; Environmental Pollution; European Association of Zoos and Aquaria; Green Heritage; Iceland Review; Journal of Zoo and Aquarium Research; Marine Conservation Society; Marine Pollution Bulletin; Mer et Marine; Nederlandse Omroep Stichting; Omroep Brabant; Phys.org; The Crowded Planet; The Telegraph (United Kingdom); Amsterdam District Court; North Holland District Court.

Switzerland: Canton of the Grisons; State of Fribourg; Léman Bleu; Federal Office for Customs and Border Security; Radio Télévision Suisse.

SOUTHERN EUROPE

Croatia: Agroklub; Split-Dalmatia Police Department; Jutarnji list; Morski HR; Slobodna Dalmacija.

Spain: Aquí Berguedà; Demócrata; El País; Guardia Civil; La Opinión; La Voz de Galicia; Mossos d'Esquadra; OK Diario; Solo Actualidad; Supreme Court.

Greece: 3rd Hunting Federation of Peloponnese.

Italy: Ambient&Ambienti; Arma dei Carabinieri; AvellinoToday; BelvedereNews; BresciaToday; BrindisiReport; Buonasera24.it; CasertaNews; Committee Against Bird Slaughter; Coordinamento a tutela del lupo e della fauna nel Salento; Corriere Animali; CremonaOggi; Cronache della Campania; Ente Nazionale per la Protezione degli Animali; FirenzeToday; ForlìToday; il Crotonese; Il Dolomiti; Il giornale popolare; Il Giorno; Il Mattino; Il Messaggero; Il T Quotidiano; ilCorrierino; L'Adige; L'Eco Vicentino; La Nuova Provincia; La Provincia; La Provincia Online; La Repubblica; La Voce delle Valli; LeccoToday; Lega Abolizione Caccia; Lega Italiana Protezione Uccelli; Ministry of Defence; Pisanews; Police Headquarters of Brescia; Autonomous Province of Trentino; Quotidiano di Puglia; Risoluto; Riviera24; SassariToday; SondrioToday; Tiburno Tv; Torino Cronaca; TrentoToday; VicenzaToday; Metropolitan City of Napoli.

Malta: BirdLife Malta; Committee Against Bird Slaughter; Newsbook; Times of Malta.

Montenegro: Center for Protection and Research of birds of Montenegro.

EASTERN EUROPE

Bulgaria: Black Sea Lighthouse; Dnes.dir.bg; Fund for Wild Flora and Fauna; Regional Environment and Water Inspectorate - Sofia; Tortoise Rescue Centre.

Hungary: The Prosecution Service of Hungary; WMN.

Poland: Tax Administration Chamber in Rzeszów; Opole Police.

Romania: Accentmedia; Bihoreanul; Galati Environmental Guard; Arges County Police Inspectorate; Buzău County Police Inspectorate.

Russia: 24.kg; Yenisey Territorial Administration of the Federal Agency for Fishery; Moscow-Oka Territorial Administration of the Federal Agency for Fishery; North Caucasus Territorial Administration of the Federal Agency for Fishery; Amur Tiger Center; Argoumenty i Fakty (AIF); Astrakhan leaflet; Astrakhanpost; Astrakhan Oblast Prosecutor's Office; Kaliningrad Oblast Prosecutor's Office; Tomsk Oblast Prosecutor's Office; Moscow City Prosecutor's Office; Far East Transport Prosecutor's Office; Khabarovsk Krai Prosecutor's Office; Altai Krai Prosecutor's Office; Primorsky Krai Prosecutor's Office; Volga Interregional Environmental Prosecutor's Office; The investigative committee of the Russian Federation in the Astrakhan Oblast; The investigative committee of the Russian Federation in the Moscow Oblast; The investigative committee of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Dagestan; Department for Wildlife Protection of the Amur Oblast; Upper Ob Territorial Department of the Federal Agency for Fishery; DonDay; Virtual Customs; Fishnews; Ikrainfo; Interfax Russia; Izvestia; Kaliningrad.Ru; Kommercheskie Vesti; Kommersant; Komsomolskaïa Pravda Krasnoyarsk; Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in Astrakhan Oblast; Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in Omsk Oblast; Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in Sakhalin Oblast; Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Republic of Buryatia; Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Republic of Sakha; Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in Khanty-Mansi Autonomous District; Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in Khabarovsk Krai; Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in Krasnoyarsk Krai; Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in Primorsky Krai; Mirmol; Moika78; Moskovski Komsomoles Buryatia; Moskovski Komsomolets Saint Petersburg; Moskovski Komsomolets Tyumen; Moskovski Komsomolets Yugra; Nika TV; Orphan Bear Rescue Centre; Police of Astrakhan; Khabarovsk Krai Police; PrimaMedia; Primorsky News; Regions.ru; Astrakhan Oblast Nature Management Service; Joint Press Service of Saint Petersburg Courts; Federal Service for Supervision of Natural Resources; Federal Customs Service; Federal Bailiff Service of the Russian Federation; Kalmansky District Court in Altai Krai; Korsakovsky District Court in Sakhalin Oblast; Murom City Court; Khabarovsk Krai Courts; Volga-Caspian Management Unit of the Federal Agency for Fishery; Zapad24.

Czechia: Deník; Four Paws.

Ukraine: Kyiv Customs; State Ecological Inspectorate of the South-Western District; National Police of Ukraine in Odesa Oblast.

OCEANIA

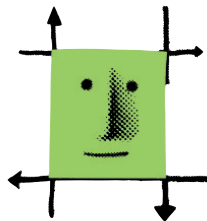
Australia: ABC News (Australia); Australian Border Force; Australian Fisheries Management Authority; Brimbank and North West Star Weekly; The Daily Beast; Victoria's Conservation Regulator; Victorian Fisheries Authority; Western Australian Government.

United States of America (Guam): Kuam News.

France (New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna and Polynesia): New Caledonian Biodiversity Agency; Gendarmerie of New Caledonia; Nouvelle-Calédonie la 1^{ère}; Polynésie la 1^{ère}; Wallis-et-Futuna la 1^{ère}.

Solomon Islands: In-Depth Solomons; Solomon Star.

New Zealand: Department of Conservation; Ministry for Primary Industries; The New Zealand Herald.



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