

ON_{the} TRAIL

The defaunaion bulletin
n°49. Events from the 1st of November 2025 to the 31st of January 2026



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

Publication Director : Charlotte Nithart.

Editors-in-Chief : Jacky Bonnemains and Charlotte Nithart.

Writing : Jacky Bonnemains, Gaëlle Guilissen,
Elodie Crépeau-Pons, Jean-Pierre Edin and Elisabeth Lavarde.

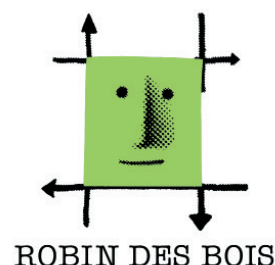
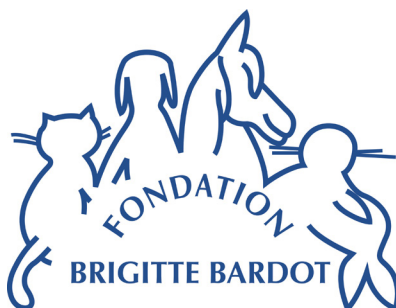
Research : Gaëlle Guilissen, Elodie Crépeau-Pons, Elisabeth Lavarde,
Jean-Pierre Edin, Juan Andrés García Bodniza and Lise Contant.

Cartography : Gaëlle Guilissen and Elodie Crépeau-Pons.

English translation : Brian Chasanoff, Cora Funke, Elisabeth Lavarde and Gaëlle Guilissen.

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Robin des Bois

Non Governmental Organization for the protection of the environment and populations

Founded in 1985

14 rue de l'Atlas 75019 Paris, France

tel : 33 (1) 48.04.09.36

www.robindesbois.org

contact@robindesbois.org

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:

- 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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AFRICA

GHANA

January 6, 2026
Kalakpa Resource Reserve, Volta Region, Ghana

Mr. Raphael Ganyo was shot in the chest around 6:00 a.m. in the bush while on a patrol following a poaching alert. He was 28 years old. He had been working for Ghana's Wildlife and Flora Department since 2021 at the Kalakpa Resource Reserve. The Kalakpa Resource Reserve covers 325 km².

It is home to African fan palms (*Borassus aethiopum*) and shrubs of the species *Combretum fragrans*, Congo serpent eagles (*Circaetus spectabilis*, synonymous with *Dryotriorchis spectabilis*, Appendix II), rosy bee-eaters (*Merops malimbicus*), baboons (*Papio* spp., Appendix II), antelopes, duikers, buffalo, and more than 200 species of butterflies. Several villages are located within the reserve. The Community Focus Foundation Ghana (CFF-Ghana) is calling on the government to strengthen safety for park rangers, particularly in light of illegal mining.¹



© Forestry Commission Ghana

MOZAMBIQUE

November 22 and December 24, 2025
Futi, Maputo National Park and Matutuine District, Maputo Province, Mozambique

The suspected repeat poacher was wounded in the leg after an exchange of gunfire with park rangers during the night. A second man fled. Dead impalas (*Aepyceros melampus*), southern reedbucks (*Redunca arundinum*), and bush duikers (*Sylvicapra grimmia*) were found in the bed of their pick-up truck. The wounded man was taken to the hospital. He died on December 24. A park ranger, the district environmental police chief, and the park's head of surveillance—who were attending the wake on behalf of ANAC (Administração Nacional das Áreas de Conservação)—were confronted by the grieving family.²



NAMIBIA

January 13, 2026
Farm Otjisazu, Otjozondjupa Region, Namibia

Two anti-poaching rangers from the Otjisazu Ranch, ages 23 and 34, have been charged with murder for shooting 2 poachers at 8:00 a.m. who had just killed a gemsbok (*Oryx gazella*). One of the 2 poachers died. His identity is still unknown. The other fled.³



© Robin des Bois

PANGOLINS



Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*). Photo thepunggolin (BY-NC 4.0)

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

Beginning of November 2025

Marshall, Margibi County, Liberia

Release of 2 white-bellied pangolins (one male and one female) and one long-tailed pangolin (a female). White-bellied pangolins are very agile climbers.¹

Maurice Fontaine & Bernhard Grzimek (eds.). The Animal World in 13 Volumes, Volume XI: Mammals 2. Stauffacher Publishers, Zurich (1971-1975)



NIGERIA

November 7, 2025

Lagos, Lagos State, Nigeria



Sentencing of Steven Chinonso (alias Chukwunonso Stephen Obunadike) to one year in prison for possessing 3,761 kg of scales, one year for attempting to sell them, and one year for acting in conspiracy - the 3 sentences will run concurrently - and to 3 fines totalling 650,000 naira (450 US\$). Despite the leniency of the sentences, Olivia Swaak-Goldman, Executive Director of the Wildlife Justice Commission, is pleased that an unequivocal message has been sent to traffickers. "Nigeria is no longer a safe haven for wildlife crime." The incidents date back to April 2, 2025. Chinonso and 2 others - whose cases were tried separately - were operating around the Lekki Arts and Crafts Market, a market for African art and handicrafts (paintings, sculptures, wooden and metal objects, fashion accessories, hand-made fabrics, etc.). The Wildlife Justice Commission is a nongovernmental organisation whose mission is to "disrupt and dismantle transnational criminal networks involved in the trafficking of wildlife, timber, and fish." It works in coordination with Nigerian customs and other authorities.²

OPERATION VIVA

January 15, 2026

Ajilete, Ogun State, Nigeria

Interception by customs officers of a dugout canoe carrying 4 wire baskets, each containing 4 white-bellied pangolins that had just been caught in the forest. Unfortunately, one of the 4 pangolins rescued from poachers died shortly afterward from injuries sustained during the capture, and the boatmen disappeared into the jungle.³

CENTRAL AFRICA

CAMEROON

November 8, 10, and 21, 2025

Noun Department, West Region, and Mfoundi Department, Centre Region, Cameroon



A live long-tailed pangolin seized by the police at a bushmeat market and taken in by the Tikki Hywood Foundation did not survive for long. The post-mortem examination revealed that his tongue, measuring between 20 and 40 cm in length, had been torn out, confirming that an old superstition is still alive and well. A mixture of the tongue and certain plants is said to cure stuttering and other speech impediments in children. A man who had received the order for the tongue and a promise of 35,000 CFA francs (60 US\$) from a female traditional healer was sentenced by the Mfoundi Magistrates' Court to 5 years' imprisonment. Six other people who were selling at the same market 3 live female white-bellied pangolins – 2 of whom were in the final stages of pregnancy – were sentenced to 4 years' imprisonment.⁴

End of December 2025

Méfou National Park, Centre Region, Cameroon



The Tikki Hywood Foundation has taken in an orphaned pangolin that had not had any milk for several days. He was found at a market where his mother had been sacrificed to the bushmeat trade. Pangolins feed on their mother's milk until they are 4 to 6 months old.⁵

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

January 26, 2026

Kinshasa, Kinshasa Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo. Border with the Republic of the Congo.

Seizure by the ICCN (Institut congolais pour la conservation de la nature) of one metric tonne (1,054 kg) of pangolin scales and a lion skull (*Panthera leo*, Appendix II) at the border between the 2 Congos. Between 2,000 and 3,000 pangolins were poached and scaled. Two men were arrested; they are from Kindu and Kisangani, 2,000 km from Kinshasa.⁶

EASTERN AFRICA

KENYA

End of December, 2025

Amboseli-Tsavo-Kilimandjaro Ecosystem, Kenya



A live pangolin, curled up inside a cut-open plastic barrel and hidden in a bag of rice, was seized and handed over to the KWS (Kenya Wildlife Service). The defendant was sentenced to 3 years in prison. He pleaded guilty. Pangolins are so elusive that they are considered rare, if not exceptional, in Kenya, a country more affected by ivory trafficking than by scale trafficking. In 10 years of operation, 2% of the arrests made by the Big Life Foundation have involved pangolins.⁷



Pangolins in Kenya, see Index.

MALAWI

December 2 and 20, 2025

Ntcheu, Central Region, Malawi. Border with Mozambique.

A 62-year-old man from the village of Khozi was caught red-handed selling a Temminck's ground pangolin along the Ntcheu-Balaka Road. Although he argued that, at age 62, he was a first-time offender and had family responsibilities, he was sentenced to 3 years in prison with hard labour for possessing the pangolin and 2 years for attempting to sell him. The 2 sentences were combined.⁸



© Ntcheu Police

MOZAMBIQUE

Beginning of December 2025

Zambezia Province, Mozambique

Release of a Temminck's ground pangolin. The species is terrestrial and nocturnal. Their behaviour is shrouded in mystery. They are believed to often use the abandoned burrows of the Cape aardvark (*Orycteropus afer*) - the other termite-eater of the savannah - as shelters, unless they are already occupied by pythons, hyenas, bats, or porcupines.⁹

Mid-January 2026

Caia District, Sofala Province, Mozambique

Arrest of 2 individuals, ages 35 and 43, and seizure of 363 Temminck's ground pangolin scales. They were attempting to sell the scales for 250,000 meticals (3,900 US\$ or 10 US\$/scale).¹⁰

ZAMBIA

Beginning of November 2025

Zambia

After receiving emergency care and recovering, the female Temminck's ground pangolin rescued from the illegal wildlife trade was released into a natural habitat, equipped with a geolocation tracker, which is a device that is anything but natural and is incompatible with the thorny underbrush and burrows frequented by the species, as well as with their instinctive defence strategy of curling into an impenetrable ball when a predator approaches.¹¹



© Wildlife Crime Prevention Zambia

Beginning of November 2025

Lusaka, Lusaka Province, Zambia

A white-bellied pangolin, hunted in broad daylight by teenagers who believed him to be a demonic creature, was narrowly rescued by a passer-by and the police. He suffered several contusions and lost an eye. The University of Zambia Veterinary Clinic remains optimistic, however. While some of his scales are damaged, no vital organs were affected.¹²

December 30, 2025

Kaputa, Northern Province, Zambia. Border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Arrest of Patrick Chilaba, age 27, who was attempting to sell a "tree pangolin," that is, a white-bellied pangolin, for 450,000 kwachas (20,000 US\$). Carried away by the thrill of sudden good fortune and the promise of a bright future, he failed to realise that this offer, made by an undercover police officer on duty, was a sting operation that would land him in prison and result in a fine.¹³



© Lusaka Times

ZIMBABWE

December 16, 2025

Harare, Harare Province, Zimbabwe

At the intersection of 5th Street and Robert Mugabe Road, Chinaka, age 24, was caught red-handed by detectives with a Temminck's ground pangolin in a cement bag that he intended to sell for 2,500 US/kg. He identified Elvis Murombo, age 28, as the silent partner. Officers went to arrest him at his workplace. A ZimParks expert confirmed that the animal was indeed a pangolin, with an estimated value of 5,000 US\$.¹⁴

SOUTHERN AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

November 19–25, 2025

Beaufort West, Western Cape Province, South Africa

- Rescued on November 17 from the trunk of a car and from the driver and passenger during a SAPS (South African Police Service) traffic stop, a young Temminck's ground pangolin, after receiving emergency care from a veterinarian in Oudtshoorn, was graciously and carefully transported to Johannesburg by AirlinK and then received—still curled up in a ball—by the clinic's veterinarians. The prognosis is relatively optimistic.

- Arrest of 2 individuals at a roadblock. Seizure of a Temminck's ground pangolin they had been keeping in a box in their vehicle. Estimated black-market value: 200,000 rand (11,650 US\$).¹⁵



November 24, 2025

Bloemfontein, Free State Province, South Africa

Two individuals, ages 31 and 38, were arrested after being found in possession of a Temminck's ground pangolin in a toolbox in the trunk of their car. They intended to sell him for more than 100,000 rand, or 6,000 US\$.¹⁶



NAMIBIA

End of November, 2025

Namibia

After 5 months of care, the male Temminck's ground pangolin was gently and timely returned to Mother Nature. It is the rainy season, and the ants are coming back to the surface. The Pangolin Conservation and Research Foundation has already released 2 Temminck's ground pangolins back into the wild in July and August, after receiving assurances of their ability to survive independently, including a hefty 13-kg male (see "On the Trail" n°47, p. 8, refs. 20 and 21). The foundation receives financial and technical support from the Vienna Zoo in Austria

and the Brookfield Zoo in Chicago, United States of America, as well as from the Wild Spirit Fund and the Namibian Ministry of the Environment.¹⁷

EASTERN ASIA

CHINA

January 2026

Xinhui, Jiangmen Prefecture, Guangdong Province, China

Eight and a half years' imprisonment and a fine of 150,000 yuan (21,400 US\$) for Li Moujing (not his real name) for possessing and attempting to sell a Sunda pangolin worth 80,000 yuan (11,000 US\$) and a Chinese pangolin of the same value, and for having purchased 65 frozen Sunda pangolins in 2024 and attempted to sell them. A one-year suspended sentence for 3 suppliers and one buyer.¹⁸



SOUTHEASTERN ASIA

INDONESIA

FAMILY AFFAIRS

November 3, 2025

Pematangsiantar City, North Sumatra Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia

Sentencing of Jhon Sofian Purba to 3 years in prison and a fine of 500 million rupiah (30,050 US\$), or an additional 6 months in prison in the event of non-payment, for storing, possessing, and transporting 5.5 kg of Sunda pangolin scales (see "On the Trail" n°47, p. 9, ref. 29).¹⁹

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November 4, 2025

Medan City, North Sumatra Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia

Arrest of Obet Tarigan in the parking lot of a fast-food restaurant, and seizure of 13 kg of Sunda pangolin scales. Police press conference. Jean Calvijn Simanjuntak, the former director of

facebook



the provincial anti-narcotics brigade, stated that Tarigan intended to sell the scales for 1.2 million rupiah/kg (70 US\$), that Tarigan claims to be merely a link in the supply chain, that the owner of the scales is on the run, that initial sales offers are made via Facebook, and that subsequent negotiations are taking place on hidden networks. Tarigan, age 43, faces a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison.²⁰

December 3, 2025

Lubuk Basung, Agam Regency, West Sumatra Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia



Sentencing of Rahmad Zen was to 2 years and 6 months in prison and a fine of 60 million rupiah (3,580 US\$), plus an additional month in prison in the event of non-payment, and 3,000 rupiah (0.20 US\$) in court costs for transporting 800 grammes of scales and 29.74 grammes of claws from a Sunda pangolin.²¹

December 15, 2025, and February 10, 2026

Kisaran, Asahan Regency, and Medan City, North Sumatra Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia



- Sentencing of Alfi Hariadi Siregar to 9 years in prison and a fine of 500 million rupiah (29,800 US\$), or 6 months in prison in the event of non-payment, for participating in the trafficking of 1,200 kg of Sunda pangolin scales in 2024 with 3 accomplices (see "On the Trail" n°47, p. 9, ref. 24, and n°48, p. 10, ref. 28).

- On appeal, the sentence was reduced to 7 years in prison.²²

December 17, 2025, and February 3, 2026

Bukittinggi City and Padang City, West Sumatra Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia



- Sentencing of Masrial to 2 years' imprisonment, a fine of 200 million rupiah (11,920 US\$), with an additional 3 months' imprisonment in the event of non-payment, and 5,000 rupiah (0.30 US\$) in court costs for transporting 5.85 kg of Sunda pangolin scales.

- The prison sentence was increased to 2 years and 6 months following an appeal brought by the prosecutor.²³

December 18, 2025

Sanggau, Sanggau Regency, West Kalimantan Province, Borneo Island, Indonesia



Destruction by fire of 106.5 kg of Sunda pangolin scales. The open-air burning produces smoke and odors. The operation will last 3 to 5 days. The ashes and unburned remains will be buried at a depth of 2 metres under the supervision of the prosecutor's office. The 5 bags of scales had been seized on January 26, 2025, in Dominikus Loin's dining room in Teraju. Loin was convicted in August 2025 (see "On the Trail" n°47, p. 10, ref. 32).²⁴

REPEATED OFFENCE

**January 12 and February 12, 2026
Semarang City, Central Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia**



- Sentencing of Gita Messa, a bird vendor at the Pon Ambarawa Market, to 2 years in prison, a fine of 300 million rupiah (17,890 US\$) with an additional 100 days in prison in case of non-payment, and 5,000 rupiah (0.30 US\$) in court costs for trafficking a live Sunda pangolin, whom he had purchased for 120,000 rupiah (7 US\$) and intended to sell for 450,000 rupiah (27 US\$), and 5 kg of pangolin scales, purchased for 120,000 rupiah and intended to be sold for 2 million rupiah (120 US\$ or 24 US\$/kg). He was preparing to sell the entire shipment to his clients "Jason" and "Jo" (see "On the Trail" n°48, p. 9, ref. 21).

- On appeal, the fine was reduced to 30 million rupiah (1,790 US\$), with a 30-day prison sentence in the event of non-payment, and 2,500 rupiah (0.15 US\$) in court costs for the appeal proceedings.²⁵

January 20, 2026

Nanga Bulik, Lamandau Regency, Central Kalimantan Province, Borneo Island, Indonesia

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Sentencing of Albertus Rolyanus, alias Albet, a former honorary employee of the regency health department, to one year and 6 months in prison and to pay 5,000 rupiah (0.30 US\$) in court costs for trafficking 4 kg of scales and 29 claws from Sunda pangolins via social media (see "On the Trail" n°47, p. 9, ref. 26).²⁶

January 26, 2026

Mempawah, Mempawah Regency, West Kalimantan Province, Borneo Island, Indonesia



Sentencing of Bun Li Jung was to 3 years in prison and to pay a fine of 400 million rupiah (23,500 US\$), plus an additional 80 days in prison in the event of non-payment, and to pay 5,000 rupiah (0.30 US\$) in court costs for transporting 15.52 kg of Sunda pangolin scales (see "On the Trail" n°47, p. 9, ref. 30). He was supposed to deliver them to a man named Barry Prasetyo, alias Bay, in exchange for a reward of one million rupiah (60 US\$).²⁷

January 28, 2026

Ngadiluwih, Malang Regency, East Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia

Handing over of a Sunda pangolin to the Matawali in Kediri following a major rainstorm and flooding. Pangolins are good swimmers, but this one was unable to withstand the rising waters and was swept along by the current to the vicinity of a residential complex. Matawali is the special task force of the local BKSDA office responsible for wildlife rescue, under the Directorate General of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Conservation (Balai Konservasi Sumber Daya Alam).²⁸

LAOS

January 25 and 28, 2026

Sanasomboun District and Dong Hua Sao National Park, Champasak Province, Laos

- Four live pangolins were rescued from a passenger's luggage during a check on a coach travelling from Attapeu to the capital, Vientiane.
- The 4 pangolins were released into Dong Hua Sao National Park, where a 2-kg Sunda pangolin – who had been voluntarily handed over to the authorities by a resident of Pakse – had already been released on January 17.²⁹

MALAYSIA

OPERATION BERSEPADU KHAZANAH

January 21, 2026

Kampung Simpang Empat, State of Sabah, Malaysia

Two men, aged 30 and 40, are transporting 2 live Sunda pangolins, each valued at 8,200 ringgit, or 2,000 US\$.³⁰

THAILAND

December 9, 2025

Ban Mae Khaming, Phrae Province, Thailand

Seizure by a patrol of a dead Sunda pangolin and 2 motorcycles. The poachers fled into the forest inside Wiang Kosai National Park.³¹

VIET NAM

November 28, 2025

Viet Nam

Release of 7 Sunda pangolins into the wild at a secret location after several months of care and training to improve their basic behaviours (searching for ants or termites, curling into a defensive posture, and digging burrows). They had arrived at the Cuc Phuong sanctuary after being seized or found wandering in urban areas.³²

December 3, 2025

Tra Linh, Cao Bang Province, Viet Nam

Vu Van, who was driving an SUV stopped by traffic police, stated that he was transporting, on behalf of others, 5 bags of dried pineapple and 12 live Sunda pangolins hidden in polystyrene boxes. Vu Van was taken into custody. The border with China is not far away. This is a sensitive case.³³



December 22, 2025

Quy Chau, Nghe An Province, Viet Nam

Seizure by the police of a Sunda pangolin and 3 young lesser bamboo rats (*Cannomys badius*) during a roadside check. They were handed over to Save Vietnam's Wildlife. The pangolin has an injury to his right front paws, likely from falling into a trap set by poachers. All 4 animals are dehydrated, weak, and refusing to eat.

Lesser bamboo rats live at altitudes between 1,000 and 1,500 metres in bamboo thickets, among the roots and young shoots. They feed on fruits and grasses. They are captured using snares set at the entrances to their burrows. Like pangolins, their meat is prized at business banquets, family gatherings, and end-of-year celebrations.³⁴

January 11, 2026

Thanh Hoa Province, Viet Nam

In the run-up to Tet, police are stepping up roadside checks to deter the illegal wildlife trade associated with the holiday. Two dead pangolins were seized from a polystyrene box in Pham Van Quang's car. He had purchased them alive from Ho Van Phu in December 2025 and from Nguyen Thi Ngoc Anh in Quang Tri province.³⁵

January 13, 2026

Dak Mon, Quang Ngai Province, Viet Nam

"In his rucksack was a live wild animal, with 4 paws and covered in scales, probably a pangolin," wrote the Quang Ngai Provincial Police. A. Khu was stopped whilst riding his motorbike. He admitted to catching the pangolin in the forest at Dak Plo, near the border with Laos, and to intending to sell him 50 km further on at Dak Mon.³⁶



January 17, 2026

A So, Da Nang City, Viet Nam

As in Thanh Hoa province, teams from the Da Nang Forest Management Board are stepping up their vigilance ahead of the Tet celebrations. Two pangolins trapped in a snare were rescued. The forest rangers assessed that they were fit to be released back into the wild. They carried out an inspection of the surrounding area to remove any other traps.³⁷



SOUTHERN ASIA

INDIA

November 7, 2025

Dima Hasao District, State of Assam, India



A correspondent for The Sentinel newspaper reports that 4 men identified as Forid Ali, Hifjur Rahman Barbhuiya, Imran Hussain Barbhuiya, and Rafiqul Islam Barbhuiya were caught red-handed by forest rangers while transporting 3 kg of pangolin scales.³⁸

FAMILY AFFAIRS

November 7, 2025

Singha Devi, Mohali District, State of Punjab, India

Kabira, the father, and Ramdas, the son, were hiding 3 kg of Indian pangolin scales in the shed at their home.³⁹

December 1, 2025

Alipurduar, Alipurduar District, State of West Bengal, India

Sentencing of Bikash Chandra Barman and Arup Gupta to 3 years in prison and to a fine of 50,000 rupees (560 US\$) for detaining and attempting to sell a live pangolin in Sonapur in August 2019.⁴⁰



December 3–17, 2025

Dinamingre, East Garo Hills District, State of Meghalaya, India

- Seizure by the district forest and environmental guards of more than 6 kg of pangolin scales from Greatwill R. Sangma, who managed to escape. Warning shots were fired into the air. Shrapnel struck Sangma, who briefly went on his own to the civilian hospital in Tura, the neighbouring town. Sangma returned to his family's village, where he completed his treatment with medicinal herbs.

- Sixteen days after the skirmish, a complaint was filed against State authorities. Sangma, supported by the member of parliament for Tura, claimed to have been the victim of an attempted murder.⁴¹

OPERATION PANGUARD

Beginning of January 2026

Pileru, Annamayya District, State of Andhra Pradesh, India

The DRI (Directorate of Economic Intelligence) seized 18.74 kg of Indian pangolin scales. These were handed over to the forestry authorities. Seven people were arrested.⁴²

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Baresandh, Latehar District, State of Jharkhand, India

Two kilos of pangolin scales in a bag. Arrest of a woman. Trafficking networks exploit women, children, disabled people, and drones (you can't stop progress), to evade the police. The female smuggler was reported in great detail; the authorities were ready for her.

Trafficking is widespread in the district, which is encompassed in the Palamau Tiger Reserve. On the same day, 2 poachers were arrested.⁴³

Latehar – see this issue p. 24 ref. 67 and p.193 ref. 86.

January 22, 2026

Sandhapali, Kendrapada District, State of Odisha, India

Seizure of 14 pangolin scales, 2 motorbikes, 3 mobile phones and a knife. Bail was initially refused. Three arrests.

In October 2020, the price of pangolin scales was estimated at 270 US\$/kg in the Indian Union.⁴⁴

The night of January 30–31, 2026

Rapur, Nellore District, State of Andhra Pradesh, India

Arrest late Friday night on the outskirts of Rapur of 6 poachers after they had just captured a pangolin in the Rapur-Tegacherla forest and were on their way to sell him in Chennai. The 6 men and the pangolin were brought before the Nellore court. The pangolin, considered evidence in the case, was released with the investigating magistrate's approval to a suitable location, and the 6 men are being held in pretrial detention while the investigation is ongoing.⁴⁵

PAKISTAN

Beginning of November 2025

Chakwal, Province of Punjab, Pakistan

Arrest of 3 individuals for poaching and smuggling pangolins and partridges. Fine of 120,000 Pakistani rupees each, equivalent to 425 US\$.⁴⁶



ELEPHANTS



African savannah elephants (*Loxodonta africana*). Photo Michael Holthuysen (BY-NC 4.0)

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

BURKINA FASO

November 7, 2025

Bobo-Dioulasso, Houet Province, Burkina Faso

After handing over thousands of detonators, detonating cords, and sticks of dynamite to the military engineering corps, customs officials turned over 20 kg of raw ivory to the Guiriko Regional Directorate of Water and Forests. "Whether it involves explosives or contraband from poaching, each seizure reflects the same firm commitment: to clean up the supply chains, preserve life, and defend national sovereignty."¹



SENEGAL

November 14, 26, 27, and December 4, 2025

Dakar, Dakar Region, Senegal



Sentencing of Abdoul Aziz Kouta to a one-month suspended prison term, a fine of one million CFA francs (1,770 US\$), and to pay 5 million CFA francs (8,830 US\$) in damages and sentencing of his "business partner" Alioune Thiam to a 2-month suspended prison sentence, a fine of 1.2 million CFA francs (2,100 US\$), and to pay 6 million CFA francs (10,500 US\$) in damages for jointly possessing and offering for sale 2 raw ivory tusks, 107 pieces of carved ivory, and 2 carved tusks. The seizure is credited to the Urban Security Unit of the Dakar Central Police Station, the Directorate of Water, Forests, Hunting, and Soil Conservation, and Interpol, with support from the NGO Eagle.²

TOGO

November 29 and beginning of December 2025 Lomé, Maritime Region, and Kpalou, Kara Region, Togo. Border with Ghana.

40 kg of raw ivory were recovered from S. D. Kodjo, who hid two tusks and two roan antelope head trophies (*Hippotragus equinus*) at a secret hideout. The network spans across Togo from north to south, from Cinkassé to Lomé. There are reportedly fewer than 100 wild elephants remaining in Togo, as confirmed by the EPI (Elephant Protection Initiative).³

CENTRAL AFRICA

ANGOLA

November 6, 2025 Luanda, Luanda Province, Angola

Seizure of 57 sections of tusks. Four Vietnamese nationals were arrested as they were preparing to smuggle the contraband back to their country.⁴



GABON

REPEATED OFFENCE

November 12 and December 19, 2025 Makokou, Ogooué-Ivindo Province and Libreville, Estuaire Province, Gabon

- Four traffickers, who may also be poachers, were arrested for possessing and attempting to sell 14 tusks, about 10 of which came from elephant calves. The ringleader is a repeat offender, having been arrested in 2019 and 2023. The operation was carried out by the Provincial Directorate of Water and Forests and the police, with support from the NGO Conservation Justice. Its executive director, Luc Mathot, stated on the occasion of "this latest arrest" that "elephants, through their role as forest gardeners, promote natural regeneration and the growth of large-diameter, high-density trees" and that "each elephant thus helps sequester quantities of greenhouse gases each year equivalent to what about 40 vehicles produce."

- Thierry Ivary was found guilty of the offences of killing a fully protected species, and of the illegal possession and attempted sale of ivory tusks, and was sentenced to 30 months' imprisonment and a fine of 8,475,000 CFA francs (14,970 US\$). Jeff Armande Metangama, Jean Paul Bolondo and Hervé Endouadouah were found guilty of the illegal possession of ivory and sentenced to 24 months' imprisonment, 14 of which were suspended, and a suspended fine of 5,475,000 CFA francs (9,670 US\$). They were also ordered to pay jointly and severally 4 million CFA francs (7,060 US\$) to the Water and Forests Administration as damages.⁵



December 12, 2025

Libreville, Estuaire Province, Gabon

Sentencing of Salomon Ebenga to 3 years' imprisonment, one year of which was suspended, and a fine of one million CFA francs (1,770 US\$), and Pedry Mboudy to 2 years' imprisonment, 6 months of which were suspended, and a fine of 2.4 million CFA francs (4,240 US\$) for having, on September 8, 2024, been in possession of 2 elephant tusks and firearms, including an AK-47, in the village of Mamidi, Ogooué-Lolo province, and for attempting to persuade the Ndangui wildlife brigade to drop the case by promising them 3 million CFA francs (5,000 US\$), of which 500,000 CFA francs (845 US\$) was to be paid immediately at the scene of the arrest. Ebenga and Mboudy are also ordered to pay, jointly and severally, one million CFA francs to the Water and Forests Administration as damages.⁶



December 22, 2025

Franceville, Haut-Ogooué Province, Gabon

Seizure of 8 tusks from elephant calves and 2 tusks, each cut in half, from a juvenile elephant. Arrest of 3 Gabonese nationals. One of them is a prospector at a logging site. The driver was cleared of suspicion, while the other 2 were charged with ivory trafficking and remanded in custody.⁷



January 2, 12 and 15, 2026

Miloba-Likéka, Idiba Bambara and Koulamoutou, Ogooué-Lolo Province, Gabon

- Arrest of Arsène Mbazadoma, Gildas Hervey Ileba and Toussaint Malessi. An elephant's trunk and tail and a .458-calibre firearm were seized from his home.

- Charges against Ileba and Malessi were dropped.
- Mbazadoma was sentenced to 3 months' imprisonment, 2 of which were suspended, and fined 50,000 CFA francs (90 US\$) for "slaughter of a fully protected species".⁸



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

December 5, 2025

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

Arrest of 2 individuals in possession of 50 kg of ivory originating from Zambia.⁹

EASTERN AFRICA

BURUNDI

December 1st, 2025

Bujumbura, Bujumbura Province, Burundi

Léonard Manirakiza is no longer Attorney General. His trip to Geneva to attend the 116th session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, organised under the auspices of the United Nations, was cut short, and his return home was a difficult one. Rose Nkorerimana, who was appointed to replace him – the first woman to hold this post in Burundi – demanded a joint inspection of Manirakiza's former office. Two gold bars, several elephant tusks and large sums of money in local and foreign currencies were found there. Manirakiza was placed in custody on the instructions of Rose Nkorerimana.¹⁰

KENYA

November 2025 to January 2026

Isiolo County: Kinna

Kajiado County: Kimana Sanctuary, Shompole Wildlife Sanctuary

Laikipia County: Ol Maisor Ranch, Segera Conservancy

Nakuru County: Naboisho Conservancy

Narok County: Mara North Conservancy, Masai Mara National Reserve

Taita Taveta County: Tsavo East National Park, Tsavo West National Park, Mwanainchi Ranch,

Taita Hills Wildlife Sanctuary, Sisal Estate

Tana River County: Kipini Conservancy

Kenya

Joint operations by the Kenya Wildlife Service and the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust at the elephants' bedsides

A total of 23 elephants, including 18 males.

1. – November 16, 2025. A female elephant died. A spear at the base of her right ear. A wound 7 cm wide and 20 cm deep. An around 20-month foetus in the uterus. The tusks were recovered by the KWS.

– December 17, 2025. Spear wounds to the left ear, flank, humerus, perineum, cheek and rump, and to the trunk. Following anaesthesia, treatment and recovery with an antidote, the elephant died.

– January 26, 2026. The female elephant's body is decomposing and being eaten by scavengers. A metal detector scan revealed the presence of several bullets in the left flank.



2. – January 4, 2026. The female elephant calf is dragging a metal trap by her left front leg. She is injured, limping, alone and at the mercy of lions and other top predators. She is spotted by rangers from the Kipini Conservancy. She is anaesthetised, treated, revived and taken to safety. Favourable prognosis.



– January 15, 2026. The male elephant calf is wounded by an arrow. He is anaesthetised. The arrow is removed from his right abdomen. He is treated as appropriate, with green clay applied to the disinfected wound at the end of the procedure. He gets back on his feet. Favourable prognosis.



– January 21, 2026. The male elephant calf is alone. He is injured on his right shoulder. The spear has pierced his shoulder blade. Favourable prognosis.

– January 26, 2026. The female elephant calf's neck is caught in a trap's wire. The alarm was raised by the Taita rangers. The wound is deep but the neck veins have not yet been severed. She was anaesthetised from the helicopter, as was the mother, who would otherwise have disrupted the rescue and treatment. Favourable prognosis. The mother and daughter set off together again after waking up.

3. 16 adult or subadult elephants were treated for dragging metal traps, or for injuries caused by spears or poisoned arrows. 15 have a favourable prognosis. One prognosis is guarded. The elephant was wounded by a spear thrown above the joint of his left front leg. He will be subject to special monitoring.

On December 15, 2025, following treatment, recovery from anaesthesia, and the removal of a metal wire from around the subadult elephant's mouth and right ear, his first action was to bathe in a waterhole, and his last was to rejoin his herd.¹¹

Beginning of November 2025 Garsen, Tana River County, Kenya

Sentencing of Faraji Omar Bakari, Abdalla Wachu Mohammed, and Ann Abae Hiribae to 3 years in prison. They were arrested on September 20, 2024, while attempting to sell 4 ivory tusks weighing a total of 87.55 kg and estimated to be worth 8 million shillings (61,700 US\$ or 700 US\$/kg). The prosecutor's office notes that the minimum sentence for this type of offence is 5 years.¹²



November 6, 2025 Mwavumbo, Kwale County, Kenya

Apprehension of 2 individuals on a motorcycle in possession of 4 sections of tusks weighing a total of 13 kg and with an estimated value of 1.3 million shillings (10,000 US\$ or 770 US\$/kg).¹³

Mid-November 2025 Nyahururu, Laikipia County, Kenya

Arrest of Robert Kiptoo and Sinko Kedienye who were caught in the act of attempting to sell 2 tusks cut into chunks, weighing 18 kg and with an estimated value of 3.6 million shillings (27,750 US\$ or 1,541 US\$/kg).¹⁴



November 20, 2025 Kahawa, Nairobi County, Kenya

Charges dismissed against Ben Kipkosgei Kiplangat (age 34), a member of the Presidential escort unit, his family, and foreign dignitaries on official visits, against Richard Kipleting Kuto (age 36), a member of the security of Government Building Unit, against Philip Lubanga Adembe (age 39), a member of the critical Infrastructure Protection Unit, and against Charles Nzuki Mutua (age 26), a businessman.



On June 15, 2024, the 4 men were stopped by the police and the KWS in Kitengela. They had come from Eldoret, 350 km to the northeast. Inside the vehicle were 5 tusks or sections of tusks weighing a total of 29 kg, with a value estimated at the time of the incident at 2.9 million shillings (22,000 US\$ or 760 US\$/ kg). The absence of any documentation proving the legal origin of the ivory led to their being charged with trafficking in State-owned trophies under the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act. The arrest was chaotic. Two men brandished their loaded pistols before surrendering. It has not been denied that the vehicle and the firearms belong to government agencies. At the time of the incident, the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) believed the ivory originated from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the spokesperson for the national police, speaking to the media outlet Mwakilishi.com, which broke the story, refused to make any statement other than a terse "we've got them." The Nairobi County Prosecutor's Office ruled that the charges against the 4 suspects were insufficient, without providing any explanation regarding the origin or destination of the ivory. State secret. SEEJ Africa (Saving Endangered Species through Education and Justice) notes that in 2023 and 2024, 5 police officers were implicated in the alleged trafficking of 366 kg of ivory.¹⁵

OPERATION BATELEUR

November 2023 and December 24, 2025

Ngoswani, Narok County and Nairobi Jomo Kenyatta International Airport Court, Nairobi County, Kenya

- Seizure of 69 kg of raw ivory by the Kenya Wildlife Task Force. Three arrests.
- Three convictions resulting in 3-year prison sentences and a fine of one million Kenyan shillings each (equivalent to 7,760 US\$) for possession and attempted sale.
- Due to a lack of funding, the Task Force was disbanded in 2025.¹⁶



End of November 2025

Mombasa, Mombasa County, Kenya

Sentencing of Abdi Mohamed Ali to 3 years in prison and a fine of 3 million shillings (23,270 US\$) for possessing 7 pieces of raw ivory (total weight 24.5 kg) and to 7 years in prison for attempting to sell them. The sentences are to be served concurrently. An arrest warrant has been issued for his partner, who has failed to comply with court summonses since his release on bail. The seizure took place on January 1, 2022, in Memon Villa, a Central Business District of Mombasa. The value of the ivory was estimated at 24 million shillings (18,600 US\$ or 760 US\$/kg).¹⁷



December 24, 2025

Bande, Migori County, Kenya. Border with Tanzania.

Arrest of 2 24-year-old Tanzanian nationals who were in possession of 9 tusks or tusk fragments weighing a total of 16.4 kg and estimated to be worth 2.1 million shillings (16,300 US\$ or 1,000 US\$/kg).¹⁸

December 27, 2025

Wamba, Samburu County, Kenya

Arrest on Saturday morning of a motorcycle courier in possession of 31,000 US\$ in the form of 40 kg of ivory that he was about to deliver.¹⁹

Mid-January 2026

Kilifi, Kilifi County, Kenya

Sentencing of Samuel Kazungu Duka and Nelson Kiringi Nzai to a fine of 7,760 US\$ or 2 and a half years in prison for possessing, transporting, and attempting to sell 5 kg of raw ivory valued at 690 US\$/kg (see "On the Trail" n°42, p. 15, ref. 16).²⁰



January 24, 2026

Namanga, Kajiado County, Kenya. Border with Tanzania.



Seizure by the National Police Service (NPS) and the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) of 110 kg of raw ivory and a scale from a Toyota Mark X and a Nissan Fairland. Arrest of Imani Manasi Msumbwa of Tanzania and Alton Jilaoneka of Kenya. Justin Mwalima, also of Tanzania, fled. The seizure is valued at 11 million shillings (770 US\$/kg). The operation was supported by the LATF (Lusaka Agreement Task Force) and the NGO Freeland. "We welcome further information from the public on anyone suspected of poaching or trafficking elephants, big cats, rhinos, pangolins and other species that are currently being trafficked into black markets. Tips on this particular network were critical to the success of this operation and can help authorities further in dismantling such criminal networks that act as poaching machines until they are disabled."²¹

MALAWI

Mid-November 2025

Mangochi, Southern Region, Malawi

Sentencing of Shoriano Juwao Bizwick, age 31, Nelson Bala, age 36, and Ziti Rajabu, age 34, all 3 Mozambican nationals, to 7 years in prison with hard labour for attempting to sell 5 pieces of raw ivory.²²



November 29 and beginning of December 2025

Nambamba and Malomo, Central Region, Malawi

- Arrest of Isaac Kapikule, age 55, for possessing 9 ivory tusks.
- Sentenced to 10 years in prison.²³



January 21, 2026

Mpamantha, Central Region, Malawi

Arrest of Yesaya Lijanga, age 39, and Hussein Mwale, age 48, while they were attempting to sell 68.5 kg of ivory to a plainclothes police officer.²⁴



UGANDA

OPERATIONS SIMBA 1 / LAMASSU

December 2–3, 2025

Bwera, Western Region (Border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo) and Kampala, Central Region, Uganda

Following the seizure of raw ivory near the border with Sudan on October 1, 2025 (see “On the Trail” n°48, p. 17, ref. 23), the UWCU (Uganda Wildlife Crime Unit) seized 68 kg divided into 8 pieces near the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The following day, the URA (Uganda Revenue Authority) seized 2 tusks weighing a total of 10 kg. A woman was immediately arrested, followed by 3 accomplices, aboard a long-distance bus travelling from Kasese (near the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo) to Kampala, the capital.²⁵

TANZANIA

January 2, 2026

Dar es Salaam, Dar es Salaam Region, Tanzania

Sentencing in the first instance of Mohamed Mbotoni and Abdallah Pazi to 20 years in prison for being caught red-handed on May 23, 2022, in possession of 8 tusks or sections of tusks hidden in a chicken coop, with an estimated value of 103 million Tanzanian shillings (40,300 US\$). Based on the average estimated price per kilogram of ivory in Tanzania between 2020 and 2025, the weight of the seized ivory is estimated to be 25 kg.²⁶



ZAMBIA

Mid-November 2025

Rufunsa Game Management Area, Lusaka Province, Zambia



Despite the desperate efforts of veterinarian Liz O'Brien, there is little chance that this elephant calf, covered with a blanket and lying on a bed of straw, will survive the deep gash in his left hind leg caused by a steel trap.²⁷



ZIMBABWE

Beginning of December 2025

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



Yet another head lacerated and an ear torn off by a metal trap hanging from a tree. The prognosis for the male elephant calf is uncertain.²⁸

December 9, 2025

Guruve, Mashonaland Central Province, Zimbabwe



Sentencing of Amos Tambaoga Chidembo, age 43, to 9 years in prison. He had been arrested on February 4, 2024, while attempting to sell 2 sections of tusk weighing 14.93 and 14.31 kg to plainclothes police officers for 70 US\$/kg.²⁹

SOUTHERN AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

November 5, 2025

Bende Mutale, Limpopo Province, South Africa. Border with Zimbabwe.

Following a tip, a 49-year-old man was arrested while attempting to sell 2 ivory tusks.³⁰

Weekend of November 8–9, 2025

Khubvi, Limpopo Province, South Africa



It's a celebration in Khubvi. Two "problem" elephants were killed by rangers to prevent harm to the local population or damage to property. The 2 elephants were found on the banks of the Mbwedi River, between Mukula and Khubvi. The local population rushed to the carcasses. There is no word on the whereabouts of the tusks. Ten days earlier, in Harare, Zimbabwe, the "Elephant in the Room" conference was held, an initiative to discuss the alleged overpopulation of elephants in southern Africa. At that event, the Botswana delegation threatened to send 20,000 elephants to Germany and 10,000 to London so that foreign observers would become aware of the risks facing rural communities and agricultural activities.³¹

December 11, 2025

Dzingidzingi, Limpopo Province, South Africa

"Community hunt" and distribution of meat from an elephant accused of harming agricultural activities and the public good.³²

NAMIBIA

November 14, 2025

Onandjaba, Omusati Region, Namibia. Border with Angola.

Seizure of a tusk. Arrest of a 59-year-old man.³³

EASTERN ASIA

CHINA

BEIJING AUTONOMOUS MUNICIPALITY

November 2025

Beijing-Daxing International Airport, Beijing Autonomous Municipality, China

Seizure from the luggage of a passenger arriving in Beijing of 9 carved ivory items, including 4 bracelets. Total weight: 179 grammes.³⁴

TIANJIN AUTONOMOUS MUNICIPALITY

January 2026

Port of Tianjin Xingang, Tianjin Autonomous Municipality, China

Seizure of 2 ivory statuettes weighing a total of 568 grammes from a box declared as containing "ornaments" amongst personal belongings in a removal container.³⁵

FUJIAN PROVINCE

January 2026

Xiamen-Gaoqi International Airport, Fujian Province, China

Seizure from the luggage of a passenger who had chosen the "nothing to declare" lane of a carved ivory figurine depicting a dragon. Total weight: 1,076 grammes.³⁶

GUANGDONG PROVINCE

Beginning of November, 2025

Pingyuan County, Meizhou Prefecture, Guangdong Province, China

Lenient sentencing of Chen (alias), an antique dealer, to a 30-month suspended prison term and a fine of 10,000 yuan (1,405 US\$), for purchasing 2 ivory items from an individual who could not provide traceability documents. He paid 8,300 yuan (1,150 US\$) in cash for the items, which, after being seized from his store, were appraised at 86,000 yuan (12,000 US\$) by forensic experts.³⁷



November to January 2026

Shenzhen Bao'an International Airport and Luohu Border Post (Border with Hong Kong), Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, China

- Seizure from the luggage of a passenger disembarking in Shenzhen of 18 carved ivory items, including statuettes and knife and fork handles. Total weight: 1,694.14 grammes.
- Seizure of 44 ivory cubes from the pockets of a man of Indonesian origin attempting to cross the Luohu border checkpoint. Each cube had been painted black to deceive the sleuths.



- Seizure from a postal parcel of a painting scroll with its tips made out of ivory.³⁸

HEBEI PROVINCE

November 2025

Shijiazhuang Zhengding International Airport, Hebei Province, China

Seizure from 2 parcels declared as containing "T-shirts" of 2 ivory figurines with a total weight of 1.47 kg.³⁹

December 2025

Wuhan, Hubei Province, China



Seizure from a postal parcel of 2 painting scrolls with their tips made out of ivory.⁴⁰

JIANGSU PROVINCE

November 25, 2025

Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, China

Seizure from a postal parcel from abroad of a fan with ivory leaves. Total weight: 161 grammes.⁴¹

SHANDONG PROVINCE

November and December 2025

Jimo and Huangdao Port, Qingdao, Shandong Province, China

- Seizure of 32 ivory necklaces from a postal parcel sent from abroad. Total weight: 858 grammes.
- Seizure of 267 undeclared painting scrolls with their tips made out of ivory from a consignment of imported goods.⁴²



SICHUAN PROVINCE

December 2025

Luzhou, Sichuan Province, China

Seizure from a postal parcel of 2 painting scrolls with their tips made out of ivory.⁴³

SOUTHEASTERN ASIA

CAMBODIA

December 22, 2025

Preah Roka Wildlife Sanctuary, Preah Vihear Province, Cambodia. Border with Thailand.



The border conflict between Thailand and Cambodia has claimed 2 lives among the elephant population. A mother elephant, aged around 40, and her stillborn calf were shot dead in the middle of a rubber plantation.⁴⁴ Thailand-Cambodia, see also p. 91 ref. 67.

INDONESIA

November 5 and December 17, 2025
Ragunan, South Jakarta City, and
Central Jakarta City, Special Capital
Region of Jakarta, Java Island,
Indonesia



Sentencing in the first instance of Jefri Bin Zulbahri to 2 years 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 possessing, among other items, 4 statuettes, 12 figurines, 7 bracelets, a cane, and an ivory belt buckle. The sentence was upheld on appeal.⁴⁵

November 10, 2025

Way Kambas National Park, East
Lampung Regency, Lampung Province,
Sumatra Island, Indonesia



On Monday, November 10, the nylon rope that had cut into an elephant calf's left front leg was removed by the ERU (Elephant Response Unit), the specialised elephant rescue unit led by mahout Nazaruddin. The ERU had been alerted on October 24. It took 2 weeks to locate the victim and his herd. The first images of the elephant calf dragging the nylon rope were captured by a camera trap in August 2025. The nylon did not cut into the bone. Nervous at first but playful after being freed, the elephant calf reportedly shook his trunk, lowered his head, and pretended to charge at Nazaruddin.⁴⁶

December 11, 2025

Tesso Nilo National Park, Pelalawan
Regency, Riau Province, Sumatra
Island, Indonesia



Injury to the right front leg of a female elephant calf, approximately 2 years old, caused by a nylon snare. 400 kg. 1.78 metres tall. Open wound. The rescue operation lasted a total of 3 hours. She rejoined her herd, that was waiting one kilometre away. The prognosis is favourable. Kudos to the veterinarian and the mahouts.⁴⁷



December 18, 2025

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

"To restore dignity to the guardians of the forest," the Ministry of Forestry's circular dated December 18 prohibits any exhibition, parade, fair, or other performance involving elephants at State institutions dedicated to the conservation of animals and ecosystems, such as the BKSDA.⁴⁸

THAILAND

November 12, 2025

Ban Khlong Ta In, Chanthaburi
Province, Thailand



Discovery of 3 electrocuted elephants, including the well-known Plai Muan, who was about 30 years old and weighed approximately 5 metric tonnes. "Plai" refers to a male elephant with tusks. The electric traps were treacherously placed near watering holes where the elephants used to come to drink. Legal proceedings against the farmer will be initiated at the request of the management of the Khao Soi Dao Wildlife Sanctuary.⁴⁹

Elephants in Chanthaburi Province, see "On the Trail" n°15, p. 104 (ref. 112), n°29, p. 36 (ref. 94), n°34, p. 38 (ref. 132) and p. 39 (ref. 134), and n°46, p. 19 (ref. 46).



November 23, 2025

Khao Chang Phueak National Forest Reserve,
Kanchanaburi Province, Thailand

20 years old, 2 metric tonnes, 20 bullets identified by the metal detector. Six were extracted, each 1 cm in diameter. 32 abrasions and contusions. It is possible that the elephant fled after being riddled with bullets and before collapsing.⁵⁰

Elephants in Kanchanaburi Province, see "On the Trail" n°20, pp. 126–127 (ref. 67), n°33, p. 47 (ref. 178), and n°37, p. 29 (ref. 85).

January 11, 2026
Ban Lao Mak Phang, Bueng Kan Province,
Thailand. Border with Laos.



Seizure of 19 tusks and sections of tusks, weighing a total of 170 kg, on a dock as a boat arriving from Laos after crossing the Mekong River was unloaded. Two Thai nationals were arrested, 8 others fled. They had been paid 300 baht (10 US\$) each as unloaders, claiming they did not know what was inside the fertilizer bags. The boat quickly disappeared into the night with 2 men on board, all lights off, heading toward Laos, leaving behind only the sound of its 2 outboard motors.⁵¹

SOUTHERN ASIA

BANGLADESH

November 17 and 18, 2025
Rajapalang Union, Cox's Bazar District,
Chittagong Division (Chattogram),
Bangladesh



The elephant is dead on the hill. He was electrocuted near a rice paddy. He was 40–45 years old. Someone spotted the body early in the morning, his feet and trunk were tangled in wires. The witness confirmed that the elephant's head was covered in burns. Upon arriving at the scene, forest rangers formed a circle to keep onlookers at a distance. Shamsul Alam, the farmer, is nowhere to be found. Residents alleged that some employees of the Ukhiya Palli Bidyut Samiti are providing electricity connections deep inside forested areas in exchange for bribes, putting wildlife at serious risk.



Between January and November, 5 elephants were electrocuted in Cox's Bazar District, specifically in the upazilas of Ukhiya and Teknaf.⁵²

INDIA

November 2, 2025
Buggawala, Haridwar District, State of
Uttarakhand, India

2.4 kg. 56 cm long. 23 cm in circumference. The tusk was seized from Gulam Hasan, alias Shamsher, a member of the Van Gujjar tribe who makes a meager living selling milk and was involved in ivory trafficking for the first time.⁵³

FAMILY AFFAIRS

November 2, 2025

Sulegali, Belagavi District, State of
Karnataka, India



"In a tragic incident highlighting the growing human–elephant conflict" (the almost automatic stock phrase used in the Union to introduce reports of electrocutions), a female and a male elephant were found dead at the foot of a fence erected by Ganapati Sateri Gurav, who was taken into custody, and his son, who has gone missing. After the customary investigations, the bodies were burned in the open for several hours. Upon arriving at the scene, the State's Minister of Forests strongly criticized the negligence of the electric companies, which had facilitated the unauthorized connection.⁵⁴

FAMILY AFFAIRS

The night of November 5–6, 2025

n°3 Notun Matit, Chirang District, State
of Assam, India. Border with Bhutan.



A female elephant, who had ventured out of Manas National Park that night with 2 companions, was electrocuted by an illegal power line diverted from the public grid. Mijing and Mangra Basumatary wanted to prevent intrusions into their crops. Arriving early in the morning, the SSB (Sashastra Seema Bal) established a security perimeter around the deceased elephant. Forest officials lament the resurgence of conflicts in the Manas buffer zone and the widespread use of illegal electric fences. They are calling on farmers to cooperate with authorities to implement non-lethal deterrents.⁵⁵

December 3, 2025

Ramla, Keonjhar District, State of Odisha, India

Interstate trafficking. Kailash Chandra Tiria and Mishra Munda of Odisha and Guru Charan Kerai of Jharkhand were transporting, on a motorcycle, a 100-cm tusk weighing 7.5 kg and an 89-cm tusk weighing 6.5 kg. The investigation may reveal whether they came from a wild or domesticated elephant.⁵⁶

December 4 and 6, 2025

**Kadayaratti and Sathyamangalam,
Erode District, State of Tamil Nadu,
India**



- Electrocution of a female elephant overnight in the Bargur Hills near a plot of corn and coconut trees.

- Electrocution of a 15-year-old female elephant near a cornfield. Arrest of Periya Muthan, age 75.⁵⁷



Sathyamangalam

December 7, 2025

**Kilakarai, Ramanathapuram District, State of
Tamil Nadu, India**

Interception of a motorcycle at dusk near the lighthouse. Arrest of K. Kadar Batcha, a house painter, and P. Harikumar, an electrician, ages 27 and 29. Seizure of 2 tusks (3.9 kg). They were intended to be smuggled by sea to Sri Lanka. Subsequent arrest of Sriram, who allegedly purchased them in Kerala.⁵⁸

December 12 and 21, 2025

**Chuapada Forest, Mayurbhanj District,
State of Odisha, India**



War has been declared on elephants!

The poor little female elephant, her mouth torn by a booby-trapped fruit, had been wandering since December 12, unable to eat or drink and tormented by pain. She was part of a herd of 27 elephants that had migrated from the Betanati Forest and were living in the Chuapada Forest. She died on Saturday, December 21, after being rushed to the Bangiriposhi Talabandh centre, where veterinarians could only confirm that her tongue and jaws had been dislocated and torn off.

The use of avuttukkai is spreading in Odisha. Until then, it had been observed in Tamil Nadu.⁵⁹

Elephant poaching and Mayurbhanj District: see Index.

FAMILY AFFAIRS

**December 13, 17, and 25,
2025**

**Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary
and Soro, Balasore District,
State of Odisha, India**



Between real ivory and fake ivory

In issues n°25 (p. 95, ref. 138), 40 (p. 31, ref. 87), and 44 (p. 26, ref. 96) of "On the Trail," several cases of elephant poaching were reported in this sanctuary (273 km²), which is guarded 24 hours a day. The latest news from the sanctuary involves an original production of fake ivory made from elephant parts other than tusks. Crushed bones mixed with chemical and plant-based additives were compressed and shaped into tusk sections in a workshop. Nine people were arrested on December 13 and 17, including individuals with extensive knowledge of the sanctuary who specialised in hunting Indian porcupines (*Hystrix indica*), barking deer, Indian saw-scaled vipers (*Echis carinatus*), and pangolins. A total of 146 scales, a homemade rifle, metal traps, arrows, bows, and unconventional explosives were seized.

On December 25, as part of the investigation into the multifaceted poaching plaguing the sanctuary, 2 brothers, Madhabananda Patra and Sudam Patra, and Gayadhar Behera were arrested in Soro while in possession of 3 suspected elephant tusks.⁶⁰

December 14, 2025

Manikjodi, Angul District, State of Odisha, India

Angul District continues to make headlines for poaching, violence, and corruption (see index). Overnight, an elephant was shot and killed. He had approached Manikjodi (population 200). The elephant's death by gunshot comes just days after a leopard was killed in a trap (see page 38 ref. 54).⁶¹

December 20, 2025

Darjeeling District, State of West Bengal, India

A special operation was conducted late Saturday night on Asian Highway n°2, on the eve of the Christmas and New Year's holidays and the associated gift-giving. A vehicle travelling from Nepal toward Siliguri was intercepted. A 35-cm-long tusk (1.105 kg) was seized. Ganesh Basfor, a Nepalese national, and Kamal Agarwal, an Indian national, were arrested. The Assistant Divisional Forest Officer notes that the Siliguri Corridor, also known as the "chicken's neck," is a major wildlife migration route spanning India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and China.⁶²

Siliguri Corridor, see "On the Trail" n°2, p. 23; n°18, p. 23 (ref. 5); n°20, p. 65 (ref. 21); n°24, p. 78 (ref. 100); and n°25, p. 78 (ref. 28).

January 5, 19, and 20, and beginning February 2026

Belghar and Jhiripani Forest Reserve, Kandhamal District; Tahansir, Kalahandi District, State of Odisha, India



Discovery of a dead elephant. Electrocution is suspected but has not been proven. No post-mortem examination was carried out. And for good reason: the body had been dismembered, cut up, and the pieces scattered and buried. For this repulsive task, eight officers were mobilised by Bisi, the deputy director of the forestry division, who claimed to be acting on orders from higher authorities. In truth, he was attempting, through this manoeuvre, to cover up yet another fatal poaching incident and to avoid accusations of negligence. He was suspended from his duties and, even before the head, trunk, legs, ears and skin were found scattered here and there under 2.5 metres of earth, he fled. The elephant's skeleton, which had been buried in pieces using a digger, could have been reassembled had the courts so ordered, although the 2 tusks are missing; their presence at the very outset of the case, when the body was discovered, was confirmed by witnesses.⁶³

Saturday, January 10; Tuesday, January 13; Friday, January 16; and Sunday, January 18, 2026

Guthiyalathur Forest Reserve, Erode District, State of Tamil Nadu, Pathargada, Angul District, Kapilash, Denkanal District, and Mahidharpur, Angul District, State of Odisha, India



- A young female elephant, about a year and a half old, died on a forest trail after falling for the trap of an "avuttukkai," a large fruit into which a farm bomb and a detonator had been treacherously placed.

- An elephant approximately 5 years old was once again caught by an "avuttukkai." The explosion tore open his mouth. He was discovered in Pathargada on Tuesday, January 13, and was rushed to the Kapilash Elephant Care Centre in Dhenkanal District (100 km away) via the "Airavat," the elephant ambulance truck named after Airavata, the king of elephants who served as the mount of the god Indra. He died on Friday, January 16, despite the care provided by veterinarians from Kapilash, Angul, and Satkosia.



- On Sunday, January 18, following this tragic death, 70 kg of explosives were seized at a supermarket about 50 kilometres from Pathargada.⁶⁴



January 14, 2026

Jigani, Bengaluru Urban District, State of Karnataka, India

Interception of a scooter on the Koppa-Beguru road. Two ivory statuettes, believed to be over 120 years old and estimated to be worth 2.5 million rupees (28,000 US\$), were seized. Arrest of Shabbir Ahmed, who identified himself as a real estate agent, and Narendra Kumar Sharma, who identified himself as an IT consultant. They were allegedly hired by an elderly couple to sell the Asian elephant ivory idols for the best possible price.⁶⁵

January 21, 2026

Baldiha, Mayurbhanj District, State of Odisha, India

Forest rangers stopped 2 men at a roadside restaurant who were attempting to sell, under the guise of an elephant tusk, a polished and carved bone 30.5 cm long which could be an elephant bone.⁶⁶

January 25, 2026

Bareysarn, Latehar District, State of Jharkhand, India

Seizure by the WCCB (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) from the hands of Sachin Gupta from inside the Palamau Tiger Reserve of 2 pieces of what is suspected to be raw ivory. Gupta fell into the trap set by 2 plainclothes officers who were allegedly looking to make a quick buck.⁶⁷

January 28, 2026

Sagarkattha and Ronmara, West Singhbhum District, State of Jharkhand, India

The suspected fight between 2 elephants on Tuesday night left one of them lying on the ground with no hope of getting back up. In the early hours of the morning, when forest rangers arrived at the scene, one tusk was missing. The tension spread and a herd of elephants blocked the nearby railway line, delaying passenger trains for several hours until railway staff and forest rangers managed to drive them away.⁶⁸

January 29–February 1, 2026

Karaibari and Subhaijhar Forests, Chirang District, State of Assam, India. Border with Bhutan.

- Discovery of a dead elephant. He had been riddled with bullets. The attack took place between January 20 and 23. The elephant's tusks and toenails were cut off with a power saw by poachers.

- Arrest of Dhanesh Rai, age 38, Dhaneshwar Rai, age 34, and Jewel Baske, age 50. Seizure of the elephant's tusks, toenails, and molars.

Voices are being raised to denounce the illegal logging of precious trees in the forest where the elephant was killed and to call for increased surveillance in this wildlife corridor between Assam and Bhutan.⁶⁹

SRI LANKA

December 15-16, 2025

Seepukulama, North Central Province, Sri Lanka

The elephant known as Amba Bo was well-known in the area. Both wild and tame, he had been treated by the Pandulagama Veterinary Office after being shot in the left front leg whilst going about his business near Mihintale, but the carers had lost track of him since August 2025. On the night of December 15, Amba Bo fell victim to intolerance and an attack. A video from a witness, handed over to the authorities, shows a group of agitated people approaching Amba Bo with torches; as Amba Bo was unable to run away, he was set alight. The press reported that he "burnt live". He died a few hours later of fright and his burns. Three arsonists have been arrested.⁷⁰

SOUTHERN EUROPE

SPAIN

November 18, 2025

Valencia, Province of Valencia, Valencian Community, Spain

Seizure of 31 Oriental-inspired figurines and a partially finished carved ivory from a 71-year-old woman who was selling them online. The economic value of these exceptional artifacts, whose origin is unknown, is estimated at 3.6 million euros (4.16 million US dollars).⁷¹

ITALY

Mid-November 2025

Muravera, Metropolitan City of Cagliari, Autonomous Region of Sardinia, Italy

Seizure by the carabinieri from a woman who was trafficking them of 34 ivory objects of Japanese inspiration and unknown origin.⁷²

MAMMOTHS

EUROPE

RUSSIA

Mid-January 2026

Burachki Border Post, Sebezhsy District, Pskov Oblast, Russia. Border with Latvia.

Seizure of a piece of mammoth ivory (4 kg) from a vehicle driven by a Moldovan man who was about to enter Latvia. He said he had agreed to hand over a bag to an acquaintance without asking what was inside it.¹



RHINOCEROSES



Young white rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum*). Photo Michael Holthuysen (BY-NC 4.0)

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

December 3, 2025

Manguzi, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

Dumisani Gwala was shot and killed at his home by 3 unidentified men. After 30 trial postponements, confessions, acts of defiance, and evidence of his involvement in the rhinoceros horn trafficking trade, he had been all but acquitted by the court, which on July 28, 2023, had simply sentenced him to a 6-month suspended prison term for resisting law enforcement officers. He was not spared by the cycle of revenge. His "career" was doggedly and courageously tracked by Jamie Joseph, director of Saving the Wild South Africa. Horn kingpins do not enjoy a peaceful retirement. Mister Big, whose real name is Petros Sidney Mabuza, suffered the same fate as Gwala in June 2021 (see "On the Trail" n°33, p. 65, ref. 20).¹ Dumisani Gwala, see "On the Trail" n°12, p. 71 (ref. 39), n°14, p. 63 (ref. 21) and p. 66 (ref. 41), n°18, p. 72 (ref. 31), n°19, p. 86 (ref. 20), n°20, p. 81 (ref. 15), n°21, p. 75 (ref. 17), n°31, p. 45 (ref. 15), n°32, p. 62 (ref. 18), and n°41, p. 37 (ref. 14).



December 4, 2025

Upington, Northern Cape Province, South Africa

Arrest of 3 men, ages 42 to 48, in possession of a rhinoceros horn, a handgun, and ammunition.²



Beginning of December 2025

KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

Mandatory dehorning. While going about his daily activities and grazing on the savannah, the white rhinoceros became entangled in a trap around his frontal horn. He managed to free himself, but the metal noose had wrapped itself around the base of his horn. The rhinoceros was anaesthetised with a tranquilizer gun fired from a Heligistix helicopter, and veterinarian Dr. Rowan Leeming, with the help of 5 rangers, was forced to remove the horn before gaining access to the metal wire and extracting it. Antibiotics, anti-inflammatory drugs, and ointments were administered to treat the wounds.³



December 8, 2025

Hartbeesfontein, North West Province, South Africa

Early in the morning, an armed robbery took place at the Voi Game Lodge, operated by Vietnamese interests, in which 98 rhinoceros horns and 50,000 rand in cash, equivalent to 3,000 US\$, were stolen.⁴

December 11, 2025

Skukuza, Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa

Bethuel Baloyi is no longer on the run. He was the accomplice of million Masilane, who was sentenced to 16 years in prison for poaching 2 white rhinos on March 28, 2020, in the Pretoriuskop section of Kruger National Park (see "On the Trail" n°44, p. 31, ref. 7). Bethuel Baloyi, who had been released on bail, had failed to appear for all court summonses. He was recently arrested in the Hluhluwe Reserve in connection with a new rhinoceros poaching case, the investigation of which is ongoing. For the 2020 poaching incident, he has just been sentenced, like Masilane, to 37 years in prison on the same charges. Since some of the sentences were consolidated, his actual prison term has been reduced to 16 years.⁵



REPEATED OFFENCE

December 12, 2025

Skukuza, Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa

Sentencing of Faro Zitha to 22 years in prison: 8 years for possession of a firearm with the serial number removed, 4 years for possession of a weapon with the intent to commit a crime, 4 years for criminal conspiracy, 2 years for trespassing in Kruger National Park, 2 years for possession of ammunition, 1 for violating immigration law, and 1 for possession of a dangerous weapon (an axe or a knife). Since some of the sentences were combined, the total prison term is 10 years.⁶



January 20, 2026

Ficksburg, Free State Province, South Africa. Border with Lesotho.



At 2:15 a.m., police inspected the car in a gas station parking lot and discovered a package containing 4 suspected rhinoceros horns, as well as a zip-top plastic bag with 50 small gemstones and a gold nugget, the authenticity of which must be verified. The driver, a foreign national, said he had been hired to transport the zip-top bag and the taped cardboard box from Johannesburg to Maseru in Lesotho (400 km) without knowing exactly what was inside. He was arrested in Ficksburg near the border with Lesotho.⁷

KENYA

Beginning of November 2025

Kajiado, Kajiado County, Kenya

The man from Maua (population 22,000) in Meru County had obtained a small rhinoceros horn (100 grammes) several months earlier. Tracked by the Big Life Foundation, he first tried to sell it in Malili, Machakos County, along the road to Mombasa, and then travelled to Kajiado, where he was caught red-handed by the KWS while attempting to sell it in the parking lot of a gas station.⁸

NAMIBIA

Beginning of November 2025

Omaruru District, Erongo Region, Namibia

Discovery of the decomposing carcass of a black rhinoceros on a ranch. The animal had been fatally shot in the head. The poachers, who fled the scene, removed the horns.⁹

November 2025

Near Etosha National Park, Oshikoto Region, Namibia

Arrest of Paulus Panduleni Nikodemus in possession of 2 rhinoceros horns with an estimated value of 165,000 Namibian dollars (10,500 US\$).¹⁰

December 10, 2025

Kalkrand, Hardap Region, Namibia

A serial killer, cattle thief, and oryx poacher, Derick Brockerhoff has a profile that is, fortunately, atypical. He was arrested at a traffic checkpoint on the B1 road with a rifle, 13 rounds of ammunition, and hunting gear.¹¹

ASIA

CHINA

November 2025

Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport, Zhejiang Province, China



Fragments and powder of rhinoceros horn in 4 small bags were detected by X-ray screening in the suitcase of an arriving passenger. A total of 461.52 grammes. Subsequent analysis revealed that the contraband came from a black rhinoceros.¹²

EUROPE

IRELAND

December 2, 2025

Rathkeale, County Limerick, Ireland

Eleven raids were carried out by the local police and the National Guard in the stronghold of the travelling community known as the Rathkeale Rovers. At a location - it is unclear whether it was a caravan, a camper van or a permanent or borrowed second home - luxury handbags, designer watches and rhino horns - it is unclear whether these are counterfeit - were seized, along with 400,000 € (463,500 US\$) in cash (believed to be genuine), and in several bank accounts.

The scams attributed to the Rathkeale Rovers and their followers are sometimes violent and threatening, sometimes colourful, and have often led them to police custody, court cases, prison sentences and extraditions, in particular from Ireland to the United States. To grasp the ever-changing world of the Rathkeale Rovers - experts in antiques, second-hand tar, fake whitewash, the sale of DS 19s that no longer exist, and stolen or exchanged rhino horns - one must read the regional newspapers in France and across the European Union that follow their trail, often without naming them. By contrast, 22 issues of "On the Trail" follow them very closely, referring to them by their patriarchal and matriarchal names, sometimes getting lost - like customs officers - since they have the privilege of possessing two identities and a terrible habit of multiplying homonyms. According to The Journal, based in Dublin, they have reportedly become masters of cryptocurrency scams - which is right up their street - and may be linked to migrant smuggling in the Mediterranean, which does not seem to look like their usual style. On the other hand, the Irish Times reported in 2021 that the Rathkeale Rovers were the first to develop an app that, for a few hundred euros, issued fake negative Covid-19 test results - which does seem to fit their skills and their bargain sense. Indeed, Europol has confirmed this.

Between November 2024 and August 2026, a spate of 12 thefts of jewellery sets and gold nuggets, porcelain, diamonds, silverware and curiosities took place in museums in France, the Netherlands, Austria and Spain. This recalls the *modus operandi* of the Rathkeale Rovers. The total value of the losses exceeds 100 million euros (116 million US\$).¹³

Rathkeale Rovers, see Index.

Freelance journalist Hugo Nazarenko-Sas has just published **Le Gang des Voleurs de cornes** (The Horn Thieves' Gang) with Marchialy Editions, a story that gets off to a flying start and ends with the Thoiry zoo mystery. Available in French only.



Snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*). Photo Michele (BY-NC 4.0)

CENTRAL AFRICA

CAMEROON

December 16, 2025
Yaoundé, Centre Region, Cameroon



Seizure of 2 fresh leopard skins (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I), one from an adult and one from a cub. Two men, one of whom was a police officer, were attempting to sell them. The skins had been smuggled in from Gabon and sun-dried in the Briqueterie neighbourhood, described by the local press as "dangerous."¹

January 23, 2026
Yaoundé, Centre Region, Cameroon



Arrest of a Master Corporal in the regular army found in possession of the torn pelt of an adult leopard (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) purchased in Bélabo, Eastern Region. The trafficker is stationed in Dschang, Western Region, 600 km from Bélabo.²

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

November 26, 2025

Lubumbashi, Haut-Katanga Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Sentencing of Loty Tecxera Desuza and Seydou Nzala Dumbia to one year in prison and to pay a fine of 920 US\$, with an additional 15 days in prison in the event of non-payment, for possessing 3 lion cubs (*Panthera leo*, Appendix II) that were allegedly purchased in South Africa and intended for a country in the Arabian Gulf (see "On the Trail" n°47, p. 27, ref. 3). The sentences are suspended for 2 years. Conserv Congo is outraged by their lightness. Four accomplices were acquitted or not prosecuted. The lion cubs are at the Lubumbashi Zoo and are expected to be "returned" to South Africa.³



EASTERN AFRICA

ETHIOPIA

January and May 2026

Dendemia, Oromia Region, and Jijiga, Somali Region, Ethiopia

- The team at the Ensessa Kotteh sanctuary has taken in 4 cheetah cubs (*Acinonyx jubatus*, Appendix I) seized by the EWCA (Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority) from the hands of traffickers who were about to smuggle them into Somaliland. They had initially been entrusted to the Babile Elephant Sanctuary, where they were bottle-fed a mixture of cow's, camel's and goat's milk. The Born Free Ethiopia team then took charge of them and, taking all necessary precautions, transported them to the Ensessa Kotteh sanctuary after a difficult journey lasting one and a half days and covering 550 kilometres. The 3 female cubs are around 3 months old and the male cub is around 2 months old. He is clearly the frailest. Upon their arrival, they were given by feeding bottle a less rich and more easily digestible milk substitute, which helps ensure proper bone densification.

- Despite constant care and precautions, and notable improvements in the behaviour and agility of the 4 survivors, the male died shortly after his arrival. The disaster struck in May when the 3 surviving females contracted Feline Panleukopenia Virus – sometimes referred to in French as 'feline typhus' – which claimed their lives within a short time. A biosecurity protocol was immediately put in place at the shelter to prevent the spread of the disease to the other animals housed there, and so far they have all been spared.⁴

KENYA

January 6, 2026

Mbirikani Group Ranch, Kajiado County, Kenya

Death of a lion (*Panthera leo*, Appendix II) accused of attacking a shepherd's flock. He was struck by a spear in the upper part of his right hind paw. According to the post-mortem report, the wound was too shallow to be fatal and it is suspected that he had been poisoned beforehand.⁵



MOZAMBIQUE

January 16, 2026

Dondo District, Sofala Province, Mozambique

Arrest of 2 individuals in possession of a leopard skin (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I), jawbone (including teeth), and 10 claws. They intended to sell the items for 8,000 meticaís (120 US\$). The leopard is believed to have been caught in a trap set by one of the 2 suspects to protect his crops.⁶



UGANDA

December 11, 2025

Nyamugasani, Queen Elizabeth National Park, Western Region, Uganda

Three young lions (*Panthera leo*, Appendix II) were found dead in the Akabale sector next to the half-carcass of a cow and empty packaging from unidentified products. The UWA (Uganda Wildlife Authority) and the Kasese police are launching an investigation. Postmortem examinations are expected to confirm the hypothesis of poisoning.⁷



SOMALIA

End of January 2026

Geed-Deeble, Somaliland Autonomous Region, Somalia



Rescue by the CCF (Cheetah Conservation Fund) of a cheetah cub (*Acinonyx jubatus*, Appendix I) on a leash attached to a post by a rope.⁸

SOUTHERN AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

December 10, 2025

Johannesburg, Gauteng Province, South Africa



Destruction by fire of 441 kg of lion bones (*Panthera leo*, Appendix II). 42 lions were killed. The South African government called for an end to intensive lion breeding in enclosures and their commercial exploitation in March 2024 (see "On the Trail" n°44, p. 39, ref. 25bis).⁹

BOTSWANA

End of December 2025

Lesoma, North-West District, Botswana. Border with Zimbabwe.

A male lion (*Panthera leo*, Appendix II) and a female lion were found dead by the side of Highway A33, covered in blood and riddled with bullets fired at point-blank range, near the site of the poisoning massacre that occurred earlier this month (see p.180 ref. 10). Karabo Danster, chief veterinarian of the Department of Wildlife and National Parks in the Chobe District, reminds livestock owners that their animals must be kept in kraals (enclosures) at night to prevent attacks, reduce conflicts between herders and carnivorous predators, and avoid retaliation.¹⁰

NAMIBIA

January 17, 2026

Okahandja, Otjozondjupa Region, Namibia

Arrest of a man after being caught in the act of attempting to sell a leopard skin (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) for 80,000 Namibian dollars (4,810 US\$).¹¹

NORTHERN AMERICA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

November 2025

Portland, Multnomah County, State of Oregon, United States of America

facebook



This young puma (*Puma concolor*, Appendix II), whose skull had been turned into a rug or bedspread, was posted on Facebook by a man who claims he was forced to stab him in self-defence. The carcass, examined by experts, bears the marks of a firearm. It has been seized, and the man who, on the night of the incident, had taken the precaution of purchasing a tracking bracelet to justify the animal's killing, has been summoned to appear in court.¹²

November 21, 2025

Mountain Park, Gunnison County, State of Colorado, United States of America

The puma (*Puma concolor*, Appendix II) goes by several names, and "mountain lion," the most flattering of these, is also the most dangerous. Since we can't go to Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe, we'll settle for a lion in Colorado. The body of the "lion," as the Colorado Parks and Wildlife press release puts it, was dumped in a canyon and was rotting in the bushes with holes in his chest, near the campsites of hikers and other park visitors. What is often confusing about hunting reports in the United States is that at first glance, the uninformed reader believes they are sharing in the general outcry following the violent death of a large, endangered North American predator, only to realise upon closer inspection that the fundamental charge the authorities are leveling against the shooter is that he acted 3 days before the official opening of the puma hunting season. A reward of 1,000 US\$ may be awarded, depending on the quality of the information, to anyone who leads investigators to the person or persons responsible. Operation Game Thief can be reached year-round at 877-265-6648 or via email at game.thief@state.co.us.¹³

December 5, 2025

Baltimore, State of Maryland, United States of America

Two servals (*Leptailurus serval*, Appendix II) are roaming the gutters and yards of the city's 2400 block. Brandon Haw, a former American football player (who played one season with the New York Jets), claims ownership of the animals and wants to reclaim them. He apologizes to the yard's owner, says he suffers from a degenerative disease, and claims that the servals serve as an unconventional form of therapy for him. The police and the press recommend that he get a smaller pet, such as a domestic cat. Wild felines weighing more than 15 kg are prohibited in Baltimore. Adult male servals in captivity can weigh over 20 kg.¹⁴

December 28, 29, and 30, 2025

Plano, Collin County, State of Texas, United States of America

Two bobcats (*Lynx rufus*, Appendix II) are in Hoblitzelle Public Park. One of them is dragging a leghold trap on his left hind paw, a nasty, underhanded end-of-year "gift," and announces his presence with every step, making a sound like a rolling metal gate. The North Texas Wildlife Centre and the non-profit Song Dog Watch, whose mission is to promote coexistence between wild carnivores and humans, are working to locate the lynx so they can sedate and release him. Rebecca Hamlin, president of the North Texas Wildlife Centre (a wildlife sanctuary), reminds the public that hunting, trapping, or removal of any animal, or to let loose any animal is prohibited in the city's gardens and parks (which have a population of nearly 300,000). "There's a lot of misunderstanding and fear surrounding bobcats. They also play an important role in the local ecosystem by controlling populations of rabbits, rats and mice."

The search for the injured lynx continues on Tuesday, December 30, around the Russell Creek watershed.¹⁵

Mid-January 2026

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

Seizure at the port by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with the assistance of customs of a package shipped from Mexico to the United Kingdom. The package was declared to contain "a handmade blanket" but was found to contain the skin of a small jaguar (*Panthera onca*, Appendix I).¹⁶



LATIN AMERICA

ARGENTINA

November 13, 2025

Bajo Hondo Chico, Province of Chaco, Argentina

"Another Blow to the Chaco," reads the headline in Diario Chaco. Two young men pose on social media behind the skinned, hanging body of a puma (*Puma concolor*, Appendix II). Rural police managed to locate the crime scene. Greeted by hunting dogs, they seized the feline's pelt, 2 kg of meat, and shotgun pellets. A 19-year-old man and a 42-year-old woman were arrested.¹⁷



BOLIVIA

Santa Rosa del Abuná, Department of Pando, Bolivia

The ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*, Appendix I), also known as the "tigrillo," was removed from pet status by Pofoma (Forest Police and Environmental Preservation) and entrusted to the Departmental Secretariat for the Rights of Mother Earth (Secretaría Departamental de Derechos de la Madre Tierra).¹⁸

BRAZIL

November 24, 2025

Araçatuba, State of São Paulo, Brazil

The puma (*Puma concolor*, Appendix II), a male approximately 3 years old, was strangled after becoming entangled in the noose of a trap hung from a tree. When the rescue team led by Sérgio Diniz Garcia, a professor at the University of Araçatuba's veterinary clinic, arrived on the scene, the animal was taking his last breath. "This is the first time I've seen a puma in that condition." "It was really hard." According to Thiago Maia Davanzo, a zoology expert in the State of São Paulo, this type of trap is illegal. If wild animals are considered by farmers or ranchers to be harmful to their activities, they may, after obtaining authorization from Ibama (Instituto brasileiro do meio ambiente e dos recursos naturais renováveis), be captured in cage traps provided by professionals and released back into the wild after being moved away from the conflict zone.¹⁹



November 27, 2025

Missão Velha, State of Ceará, Brazil

Injured near one eye and on one paw, and reported by construction workers, the ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*, Appendix I) was rescued by the environmental military police and handed over to the NGO Biodiverse in Crato for emergency care and an assessment of his suitability for release back into the wild.²⁰



December 9, 2025

Porto União, State of Santa Catarina, Brazil

Typical profile of a 3-4 kg ocelot kitten (*Leopardus pardalis*, Appendix I) that was “picked up”—an orphan or stray found in the dry brush—and removed from a home where he had become intrusive, demanding, and costly. He showed up in the early evening at the home of Irmgard Luiza Buss, who was working at her computer. He jumped onto her lap and began to tease her. Gently shooed out, he stayed on the doorstep all night until the environmental military police came to pick him up in the morning. At the station, he began playing with the laces on the officers’ boots and nibbling on their uniforms until he was taken to a veterinarian. The diagnosis was grim: “This is a young ocelot that will need to undergo a long and delicate rehabilitation process. Prolonged contact with humans impairs essential skills, such as hunting and self-defence.”

In the past, the ocelot was a victim of fashion trends, especially since the International Fur Federation recommended after World War II that people avoid using the pelts of tigers, leopards, cheetahs, snow leopards, and clouded leopards for conservation and image reasons, encouraging hunters, designers, and consumers to turn to the ocelot instead. Today, he is a victim of the pet trend. There is no known example of an ocelot kitten that grew into an adult one metre long with a 45-cm tail, only to spend his entire miserable life in a cage in a private homeowner’s yard or on a balcony, eating live rodents and permeating the area with his strong odour.²¹



December 28, 2025

Ribeirão Claro, State of Paraná, Brazil

A female puma (*Puma concolor*, Appendix II), approximately 8 months old and weighing 18 kg, was caught in a trap in the middle of a field, anaesthetised, and transported to the UniFil veterinary clinic in Londrina (200 km away). She is expected to be released back into the wild within a few days. Since the beginning of 2025, the clinic has treated 9 pumas that were either shot or caught in traps.²²



January 30, 2026

Itacoatiara, State of Amazonas, Brazil

A young jaguar (*Panthera onca*, Appendix I) was rescued from the yard of a house on Friday night. He had recently been orphaned. His mother is believed to have been killed in a massacre. At least, that is the assessment of local authorities. The jaguar is the king of the Amazon, but he has many enemies.

Jaguar in the State of Amazonas, see “On the Trail” n°17, p. 65 (ref. 74), n°20, p. 72 (ref. 73), n°23, p. 91 (ref. 81), n°48, p. 34 (ref. 14).²³

COLOMBIA

January 16, 2026

Itagüí, Department of Antioquia, Colombia

The little oncilla (*Leopardus tigrinus*, Appendix I) was at the intersection of 36th Street and 53rd Avenue. Paying no heed to traffic lights or crosswalks, he was in constant danger of being struck or run over. No one knows exactly how he ended up at an intersection, having come from his home in the Abura Valley. Oncillas are popular as pets among city dwellers. He was rescued by concerned bystanders and the environmental police of the city, which has a population of nearly 300,000.²⁴

ECUADOR

January 17, 2026

Guayaquil, Guayas Province, Ecuador

Seizure of an ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*, Appendix I) on private property. The operation was carried out by the DGI (Dirección General de Inteligencia, General Directorate of Intelligence) and the UPMA (Unidad de Protección del Medio Ambiente, Environmental Protection Unit). The “tigrillo” was placed under observation to assess his health and potential for re-introduction into the wild.²⁵

GUATEMALA

December 29, 2025, and January 7, 2026

San Antonio La Paz, Department of El Progreso, Guatemala

A tiger (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I) and a lion (*Panthera leo*, Appendix I or II) are behind bars, separated from one another by more bars, with nothing to do but stare at each other and wait. After being reported by neighbours, the owners voluntarily handed them over when, under the direction of the environmental prosecutor, officials from CONAP (Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas), DIPRONA (División de Protección a la Naturaleza), and the police raided the premises and conducted a search. Given the risks involved in transferring them to a licenced facility, the wild animals remained at the farm for a few more days. Before their departure, on the veterinarian’s advice, they were fasted for 24 hours to avoid complications while under anaesthesia.²⁶

MEXICO

December 19, 2025

Ixtlán del Río, State of Nayarit, Mexico

The lion (*Panthera leo*, Appendix I or II), chained to a tree in the middle of the aloe plantations, had no claws and bore a chain mark on his neck. His owner is unknown, as are the reasons for his public shaming. Perhaps the lion, purchased from a bankrupt circus, was the guardian of the aloe plants and a deterrent to thieves.²⁷

December 26, 2025

Mexico City, Mexico



"Recuerda, para los ejemplares de vida silvestre, #TuCasaNoEsSuCasa" ("Remember, for wildlife, #YourHomelsNotTheirs.") That is the message from Profepa (Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente).. Rescue of a margay (*Leopardus wiedii*, Appendix I) in the Álvaro Obregón neighbourhood. He was initially transferred to the Chapultepec Zoo.²⁸

December 27, 2025

Jilotepec, State of Mexico, Mexico

Seizure from a rural property of a young jaguar (*Panthera onca*, Appendix I). He was taken to an authorized facility. Semarnat (Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales) reports that there are an estimated 173,000 wild jaguars in the Americas and 64,000 jaguars in captivity worldwide.²⁹

January 6, 2026

Coatzintla, State of Veracruz, Mexico

Seizure during a search conducted under a warrant issued by the Public Prosecutor, of narcotics and a live Bengal tiger cub (*Panthera tigris tigris*, Appendix I) living in an empty house in the Ruiz Cortínez neighbourhood, which had been the subject of rumours and disturbing reports from neighbours.³⁰

PERU

January 28, 2026

Campanilla, Province of Mariscal Cáceres, Department of San Martín, Perú



The province's forestry and wildlife management unit, the specialised environmental prosecutor's office, and the police carried out a coordinated operation on a rural property. Two men were caught red-handed in possession of parts of a puma (*Puma concolor*, Appendix II), including his head, paws, and tail.³¹

CENTRAL ASIA

TAJIKISTAN

December 17, 2025

Tajikistan

President Emomali Rahmon has signed the Act amending the Criminal Code following its approval by both houses of parliament. Tajikistan is strengthening its legal instruments to protect its few hundred snow leopards (*Panthera uncia*, Appendix I), most of whom live in Gorno-Badakhshan, an area of 63,700 km². The new Article 232 of the Code is now entitled "Hunting, intentional destruction, as well as illegal acquisition, possession, transfer, or sale of the snow leopard", whereas previously it covered only hunting and intentional destruction. First-time offenders are liable to a fine of 90,000 to 135,000 somoni (9,700 to 14,500 US\$) instead of 60,000 to 90,000 somoni. Prison sentences remain capped at 3 years. Repeat offenders are liable to a fine of 150,000 to 225,000 somoni (12,100 to 24,300 US\$) or a prison sentence of 4 to 8 years, instead of 5 years as previously.³²

EASTERN ASIA

CHINA

Beginning of November 2025

Dulata Border Post, Ili Kazakh Autonomous Prefecture, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, China. Border with Kazakhstan.



Seizure from the backpack of an individual arriving from Kazakhstan of a raw, ground mixture emitting a postmortem odor. Forensic analysis revealed that the substance consisted of ground lion bones (*Panthera leo*, Appendix I or II).³³

January 2026

Beijing-Daxing International Airport, Beijing Autonomous Municipality, China

Six teeth, confirmed upon examination to be from a leopard (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I), were found in the luggage of a passenger attempting to pass through the “nothing to declare” lane.³⁴

MONGOLIA

Beginning of December 2025

Bayan-Olgii Aimag, Mongolia

A. B. and H. T. have been charged with shooting to death a snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*, Appendix I) in the Ikh Oygor section of the Altai Tavan Bogd National Park (see “On the Trail” n°48 p. 35, ref. 22). There are rumours that the aimag governor may have ordered the poaching.³⁵

TAIWAN

December 3, 2025–February 3, 2026

Taichung Special Municipality, Taiwan

- Sentencing of a Vietnamese national known as Pham to 8 months in prison for the illegal sale of protected species under the Wildlife Conservation Act, to 4 months in prison for the illegal butchering and sale of animal by-products under the Animal Protection Act, and to a fine equivalent to 1,600 US\$. Pham, with the help of his girlfriend, known as Nguyen, who served as a translator, assisted his compatriot Phan in selling the wild animals he poached online. Pham and Nguyen received commissions from Phan.



- Phan was sentenced to 8 years and 2 months in prison and a fine equivalent to 7,600 US\$ for poaching at least one leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*, Appendix II) and other wild animals. In June 2025, police seized homemade firearms, deer meat, and pangolin scales from his cabin in Xinshe District. Phan fled while brandishing a rifle when police raided his hideout. He was recaptured the following day.

Nguyen’s trial is being heard separately.³⁶

SOUTHEASTERN ASIA

INDONESIA

November 22, 2025

Koto Rantang, Agam Regency, West Sumatra Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia



Anaesthesia and immediate rescue of a Sumatran tiger cub (*Panthera tigris sumatrae*, Appendix I) caught in a wild boar trap by his neck and front paws, under the direction of medical teams from the BKSDA and the Bukittinggi City Kinantan Wildlife and Cultural Park, and under the protection of the police and the military.³⁷

January 8, 2026

Sukajadi, Pekanbaru City, Riau Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia



Sentencing of Des Suarta, also known as Des, to 5 months and 11 days in prison and a fine of one million rupiah (60 US\$), with an additional month in prison in case of non-payment, and to pay 5,000 rupiah (0.30 US\$) in court costs, after being caught red-handed attempting to sell 3 young leopard cats (*Prionailurus bengalensis*, Appendix II) for one million rupiah on August 1, 2025. In mid-July, he had “found” the 3 kittens alone in an oil palm plantation and had cared for them by feeding them infant formula and cat food. He explained that he had tried to sell them because he could no longer afford to feed them. The 3 kittens have died before being sold.³⁸

January 21 and 26, 2026

Kutamanah, Purwakarta Regency, West Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia

The case began with footage captured on January 21, 2026, by one of 40 camera traps set up in the forests of the Sanggabuana Mountains, showing a leopard (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) that was emaciated and limping on his left front paw. The images were cross-referenced with footage from other cameras. They revealed incursions into the same area by men carrying homemade firearms and accompanied by hunting dogs.

(.../...)

(.../...) Joint operations were carried out by the BKSDA, military forces from the Army Strategic Reserve Command's Combat Training Regiment, and rangers from the Sanggabuana Conservation Foundation. Under the coordination of Nazal Fawwaz, chief of the Karawang Regency criminal police, they succeeded in narrowing down the suspects' location, and 5 men known to be prowling the Karadak, Lesang, and Haur mountains were arrested. Several pieces of evidence were seized, including a firearm. The 2 dogs in their possession resemble those captured on camera. The suspects are being charged under Article 340 of the Criminal Code. "Anyone who hunts or carries a firearm in a State forest without a permit is liable to a maximum of one year in prison and a fine of 50 million rupiah (2,940 US\$)." The leopard, wounded by enemy fire and disabled for life, remains missing.³⁹

THAILAND

December 17, 2025
Sangkhlaburi District, Kanchanaburi Province, Thailand. Border with Myanmar.



This tiger cub (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I), aged more or less 4 months and weighing 29 kg, is at the heart of a controversy. He was freed by members of the KNU (Karen National Union, which controls part of the border between Thailand and Myanmar) into an online scam centre where a transnational organisation, making use of human mischievousness and artificial intelligence, orchestrates cyber fraud across the globe by recruiting young people in Myanmar, the Indian subcontinent, China and Africa, luring them with promises of a salary of 1,000 US\$ a month without realising they would have to work 18 hours a day and be housed, treated and fed as if in a penal colony. The tiger cub was handed over to Edwin Wiek, director of the WFFT (Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand), in the presence of Thai officials, including members of the CITES unit. This voluntary cross-border handover did not please Chaiwat Limlikit-aksorn, a retired national parks administrator. He claims that this transfer is illegal.⁴⁰

VIET NAM

January 29, 2026
Nghe An Province, Viet Nam

Ms. Bui Thi N, age 78, a feng shui jewellery maker, was sentenced in the first instance to a 12-month suspended prison term for purchasing, in September 2025, a tiger claw (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I) and a lion's claw (*Panthera leo*, Appendix I or II) for 3.5 million dong (130 US\$).⁴¹



SOUTHERN ASIA

BANGLADESH

January 4, 2026
Boiragi Bari, Bagerhat District, Khulna Division, Bangladesh

"Poachers' snare trap tiger in Sundarbans, rescue underway." "Tigress rescued from poacher's trap in Sundarbans battles for life." "Tiger rescued from Sundarbans shows improvement under treatment." "Deer traps in the Sundarbans turn into a shared hazard for tigers."

The story of the tigress (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I) caught in a trap and spotted in the mangroves by a fishing boat has made the headlines. They sum up better than anything else the plight of the hundred or so tigers recorded in the Bangladeshi part of the Sundarbans wetlands. "In villages bordering the Sundarbans, livelihoods are increasingly fragile. Fishing bans, permit costs, unofficial fees, and shrinking access to forest resources have pushed many families into economic desperation. For some, deer hunting has become a secondary source of income—especially during winter, when forest access is easier and demand for venison rises during new moon and full moon nights".⁴²



INDIA

November 1, 2025
Lathpura, Bareilly District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India

It took nearly 2 hours of work to free the right front paw of a female leopard (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) from the metal trap. "Fortunately, she didn't struggle much to free herself, which saved her paw from serious injury," said the veterinarian. Aged 4-5 years, she was transferred to the forest division headquarters for a thorough examination. She is missing a right canine tooth in her upper jaw. The decision on whether to release her back into the wild will be made by the chief of the State wildlife rangers. There is no indication that there are any leopard cubs near the rescue site, 6 km from the heart of the Mala Forest.⁴³



November 2, 2025
Bhubaneswar, Khordha District, State of Odisha, India



Aged 21, 23, and 26, the 3 were caught red-handed trafficking a leopard skin (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) in the parking lot of the Mayfair Basti Hotel. They were asking for 3 million rupiah (34,000 US\$). According to the SCU (Special Crime Unit), they have been involved in wildlife trafficking for a "considerable" amount of time.⁴⁴

Saturday, November 8, 2025
Bhopal, Bhopal District, State of Madhya Pradesh, India



Seizure of a leopard trophy (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) at a hotel by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence. Three arrests.⁴⁵

November 8 and 15, 2025
Bochro, Sidhi District, State of Madhya Pradesh, India



Alleged wild boar hunters cut up a tiger cub (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I) that had been electrocuted into 4 pieces, scattered 2 of the quarters in a field, and threw the third into a waterhole. The fourth quarter was reportedly eaten by a scavenger. In their haste to cover up their responsibility for the death of a strictly protected animal, they discarded the battery and cable in the bush. Ambrish Loni and Lallu Kol were arrested, while the third man, the man with the knife, the butcher, went into hiding.⁴⁶

November 13, 2025
Ranifaliya, Navsari District, State of Gujarat, India

Seizure of a leopard skin (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) during a transaction. Arrest of Rajesh Madhav Panicker, a seller; Jayesh Ramdas Gawanit, a seller; Kirit Chandrakant Chauhan, a buyer; and Girish Khushal Parmar, a buyer.⁴⁷

November 15, 2025
Mankote, Poonch District, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, India



The State Times reported that on Saturday afternoon, a leopard (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) was found mortally wounded near a stream adjacent to the Balnoi Forest. He is believed to have been riddled with shrapnel from a landmine intended to prevent incursions by "terrorists" from Pakistan along the Line of Control.⁴⁸

Mid-November 2025
Vansda, Valsad District, State of Gujarat, India

Seizure of a leopard skin (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I). Five arrests. The operation was carried out by the Gujarat Forest Department with assistance from Wildlife SOS and the GSPCA (Gujarat Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), which took on the risky role of posing as interested buyers.⁴⁹

November 20, 2025
Narmadapuram, Narmadapuram District, State of Madhya Pradesh, India



Sentencing in the first instance to 4 years in prison and to pay fines of 25,000 rupees (282 US\$) of 9 men caught red-handed in a mud hut performing magical rituals with tiger claws and whiskers (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I) in front of an audience of farmers and gullible people. These paid sessions were supposed to bring about "money rain" from the sky.⁵⁰

November 21, 2025
Kushmah, Umaria District, State of Madhya Pradesh, India



A tiger cub (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I) is dead. On Wednesday, he had taken refuge in a plot of lantana bushes tended by a farmer engaged in various activities. Forest officials arrived on the scene on Thursday and monitored the cub's movements to ensure he did not approach the village. On Friday afternoon, while he was still under observation, the cub showed no further signs of life. An investigation into the cause of death has been launched by the NTCA (National Tiger Conservation Authority) and the WCCB. Animal rights activist Ajay Dubey, who maintains an effective and extensive network of informants in Madhya Pradesh and other States, says the cub was likely poisoned.⁵¹

FAMILY AFFAIRS

**Saturday, November 29, and
Wednesday, December 3, 2025**

**Garhi, Dewas District, State of Madhya
Pradesh, India**



On Saturday evening, the carcass of a leopard (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) was discovered in a ditch alongside a small road, with the front paws and canines precisely cut off. Investigators immediately suspected that a traffic collision had been crudely staged and that the dead leopard had been moved as far as possible from where he had been trapped and killed using whatever means were available. Special anti-poaching forces arrived on the scene in the early morning, and data from the cell tower in the area was decrypted.

On Wednesday, a video of the leopard, already dead but still with the front paws and teeth intact, was discovered on a 12-year-old boy's cell phone. His father, Dinesh Mevada, a farmer, admitted to setting snares made of clutch cables to protect his fields from wild boars and other wild animals. The postmortem examination had already determined on Monday that the leopard had died by strangulation. The incident further demonstrates that, under the guise of protection, farmers take advantage of their deterrents whenever they can. Leopard claws and teeth fetch high prices on the black market.⁵²

December 4, 2025

**Nandyal and Mahanandi Forest,
Nandyal District, State of Andhra
Pradesh, India**



Pranav Kumar of Black Art Tattoo Studio posted a photo on social media showing a "tiger claw" attached to a pendant. Even though the claw is not from a tiger but from a leopard (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I), as confirmed by an expert, the case remains a criminal offence, especially since Kumar is partnered in jewellery making with Sheshu, a contracted lookout for the forest services, and since Sheshu, who has betrayed his employers' mission, is known to set wild boar snare traps in the forests with accomplices.⁵³

The night of December 8–9, 2025

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



Angul District continues to make headlines for poaching, violence, and corruption (see index).

The roars of the leopard (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) caught in a trap were heard by villagers as cries for help. In the early hours of Tuesday, veterinarians arrived on the scene, found the leopard semi-conscious, took him to the Kulasingha veterinary clinic near the Karatapata-Dimiripal Reserve, and administered various treatments, but he died around noon, exhausted and injured from his all-night struggle to free himself. This is the 10th leopard in 5 years to die a violent death in the district. He was 5 years old.⁵⁴

December 15, 2025

**Madhapur Forest, Boudh District, State of
Odisha, India**

Arrest of Jaya Nayak, caught in the act of transporting and possessing a leopard skin (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) in the Madhapur Forest. Nayak is reportedly a member of a tribal clan skilled in poaching and tanning; he may be a low-level operative responsible for transporting tools, skins, and other parts.⁵⁵

Boudh District, see Index.

December 15, 2025

**Bhaisamunda, Surajpur District, State
of Chhattisgarh, India**



A young tiger (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I) is found dead. Initial evidence suggests electrocution. For the canine unit, there is no doubt. The trail led them directly to the home of Siska Kujur, the sarpanch ("head" of the village) of Bhaisamunda (population 1,000 in 2011). At her home, whiskers, claws, and other parts of a tiger were seized. Siska Kujur was arrested, and 5 alleged accomplices were taken into preventive custody along with her. They had been setting battery-powered traps in the forest to poach wild boars and divide up the meat and other marketable parts among themselves. "Poaching wild boars" is a universal alibi used by poachers on every continent. It means setting traps and profiting from any animals caught, regardless of what they are.⁵⁶

Mid-December 2025

**Motinpur, Kabirdham District, State of
Chhattisgarh, India**



Discovery of the body of a leopard (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I), approximately 5 years old, 500 metres from the nearest homes in the buffer zone of the Bhoramdev Wildlife Sanctuary. Electrocution is suspected. The canine unit and a team from Raipur Jungle Safari were dispatched to the scene and traced the case back to a man named Bishu Sahu. He was placed in preventive detention for 14 days. Rolls of galvanized wire were seized from his home. According to a local animal rights activist speaking on condition of anonymity, "Despite crores of rupees being spent in the name of wildlife conservation, such incidents expose serious gaps in ground-level monitoring and protection." A local forest ranger has been suspended from duty. He is suspected of negligence.⁵⁷

Mid-December 2025

Mandla District, State of Madhya Pradesh, India



Gajendribai, also known as Sheetlabai Teralin Pardhi, a high-profile poacher who had been on the run for 12 years, was arrested. Her accomplices in the poaching of a tiger (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I) in 2013 in the Akot Forest were sentenced to 3 years in prison and fined 10,000 rupees (150 US\$). Credit for the operation goes to staff at the Melghat Tiger Reserve, the WCCB, and Akot forest rangers.

See "On the Trail" n°3, p. 44; n°11, pp. 48–49 (ref. 30); and n°14, p. 50 (ref. 25).⁵⁸

Mid-December 2025

Matyapur, Satara District, State of Maharashtra, India

Discovery of the body of a female leopard (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I), with all 4 paws amputated, on the sugarcane plantation operated by Ravindra Ghorpade. The animal had been dead for 3–4 days. Local residents are concerned about the proximity of leopards and suspect that a trafficker of claws is operating in the village (population 700).⁵⁹

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Chettalli, Kodagu District, State of Karnataka, India



The carcass of a royal Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*, Appendix I) was discovered by farm workers in a coffee plantation. His neck had a 5-cm circular wound. According to initial findings, the tiger struggled for 2 days to free himself from a snare that was strangling him. He managed to escape. Traces of blood were found up to 2–3 km from the body. The exact location of the deadly snare is being investigated. According to Sonal Vrishni, the district's chief forest warden, he was a juvenile tiger that used the edge of the Nagarhole Reserve and the coffee plantations as his hunting grounds. He had no history of aggression. No attacks on livestock or small domestic animals had been attributed to him.

A senior forest official said, "Due to the recent rise in conflict, rescue and rehabilitation cases, snare and jaw trap seizure drives were put on hold. So far, no case has been booked. If the animal died elsewhere, he clearly reflects that ground staffers have not been combing the area, especially when around 10 young tigers have been documented to be wandering outside the forest patch, trying to establish territory. With rising conflicts, staffers must be on constant vigil. Green pastures inside and outside forests with a promising prey base is ideal for tigers."⁶⁰

December 22, 2025

Koregaon Forest, Dhamtari District, State of Chattisgarh, India

Govardhan Patel says that, along with 3 accomplices, he pulled a leopard (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) that had drowned in a well back out. Near him, the police found the animal's 4 paws and claws. The mutilated carcass of the leopard had been found by a shepherd. A postmortem examination may reveal whether this was indeed an accidental drowning or a case of poaching using one of the 4 methods employed to kill a leopard: firearms, strangulation by trap, poisoning, or electrocution.⁶¹

December 23, 2025

Alipurduar, Alipurduar District, State of West, India



Sentencing of Tapas Barman, Dipankar Mondal, and Bhupen Barman to 5 years in prison and fines of 50,000 rupees (560 US\$), with an additional 6 months in prison in case of non-payment, for transporting the skin of an adult leopard (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I) for sale and for hiding the jaws, skull, and 17 bones underground (see "On the Trail" n°45, p. 29, ref. 25).⁶²

December 25, 2025

Kokodi, Bastar District, State of Chattisgarh, India



As dusk fell, Gopal Kashyap, one of the forest rangers keeping watch over a leopard (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) that had been injured in the neck by a steel snare, fearing that during the night the leopard might venture even closer to the village in search of easy prey, summoned all his courage and pounced on the feline, wrapping him in a net. Early the next morning, the Jungle Safari veterinary team arrived on the scene to anaesthetise the leopard, who had been roaming the area for about 8 days and had already killed a dog. He was then transported to the Jungle Safari infirmary, 170 km from Kokodi. He weighed 45 kg. Over the course of a week of suffering, he had lost 10 kg compared to the average weight for leopards of his size.⁶³

End of December 2025

Kashipur Community Development Block, Rayagada District, State of Odisha, India

Gouda (1) and Gouda (2) from the village of Sunger, Naik from Amarasinguda, Majhi from the village of Pudgasil, and Majhi from the village of Kadikipadar were caught red-handed selling 2 leopard skins (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) in front of the Hanuman Temple by the Raigarh and South Kalahandi forest divisions.⁶⁴

January 8, 2026

Rajpipla, Narmada District, State of Gujarat, India

Discovery during renovation work in the cell of a monk who died in July 2025 at the age of 90, of 40 skins, 133 claws, and canine teeth from tigers (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I). Forest officials quickly raised doubts about their authenticity. Acetone poured onto the skins and other items melted the makeup paint, proving that the entire haul, wrapped in newspapers from 1991-1992, was counterfeit. It was all a fake, though well-made enough to initially fool buyers.⁶⁵

The night of January 21–22, 2026

Nunpani, Nabarangpur District, State of Odisha, India

Seizure of a leopard skin (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) estimated to be worth 500,000 rupees (5,570 US\$), and a motorcycle. Three arrests, 2 sellers and one buyer. They were travelling on a motorcycle with the skin.⁶⁶

January 23, 2026

Nallamala Forest Reserve, Nandyal District, State of Andhra Pradesh, India

As part of the 2026 All India Tiger Estimation (AITE), officials from the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the district forest department were conducting the census by searching for footprints, scratch marks, feces, and other signs of tiger activity when they apprehended a man named Murali, who was found in possession of a tiger claw (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I), and later a man named Vishnu. They are alleged to have removed the claw and possibly other parts from the carcass of a tiger whose circumstances of death are unknown and are under investigation. The Nallamala Forest Reserve is part of the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve, the largest in the Indian Union. It covers more than 5,000 km².⁶⁷

FAMILY AFFAIRS

January 25, 2026

Srinagar, Pauri Garhwal District, State of Uttarakhand, India

Safri Lal (or Safari Lal), the uncle, and Basantu Lal, the nephew, arrive in town to sell the pelt of a leopard poached a few months earlier in a forest near their village of Chapad in Rudraprayag District. In a hotel room, they meet 2 old acquaintances, Surjan Lal and Roshan Lal, who are reportedly interested in buying the pelt for several hundred thousand rupees, equivalent to several thousand U.S. dollars. The haggling was cut short. Alerted by an exclusive tip, the police raided the room. The pelt was seized, and the 4 Lals were brought to justice.⁶⁸

January 26 and 28, 2026

Guwada, Alwar District, State of Gujarat, India



Hanging from a tree, the leopard (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) was spotted by villagers on Monday night. When officers from the forest division arrived at the scene, they found that the leopard had died of suffocation after becoming entangled in a trap's rope around his abdomen. The post-mortem examination, carried out prior to the customary cremation, confirmed this scenario. On Wednesday, investigators took statements from villagers. Prabhu Dayal Meena, a farmer, was arrested that night. He is suspected of having set the trap to prevent wild animals from entering his fields.⁶⁹

January 28, 2026

Paikan, Goalpara District, State of Assam, India

The WCCB and the district forest division seized what is believed to be a leopard skin (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) and bones from Manirul Islam, Janik Ali, and Rakseng Changma.⁷⁰

January 30, 2026

Nagpur, Nagpur District, State of Maharashtra, India



A three-year prison sentence was handed down at first instance for electrocuting an adult tiger (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I) in the Pench Tiger Reserve (see "On the Trail" n°39 p. 32, ref. 6). The judgement comes 3 years after the crime. The 6 men should be released in the coming hours.⁷¹

NEPAL

November 28, 2025

Dhikidanda Community Forest, Gorkha District, Gandaki Province, Nepal



A 5- to 6-month-old leopard cub (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) is unwell. He appears to be lying motionless as if asleep. Poisoning is suspected. Next to him, another leopard cub has died; the poison did not spare him. The survivor is being cared for by the Gorkha Forest Division. Shandilya, the head of the division, says the cub is recovering and that, in consultation with veterinarians, he is considering whether to release him back into the wild or place him in a refuge, where he would be at risk to lose his wilderness skills. There is no news of the mother.⁷²

PAKISTAN

December 2025

Chakai Checkpoint, Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan



Seizure of a stuffed snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*, Appendix I) from a private vehicle travelling from Gilgit to Islamabad on the Karakoram Highway in Kohistan District. The driver has been arrested.⁷³

January 21-25, 2026

Lahore, Multan, Gujranwala and Faisalabad Divisions, Province of Punjab, Pakistan

Two days after an 8-year-old girl was bitten on the ear and leg by a bad pet lioness kept without permit by private individuals who have since fled, a new purge of captive wild animals has been ordered by the province's highest authorities. The police, alerted by local residents and internal intelligence, seized 40 lions (*Panthera leo*, Appendix I or II), 14 tigers (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I) and 5 ligers – the offspring of a tigress and a lion – made 8 arrests, and sealed off the illegal breeding facilities. In the wake of this, the Lahore Safari Zoo cancelled the auction of surplus animals from its herd and announced that it would be expanding its lion enclosure. Whilst the tigers have been transferred to suitable facilities – insofar as such facilities exist – the fate of the lions and ligers, already condemned by their genetic inbreeding, remains uncertain. This recurrence of the incident in which 2 children were bitten in a Lahore neighbourhood 6 months earlier – an incident that had led to the seizure of 23 lions and lion cubs – shows that the unregulated keeping of big cats in Pakistan is a persistent issue (see "On the Trail" n°47 p. 37, ref. 61).⁷⁴

SRI LANKA

Beginning of November 2025

Buduruwagala Reservoir, Uva Province, Sri Lanka

A leopard (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) was killed by poachers, who removed his teeth and then threw him into the dam reservoir. They fled before the police arrived on the scene.⁷⁵

WESTERN ASIA

TURKIYE

Beginning of November 2025

Tuzla District, Istanbul Province, Türkiye



In a terse statement, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry announced that "a male African lion cub [*Panthera leo*, Appendix II], approximately 35 days old, who had been brought into Türkiye illegally, was seized at a veterinary clinic" and confirmed that 2 individuals had been fined. The lion cub's presence at the clinic was reported following a confidential tip-off.⁷⁶

NORTHERN EUROPE

NORWAY

Beginning of December 2025

Hamar, Innlandet County, Norway



He had been sentenced by the district court to 45 days' imprisonment for shooting a Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*, Appendix II), whom he had mistaken for a fox (see "On the Trail" n°46 p. 36, ref. 56). He had also been ordered to surrender his rifle, fitted with a scope and silencer, to the State. The Court of Appeal quashed the judgement. The 70-year-old hunter's gross negligence was dismissed. According to his lawyer, he was near a fox den and had never seen a lynx in the area before. "In the dim light of that early February evening, he was certain he had shot a fox." It was a young lynx.⁷⁷

SWEDEN

December 11, 2025

Lycksele, Västerbotten County, Sweden



Acquittal of Salomonsson and his accomplice. They were accused by the investigating judges and the prosecutor of having, in 2022, hunted a Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*, Appendix II) to death whilst holding an expired licence, acting with unnecessary cruelty, in a no-hunting zone, with the aid of a snow quad and a pack of dogs. The court ruled that the investigation file and the prosecutor's closing speech lacked consistency and precision and did not provide sufficient grounds for a conviction. The prosecutor had sought a one-year prison sentence for both men.

Salomonsson, see "On the Trail" n°37 p.73 (ref.67) and n°44 p.50 (ref.92 and 93).⁷⁸

WESTERN EUROPE

GERMANY

November 9, 2025

Frankfurt International Airport, Hesse Land, Germany



Seizure from the luggage of a German national arriving from Viet Nam of a pendant made of gold and tiger's tooth (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I).⁸⁰

December 11, 2025
Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, Germany

Seizure of a stuffed puma (*Puma concolor*, Appendix II) from an antique shop.⁸¹



FRANCE

Beginning of December 2025

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



Another obese caracal (*Caracal caracal*, Appendix II) has arrived at Tonga Terre d'Accueil (see "On the Trail" n°48, p. 40, ref. 48). He is known as Mistral and is certainly coming from the south of France.⁸²

December 4, 2025

Marseille, Department of Bouches-du-Rhône, France

Drug trafficking. OFAST (Anti-Narcotics Office) has seized 176 kg of cannabis resin, 100 grammes of cocaine, 166,000 € (192,300 US\$), a Porsche Cayenne, a BMW motorbike, a jet ski, 362,000 € (419,400 US\$) in bank accounts, a pump-action shotgun, a .357 calibre revolver and a serval (*Leptailurus serval*, Appendix II) in a cage at the homes of 6 individuals suspected of importing drugs in conspiracy, including the director of several construction and public works companies.⁸³



THE NETHERLANDS

November 17, 2025

Rotterdam, Province of South Holland, The Netherlands

Alert. Sale on the Marketplaats online marketplace of an old educational kit made available to schools by Rotterdam Zoo, containing whiskers, claws, and skull of a jaguar (*Panthera onca*, Appendix I), fragments of skin from lion (*Panthera leo*, Appendix I or II), tiger (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I), and clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*, Appendix I), and illustrative material. Seized by the NWA, the national consumer protection authority. Internal investigation by the zoo to establish the circumstances of this misappropriation.⁸⁴



SWITZERLAND

December 1, 2025

Canton of Fribourg, Switzerland

Illegal capture of a Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*, Appendix II) in the Canton of Fribourg. Illegal transfer of the Eurasian lynx to the Erminea wildlife rehabilitation centre in Chavornay, in the canton of Vaud. The Forest and Nature Service (SFN) ordered the seizure of the Eurasian lynx and his release back into the wild in the Canton of Fribourg. "It is strictly prohibited to capture a wild animal or transport them without prior authorization from the SFN." According to the SFN, the Canton of Fribourg is the only canton that conducts extensive monitoring of the lynx population.⁸⁵

SOUTHERN EUROPE

SPAIN

Beginning of November 2025

Alicante, Province of Alicante, Valencian Community, Spain

Seprona (Servicio de Protección de la Naturaleza) entrusted AAP Primadomus with a 5-year-old female serval (*Leptailurus serval*, Appendix II) whose family was no longer able to provide her with food and shelter. AAP Primadomus, ANDA (National Association for the Defence of Animals), and FAADA (Foundation for Advice and Action in Defence of Animals) remind the public that the serval is a territorial feline, carnivorous, armed with sharp teeth and claws, capable of leaping 3 metres high to catch a bird or a domestic cat, and are calling for a ban on keeping servals (and caracals) to be explicitly enshrined in law. Currently, the law merely prohibits the acquisition, possession, and breeding of exotic mammals weighing more than 5 kg as adults.⁸⁶

November 5, 2025

Las Palmas, Province of Las Palmas, Autonomous Community of Canarias

As part of the arrest of José el del Buque (José of the Ship), a cocaine trafficker operating between Venezuela and Spain, and the dismantling of his organisation that supplied mainland Spain, 28 searches were conducted, 20 suspects were arrested, and 24 boats and 5 servals (*Leptailurus serval*, Appendix II) were seized.⁸⁷

ITALY

Mid-November 2025

Rome, Metropolitan City of Rome Capitale, Region of Lazio, Italy



The Court of Cassation upheld the ruling of the Bolzano Criminal Court, which had sentenced Mr. Kuppelwieser to a fine of 20,000 € (23,500 US\$), 5,000 € in damages, and the seizure of 10 leopard cats (*Prionailurus bengalensis*, Appendix II) that he was illegally keeping with the intent to crossbreed them with domestic cats and sell them for approximately 1,500–2,000 € (1,700–2,300 US\$) under the name "Bengal cats." Hybridization lies at the intersection of fashion, animal experimentation, and wildlife trafficking. In Italy, the ENPA (Ente Nazionale Protezione Animali) has secured convictions for the crossbreeding of servals with domestic cats (Savannah cats) and wolves with dogs (Czechoslovakian wolfdogs).⁸⁸

EASTERN EUROPE

BELARUS

Sunday, December 28, 2025

Malevo, Babruysk District, Mogilev Voblast, Belarus



Bad luck for the female Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*, Appendix II). She got her paw caught in a snare intended for martens. She was freed by environmental protection officers and the vet Grigory Belyagov. Her right front paw is fractured. The operation took place on Monday, December 29, and she was sent to recover at a zoo near Gomel (Homiel), the Belarusian town affected by the fallout from Chernobyl. She will not be released back into the wild, as this would be too risky for her; for weeks she will be under the influence of human activity and will lose the ability to survive independently in the wild that her mother had taught her.⁸⁹

HUNGARY

Beginning of December 2025

Tiszafüred, Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok County,
Hungary



A Siberian tiger cub (*Panthera tigris altaica*, Appendix I) was seized from a private individual; the very limited information available does not allow for a profile to be drawn up, except that he is 40 years old and that the police raided his home in connection with a drugs case. The macaws (*Ara* spp., Appendix I or II), African spurred tortoises (*Centrochelys sulcata*, Appendix II) from Sahelian Africa, and Prevost's squirrels (*Callosciurus prevostii*) were not seized. They are reportedly accompanied by valid documentation, and Hungarian law does not prohibit their keeping in private homes. No comments were made regarding their housing conditions.⁹⁰

POLAND

November 27, 2025

Krosno, Subcarpathian Voivodeship, Poland

Charges have been brought against Piotr S., a member of a Warsaw hunting club, and Dariusz S. for the poaching of a Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*, Appendix II) in the forests of West Pomerania in February 2022, the falsification of official documents and illegal profits. In the interests of the investigation being conducted by the Anti-Corruption Bureau, the Krosno Public Prosecutor's Office is not providing any further details. The 2 suspects have been released on bail of 70,000 zlotys each (19,000 US\$) and are subject to judicial supervision, with a ban on leaving the country. Their hunting licences have been suspended. The lynx population in Poland is estimated at between 150 and 300 individuals.⁹¹

RUSSIA

Beginning of December 2025

Sumultinsky Nature Reserve,
Ongudaysky District, Republic of Altai,
Russia



The poacher had made himself at home in the reserve. In the taiga, he had set up camp in a wooden hut with a supply of firewood and a stove. Traps, the carcass of a Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*, Appendix II), and a large number of sable skins (*Martes zibellina*, Appendix II) were seized from his camp. Throughout his clandestine activities and winter stay, the poacher is suspected of having prioritised the capture of Siberian musk deer (*Moschus moschiferus*, Appendix II). Other poachers' huts were discovered thanks to helicopter flyovers and foot patrols carried out by the Interregional Association for the Study and Conservation of the Snow Leopard, which is dedicated to the study and conservation of snow leopards. Credit for the operation is also due to the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Republic of Altai, the Ministry of the Interior, and the National Guard. The Sumultinsky Nature Reserve is valuable for its cedar forest, but there is still work to be done to gain a better understanding of its flora and fauna and the functioning of its ecosystems. Indigenous communities practise hunting, gathering, grazing and logging there, provided they comply with specific regulations.⁹²



UKRAINE

November, Saturday 15 and Friday 21, 2025 Khmelnyskyi, Khmelnytskyi Oblast, Ukraine

In central Ukraine, 2 lionesses (*Panthera leo*, Appendix I or II) escaped from an informal zoo. One was quickly recovered. She had remained within the zoo's grounds. The fate of the second lioness is unclear, and statements from the State Emergency Service do not make it possible to know with certainty whether she was recovered alive or dead. The operator of this crackpot zoo where some of the fences were made of wooden pallets has been placed under 24-hour house arrest whilst the investigation is ongoing. He may face charges of cruelty to animals and trafficking in endangered species. The zoo's animals have been transferred to facilities supposed to ensure their welfare under acceptable security conditions. The 2 lionesses are eventually due to be transferred to a sanctuary in South Africa, via a stopover in Kiev.⁹³





Striped hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*). Photo Sameer Kote (BY-NC 4.0)

AFRICA

ZAMBIA

Beginning of November 2025 South Luangwa National Park, Eastern Province, Zambia

Rescue of a painted dog (*Lycaon pictus*), a member of the Luangwa's Lukuzi pack. He was caught in a motorbike brake cable that had been rigged as a trap. Whilst under anaesthesia, he was freed using pliers, with operating room precautions in place, and treated. The prognosis is positive, provided he can rejoin his pack as soon as possible. Packs of painted dogs hunting large herbivores such as zebras often arrive at full speed (40 km/h) in fields of traps and do not have time to avoid them. Captures are sometimes collective and are often made worse by the efforts of free painted dogs to try to free their trapped packmates. When they manage to escape, some of them are disabled. They are missing a paw or the lower part of a paw, but they remain useful within the pack. They act as guardians of the pups in the dens or as sentinels when the packs are resting. Their problem is that, in the event of a flight, they lag behind and are at the mercy, in Zambia, of hyenas and lions. The study published in 2003 by the Zambian Carnivore Programme, confirms that the localised extinctions of painted dogs in southern Africa are now caused by the proliferation of traps, even though they are merely incidental – and indeed unwanted – victims, as wild dog meat is not part of the range of bush meat sold in markets or on the black market.¹



ZIMBABWE

End of January 2026 Savé Valley Conservancy, Masvingo Province, Zimbabwe

The painted dog (*Lycaon pictus*) was dragging the iron ring of a trap. His back and belly were severely compressed. He was exhausted from his efforts to free himself and covered in bruises from head to paws. The rain had slowed down the search, and it was only 4 days after the first sighting that he was located, anaesthetised, freed from the trap, and treated by a coalition of volunteers. For the AWCF (African Wildlife Conservation Fund), it is a great relief to have saved him, but it is also a cause for great concern. Just one month after the discovery of a nomadic pack settling in the southern part of the conservation area, one of its members fell into a trap and nearly died.²



© African Wildlife Conservation Fund

AMERICA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Beginning of December 2025

Bayfield County, State of Wisconsin, United States of America



Sentencing of Patrick Quaintance to pay a fine of “more than 4,000 US\$” for killing a grey wolf (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) from the Echo Valley pack (see “On the Trail” n°43, p. 38, ref. 4). President of the Wisconsin Association of Sporting Hounds, former president of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and an advocate for wolf population control, he shot the female wolf at 2:00 a.m. on Christmas Eve 2023, claiming she was prowling near the front door of his house and the dogs’ kennels, and that he acted in self-defence. In November of the same year, Quaintance had posted on Facebook about luring wolves onto his property with doughnuts and Rice Krispies, which proves that wolves are not averse to a vegetarian diet. Quaintance, who callously staged his fatal point-blank shot, treated himself to a wolf for Christmas, a practice that is by no means unusual in the United States. The Wisconsin chapter of Hunter Nation has set up a GoFundMe fundraiser to help him pay the fine and legal costs. Paul Collins, Wisconsin director of the NGO Animal Wellness Action, deplores the leniency of the sentence. Any time federally protected or State protected species are killed, there should be some significant penalty other than just fines,” Collins said. “There should be jail time.” The Red Cliff Tribal Council, to whom the wolf’s remains were handed over, recognises her as a member of the family. Between April 2024 and April 2025, 12 wolves were poached in Wisconsin.³

December 25, 2025

Jardine, Park County, State of Montana, United States of America

A reward of 31,000 US\$ is offered to anyone providing conclusive information on the person or persons responsible for the disappearance of 1478F, the female grey wolf (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II), the rising star of the Junction Butte pack: 1,000 US\$ from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and 30,000 US\$ from the NGOs Large Carnivore Fund and Wolves of the Rockies. Her GPS collar was found open and discarded in a tree. The last signal was received on Christmas Day.⁴



January 20, 2026

Lake County, State of Oregon, United States of America

A reward of 10,000 US\$ is offered to anyone who assists in the arrest and conviction of the poacher who, on October 7, 2025, killed a grey wolf (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II), whose carcass was found 16 km from the Jackson Creek Campground (Klamath County) and Upper Buck Creek Campground (Lake County).⁵

ASIA

IRAN

November 2025

Tarom-e Sofla No-Hunting Area, Qazvin Province, Iran



The body of a striped hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*, Appendix II since March 5, 2026) has been found. He was killed by a firearm. Mr Hashemi, the province's director of environmental protection, states that false claims about the healing properties of some parts of striped hyenas, including their genitals, are “a scam and the spreading of superstition”. In the Indian subcontinent and the Middle East, the organs of striped hyenas are used in black magic and witchcraft. Their brains are believed to possess magical healing properties. Hyenas are also victims of acts of hatred or reprisals.

Tarom-e Sofla covers an area of 970 km² at an altitude of 1,300 to 2,800 metres above the level of the Caspian Sea. With its centuries-old trees and deep valleys, it is also home to ibex and Iranian leopards.⁶

KAZAKHSTAN

End of December 2025

Kokpekti District, Abai Region, Kazakhstan

A 28-year-old man poached a grey wolf (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II), prompting an immediate response from law enforcement. The man will be held accountable.⁷

UZBEKISTAN

December 10, 2025

Beshkapa, Surxondaryo Region, Uzbekistan



A shepherd who killed a grey wolf (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) for allegedly attacking his flock was hit with a fine of 8.24 million sum (700 US\$). Despite his defence, the Regional Department of Ecology and Climate Change determined that his actions violated the Wildlife Protection Law. "It should be noted that the wolf is among the wild species protected by law. Any act of cruelty, torture, or illegal action against this animal violates current legislation and results in penalties. We urge the public to treat wild animals with kindness, to strictly comply with environmental laws, and to rely solely on official sources when drawing conclusions about such incidents."⁸



EUROPE

GERMANY

September 24-December 2025

Artlenburg, Lüneburg District, Lower Saxony Land, Germany

The dead grey wolf cub (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) had been found on the bank of the Elbe Canal. Initially classified as "circumstances unknown" by the Federal Wolf Documentation Centre, the cub's death was reclassified as "illegal" following a post-mortem examination. He belonged to the Amt Neuhaus pack, which was decimated and dispersed from 2022 onwards on the orders of the authorities following several complaints from livestock farmers. This radical approach, which experts had advised against, led to the dispersal of the pack and left a few survivors to roam alone. Lower Saxony is notorious for its authoritarian control of wolf packs. A serial killer shot wolves at point-blank range in the districts of Gifhorn, Uelzen and Burgdorf. Early on Good Friday morning in April 2023, a wolf's head was left outside the offices of NABU (the German Association for Nature Conservation) in Leiferde, in the district of Gifhorn, and in late March 2025, the body of a wolf fatally wounded by a firearm was found floating in the Aller, a tributary of the River Weser, in the district of Celle. In Lower Saxony, between 2000 and 2025, the deaths of 314 wolves were attributed mainly to road collisions, natural causes (18), authorised culling (8), and poaching by firearm or poisoning (22). The organisation Wolfsschutz-Deutschland estimates that the actual number of poaching cases exceeds one hundred

and is calling for systematic investigations to be launched following suspicious deaths.⁹

Wolves in Lower Saxony, see "On the Trail" n°32 p. 97 (ref. 14), n°34 p. 87 (ref. 13), n°40 p. 65 (ref. 7), n°41 p. 59 (ref. 8) and n°45 p. 35 (ref. 6).

November 8, 2025

Frankfurt International Airport, Hesse Land, Germany



Seizure in a black garment bag carried by a passenger arriving from Kazakhstan who had nothing to declare of the complete skin, including the head, of a grey wolf (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II).¹⁰

December 15, 2025-February 5, 2026

Eggenstedt, Börde District, Saxony-Anhalt Land, Germany

A dead grey wolf (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) was found in an open field. The post-mortem examination revealed that he had been killed by a firearm.¹¹

AUSTRIA

December 11, 2025

Windhaag bei Freistadt, Upper Austria State, Austria. Border with Czechia.

There is no doubt that the death of the grey wolf (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) is not natural. He was shot through from left flank to right flank by a rifle bullet. No one, except the killer, knows whether he died instantly or managed to move away from the ambush site before collapsing. The WWF states that since the start of the year, 26 wolves have been killed, 22 of them under the guise of the species management plan, out of a total population estimated at around 100 individuals, and is calling for a comprehensive livestock protection plan that would enable peaceful coexistence.¹²

DENMARK

December 2025-January 2026

Denmark

The University of Copenhagen carried out post-mortem examinations on 5 grey wolves (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) that died in December 2025 and January 2026 at the request of the Agency for Green Land Redevelopment and Aquatic Environment:

- One wolf (38 kg) died as part of the culling programme for the species, which officially returned to Denmark in 2012. His death is considered lawful.
- A wolf cub found dead on New Year's Eve 2026 had a hind paw riddled with small projectiles. He is believed to have died several days after being shot, from blood poisoning caused by lead shot.
- The deaths of the other wolves are attributed to road traffic.

The director of the Aarhus Natural History Museum has taken note of the findings of these post-mortem examinations. "We gain an important understanding of the health and lifestyle of wolves." "For research and management, it is incredibly valuable that the dead wolves are thoroughly examined and analysed with, among other things, DNA samples."¹³

SPAIN

January 2, 2026

Teverga, Las Ubiñas-La Mesa Natural Park, Principality of Asturias, Spain

The Asturias Environmental Coordination Group mourns the death of an Iberian wolf (*Canis lupus signatus*, Appendix II) and suspects poisoning by strychnine, a substance that has been banned in Spain for 43 years but remains a favoured method for getting rid of animals considered a nuisance. Las Ubiñas-La Mesa is a Special Protection Area for birds that contributes to the capercaillie habitat conservation plan and the brown bear reintroduction plan, and which suffers from all forms of poaching, wildfires, and malicious human intrusions facilitated by the proliferation of forest roads and hiking trails.¹⁴



FINLAND

November 8, 2025

Joensuu, Region of North Karelia, Finland

A hunter who wanted to protect his miniature pinscher (4–6 kg) from a joint attack by 2 grey wolves (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) shot one of them several times. The pinscher, who had been sniffing around a hill whilst trailing behind his owner, was put down by a vet.¹⁵

ITALY

Beginning of November 2025

Lecce, Province of Lecce, Region of Puglia, Italy

Charges filed against a 67-year-old man who was filmed by a witness in the act of fatally shooting a grey wolf (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II). The incident occurred on October 7, 2024, in Castiglione d'Otranto. By the time the carabinieri arrived on the scene, the wolf's body had disappeared. All that remained were tufts of fur and traces of blood, which tests confirmed came from a wolf. Thanks to the images posted on Facebook by the witness and his precise and stark commentary ("a veritable execution—he shot him at eye level, leaving the wolf to die in agony"), the man—who was carrying a firearm and wearing camouflage clothing as he calmly walked away from the scene of the killing—was quickly identified by the forest police. The spokesperson for Hic Sunt Lupi (The Wolves Are Here) points out that between 2002 and 2022, in Europe, there were no attacks by wolves on humans, and that from 2019 to 2024, in the Italian province of Lecce alone, 591 people were injured in dog attacks and 3 died as a result. "The wolf's main enemy is misinformation."¹⁶

OPERATION WOLF SHIELD

Beginning of December 2025

Tortona, Province of Alessandria, Region of Piedmont, Italy



Seizure of 3 grey wolf skulls (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) from a hunter. The man, who held valid hunting permits but was already known to anti-poaching units, admitted to decapitating the 3 male wolves, boiling the skulls, cutting them up, and storing them at his home. The 3 wolves, aged one year, 2 years, and 3 to 5 years, were members of the Val Borbera/Val Curone and Tortona packs.¹⁷

December 8, 2025

Carbonara di Bari, Metropolitan City of Bari, Region of Apulia, Italy

A grey wolf (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) has died. He sustained numerous gunshot wounds.¹⁸



Mid-December 2025

Foggia, Province of Foggia, Region of Apulia, Italy



During a raid targeting drug trafficking, which resulted in the arrest of 24 people, the carabinieri discovered an adult grey wolf (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) confined in a cage. Carabinieri from the NIPAAF (Nucleo Investigativo di Polizia Ambientale, Agroalimentare e Forestale) were called in for backup along with veterinarians from the provincial health agency. The wolf was transferred to a care centre for injured, confiscated, or distressed wild animals to assess his ability to live independently in suitable natural habitats. His release is far from certain, especially if, over time, he has lost his instinctive wariness toward humans. It is possible that the wolf, if he was “adopted” as a pup, will spend the rest of his life in an accredited, fenced-in facility. In the conclusion of its article, Fanpage.it emphasizes that, “this story, which came to light almost by chance, demonstrates that animal trafficking is often linked to other criminal activities such as drug and arms trafficking.”¹⁹

December 22, 2025

Riardo, Province of Caserta, Region of Campania, Italy

A female grey wolf (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) died after several days with her belly bound by the loop of a steel trap. She was 5 to 6 years old.²⁰



January 17, 2026

Correggio, Bagnolo in Piano, Rubiera, and Reggio Emilia, Province of Reggio Emilia, Region of Emilia-Romagna, Italy



A sweep for poisoned bait carried out by the carabinieri and the Bosco di Corniglio canine unit following the recent deaths of grey wolves (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) and a dog, who were poisoned by tainted meatballs.²¹

January 25, 2026

San Desiderio, Metropolitan City of Genoa, Region of Liguria, Italy



A female grey wolf (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) was found dead in a riverbed. She is believed to have been poisoned by an anticoagulant rat poison, which causes sudden dehydration and drives the victims to seek out water desperately and in vain. Another poison may have been used. All wild animals, including big cats in India, that have been poisoned by carbofuran seek refuge in water.²²

The Liguria region and wolves, see “On the Trail” n°39 p. 50 (ref. 15), n°40 p. 67 (ref. 17) and n°43 p. 40 (ref. 13).

End of January 2026

Sommo, Province of Pavia, Region of Lombardy, Italy

Death of a grey wolf (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) a few hours after he was found by the side of a road. Once again, the theory of a collision was put forward before being retracted in the face of the facts. The road accident victim was shot dead.²³

POLAND

December 29, 2025

Łęka, Lodz Voivodeship, Poland

The alert was raised on Monday, December 29, 2025, but the grey wolf (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II), who had been caught in a deer trap (deer for the festive season), had been near death for several days. All the vets, even those from the NGO Wilk (Wolf), agreed that the right front paw was crushed and uncurable. The idea of a prosthetic paw was suggested, but the young wolf would have constantly tried to shake it off. With a heavy heart, he had to be finished off.²⁴



SWEDEN

December 15 and 22, 2025 and January 28, 2026

Luleå, Norrbotten County, Sundsvall, Västernorrland County, Sweden

- December 15. Following a request from the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, the Swedish Predator Association and Nordulv, the Administrative Court revoked the licence to kill 48 grey wolves (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) granted jointly by the counties of Dalarna, Södermanland, Västmanland, Västra Götaland and Örebro for the 2025–2026 hunting season, which is scheduled to open on January 2, 2026 and close on February 15. The main reason for this revocation is that the county administrative boards have failed to demonstrate that licenced hunting would be compatible with the EU directive requirement to maintain a favourable conservation status for the wolf population in Sweden. Reactions are, of course, contradictory. The Minister for Rural Affairs says he is almost certain that the hunt scheduled for January 2 will go ahead and that the decision will be overturned by then. The applicant NGOs are satisfied, whilst remaining wary of the outcome of further procedures. The counties targeted by the Administrative Court insist that, following the cull of 48 wolves, the population should stand at 274 individuals – well above the minimum threshold of 170 recommended by the Environmental Protection Agency. “We have based our decision,” they say, “on the latest assessments by the authorities.”



- December 22. The 5 counties choose to appeal. The National Hunting Federation welcomes this. “It is as if the courts had established themselves as experts in place of the actual experts. We hope that the Court of Appeal will deliver a wiser ruling and that the wolf hunt can begin.”

- January 28. The Sundsvall Court of Appeal upheld the lower court’s ruling, and following this double blow, it does not appear that the counties have resumed their legal campaign. The Supreme Court was not requested in time for the wolf hunt for the winter of 2025–2026 to ever begin. It should be noted that Värmland County had, on its own, decided in October not to open the hunt.²⁵

UKRAINE

January, Saturday 17-Monday 19, 2026

Ovidiopol, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine

Twelve golden jackals (*Canis aureus*, Appendix III in India) and 2 red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) were killed. The hunt took place at night, which is strictly prohibited.

Official statement from the Environmental Inspectorate: “Controlling predator populations is a responsible measure, not a leisure activity. During the 2025–2026 hunting season, measures are being taken in the Odesa oblast to control the populations of jackals, foxes, wolves and other predators, in accordance with the decision of the Commission for Environmental Protection and Emergency Situations. This initiative addresses the real threat of rabies spreading amongst wildlife, which poses risks to both ecosystems and human health.” “We would like to emphasise that the control of predator populations forms part of a systematic effort to combat animal diseases and protect the environment. Any breach of the established rules, whatever the circumstances, constitutes illegal hunting and will result in prosecution in accordance with the law.”²⁶



January 22, 2026

Ternopil, Ternopil Oblast, Ukraine

A grey wolf (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) has been caught. His muzzle is pressed against a tree. His eyes are open. It is snowing. He has been dead for a few days, entangled in a knot of wire. People say that, for some time now, there have been more wolves than before. Wolves always take advantage of wars.²⁷





Brown bear (*Ursus arctos*). Photo Neja Polanc (BY-NC 4.0)

NORTHERN AMERICA

CANADA

FAMILY AFFAIRS

November 24, 2025

Lloydminster, Saskatchewan, Canada

of



Double conviction for Ms. Weol Ran Lee.

- A fine of 7,000 dollars (5,180 US\$) and a 5-year hunting ban for selling American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) paws and gallbladders.

- A fine of 5,000 dollars (3,700 US\$) and a 5-year ban on possessing bear parts and by-products for purchasing bear paws in Saskatchewan and transporting and selling them in Alberta.

In August 2025, a relative of Weol Ran Lee was fined 9,875 dollars (7,300 US\$) in British Columbia for possessing and trading in bear parts.¹

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Beginning of November 2025

Menominee County, State of Michigan, United States of America

Alerted by a phone call, Officer Steve Sajtar gathered evidence. At the suspect's residence, the body of a female American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) was found. The suspect will be summoned by the county prosecutor for failing to report the bear kill within the required 72-hour period and for shooting a female bear accompanied by her cubs.²

November 12, 2025

Middleburgh, Schoharie County, State of New York, United States of America



Following a phone call from a licenced trapper, Officers Bohling and Burgess went to the scene to help him free an American black bear cub (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) that had become trapped in one of his coyote traps. The officers held a circular piece of plywood between the cub and the trap to protect the cub while he freed his paw. As soon as he was released, the cub ran off.³

Release of a black bear caught in a legal coyote trap in New York State; see "On the Trail" n°43, p. 42 (ref. 3).

November 17 and December 11, 2025

Grand Island, Lake County, State of Florida, United States of America

Ever since he moved into the neighbourhood, Goodspeed, age 60, has been letting trash pile up in his yard. Nothing attracts bears quite like that. From time to time, neighbours hear him grumble, "One day, I'm going to take care of them." He did just that last night. He shot a female American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II), whom the rescuers who arrived on the scene had to put down. Goodspeed, like so many others, has claimed self-defence.

The autopsy shows that the bullet that struck her in the head entered from behind. The bear had her back turned to him. She was already on the neighbour's property when he dealt with her, and he shot her twice. Initially, he was arrested and charged with several offences, including trespassing. The cub was captured and transferred to the Ocala National Forest. (.../...)

(.../...) Many voices are speaking out to mourn the loss of the Grand Island bear, including those of Goodspeed's neighbours and Katrina Shadix: "This Mama Bear's blood is on the Florida lawmakers' hands who voted for HB87." "Only 25 people contacted the Governor in support of HB87. 23,000 calls, emails and visits from



Floridians asking that he VETO HB87." "This Mama Bear's blood is on the groups & people who lobbied for HB87: the Cattleman's Association." HB87, the "Bear Kill Bill," grants the right to kill bears if one or more individuals believe that they, their families, or their property are threatened by the presence of bears.⁴

November 22, 2025, and February 9, 2026

Winhall and Bennington, Bennington County, State of Vermont, United States of America



After adamantly insisting that on November 22, 2025, he believed he had shot a deer and proving that he was a winter deer hunter, Jonathan Towslee realized that providing false information to a police officer to deflect a criminal investigation intentionally was a crime in and of itself. He changed his story and ultimately pleaded guilty to killing an American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II), to being aware of it, and to bragging about it to acquaintances: "I saw movement and just pulled up and saw brown and pulled up and shot. I thought it was a deer. I'm too trigger-happy." By pleading guilty to 2 counts, including a retrieval of a covered wild animal count and taking a bear over his allowed limit of one animal per calendar year, he avoided prison and a 3,000 US\$ fine, getting off with 2 fines of 500 US\$ each. In Vermont, despite the death by starvation in 2022 of a bear cub after his mother was killed by a hunter, and the controversy that followed, it is still legal to shoot a female bear even if she is accompanied by one or more cubs. It is also legal to track a bear with 6 dogs.⁵

Between November 20 and 22, 2025

Ravalli County, State of Montana, United States of America

Between Thursday, November 20, and Saturday, November 22, a few-month-old American black bear cub (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) weighing 20 kg was shot and killed. The mother has disappeared. "This is about as bad as it gets," Ranger Louis Royce told the Cowboy State Daily. In Montana, it is illegal to shoot female bears accompanied by one or more cubs, as well as cubs under one year of age.⁶

November 30, 2025

Richard K. Yancy Wildlife Management Area, Concordia Parish, State of Louisiana, United States of America

Fatal poaching of an adult male Louisiana black bear (*Ursus americanus luteolus*, Appendix II), weighing 170 kg. A reward of 3,500 US\$ is being offered to anyone who can help identify the perpetrator. The perpetrator is liable to a fine of 950 US\$, 120 days in prison, and 4,350 US\$ in restitution corresponding to the value of the dead bear.⁷

Beginning of December 2025

Hillsboro County, State of New Hampshire, United States of America



A man has had his hunting privileges revoked for one year. He must also pay a fine for killing an American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) after luring him in violation of applicable regulations. The meat will be donated to a family in need.⁸

December 16 and 18, 2025

Anchorage, State of Alaska, United States of America



- For the killing of a brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) by an organised group on Monday, May 9, 2022, the day before the start of hunting season, Richard McAtee, a former hunting guide in Montana, was fined 5,000 US\$ and sentenced to 4 years of probation, during which he is prohibited from engaging in or accompanying anyone in any commercial hunting, fishing, or trapping activities. During his probation, he will be allowed to accompany his daughter and other family members on non-commercial hunting trips, provided he does not carry a firearm. The Hungry Horse News reports that McAtee was arrested on July 31, 2024, on the road to the Hungry Horse Dam by a dozen federal agents, with a gun in his hand. He had been on the run since 2022 and was no longer responding to court summonses. His teenage daughter was with him, and according to a private video taken at the time of the incident, she appeared terrified.

- Arlon Franz, a client of McAtee and the man who killed the bear, was sentenced to a fine of 15,000 US\$ and 6 months of probation. The bear's head and hide had been seized from his home on May 11, 2022.

The bear poaching by McAtee and Franz was reported by witnesses who wished to remain anonymous.⁹

December 20, 2025

Houston County, State of Georgia, United States of America

Charges filed against an individual for hunting an American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) using bait.¹⁰

January 2026
State of Oregon, United States of America



Inspection of 37 taxidermy workshops over the course of one week. Seizure of 3 American black bear skulls (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) of unknown origin. Four citations issued for administrative irregularities, such as the absence of any licence to practice taxidermy at the facility, and 10 reminders of legal requirements.¹¹

January 19, 2026
Ganges Township, Allegan County, State of Michigan, United States of America

Theft from the entrance of a building of a stuffed American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) (1.8 metres) wearing a sheriff's star, a fake watch, and a holster with a replica revolver.¹²

ASIA

BANGLADESH

November 24, 2025
Alikadam, Bandarban District, Chittagong Division (Chattogram), Bangladesh

Monday is market day. Late in the afternoon, an 8- to 9-month-old Asian black bear cub (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I) was found in a secluded alley in Panbazar. People who had come down from the hills reportedly tried to sell him at the market. Alerted by the presence of members of the Wildlife Crime Control Unit from Dhaka, they reportedly decided to get rid of him. The cub was initially transferred to the Dulahazara Safari Park in Cox's Bazar District. Wildlife trafficking is reportedly on the rise in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (Khagrachari, Rangamati, and Bandarban Districts).¹³

CHINA

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

Seizure of the skin of a brown bear cub (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix I or II) from the luggage of a transit passenger.¹⁴

January 2026
Beijing Capital International Airport, Beijing Autonomous Municipality, China

Seizure by customs officials of the skin and the head of a brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix I or II). Brown bear populations in Bhutan, China, Mexico, and Mongolia, as well as the subspecies *Ursus arctos isabellinus*, which is found in Afghanistan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, are listed in Appendix I of CITES. All other brown bears are listed in Appendix II.¹⁵

INDIA

December 11, 2025
Hatyari, Dehradun District, State of Uttarakhand, India

A motorcycle was stopped on the Vikasnagar-Yamunotri Road. The STF seized 155 grammes of bear bile and 5 claws. Two arrests were made. Three species are found in the region: 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), all of which are protected at the highest level by Union laws and CITES.¹⁶

January 14, 2026
West Champaran District, State of Bihar, India



Arrest by the SSB (Sashastra Seema Bal) of Chandan Kumar, age 20, and Rameshwar Kazi, age 47. On the road between their village of Barwa Kala, near the Valmiki Tiger Reserve, and Ramnagar, they were caught red-handed transporting bear bones and other body parts. They were travelling on a motorcycle.¹⁷

INDONESIA

November 13, 2025
Rengat, Indragiri Hulu Regency, Riau Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia



Sentencing of Rusli, alias Pak Uwo, to 3 years in prison and a fine of 200 million rupiah (12,000 US\$), with an additional month in prison in the event of non-payment, for possessing 38 bones at his home, including the skull, vertebrae, ribs, pelvis, humerus, and tibia— in short, the nearly complete skeleton of a Malayan sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*, Appendix I). Rusli claimed to have found them by chance in the ashes of an open fire, to have believed they were tiger bones, and to have kept them at his home. According to his parents, the tiger bones found in the nearby forests may have belonged to ancestors.¹⁸

JAPAN

Autumn 2025

Japan

Bear on the plate

Both the press and diners are flocking out of curiosity to restaurants serving the latest gastronomic craze: grilled brown bear or bear stew. We're being served an inevitable copy-and-paste version of the restaurants that serve whale meat, like a rehash. "Eating bear meat is a way of paying tribute to the animal." The wife of the top chef specialising in bear meat says she is forced to turn away customers due to a lack of stock, whilst a young composer tells Agence France-Presse that the meat is succulent and that its flavour intensifies with every mouthful. A French-inspired restaurant in Sapporo on the island of Hokkaido serves bear in red wine and, like his French counterparts, is won over by the freshness of short supply chains and the flavour of local produce. "I order bear in advance to make the most of this opportunity." Having gone from being a legendary animal to a pest in the space of 4 years, bears were culled 9,000 times in 2024 and 10,000 times in 2025. The influx of bear carcasses – bulky waste items weighing between 100 and 500 kg each – is overwhelming the waste management sector. In the prefectures of Hokkaido and Akita in the north-east of the Japanese archipelago, incinerators are overwhelmed, whilst operating costs and air pollution are on the rise. It takes 100 litres of kerosene to reduce a bear to ashes. The burning process takes several hours and must be preceded by the dismemberment of the bear so that the carcass can be fed into the furnace. It cannot fit through the opening whole. Modular cold stores have been installed in the courtyards, but the foul and toxic odours of decomposition permeate workplaces and neighbouring areas. Japan is forced to bury its bears after gutting them to prevent them from rising to the surface, or to eat them. According to Yamamoto Maki of Nagaoka and Tokyo Universities, a specialist in wildlife management, the arrival of bears near towns is caused by the desertification of the mountains, which cover more than half of Japan. During the Edo period (1603–1868), the management and regulation of wildlife in the mountains was a public service, and the bears' main food sources were acorns from oak trees and beechnuts. Since the end of the Second World War, the mountains have been gradually abandoned by farmers, their wives and children. The deciduous forests have been replaced by conifers, which offer rapid growth and a quick return on investment. The remaining stands of jolcham oak (*Quercus serrata*) and Japanese oak (*Quercus crispula*) have been attacked by a fungus transmitted by the oak ambrosia beetle (*Platypus quercivorus*). Oak wilt has decimated 70 per cent of the jolcham oaks and 30 per cent of the Japanese oaks. The loss of deciduous trees has led to the disappearance of bees and the loss of honey sources for the bear population. Japanese bears, like all bears – whether polar, collared, black or brown – are drawn to landfills, rubbish bins and green spaces in towns and their

sprawling outskirts, as well as to an ageing human population that lacks awareness due to a lack of education on safety and self-defence measures. Two species of bear live in Japan: the Asian black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I) and the Ussuri brown bear (*Ursus arctos lasiotus*, Appendix II) on the island of Hokkaido.¹⁹



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MALAYSIA

December 21, 2025

Sungai Jerik, State of Pahang, Malaysia

A Burmese day labourer working on a durian plantation near the Berkelah Forest Reserve was engaged in both poaching and trafficking. In his dormitory, Perhilitan and the GOF (General Operations Force) seized 2 bear teeth (Ursidae, Appendix I or II), an air rifle, and metal traps. Before being arrested at 3:30 a.m. on Sunday morning, the 29-year-old man had already sold bear teeth, presumably to other farm workers. The total value of the seizure is estimated at 3,800 ringgit (940 US\$).²⁰



MONGOLIA

January 29, 2026

Tsengel, Bayan-Olgii Aimag, Mongolia

Indictment of S.T. with poaching a brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix I) in the Altai Mountains and storing his claws at his winter quarters. The environmental damage is estimated at 450,000 tugriks (3,500 US\$).²¹

PAKISTAN

Beginning of November 2025

Chowk Permat, District of Lodhran, Province of Punjab, Pakistan



Under the order of Chief Minister Punjab, Madame Maryam Nawaz, the province's wildlife rangers have launched large-scale operations across the province to combat wildlife trafficking. A pick-up truck travelling towards Mailsi was stopped. Arrest of 4 men, including Waqas, son of Allah Ditta, and Farid, son of Allah Bux, caught red-handed transporting 2 Asian black bears (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I) whom they had captured alive by baiting them and trained to fight in travelling shows. "Your information could save a life", "If you wish to report a crime against nature, call 1107", states the minister's announcement. "Bears are not born to be chained up or caged." It was a whistleblower who put the rangers on the trail of the Asian black bear tamers.²²

TAIWAN

November 26, 2025

Pingtung County, Taiwan

Acquittal of 9 individuals who, under the guise of a return to tribal hunting and survival in the mountains, had shot and killed, in conspiracy, Formosan black bears (*Ursus thibetanus formosanus*, Appendix I) and a deer (see "On the Trail" n°40, p. 74, ref. 24). The judges ruled that the violation of the Wildlife Conservation Act did not constitute a crime under Article 21-1, which exempts non-commercial hunting by indigenous peoples from penalties. The prosecution has appealed.²³



TURKIYE

November 13 and beginning of December, 2025
Turnadere, Tunceli Province, and Diyarbakır, Diyarbakır Province, Türkiye

Rescue of a female brown bear cub (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) who was injured and unable to move following an enemy fire of unknown origin. Transfer to the wildlife care and rehabilitation centre at Dicle University. Veterinary surgeons removed the bullet, which was not fatal but which, sadly, had damaged the spinal cord, condemning the cub to live out the rest of her life without the use of her hind paws.²⁴

VIET NAM

January 20, 2026

Lai Chau Province, Viet Nam

Sentenced to one year and 2 months in prison for transporting 2 Asian black bears (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I) and attempting to deliver them in exchange for a commission of 20 US\$. The recipient reportedly agreed to purchase them for approximately 150 US\$. Viet Nam is home to Asian black bears and Malayan sun bears (*Helarctos malayanus*, Appendix I).²⁵



January 2026

Da Nang City, Viet Nam

Transfer to the Bach Ma National Park bear sanctuary of what is believed to be the last Asian black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I) in the Da Nang metropolitan area, after he had been exploited during a horrific period of captivity for the extraction of his bile and the production of medications for humans.

Three cities, Hanoi, Haiphong, and Ho Chi Minh City, and 9 provinces, Thai Nguyen, Hung Yen, Bac Ninh, Ninh Binh, Lao Cai, Phu Tho, Nghe An, Dong Nai, and Ha Tinh, still hold bears exploited for their bile.²⁶

EUROPE

ALBANIA

November 18, 2025

Trebinjë, Korçë County, Albania

Rescue by RAPA (Regional Protected Area Agency) of an adult female brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II)

caught in a metal trap buried beneath branches. As quickly as possible, experts from the NGO PPNEA (Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania) went to the scene with the assistance of villagers and in the presence of the national police. The victim was extricated, treated, fitted with a GPS tracker and released. A few days earlier, another brown bear had died in a similar trap in Memaliaj, 80 km from Trebinjë.²⁷



BELARUS

December 1, 2025

Beshankovichy, Beshankovichy District, Vitebsk Voblast, Belarus



A two-year suspended prison sentence with 2 years' probation, a fine of 12,600 roubles (3,700 US\$), a five-year ban on any hunting-related activities, and the confiscation of a TOZ-122 rifled-barrelled shotgun fitted with a thermal imaging scope for a 29-year-old resident of Vitebsk who had poached a brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) near the village of Vysokaya Gora in May 2025 (see "On the Trail" n°46 p. 44, ref. 26).²⁸

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Beginning of December 2025

Near Travnik, Central Bosnia Canton, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bosnia and Herzegovina

An adult brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) was killed on the plain by a triumphant hunter who claimed: "He was scaring mushroom pickers."²⁹

FINLAND

Mid-November 2025

Lappeenranta, Region of South Karelia, Finland



Fines of 1,184 € (1,400 US\$) for shooting a brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) whom he had mistaken for a wild boar whilst lying in wait in a tree stand and using a thermal night-vision scope. The hunter was aware that bear hunting was suspended at the time of the incident. Game wardens had to finish off the victim of the alleged mistake. The judgement is not definitive.³⁰

GREECE

November 12, 2025

Livadero, Region of East Macedonia and Thrace, Greece

A brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II), aged between 2 and 3 years, was found dead and decapitated in the mountains. He was killed by 2 bullets, one in the back and another in the chest.³¹

LATVIA

January 5, 2026

Demene Parish, Augsdaugava Municipality, Latvia

The 2 brown bears (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) put up for auction by the Nature Conservation Agency have been purchased for 2,250 € (2,645 US\$) by Raptors Park, a zoo in the south of the country, near the border with Lithuania and Belarus. They had been taken in by the Agency when they were cubs. The Agency was no longer willing to provide for their accommodation, food and veterinary care. It wished to part with them on condition that the buyer undertook to have them neutered, 2 operations which would cost nearly 10,000 €. In the absence of any buyers, the Agency had announced that the bears might be put down.³²

Bears in Latvia, see "On the Trail" n°38 p. 80 (ref. 41), n°43 p. 44 (ref. 44), n°48 p. 50 (ref. 31).

THE NETHERLANDS

December 10, 2025

Amsterdam, Province of North Holland, the Netherlands



A court of appeal upheld a fine of 100 € or a 2-day prison sentence for a young woman of Chinese origin who, in October 2022 at Amsterdam Airport upon arrival from China, had in her luggage 2 boxes of 15 suppositories claimed to contain bear bile (*Ursidae*, Appendix I or II) and which she claimed were intended to treat her haemorrhoids.³³

POLAND

Mid-November 2025

Kłomnice, Silesian Voivodeship, Poland

A brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II), approximately 17 years old, was seized thanks to the tenacity of an officer from the Economic Crime Unit. She had been imported into Poland at the age of 4 or 5 from the Czech Republic by a man claiming to be a circus director. Nicknamed Poka, she had a brief career as a performer or decorative animal on TV shows and in advertising shoots. She was transferred to Poznań Zoo pending the opening of the official Warszawianka sanctuary in the Masovian Voivodeship, 30 km from Warsaw, where species protected under national law and CITES that have been seized or abandoned, exotic species considered invasive, and species posing a threat to public order will be temporarily housed.³⁴

ROMANIA

November 26, 2025

Gornet, Prahova County, Romania

A brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II), caught in a trap set by a poacher whose domestic animals had reportedly been attacked by wild animals, died whilst under anaesthesia. The investigation is continuing to document the facts of the case, and legal proceedings have been initiated for the "offence of poaching."³⁵



RUSSIA

January 13, 2026

Ussuri-Podkhorenok Hunting Area, Vyazemsky District, Khabarovsk Krai, Russia

The Moscow-based Stalker Group LLC was offering hunts in January and February 2026 for black bears with a white chevron across their chest (Asian black bears, *Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I) for between 600 and 800,000 roubles (10,200 US\$), depending on the package chosen. "A magnificent trophy, the centrepiece of any collection," Stalker posted on Telegram. Its co-director, Yuri Morozov, describes himself as a Doctor of Biological Sciences and an adviser to organisations specialising in wildlife conservation. His business partner is reportedly a certain Anna Leal de Oliveira. Hunting is permitted from March 21 to June 10. Is Stalker exploiting a deliberate loophole thanks to high-level connections in the Krai? This is the hypothesis put forward by a zoologist quoted by the media outlet Kedr: "It can be assumed that, for these trophy hunts, permits are backdated or issued under pseudo-scientific pretexts." The Krai's environmental prosecutor's office has launched an investigation, and a few days later, Stalker's advert for this bear hunt was withdrawn. Stalker Group organises trophy hunts for antelopes, bears and big cats all over the world.³⁶

SWEDEN

November 12, 2025

Lycksele, Västerbotten County, Sweden

The county shows no mercy towards wildlife (see p.41 ref. 78). At 1 p.m. on Wednesday, a hunter took to the ground a bear who was allegedly attacking him. The hunter bears no marks from the alleged attack. The bear's body was taken to the veterinary institute and the police went to the scene for an attempted reconstruction. The incident is regarded as a breach of the hunting regulations. The bear hunting season ran from August 21 to October 15. The court in Lycksele, provided the case is not dismissed, will no doubt grant the hunter mitigating circumstances and accept his claim of self-defence.³⁷



Bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*). Photo djweyer (BY-NC 4.0)

AMERICA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**November 6 and 24, and the night of December 12–13, 2025
Pocatello, Bannock County, and Riggins, Idaho County, State of Idaho, and Asotin, Asotin County, State of Washington, United States of America**



- Sentencing of Jerrod Randall Farr, age 54, owner of White Cloud Outfitters, a hunting gear and equipment rental business, to 2 years of probation with a prohibition on participating in or contributing to any hunting activity, a fine of 9,500 US\$ payable to the Lacey Act Fund, and 15,000 US\$ in restitution to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game for selling and organising hunting trips for Mexican bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*, Appendix II in Mexico).

- Sentencing of Michael Timothy Scott, a guide for White Cloud Outfitters, to 4 years of probation and ordered to pay the same financial penalties as his employer, Randall Farr, for serving as a guide on illegal hunts and assisting in the transport of bighorn sheep carcasses in Idaho, Utah, and Alaska.
- A 60,000 US\$ reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest of the person

responsible for the fatal shooting of an American bighorn sheep along the Big Salmon Road in an area where hunting of the species is prohibited year-round. According to Bill London, president of the Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation (a foundation dedicated to the conservation of the bighorn sheep), the bighorn sheep is one of the State's gems. In the early 19th century, their population is believed to have exceeded one million. Today, there are between 50,000 and 60,000.

- A hiker discovered the body of a bighorn sheep, approximately one year old, that had been shot to death during the night and left on the spot to be devoured by predators and left to rot.

Illegally killing a Bighorn Sheep in Washington is a gross misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in jail and a fine of up to 5,000 US\$ per violation. Additionally, a penalty of 4,000 US\$ (doubled if he was shot with the aid of artificial light) per animal can be assessed upon conviction, along with hunting privileges being suspended up to 2 years. A reward of 60,000 US\$ is being offered to anyone who helps lead to the arrest of the culprit(s). The Washington Wild Sheep Foundation, Hunter Nation, and the Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation are contributing to the funding. Idaho and Washington State are neighbouring States. ¹ Bighorn sheep, see Index.

January 27, 2026

**Sacramento, Sacramento County,
State of California, United States of
America**



Sentencing of Jason K. Bruce to 6 months in prison, followed by 24 months of probation, and a fine of 85,000 US\$ for attempting, with the complicity of a Pakistani hunting guide, to smuggle Ladakh urial horns (*Ovis vignei vignei*, Appendix I) (see "On the Trail" n°40, p. 79, ref. 4).²

ASIA

CHINA

December 2025

**Haikou Meilan International Airport, Hainan
Province, China**



Riddle: Where are the 2 saiga antelope (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II) horns detected by the scanner and customs? 340 grammes in total.³



January 6, 2026

**Dulata Border Post, Ili Kazakh Autonomous
Prefecture, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region,
China. Border with Kazakhstan.**

Seizure of 3 saiga antelope horns (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II) that had been cleverly disguised as whip handles but were detected by scanners in the luggage of a traveller arriving from Kazakhstan.⁴

INDIA

November 7, 2025

Irulam, Wayanad District, State of Kerala, India

Arrest of 6 poachers of a gaur (*Bos gaurus*, Appendix I). They are between 21 and 49 years old. They were cutting the meat into 3-kg packages and selling him for 350 rupees/kg (4 US\$/kg) to butchers and other retailers, who resold it for 450 rupees/kg. A firearm, butcher knives, packages of meat, a scale, a jeep, and a motorcycle were seized. Three identified accomplices are being pursued by the police.⁵

FAMILY AFFAIRS

**Mid-November, December 16 and 17,
2025**



**Bhoramdev Wildlife Sanctuary,
Kawardha District, State of Chhattisgarh, India**

- Discovery of 2 gaurs (*Bos gaurus*, Appendix I) that had been skinned and butchered. Steel cables and other equipment were found at the very spot where the poachers had divided up the meat. Another electrocution is suspected. The canine unit from the Achanakmar Tiger Reserve was called in and followed the trail marked by bloodstains. Five people were detained in Salhewara. Gaur meat was seized. Data from cell phone towers is currently being analysed. It could help investigators track down other participants in the poaching and butchering. The remains of the gaurs were burned on site. The poachers are believed to have laid out 3 to 4 km of electric wire to electrocute the animals. This is not the first case of poaching in the Bhoramdev Sanctuary. In November 2020, a female tiger was poached. When her body was discovered, her teeth, claws, and whiskers had been removed.

- Villagers and forest workers discovered 2 dead gaurs in the Bokarkhar forest. Galvanized iron wires were lying on the ground, suggesting electrocution as the poachers' modus operandi. Dasru and Kunwar Singh, who are members of the same family, are suspects. During searches conducted by forest officials, galvanized wire, an axe, wild boar meat, blue peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*, Appendix III in Pakistan) legs, and animal teeth were seized. The gaur is the State's emblem, and this latest poaching incident in the Bhoramdev Wildlife Sanctuary and the Chilfi shooting range calls into question the effectiveness, and, according to some, the integrity, of the rangers, especially since, just a few days ago in the same area, the decomposing body of a leopard (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) was discovered, and here too, electrocution is suspected (see p. 38 ref. 57).⁶



The night of Monday, November 17, to Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Kapasiya, Banaskantha District, State of Gujarat, India

Hunt for the nilgai. A gang of at least 14 frenzied hunters invaded the Balaram Ambaji Wildlife Sanctuary during the night, using powerful headlights and firing shots. After a search lasting about 15 hours, the combined police and forest rangers managed to arrest 10 of them, all carrying large bags of meat reeking of nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*, Appendix III in Pakistan), and seized 5 rifles. Initially, bail for the 10 poachers was denied.⁷

December 5, 2025

Rahatgarh Forest, Sagar District, State of Madhya Pradesh, India

Inside the 2 SUVs leaving the forest in the middle of the night were the hide of a blackbuck (*Antilope cervicapra*, Appendix III in Nepal and Pakistan), and 10 kg of meat, illegally cut teak wood (*Tectona grandis*), a rifle, 15 bullets, 3 shell casings, a saw, and an axe. Arrest of Wasim Khan, Omkar, and Raju.⁸

December 9, 2025

Dumuruka, Kaimur District, State of Bihar, India

Seizure of the head and freshly cut meat of a nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*, Appendix III in Pakistan) at a makeshift butcher shop in the village (population 500). Arrest of Shiv Ram and seizure at his home of 3 heads with antlers from spotted deer or chital (*Axis axis*) and sambar deer (*Rusa unicolor*), as well as several sets of antlers without heads. Ram reportedly named 5 accomplices involved in poaching within the Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary.⁹

December 23, 2025

Kallenahalli, Chikkamagaluru District, State of Karnataka, India

There are 3 carcasses of blackbuck antelopes (*Antilope cervicapra*, Appendix III in Nepal and Pakistan) in the Basur Kaval Forest, which has been designated a blackbuck sanctuary, 2 females and one male, with red holes in their skin and large tire tracks nearby.¹⁰

December 27, 2025

Subikha, Shravasti District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India

Some men from the village killed a nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*, Appendix III in Pakistan) near the dam reservoir. They were out in the open, cutting him up and dividing him among themselves. When the police approached, they scattered like a flock of birds, trying in vain to hide the hide and remains in the grass. Three people were arrested, including Akram, son of Ajmat Ali, a resident of Lakhibhari.¹¹

January 2, 2026

Kebripalli, Ganjam District, State of Odisha, India



Arrest of Rabindra Kumar Parida along with 4 other individuals who are currently on the run; they were in the process of skinning and butchering a blackbuck (*Antilope cervicapra*, Appendix III in Nepal and Pakistan) that had been freshly killed and hung from a tree. Ganjam District is the only habitat of the blackbuck in Odisha, and the local population considers them a symbol of good luck. Amulya Upadhaya, chairman of the Blackbuck Protection Committee, is calling for strict punishment for the poachers.¹²

January 7, 2026

Sesawng, Aizawl District, State of Mizoram, India

Tanhri Central Prison for the man who had just killed a southern serow (*Capricornis sumatraensis*, Appendix I), skinned him, and placed the meat on one side and the head, ears and hooves on the other.¹³

January 25, 2026

Aithoor, Dakshina Kannada District, State of Karnataka, India

Seizure of 800 kg of gaur meat (*Bos gaurus*, Appendix I). During the night, following a tip-off, forest rangers raided the butchering site where the meat of an adult gaur that had just been shot was being divided up. Five people fled, leaving behind the makeshift slaughterhouse and their vehicles.¹⁴

IRAN

November and december 2025 and January 2026

Bushehr, Fars, Gilan, Qazvin, Qom, Semnan, Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari, Tehran, Yazd, Zanjan and Lorestan Provinces, Iran

Seizure during some 20 operations of 13 carcasses and a wild goat trophy (*Capra hircus aegagrus*, Appendix III in Pakistan), a carcass of a goitered gazelle (*Gazella subgutturosa*), a carcass of an urial (*Ovis vignei*, Appendix I), 4 carcasses of Anatolian sheep (*Ovis gmelini*, Appendix I in Cyprus) and 12 carcasses of wild sheep of unspecified species (urial or Anatolian sheep). 35 poachers were arrested and 14 weapons seized. In 7 cases, the seizures took place at private homes. In 4 cases, they took place in vehicles, including once following a car chase and once following an ambush on the poachers' escape route.

(.../...)



December 2025, Semnan Province, Iran
Anatolian sheep (*Ovis gmelini*)

(.../...) Out in the field, in the mountains of Semnan Province, the mist prevented rangers from taking the poachers by surprise, and the poachers managed to escape. Their faces were caught on camera, and they are now wanted. In Bamou National Park, an armed clash took place between rangers and poachers. "Unfortunately, one of the officers sustained injuries to his hands and feet during the clash; he was treated thanks to the rapid intervention of operational support teams, the emergency services and the Red Crescent, and his overall condition is good. Another officer fell from a cliff during the operation; after being transferred to hospital, he received the necessary medical assistance," said the commander of the Protection and Management Unit of the Fars Province Environmental Protection Directorate. Bamou National Park was established in 1955. Located north-east of the city of Shiraz, it covers more than 480 km² of mountains and plains, home to Persian leopards, urials and gazelles, as well as 350 plant species, 51 of which are endemic. These operations were carried out by the Department of Environmental Protection with the assistance of the intelligence police and, in the case of searches, with the support of the judicial authorities. The head of the Department of Environmental Protection for the town of Eqid also praised "the cooperation of citizens and local communities in reporting environmental offences".¹⁵



November 2025, Qom Province, Iran
Young urial (*Ovis vignei*) or Anatolian sheep (*Ovis gmelini*)

January 24, 2026

Saqquez County, Kurdistan Province, Iran



Two men who, during the summer of 2025, poached an Anatolian sheep (*Ovis gmelini*, Appendix I in Cyprus) have been fined 340 million rials each (8,085 US\$).¹⁶

ISRAEL

December 25, 2025

Jerusalem District, Israel

Rescue of a gazelle (genus *Gazella*) kept by a private individual in a windowless room and fed on pellets. He was transferred to the Ramat Gan Veterinary Hospital for emergency treatment and a health assessment with a view to his release back into the wild. The gazelles found in Israel are the dorcas gazelle (*Gazella dorcas*, Appendix II) and the Arabian gazelle (*Gazella gazella*).¹⁷

KAZAKHSTAN

November 5, 2025

Aktau, Mangystau Region, Kazakhstan



Two Beyneu district residents were sentenced to 3 years and 6 months of restricted liberty and ordered to pay 44.2 million tenge (83,200 US\$) in damages for poaching 9 saiga antelopes (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II) and possessing 12 horns. Their vehicle has been confiscated, and their weapons will be destroyed.¹⁸

Mid-November 2025

Karakiya District, Mangystau Region, Kazakhstan

Police arrested a man suspected of poaching. At his home, authorities seized a carcass, 2 hides, and 7 Altai argali legs (*Ovis ammon*, Appendix II).¹⁹

Mid-November 2025

Zhangeldi District, Kostanay Region, Kazakhstan

Three district residents were detained during a traffic stop, where police discovered an unlicensed firearm and a knife covered in fur inside their car. After further investigation, the carcass of a saiga antelope (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II) was found in a nearby ditch.²⁰

Mid-November 2025

Shakhtinsk, Karaganda Region, Kazakhstan

The police apprehended two poachers, ages 22 and 37, at a checkpoint on the road connecting Karaganda to Esengeldy (120 km). They were transporting a saiga antelope carcass (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II), three rifles, and a knife, and did not have hunting permits.

During Operation "Poacher" (October 20–November 19), authorities seized 255 saiga antelope horns.²¹

Beginning of December 2025

May District, Pavlodar Region, Kazakhstan

The police intercepted two Altai argali carcasses (*Ovis ammon*, Appendix II), one saiga antelope carcass (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II), and a carabine inside the trailer of a Toyota Land Cruiser 200. Numerous other firearms and hundreds of rounds of ammunition were subsequently discovered in a Subaru Outback.²²

Mid-December 2025

Zhezqazghan, Ulytau Region, Kazakhstan

Police seized 322 saiga antelope horns (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II) from a 53-year-old man. They were stored in a shed. The suspect stated that he had been "collecting" them on the steppe since 2024 to sell them.²³

December 24, 2025

Pavlodar Region, Kazakhstan. Border with Russia.



Two individuals, one of whom was a "foreigner," were about to enter Russia with 1,882 saiga antelope horns (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II) hidden in a special compartment of their truck. Instead, they were met with a strong response. Officers from the Ministry of the Interior had been tracking them after recovering 1,127 saiga antelope horns (400 kg, or 350 grammes per horn) and arresting three traffickers on August 29 in the Karaganda Oblast, south of the Pavlodar Oblast.²⁴

December 25, 2025

Boranqul, Mangystau Region, Kazakhstan

At 9:10 p.m. on December 24th, police officers in the Beyneu district were notified that a man was transporting saiga antelopes (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II) in Boranqul. Three hours later, they successfully stopped the vehicle and found eight carcasses inside. Since mid-December, saiga antelopes have been migrating from the Aktoobe region, further north, toward the Beyneu district, attracting opportunists.²⁵

January 4, 2026

Karaganda Region, Kazakhstan

The environmental police and traffic police stopped a car with a saiga antelope (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II) carcass in the trunk. The driver, a resident of Kyzylorda Oblast, nearly 1,000 km away, tried to reason that he had accidentally struck the animal near Jezqazghan, halfway between his home and the checkpoint, but the police are not entirely convinced. An investigation has been launched to determine the truth.²⁶

End of January 2026

Taskala, West Kazakhstan Region, Kazakhstan

A farmworker received a suspended one-year sentence of restricted liberty for collecting and storing in a shed the skull of a saiga antelope (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II) that he allegedly found while mowing in the fall.²⁷



KYRGYZSTAN

November 29, 2025

Bosogo, Naryn Region, Kyrgyzstan

Officers from the Ecological and Technical Poaching Surveillance Service seized two butchered Himalyan ibex (*Capra sibirica*, Appendix III in Pakistan) carcasses. The poacher is a farm worker from the At-Bashy village.²⁸

MONGOLIA

December 2025

Munkhkhairkhan and Duut, Khovd Aimag, Mongolia

The police are searching for the person or persons who poached 2 Altai argalis (*Ovis ammon*, Appendix II), each of them estimated to be worth 22 million tugriks (6,240 US\$).²⁹

December 9, 2025

Zamyn-Uud Border Checkpoint, Dornogovi Aimag, Mongolia. Border with China.



Seizure at the border post from beneath the chassis of carriage 27 of a freight train bound for China of 152 Mongolian saiga horns (*Saiga borealis*, synonymous with *Saiga tatarica mongolica*, Appendix II), packed in 9 parcels and weighing a total of 34.2 kg.³⁰

PAKISTAN

November 15, 2025

Broze, Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. Border with Afghanistan.

Community watchers Mohammad Ghafar and Rehmat Qayum spotted the poachers Sibghatullah and Abdul Ghani, along with a third, unidentified man carrying the carcass of a markhor (*Capra falconeri*, Appendix I). The latter opened fire on the first and fled into the night with their trophy. After obtaining a search warrant for the suspects' homes, the Chitral Forest Division discovered and seized several parts of the markhor, including his unique and indisputable spiral horns. The suspects were not at home, and the daily newspaper Dawn reports that, before surrendering, they obtained a pre-arrest bail.³¹

November 20, 2025

Chak 38/3R, Province of Punjab, Pakistan. Border with India.

Lynching of a nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*, Appendix III) by a dozen individuals. The animal had crossed the India–Pakistan border around 10 days earlier and, according to rumours, was threatening crops and the safety of border villages. Wildlife rangers are said to have overlooked the alerts, and by the time they arrived on the scene, the nilgai was taking his last breaths.³²

Lynching of a langur from India in the province of Punjab, see p. 93 ref. 78.

THAILAND

November 20 and 23, and December 4, 2025

Pang Sida National Park, Sa Kaeo Province, Kaeng Krachan National Park, Phetchaburi Province, Khao Yai National Park, Prachinburi Province, Thailand

Is the hunt for gaur poachers (*Bos gaurus*, Appendix I) still on, or has it already been lost?

- A gaur struck by a spring gun died a few metres from the device, with his left front and left hind legs fractured, near a eucalyptus plantation and on the edge of the national park where he had apparently been living peacefully for days. Attacks by wounded gaurs can be dangerous. An adult gaur can weigh up to one metric tonne. It was only after 4 days that the motionless gaur, who was showing signs of aggression, could be anaesthetised, diagnosed, treated, and monitored. He died the next day. The body was transported inside the national park. It will be examined, the bullet from the trap gun will be searched for using a metal detector, and the gaur will be buried on site in a large pit lined with quicklime. Park rangers have launched a hunt for spring guns in and around the park. Two of these deadly devices, which are perilous to dismantle, have been located.



Trap guns or booby-trapped rifles are made from a metal pipe, non-conventional explosives and metal pellets, and are set off when they detect motion.

Trap guns; see "On the Trail" n°47, pp. 20–21 (ref. 47) and p. 140 (ref. 51).

- Seizure of one head, 5 legs, 2 kg of meat, and a pile of bones from gaur, deer, and small felines, as well as 2 knives, a dagger, 2 axes, and a .44 Magnum shell casing. A man and a woman fled. They were poaching gaurs in Kaeng Krachan National Park. Gaurs aren't poached by just 2 people. Accomplices are missing, first and foremost the one with a .44 Magnum.

- The big problem with the baby gaur that was rescued from a trap near Wang Bo Waterfall by 3 veterinarians is that he now has only 3 legs. The fourth was crushed by the steel wire and amputated by the rescuers, down to the kneecap. He can stand, but in the wild he would be too easy a prey for predators, including poachers. A prosthetic limb is reportedly being made. It will help him move around in a specially designed enclosure.³³



January 25, 2026

Khao Nan National Park, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province, Thailand

The national park boasts its waterfalls, low-lying dipterocarp forests, mist-shrouded treetops, white chalk cliffs, traces of tigers and elephants, macaques, langurs, and birds, but makes no mention of the traps that threaten all hoofed animals like landmines. Fortunately, a patrol happened to be in the right place at the right time to rescue a Southern serow (*Capricornis sumatraensis*, Appendix I) that had been caught by his legs.³⁴



TURKIYE

November and December 2025, January 2026 Türkiye



Arrest of 14 poachers of wild goats (*Capra hircus aegagrus*, Appendix III in Pakistan). The Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks (Doğa Koruma ve Milli Parklar Genel Müdürlüğü – DKMP) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is conducting a campaign against poaching, “day and night, mobilising both technological resources and field teams”. “Our enforcement operations aimed at protecting nature and wildlife are continuing with determination.”

- November 3, 2025, Seydişehir district, Konya province. Arrest of 3 poachers. They had killed 2 wild goats. A hunting rifle was seized. Fine of 940,000 Turkish lira (22,390 US\$) for each poached goat, pending legal proceedings.

- Mid-November 2025, Kağızman district, Kars province. Arrest of a wild goat poacher who posted images of his crimes on social media. Fine of 658,257 Turkish lira (15,680 US\$).

- Beginning of December 2025, Kayseri province. Arrest of a poacher found in possession of a wild goat carcass. Fine of 953,082 Turkish lira (22,200 US\$).

- December 3, 2025, Yahşiler, Erzincan province. Arrest of 2 poachers who were transporting a freshly killed wild goat in their vehicle. Fine of 970,827 Turkish lira (22,875 US\$) and seizure of 3 rifles, 2 of which had a rifled barrel.

- December 5–12, 2025, Karaman Province. Seizure of a thigh and a quarter of wild goat. Fine of 954,208 Turkish lira (22,480 US\$).

- Mid-December 2025, Hakkari Province. Arrest of a wild goat poacher. Fine of 956,619 Turkish lira (22,540 US\$).

- December 2025, Afşin district, Adıyaman province. Arrest of a poacher in possession of a wild goat carcass. Fine of 964,855 Turkish lira (22,730 US\$).

- December 2025, Kahramanmaraş Province. Arrest of a poacher in possession of a wild goat carcass. Fine of 969,591 Turkish lira (22,845 US\$).

- Silifke District, Mersin Province. Arrest of a poacher in possession of a wild goat carcass. Fine of 960,119 Turkish lira (22,835 US\$).

- December 22, 2025, Hizan, Bitlis province. Search of a mountain hut and seizure of a wild goat carcass. Fine of 966,091 Turkish lira (22,760 US\$).



- End of December 2025, Gündoğmuş district, Antalya province. Arrest of 2 poachers; seizure of a wild goat carcass and a rifled barrel firearm. Fine of 973,238 Turkish lira (22,930 US\$).

- Beginning of January 2026, Darende district, Malatya province. Arrest of a wild goat poacher. Fine of 956,713 Turkish lira (22,290 US\$). The total stands at at least 13 wild goats.³⁵

EUROPE

SPAIN

Week of November 3, 2025

Arán, Province of Lérida, Autonomous Community of Cataluña, Spain. Border with France.

Arrest of 6 men and seizure of 3 Pyrenean chamois heads (*Rupicapra pyrenaica*, *Rupicapra pyrenaica ornata*, Appendix II) and one deer head (family Cervidae). The Val d'Aran and the foothills of the Pyrenees are overrun by poachers. At least 21 Pyrenean chamois and 3 deer have been poached since 2017. The poachers are from Catalonia, the Valencian Community, and Ciudad Real (Autonomous Community of Castile-La Mancha). The Pyrenean chamois heads are seized from the trunks of cars. The headless carcasses are abandoned, and the deer heads are found in hiding places in the forest. Incursions by French poachers are possible. The Val d'Aran borders France and is about 100 kilometres from Andorra.

In the Val d'Aran, red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) can be observed, as well as axis deer (*Axis axis*).³⁶



POLAND

January 28, 2026

Szczecin, West Pomeranian Voivodeship, Poland

Indictment of Alexander W., who, in October 2022, killed 2 European bison (*Bison bonasus*) aged 6 and 13 years whilst on the Drawsko military practice ground (see "On the Trail" n°38 p.94, ref.3).³⁷

RUSSIA

December 5, 2025

Pallasovka, Pallasovsky District, Volgograd Oblast, Russia

Ruslan K. was fined 2,500 roubles (32 US\$), for possessing 4 skulls with saiga antelope horns (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II) at his home.³⁸



January 2026

Astrakhan Oblast, Russia. Unesco Biosphere Reserve. Border with Kazakhstan.

Fleeing the heavy snowfalls and the freezing winter temperatures, herds of saiga antelopes (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II) left at all costs the steppes of West Kazakhstan to reach the Volga-Akhtuba floodplain in Russia and find lichen on the trees and fresh grass beneath the snow and their hooves. In their bid to escape starvation, many drowned, and when they reached the end of their diagonal migration near the Caspian Sea, many were met by guns, packs of dogs and outlaws, particularly the male saigas, whose spiral horns fetch a high price on the market, and also the females, to fill the freezers with meat.

"A stab in the back for starving animals", "Migration to hell: saiga antelopes slaughtered for their horns" reads the headline in the media outlet Yug Rossii (Southern Russia). Special reporter and wildlife photographer Alyona Ryzhova, after conducting an investigation in the field, discovered the scene of a massacre. "There were trails of blood all over the white snow, as if they'd dragged the carcasses into the canal to conceal their crime. I went there and discovered more dead animals along the way. There were already around 30 in the frozen canal; they hadn't even spared the young ones. That's where they'd lit a fire, butchered the carcasses and sawed off the horns. Half of the slaughtered saigas lay there, their heads severed, whilst the other half were waiting there, dazed."



Further ambushes were uncovered in the region thanks to villagers alerted by gunshots and barking, with dragging and tire marks, and the decapitated bodies of male saigas found at every scene. The carcass and hide of a saiga antelope were seized from a farmer. Six poaching scenes were uncovered during the month of January. The organisation "Russian Biological Society" is calling on the authorities to intervene immediately to protect the distraught saigas, launch investigations and bring those responsible to justice. Animal advocates are calling for a coalition to rescue the saigas, gather the isolated and scattered herds, and combine the efforts of scientists and environmentalists under State supervision. (.../...)

(.../...) The Astrakhan Nature and Biosphere Reserve is now under the responsibility of the Russian Federation. It was established in 1927 at the instigation of the learned society of Astrakhan University (now home to 500,000 inhabitants). It was included under the name "Volga Delta" on the Ramsar Convention's List of Wetlands of International Importance in 1975 and on UNESCO's List of Biosphere Reserves in 1984. It covers an area of approximately 700 km².³⁹

SWITZERLAND

Mid-November 2025
Zurich International Airport, Canton of Zurich,
Switzerland



Seizure, thanks to Gino's sense of smell, of a shahtoosh stole, the weaving of which required the poaching of between 3 and 5 Tibetan antelopes (*Pantholops hodgsonii*, Appendix I).⁴⁰



Okapis (*Okapia johnstoni*). Biodiversity Heritage Library via Encyclopedia of Life

KENYA

**December 8 and 16, 2025 and
January 19, 2026**

Nakuru County: Mundui Estates

Narok County: Olarro Conservancy

Taita Taveta County: Tsavo East National Park
Kenya

Joint operations by the Kenya Wildlife Service and the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust.

- The arrow embedded in the left hip was removed, and the purulent abscess, which was preventing the giraffe from running and making him easy prey, was burst and cleaned. Favourable prognosis.

- The giraffe calf was anaesthetised from a helicopter and, despite the dedication of the 6 veterinary team members, did not survive the gash to his neck caused by the noose of a steel-wire trap.



On the Trail n°49. Robin des Bois, September 2026

- There was no alternative but to put the giraffe out of his misery; he had been injured to the bone in his right hind leg and hoof by a steel wire trap.¹

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

November 2, 2025

**Selessele, Okapi Wildlife Reserve, Haut-Uélé
Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo**

- Seizure of meat and other parts of an okapi (*Okapia johnstoni*) from the Okapi Wildlife Reserve.
- Arrest of suspects who were placed in pretrial detention at the Isiro prison.

The okapi was listed in CITES Appendix I during the 20th Conference of the Parties in Samarkand (Uzbekistan) in November–December 2025.²

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

November 19, 2025

Natural Bridge, Rockbridge County,
State of Virginia, United States of
America

Gretchen Mogensen, director of the Natural Bridge Zoo, has chosen to serve 100 days in prison rather than comply with a court order requiring her to disclose the whereabouts of 2 giraffe calves (*Giraffa camelopardalis*, Appendix II) that State veterinary inspectors found to be missing in April. The NGO PETA and author Alicia Silverstone are offering a reward of 50,000 US\$ to anyone who can locate them.³

AFRICA

KENYA

November 2025 to January 2026

Kwale County: Shimba Hills National Reserve

Nakuru County: Aquilla Farm, Soysambu Conservancy, Marula Estates, Green Park, Kedong Ranch, Lentolia Conservancy, Astorian Grand Hotel, Kongoni Game Valley

Narok County: Masai Mara National Reserve, Ewaso Ngiro

Taita Taveta County: Tsavo East National Park

Tana River County: Kipini Conservancy

Kenya

Joint operations by the Kenya Wildlife Service and the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust at the zebras' bedsides in Kenya. A total of 16 zebras (genus *Equus*, *Equus grevyi*, Appendix I, found in Kenya) were caught in traps or injured by arrows or a machete. One female died; the prognosis is favourable for the remaining 15. - December 29, 2025. A zebra foal suckles at his mother, who had died of stress, shock and exhaustion after being caught and strangled in a trap. He was captured by the veterinary team, sedated with an injection, transported by pick-up truck to the SWT (Sheldrick Wildlife Trust) orphanage, and placed in a safe and restful environment.

- January 16, 2026. A machete blow to the right thigh. The wound is deep. The team's intervention was watched very closely by around 20 or so on-lookers and supporters. Well done to the vet and his assistants for doing such a good job under these unusual circumstances. Revived with an antidote, the female zebra took off like a shot.¹



NIGERIA

December 26, 2025

Mubi, Adamawa State, Nigeria. Border with Cameroon.

A total of 718 donkey hides, with an estimated total value of 24.3 million naira (17,300 US\$ or 24 US\$/hide), were seized from a vehicle, and the driver and the owner of the hides were arrested as they were heading toward the border with Cameroon.²

January 2026

Mubi, Adamawa State, Nigeria. Border with Cameroon.



At a press conference on January 25, the customs official for Zone D announced the seizure of 283 fresh hides, 102 bags of dried donkey meat, and several bales of secondhand clothing.³



Mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*). Photo Kindjay (BY-NC 4.0)

AMERICA

CANADA

January 1, 2026

Toronto, Province of Ontario, Canada

On January 1 at 9:00 a.m., someone who had come to pay their respects at Park Lawn Cemetery discovered the lifeless body of a white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) with an arrow in his flank and his antlers sawed off. The lush, shaded cemetery on the banks of the Humber River is popular with families and nature lovers. A few days later, a tribute was paid to the victim. "May the person who shot the deer (with a bow and arrow) and sawed off his antlers burn in everlasting hellfire," reads the condolence book.¹



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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

COLORADO

January 5, 2026

Colorado Springs, El Paso County, State of Colorado, United States of America



Sentencing of Sergeant Jacob Curtis Keyser and Sergeant Juan Salcedo to fines of 19,000 US\$ and 8,800 US\$, respectively, and to a suspension of promotions, transfers, and awards for poaching mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), whose bodies, with their antlers removed and partially skinned, were found in the snow near the Fort Carson barracks and a training ground. Keyser's hunting rifle will be destroyed, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife may, in an upcoming hearing, decide to suspend their hunting and fishing privileges or impose a lifetime ban.²



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SOUTH DAKOTA

November 16, 2025

Union County, State of South Dakota, United States of America

Thanks to alerts on Turn In Poachers, the poaching of a white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) by 2 individuals armed with firearms was uncovered, investigated, and documented by the sheriff and wildlife officers. The poaching occurred before the hunting season opened. The deer was illegally tagged with an archery licence. A third man skinned him and cut off his head. The hide and head had been transported to Iowa, where bowhunting season was open that day.

Call SD Turn In Poachers (TIPS) at 1-888-OVERBAG. Your call makes a difference!³

IDAHO

REPEATED OFFENCE

November 3, 2025

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

Sentencing of Carl Van Loon to 10 days in prison, a lifetime ban on hunting, fishing, and trapping, and fines totalling 10,000 US\$ for killing a white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) outside the hunting season and by prohibited means, namely a bait site with a salt lick, a trough, a hay feeder, and a barrel of molasses and oats, all set up in the middle of winter and during snowy weather to attract deer deprived of moss and lichen. Van Loon pleaded guilty, and in exchange, the charges for poaching a deer before the season opened were dropped. The deer meat had been seized from his freezer, the antlers from a shelf, and the offal from a trash can.

"The truth is that Idaho's wildlife belongs to all of us. By taking game illegally, Carl was stealing wildlife from his neighbours who enjoyed viewing them. Carl Van Loon was stealing the chance for Idaho sportspersons to be allowed a legal opportunity for fair and ethical chase under Idaho's game laws" (Idaho Fish and Game).⁴



Weekend of November 8–9, 2025

Slate Creek, Idaho County, State of Idaho, United States of America

A mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) running along the west bank of the Salmon River was targeted from the east bank by poachers who had trespassed onto the property. They were forced to use a boat to retrieve the animal and bring him back to their camp, where he was beheaded and hastily stripped of a few scraps of meat. A call for witnesses has been issued. Over the weekend, there were many people fishing from the shore and from boats.⁵



Salmon River

KENTUCKY

Beginning of November 2025

Ohio County, State of Kentucky, United States of America

The antlers of a white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) that had been fatally shot from a vehicle with a rifle were seized by the sheriff and Mofield, an agent with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, from a man who had no choice but to admit to the facts.⁶

Mid-November 2025

Breckinridge County, State of Kentucky, United States of America

A white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) was fatally struck by a vehicle. The deer's head and 2 firearms were seized from a resident of Grayson County, which borders Breckinridge County.⁷



November 25, 2025

Marion County, State of Kentucky, United States of America

A teenager was charged after shooting a white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) from a vehicle 2 days after the close of the hunting season for deer using modern firearms. His parents are considered accomplices. Seizure of the deer's head with 10-point antlers.



The variety of hunting methods and permits issued, as well as the overlap of hunting seasons, demonstrate that hunting is a significant social and financial issue in Kentucky (and other States, each with its own schedule). Of particular note is the weekend of December 27–28, during which young people without hunting licences, when accompanied by an adult, will have 2 days to try out and get used to their deadly Christmas gifts.⁸

MICHIGAN

Beginning of November 2025

Lenawee County, State of Michigan, United States of America

The patrol car was tailing a suspicious pick-up truck driving at a snail's pace without its headlights on. The driver was sweeping the fields with a spotlight. A traffic stop was in order. Inside the cab, there was a thermal scope, a hunting rifle, and what appeared to be narcotics. The man was forced to allow the officers to look at his home, and in the yard, the 4 game wardens saw a white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) hanging from a tree and 5 heads on a table.¹⁰

Mid-November 2025

Houghton County, State of Michigan, United States of America

The 2 heads with antlers of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) hanging from a tree in the yard could not escape the attention of Officer Byron Parks and Sergeant Marc Pomroy, who had been tipped off about the unusual sight by an anonymous phone call. It turns out that the 2 deer, plus a third whose head and antlers were hidden in the back of the family's pick-up truck, had been poached in Wisconsin.¹¹

Deer hunting method	Early Season		Late Season
Archery	Sept. 6, 2025 - Jan. 19, 2026		
Youth/Senior Crossbow	Sept. 6, 2025 - Jan. 19, 2026		
Crossbow	Sept. 20, 2025 - Jan. 19, 2026		
Special Season	Sept. 27-28, 2025		
Youth-only Gun	Oct. 11 - 19, 2025		
Muzzleloader	Oct. 18 - 19, 2025		Dec. 13-21, 2025
Modern Gun	Nov. 8 - 23, 2025		
Free Youth Weekend	Dec. 27 - 28, 2025		

MAINE

November 2025

Deblois, Washington County, State of Maine, United States of America. Border with Canada.

There is a serial killer on the loose in the area. In September, October, and November, 4 white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and one fawn were found dead and mutilated. The most recent victim, an adult deer, had his antlers removed. "If you know something, please say something. Information such as vehicle descriptions and licence plate numbers are especially useful in identifying intentional violators." The emergency phone numbers for Augusta, Bangor, and Houlton, the county's 3 cities, are posted alongside Maine's 1-800-ALERT-US hotline.⁹

November 19, 2025

State of Michigan, United States of America

"I think I know why you are here." The suspect didn't beat around the bush. He immediately admitted to poaching and led Officer Wes Butler to the exact spot in the yard where he had buried the skull and antlers of the 10-point white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*).¹²

End of December 2025

Calhoun County, State of Michigan, United States of America

Subpoena issued to a novice hunter who had purchased a tagging band online but had not yet received it and was unable to attach it to the white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) he had just shot. The antlers were seized.¹³

End of January 2026

Saginaw County, State of Michigan, United States of America

In prison for burglary and methamphetamine trafficking, the individual is charged with baiting white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) on another person's property using prohibited methods, leaving the carcass of a doe to rot on the premises, and possessing at his residence 4 white-tailed deer carcasses, including one 8-point buck, and 3 head trophies with antlers.¹⁴

MONTANA

End of November 2025

Between Bridger and Belfry, Carbon County, State of Montana, United States of America



The headless carcasses of 4 white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) were dumped on property managed by the Bureau of Land Management (an agency of the Department of the Interior that manages public lands). Montana prohibits the abandonment or waste of the tenderloins, backstraps and all of the 4 quarters. A 1,000 US\$ reward is offered. Call 406-598-8114 or visit the website tipmont.mt.gov.¹⁵

NEW JERSEY

REPEATED OFFENCE

November 2, 2025

State of New Jersey, United States of America

He was posing in full camouflage next to a fallen white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), holding a bow and arrows. Conservation Police Officer Adam Merritt recognised him. At the time the photograph was taken, the man was banned from hunting and fishing due to previous offences. He told Merritt everything. He couldn't help himself from hunting. He spent nights perched in a tree waiting for a white-tailed deer to pass by. A euro skull mount was seized as evidence and the individual was issued summonses for hunting deer while privileges revoked, hunt without a valid archery licence, mutilation of game, possession of deer taken in an illegal manner.¹⁶

November 30, 2025

Deal, Monmouth County, State of New Jersey, United States of America

Seizure of the antlers of an 8-point white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and the venison, which was donated to a charity. He had been killed by a crossbow bolt in the town, less than 45 metres from several occupied houses.¹⁷

OHIO

End of December 2025

Norwalk, Huron County, State of Ohio, United States of America



Sentenced to a 225 US\$ fine and court costs, a 10-day suspended prison sentence, and the confiscation of the white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) head and venison for attempting to exceed the quota (one deer per hunting season) by attributing his second kill to an accomplice who was not a hunter. Game warden Matt D. Smith quickly uncovered the scheme and seized the deer's head from a shelf and the venison from a freezer.¹⁸

OREGON

November 2025

Near Meacham, Umatilla County, State of Oregon, United States of America

A white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) collides with a vehicle on Interstate 84. The deer lies sprawled on the shoulder. A few minutes later, a truck pulls over and the driver cuts off the deer's head. He was arrested a few kilometres further down the road after a tip was reported to the Oregon Department of Transportation. Inside the trailer, police discovered and seized the deer's head and antlers. "I often see dead deer along the interstate," he said. The presence of a butcher's cleaver in the cab proves that he was always ready to seize any opportunity. He has been summoned to appear in court for Take/Possession of Roadkill.¹⁹

November 2025

Klamath Falls, Klamath County, State of Oregon, United States of America

The man had been seen shooting a large deer from Highway 140 East, and the witness had alerted the county troopers. On that day, only muzzleloader rifle hunting was permitted, and the quota was very tight. That evening, in the suspect's garage, during a search to which he had consented, the antlers and quarters of the mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) were discovered and seized. The man, who had killed the deer without having purchased the hunting permit, will be prosecuted by the county court.²⁰

REPEATED OFFENCE

January 2026

Wasco County, State of Oregon, United States of America

Subpoenas have been issued against an individual from whom 3 white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) skulls and meat were seized in October 2025. This is the third time in 5 years that he has been found in illegal possession of trophies, and he faces a lifetime revocation of his hunting, fishing, and trapping privileges.²¹

TENNESSEE

REPEATED OFFENCE

End of December 2025

Wilson and Rutherford Counties, State of Tennessee, United States of America



Sentencing of Robert E. Comer to a lifetime ban from hunting, fishing, trapping, and entering Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency-managed lands, ordered to pay 15,000 US\$ in restitution, and sentenced to 60 days in prison for poaching 50 white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), possessing 50 trophies, and selling or bartering meat. A rifle, a muzzle-loading firearm, a compound bow, and an Eastern fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*) in a cage were seized. Comer remains unresponsive to court rulings. In 2022, he had already been sentenced to a 3-year hunting ban.²²

TEXAS

December 30, 2025

Zapata, Zapata County, State of Texas, United States of America. Border with Mexico.

A reward of up to 1,000 US\$ is offered for any information leading to the identification and conviction of the poacher who killed 3 white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*).²³

UTAH

FAMILY AFFAIRS

November 17, 2025

Provo, Utah County, State of Utah, United States of America

A compound bow, arrows, and 10 mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) antlers were seized from the Thomas couple. The investigation dates back to late 2024. It was launched following 2 separate tips reporting a pick-up truck on the prowl, a deer caught in the headlights, and a man drawing a hunting bow. The 2 tips received by the police included a photo of the vehicle and its licence plate. Jeremy Edward and Tanza Ann Thomas, along with their accomplice Braiden Wade Mattinson, face felony charges, 12,000 US\$ in restitution per deer, and a ban on hunting and fishing in 49 U.S. States for poaching deer at night, using prohibited methods, outside the hunting season, and with the aggravating circumstance of leaving the meat to rot on site without allowing people or communities in need to benefit from it.²⁴

VIRGINIA

November 24, 2025

Pulaski County, State of Virginia, United States of America

"Illegal hunting doesn't just break the law, it hurts wildlife populations and ethical hunters who follow the rules. If you see something. Say something." Thanks to this motto, Conservation Police Officers Wood, Wilson, and Chaffin, along with K-9 handler Molly and Sergeant Rabago, were able, with search warrants in hand, to seize 10 large sets of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) antlers, 3 firearms, and 2 caged raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) on the property of a man who had been seen shooting white-tailed deer from his vehicle, which he had converted into a mobile hunting blind.²⁵

WISCONSIN

January 5, 2026

Reedsville, Manitowoc County, State of Wisconsin, United States of America

The local NBC correspondent reports that 4 headless white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) carcasses were discovered in a trash bin in front of the men's gym, and that another headless carcass was found near the club in front of a private residence. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is urging vigilance and asking the public to report any deer carcasses or parts found in trash bins.²⁶

ASIA

BANGLADESH

December 27, 2025

Nalian, Khulna District, Khulna Division, Bangladesh

Arrest by the Coast Guard of 2 poachers. At their homes, on the banks of the Mochir Doani Canal, Abu Musa and Hossain were found in possession of 21.5 kg of spotted deer (*Axis axis*) meat, a head, and legs, as well as a large number of traps (600 metres of wire stretched between trees, in which the deer could get their legs or antlers caught).²⁷



CHINA

December 23, 2025

Xiaosong, Ganzhou Prefecture, Province of Jiangxi, China



Li was often seen and heard prowling the forests at night in his van. The police eventually raided his home and found a modified drone equipped with a thermal camera that tracks wild animals at night and an arrow launcher that shoots them. The entire setup was seized, along with the meat of 2 Reeves's muntjacs (*Muntiacus reevesi*) found in the freezer.²⁸

INDIA

December 1, 2025

Alipurduar, Alipurduar District, State of West Bengal, India

Kailash Baraik was sentenced to 3 years in prison and fined 50,000 rupees (560 US\$) for hiding the bones, meat, and dried organs of an Indian muntjac (*Muntiacus muntjak*) in a tea plantation.²⁹



December 1, 2025

Alipurduar, Alipurduar District, State of West Bengal, India

Three years in prison and a fine of 50,000 rupees (560 US\$) for Babla Barman and 2 others who were hiding 13 antlers of hog deer (*Axis porcinus*, Appendix III in Pakistan) and antlers stolen from the forest in Rangalibazna.³⁰



December 27, 2025

Nangal, Rupnagar District, State of Punjab, India



On a winter night, a sambar deer (*Rusa unicolor*) mistook a large cake left on a trail for a treat and bit into it. He died with his mouth torn apart. The cake was a homemade explosive device. Several similar devices were found at the home of Om Prakash, a butcher.³¹

December 31, 2025

Ramnagar, Firozabad District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India

Controversy in the district. According to villagers, forest officials attempted to cover up the poaching of a swamp deer or barasingha (*Rucervus duvaucelii*, Appendix I) by smearing mud over the carcass and claiming it was a sambar deer (*Rusa unicolor*). In any case, the deer was decapitated by the poachers, and the antlers were reportedly found in nearby bushes. A man named Guddu and 5 to 6 accomplices were arrested. Depending on their quality and weight, the antlers of a swamp deer can fetch high prices. In February 2021, a man had put a pair of antlers up for sale for the equivalent of 4,106 US\$ (see "On the Trail" n°32, p. 123, ref. 22). In April 2022, a woman attempted to sell a pair for more than 19,000 US\$ (see "On the Trail" n°36, p. 99, ref. 8). Swamp deer are threatened with extinction.³²

Swamp deer, see "On the Trail" n°6, p. 100 (ref. 14), n°7, p. 100, n°10, p. 69 (ref. 16), n°13, p. 108 (ref. 45), n°14, p. 69 (ref. 59), n°18, p. 49, n°20, p. 112 (ref. 8), n°23, p. 140 (ref. 28), n°32, p. 123 (ref. 22) and p. 125 (ref. 31), n°33, p. 127 (ref. 11), n°36, p. 99 (refs. 8 and 9), n°37, p. 192 (ref. 77), and n°40, p. 94 (ref. 21).

January 20, 2026

Dalabehera Sahi, Angul District, State of Odisha, India



Seizure of 7 spotted deer (*Axis axis*) antlers, 2 homemade rifles, 2 headlamps, 10 wild boar traps, 5 kg of galvanized wire, and a saw were from the home of Babuli and Chhita Dalabehera.³³

INDONESIA

November 7, December 15 and 17, 2025, and January 18, 2026

Yos Sudarso Port, Ambon, Maluku Province, Maluku Archipelago, Indonesia

- Seizure of 3 deer antlers from the luggage of a passenger on the Nggapulu ferry bound for Surabaya, Java.

- Seizure of one pair of deer antlers by a quarantine centre officer on patrol in the port. The passenger was about to board the Sangiang ferry. The Sangiang makes stops at ports in the Moluccas and on the island of Sulawesi.

- Seizure of 3 pairs of deer antlers from the luggage of a passenger on the Doro Londa ferry bound for Makassar, on the island of Sulawesi.

- Seizure of 2 pairs of deer antlers from the luggage of 2 passengers upon boarding the Ciremai car ferry bound for Jakarta.

The province of the Moluccas is home to Javan rusa (*Rusa timorensis*) and sambar deer (*Rusa unicolor*).

Nggapulu, see "On the Trail" n°31, p. 125 (ref. 58), n°44, p. 148 (ref. 12), and n°48, p. 65 (ref. 24).

Ciremai, see "On the Trail" n°33, p. 165 (ref. 67), and n°40, pp. 164–165 (ref. 5).³⁴



The Nggapulu in Jakarta in January 2025

November 19, 2025

Surabaya City, East Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia

Sentencing of Syahlan Hasan to 3 years in prison and a fine of 12,000 US\$, which may be replaced by an additional month in prison in the event of non-payment, for possessing 64 skulls with antlers of the Javan rusa (*Rusa timorensis*) and 14 skulls with antlers from the Indian muntjac (*Muntiacus muntjak*) at his home and attempting to sell them. He had purchased them in mid-April from a man named Lukman, who is the subject of an arrest warrant, at a price of 175,000 rupiah/kg (10 US\$/kg) and was attempting to resell them at 250,000 rupiah/kg (15 US\$/kg). The 78 trophies weigh a total of 25 kg. They were seized by the criminal police, acting on confidential information, on May 21 on the second floor of a boarding house where Hasan was staying.

The first-instance judgment orders that the trophies be destroyed or used for scientific purposes.³⁵



EUROPE

AUSTRIA

January 2, 2026

Ochsengarten, Tyrol State, Austria

A decapitated red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) was thrown onto the roadside over the guardrails.³⁶

FRANCE

Sunday, January 11, 2026

Noailan, Department of Gironde, France

The discovery of the body of a young red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) on a path – with his antlers and the end of his legs cut – has casted a chill through the village. The mayor is outraged, whilst the hunters' reactions have been weak. "It is a no-no," says the local accredited hunting association.³⁷

Monday, January 12, 2026

Chevenoz Forest, Department of Haute-Savoie, France. Border with Switzerland.

A horrific scene for a walker. In the forest, he came across a red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) who had been decapitated and had his hind legs severed. The animal had fallen prey to a poacher, who knew that the hind legs are the most sought-after pieces of meat in restaurants and at banquets.³⁸

ITALY

Beginning of January, 2026

Castellana Sicula, Metropolitan City of Palermo, Region of Sicily, Italy

Carabinieri on night patrol in the Madonie Mountains stopped a suspicious vehicle roaming in a protected area where hunting is prohibited. Seized items included fallow deer antlers (*Dama dama*), a wide range of silenced weapons, a crossbow, a bow, arrows, various types of knives, and LED headlamps. Three men were cited. They will be prosecuted for poaching and the illegal use of dangerous weapons.³⁹



IRELAND

November 27, 2025

Donabate, County Dublin, Ireland

On Thursday night, there was a break-in at the Deer Park, a popular zoo attraction north of Dublin, where the red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) – who boasted the most majestic antlers in Ireland and the United Kingdom – was silently poached and decapitated.⁴⁰



POLAND

Mid-November 2025

Biała Piska, Warmian–Masurian Voivodeship, Poland

A five-month suspended prison sentence with 2 years' probation has been handed down to the man from Biała Piska (population 4,000) who killed a red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) at night and decapitated him, leaving the rest of the animal lying across a dirt track. The head and antlers, valued at the equivalent of 560 US\$, were found in the boot of his Volkswagen.⁴¹



December 21, Scundu

- Seizure from 2 men aged 38 and 45 of a firearm fitted with a silencer and a telescopic sight, other firearms, ammunition of all calibres, 90 kg of venison and 19 deer trophies.⁴²



January 27, 2026, Timiș County

ROMANIA

December 9 and 21, 2025, January 27, 2026

Axintele, Ialomița County, Bălești and Runcu, Gorj County, Scundu, Vâlcea County, Receaș and Stanciova, Timiș County, Romania

- Seizure from 3 men suspected of poaching of a red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) trophy, 2 slingshots, an air rifle and a cylinder of CO₂. The Animal Welfare Service must decide the fate of 2 hunting greyhounds.

- Seizures by the Weapons, Explosives and Dangerous Substances Unit at 4 private homes of 38 kg of red deer meat, a red deer skin with the head and legs, 5 red deer skulls, 3 chamois skulls (*Rupicapra rupicapra*), 2 torches designed to be attached to firearms, 11 small-mesh fishing nets, each 100 metres long, and 2 inflatable boats. Arrest of 4 men aged between 30 and 56.

- Seizures by the Weapons, Explosives and Dangerous Substances Unit, supported by the gendarmerie, during 5 searches of the homes of 4 men aged between 38 and 59, of frozen game meat from several wild species and hunting trophies, including red deer skulls.

RUSSIA

November 14, 2025

Novosibirsk-Tolmachevo International Airport, Novosibirsky District, Novosibirsk Oblast, Russia

Seizure of 2 antlers from a Bokharan red deer (*Cervus elaphus bactrianus*, Appendix II) from the luggage of a passenger arriving from the Altai Mountains which the passenger claimed to have received as a gift.⁴³



SLOVAKIA

January 22-23, 2026

Budimír, Košice Region, Slovakia

The fallow deer (*Dama dama*) was poached on a hunting society's grassland and then beheaded. "We cannot say any more or publish any photos of the crime scene, as this could thwart or complicate the investigation," said the police.⁴⁴



Guanacos (*Lama guanicoe*)

AMERICA

ARGENTINA

November and December 2025, January 2026 Provinces of Chubut, Córdoba, Neuquén, and Río Negro, Argentina

Seizures during 11 operations of 52 butchered guanaco carcasses (*Lama guanicoe*, Appendix II), including 2 juveniles, and 725 kg of meat. Six seizures were made during roadside checks, leading to the arrest of nine poachers/traffickers, including one man already subject to an arrest warrant and one woman.



January 2026, Nahuel Huapi National Park,
Province of Neuquén, Argentina

A "significant quantity" of meat from poached guanacos, prepared by illegal butchers and failing to meet any health standards, was also seized from a "Chinese-owned" supermarket in the centre of El Bolsón (province of Río Negro). The premises were temporarily closed. A poacher posted a photo on social media alongside the carcass of a guanaco from the Chaco population in the north-west of the province of Córdoba, which numbers only around a hundred individuals. "For more than ten years, my colleagues at CONICET [Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas – National Council for Scientific and Technical Research] and I have been studying this population and warning that it is on the brink of extinction due to poaching," complains biologist Fernando Barri. The federal court in Puerto Madryn (province of Chubut) organised a crackdown on a network that was poaching on the Central Plateau and transporting the meat by coach to sell it in the town of Trelew. Details of the arrests and seizures have not been disclosed. In the same province, a female farmer has raised the alarm about the scale of the poaching. "The poachers come at night, preferably on new moon nights to avoid light pollution. They use very powerful spotlights to lure the animals. Once they're close, they kill and skin them. They take the best cuts of meat and leave the rest. On my property alone, I have found more than 50 carcasses." The poachers also leave behind various items of rubbish, such as beer cans, food packaging and latex gloves. They are also reported to have targeted domestic donkeys. In the Somuncurá Plateau Nature Reserve (province of Río Negro), 12 dead guanacos were discovered. The Secretariat for the Environment and Climate Change has committed to stepping up checks at access points and on main roads, in collaboration with the rural police, the Under-Secretariat for Wildlife and the Somuncurá Foundation. Three men who were caught red-handed poaching on the shores of Lake Nahuel Huapi (Neuquén province) in October 2025, following a tip-off from a retired police officer, have avoided trial by paying 6 million pesos (4,120 US\$) to the Nacurutú Civil Foundation – a network dedicated to the rescue and care of wildlife in the region of San Martín de los Andes, Junín de los Andes, Villa La Angostura and the surrounding area. They will also be required to undertake a 6-month course in zoology and awareness-raising on the harmful effects of illegal hunting at the Edutin Academy Institute, and to refrain from using or acquiring a firearm for one year. The Federal Court of Zapala has ordered that the seized rifle be handed over to the National Arms Register (RENAR) for destruction.¹



Javan langurs (*Trachypithecus auratus*). Photo Andre Golumbeski (BY-NC 4.0)

WESTERN AFRICA

LIBERIA

November 2025

Marshall, Margibi County, Liberia

Three tiny, orphaned lesser spot-nosed guenons (*Cercopithecus petaurista*, Appendix II) are recovering after arriving at the Libassa sanctuary, emaciated and bearing marks on their necks from the harsh leashes of human captivity. Lesser spot-nosed guenons, see "On the Trail" n°1, p. 15; n°29, p. 101 (ref. 46); n°33, p. 129 (ref. 3); n°38, p. 117 (ref. 54); n°43, p. 62 (ref. 2); and n°46, p. 61 (ref. 1).¹



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December 1, 2025

Marshall, Margibi County, Liberia

Two sooty mangabey babies (*Cercocebus atys*, Appendix II), found under a tarpaulin on the roof of a car where they had been stored for about 12 hours, were taken to the Libassa sanctuary.²

December 2025

Marshall, Margibi County, Liberia

A little Campbell's mona monkey (*Cercopithecus campbelli*, Appendix II) weighing 600 grammes was found, dehydrated and with a hairless tail. He had suffered a chest injury while in human captivity, but is now gradually regaining his strength and will eventually be released back into the wild.³



© Libassa Wildlife Sanctuary

NIGERIA

Beginning of November 2025 Lagos, Lagos State, Nigeria

Lamin Magaji Muhammad and Ibrahim Haruna Muhammad were sentenced to one year in prison for the illegal possession of a female baby gorilla (*Gorilla* spp., Appendix I), one year for her attempted sale, and one year for acting in conspiracy. The three sentences are to be served concurrently. Each defendant must pay a fine of 1,000 US\$. The baby gorilla, who had been smuggled into Nigeria, was transferred to the Pandrillus Drill Ranch in Cross River State.⁴



SIERRA LEONE

December 3, 2025 Near Moyamba, Southern Province, Sierra Leone

A video on Facebook showed a young chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*, Appendix I) being used as a pawn in the hands of traffickers. He was rescued by the Tacugama Sanctuary team thanks to a tip from a supporter.⁵



January 1, 2026 Outamba Kilimi National Park, North West Province, Sierra Leone

On New Year's Eve, park rangers rescued a baby chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*, Appendix I) from illegal miners at a village within Outamba-Kilimi National Park. "Chimpanzees are protected by law in Sierra Leone. But without enforcement, it means little," said officials at the Tacugama sanctuary, where the baby chimpanzee is receiving care.⁶

CENTRAL AFRICA

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Beginning of November 2025 Lola ya Bonobo Sanctuary, Kinshasa Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Orphaned bonobos (*Pan paniscus*, Appendix I) at the Friends of Bonobos sanctuary receive exceptional care from their surrogate caregivers, Niclette, Gladys, C'Arrive, Mérithe, Peguy, Huguette, and Micheline. The bonobos will not be released into the wild, but rather into a very large enclosure where they will live under supervised freedom.⁷



Night of November 23-24, 2025 N'Sele Valley Park, Maluku, Kinshasa Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo. Border with the Republic of the Congo

Three baby chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*, Appendix I) were stolen overnight from an enclosure at the park inaugurated by President Kabila and his wife in June 2018, located 50 km from Kinshasa and 30 km from its international airport.⁸

EASTERN AFRICA

DJIBOUTI

November 2025 Decan Refuge, Arta Region, Djibouti

A hamadryas baboon (*Papio hamadryas*, Appendix II), abandoned in the Bahrain archipelago back in February 2024, touched the hearts of people throughout the Arab-Persian Gulf. After more than a year of care and training, the baboon left the Middle East aboard a DHL flight in a hygienic, padded cage. Accompanied by a female baboon who had been living at the Al Areen Reserve, the two were transferred to the Decan Sanctuary on the Gulf of Aden, near the Somalia border.⁹

KENYA

December 19, 2025

Hell's Gate National Park, Nakuru County, Kenya

An olive baboon (*Papio anubis*, Appendix II) got caught in the nylon rope of a trap, his hindquarters severely bound and compressed. Forced into life-threatening immobilization, the Rift Valley mobile veterinary team from the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust and Kenya Wildlife Service arrived on scene after being alerted by rangers. After undergoing anaesthesia, having the circular wound treated, and receiving antibiotics and anti-inflammatory medication, the baboon was revitalized. The prognosis is favourable.



Olive baboons live primarily in the savannahs of West, Central, and East Africa. They are omnivores and live in hierarchical groups ranging from about ten to more than a hundred individuals. Males measure about 75 cm (plus the tail) and weigh 25 kg; females measure about 60 cm and weigh about 15 kg. They have grey-green fur, hence their nickname, "olive baboons".¹⁰

MADAGASCAR

November 7 and 20, 2025

Mahajanga, Boeny Region, and Ambohimandra, Antananarivo Region, Madagascar

- Thanks to the vigilance of the trucking company Côtisse and intervention by the DREDD (Regional Directorate for the Environment and Sustainable Development), 9 Coquerel's sifakas (*Propithecus coquereli*, Appendix I) were seized. They were found inside an ordinary package bound for Antananarivo, 600 km and a 13-hour drive away. They were destined for the Middle East via the Antananarivo-Ivato International Airport. Police are working to track down the sender in Mahajanga and recipient in Antananarivo.

- 10 Coquerel's sifakas were found inside a basement, awaiting covert export via the Antananarivo-Ivato International Airport. As early as June and August, Comorians, Malagasy nationals, and Ukrainians wanting to fly to Dubai had attempted the same scheme. Coquerel's sifakas, see "On the Trail" n°46, p. 62 (ref. 4) and n°47, p. 131 (ref. 4).¹¹



January 7, 2026 Ivato-Antananarivo International Airport, Analamanga Region, Madagascar

A lemur (Lemuriformes, Appendix I) was about to be smuggled in the checked luggage of a Belarusian passenger. Thankfully, customs officers saved the day and recovered the lemur after he had passed through an X-ray machine. He was hidden inside a wooden cage, concealed by bags of noodles.¹²



RWANDA

November 15, 2025

Volcanoes National Park, Northern Province, Rwanda. Border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



Rangers at Volcanoes National Park found a mountain gorilla (*Gorilla beringei*, Appendix I) trapped by a rope snare wrapped around his left shoulder. The gorilla risk injuring himself if he tried to break free. The Gorilla Doctors arrived on scene at around 2:00 p.m., and the subadult gorilla was anaesthetised, freed, treated, and awakened. The entire team was careful to avoid a conflict with the gorilla family, that was watching closely. The male gorilla was ultimately freed and rejoined the family, and the doctors, before leaving the scene, ensured the gorilla used both his right and left hands to eat leaves.¹³

SOUTHERN AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

End of November-Beginning of December 2025 Tzaneen, Limpopo Province, South Africa

The Vervet Forest veterinary clinic in Johannesburg cared for and bottle-fed 9 orphaned and injured vervet monkeys (*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*, Appendix II), ranging in age from a few weeks to a few months.¹⁴

December 3, 2025

Letlhabile, North West Province, South Africa

A baby vervet monkey (*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*, Appendix II) was rescued from a group of children recruited by a “sangoma,” or traditional healer who had promised a reward for every wild animal captured and delivered. Under pressure from several neighbours, the sangoma finally agreed to surrender the baby over to the Owl Rescue Center. It was about time.¹⁵

December 7, 2025

Vaalwater, Limpopo Province, South Africa

Rescue by the Owl Rescue Centre of a female chacma baboon (*Papio ursinus*, Appendix II) who had been tied to a tree for several months. She was handed over to a facility specialising in the health and behavioural assessment of wild animals.¹⁶

January 24, 2026

Cape Peninsula, Western Cape Province, South Africa

An adult female chacma baboon (*Papio ursinus*, Appendix II) from the Zwaanswyk troop was found with a wire snare around her neck. The Cape Baboon Partnership and the SPCA were called to the scene. The only way to free her was to issue anaesthesia under veterinarian supervision. She was freed from the snare, which restricted her movement and had begun to cut into her neck. After being administered an antidote, the baboon woke up and rejoined the troop. This marks the first trap victim of 2026 to be spotted and rescued, but unfortunately, according to the Cape Baboon Partnership, many others this year will be killed in traps.¹⁷

Chacma baboons in Cape Town, see “On the Trail” n°32, p. 131 (ref. 27), n°33, p. 135 (refs. 30 and 31), n°35, p. 97 (ref. 27), n°36, pp. 106–107 (ref. 25), n°37, p. 100 (ref. 21), n°40, p. 103 (ref. 27), and n°42, p. 65 (ref. 7).

January 29, 2026

George, Western Cape Province, South Africa

83-year-old Malcolm Greaves was sentenced to a fine of 5,000 rand (290 US\$) or a one-year suspended prison sentence with 3 years’ probation for shooting a vervet monkey (*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*, Appendix II) with a pellet gun on May 7, 2025. The monkey died shortly after the incident.¹⁸



NORTHERN AMERICA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ANIMAL CRUSHING

November 13, December 16, 2025, and January 8, 2026

Columbus, Franklin County, State of Ohio, United States



- Katrina Favret of Greenville, Tennessee, pleaded guilty to co-creating and distributing horrifying films of a monkey being raped with a screwdriver (see “On the Trail” n°46, p. 63, ref. 13).

- Robert Berndt was sentenced to 3 years and 2 months in prison, followed by 3 years of probation, for commissioning in Indonesia and distributing worldwide staged depictions of monkeys being raped and other sadistic acts. He acted in conspiracy.

- Garrett Fitzgerald, Berndt’s accomplice, was sentenced to 30 months in prison, followed by 3 years of probation and 100 hours of community service, for “animal crushing”—a form of physical and psychological torture whose primary victims are long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*, Appendix II) from Indonesia. Based on entries in “On the Trail,” the practice seems to be spreading to other animals and other filming locations.¹⁹

December 18, 2025

Chicago O’Hare International Airport, Cook and DuPage Counties, State of Illinois, United States of America

Horrifying discovery inside the suitcase of a passenger arriving from the Congo: a dried-up monkey (Primates, Appendix I or II) intended for consumption.²⁰



© US CBP Chicago

January 2, 2026
Grand Saline, Van Zandt County, State of Texas, United States of America



"The USDA [United States Department of Agriculture] suspended Canton Grand Safari's licence after PETA filed multiple complaints against it. The complaints included eyewitness accounts and social media videos revealing that the roadside zoo was allowing dangerous hands-on interactions with young monkeys. Evidence showed monkeys climbing on visitors' heads and shoulders without any apparent direct control from staff members. These interactions carry a serious risk of both injuries and the spread of diseases that can pass from animals to humans.

A recent federal inspection report also documented dangerous and filthy conditions at Canton Grand Safari. Inspectors found:

- a capuchin fiddling with an electrical outlet located within arm's distance of their enclosure,
- a baboon chewing on a discarded hair tie,
- ring-tailed lemurs kept in an unsanitary enclosure,
- and other animals confined by cutting and toxic railroad ties.

The USDA also cited the facility for buying multiple Guinea baboons [*Papio papio*, Appendix II] from an unlicensed animal dealer, which is illegal." (PETA)²¹

January 14, 2026
Laredo, Webb County, State of Texas, United States of America. Border with Mexico.



Janely Aylin Vela was sentenced to 6 months in prison, one year of probation, 40 hours of community service, and 5,356 US\$ in damages. On June 9, 2025, she was stopped by police in La Salle with 2 white-faced capuchin monkeys (*Cebus capucinus*, Appendix II) in the back of her car, inside a box covered by a blanket. She had picked them up in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, and was driving them to San Antonio, Texas (260 km), where she was promised a 500 US\$ commission.²²

LATIN AMERICA

BRAZIL

Week of November 10, 2025
Três Lagoas, State of Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil
A common marmoset (*Callithrix jacchus*, Appendix II) with his white markings was found inside a man's cat carrier. He was apprehended by police.²³

REPEATED OFFENCE
November 11, 2025
Santos, State of São Paulo, Brazil

Four people were arrested in connection to the rescue of two tufted capuchins (*Cebus apella*, synonym for *Sapajus apella*, Appendix II) from a vehicle's trunk. They had just spent several hours on the road during the night, each locked inside a cat cage without ventilation, water, or food. The police were alerted by an anonymous caller who reported a wildlife delivery to a building on Roberto Sandall Street in the Ponta da Praia neighbourhood.²⁴

November 29, 2025
Araraquara and Ibitinga, State of São Paulo, Brazil



On the Washington Luís Highway, officers stopped an SUV with two men and four tufted capuchins (*Cebus apella*, synonym of *Sapajus apella*, Appendix II) inside. The two men must pay a fine of 11,000 US\$, while the fate of the young primates has not yet been determined. Two of them died a few days after their rescue.²⁵

Sunday, December 7, 2025
Buriti dos Lopes, State of Piauí, Brazil



All of a sudden, at around 11:30 a.m., five common marmosets (*Callithrix jacchus*, Appendix II) fell from the trees where they had lived peacefully for 8 years, at a home garden in the city centre. The little group was well-known in the neighbourhood. Poisoning is suspected.²⁶

REPEATED OFFENCE
January 18, 2026
Teresina, State of Piauí, Brazil

The little marmoset (*Callitrichidae*, Appendix I or II) did not survive the pellets from the air rifle. The man who had been arrested on Saturday in the act of committing cruelty in the urban forest has been released. Whilst he remains subject to judicial proceedings, he has nevertheless resumed his everyday life. The spokesperson for the environmental police points out that in Brazil (as in the European Union) the law does not permit immediate arrest when a wild animal is involved. The offence of cruelty to animals applies only to domestic animals, particularly cats and dogs.²⁷

January 31, 2026
São Paulo, State of São Paulo, Brazil

Inspection of a car on the Marginal Tietê expressway, the most congested road in São Paulo. A capuchin (*Cebus* spp., synonymous with *Sapajus* spp., Appendix II) was found in a birdcage. The driver was taken to Casa Verde Police Station n°13 and the small monkey to the 3rd Company of the 1st Battalion of the Environmental Military Police.²⁸

COLOMBIA

Mid-December 2025

Medellin, Department of Antioquia, Colombia



"Thanks to a citizen who called our emergency hotline, our team of professionals at the Centro de Atención, Valoración y Rehabilitación de Fauna Silvestre (CAVR) rescued a capuchin monkey [*Cebus* spp., synonymous with *Sapajus* spp., Appendix II] showing symptoms of malnutrition, open and infected wounds, and very poor physical condition resulting from prolonged captivity and abuse," the official statement said. Between 2024 and 2025, the CAVR rescued and treated 9 capuchin monkeys.²⁹

December 22, 2025

Department of Valle del Cauca, Colombia

Wildlife protection officers, already on high alert, recovered a white-fronted capuchin (*Cebus albifrons*, Appendix II) and brought him to the CAVR (Centro de Atención y Valoración de Fauna Silvestre) in San Emigdio. Authorities issued an official statement saying that, "during the year-end holidays, the illegal trafficking and possession of wild animals, the stresses of travel, various festivities, and fireworks harm the well-being of species and the balance of ecosystems."³⁰



January 21, 2026

Pereira, Department of Risaralda, Colombia

Thanks to an environmental awareness campaign and call for citizen cooperation, three cotton-head-ed tamarins (*Saguinus oedipus*, Appendix I) were voluntarily handed over to authorities. They underwent treatment to reduce their dependence on human care, led by caretakers and biologists from CARDER (Corporación Autónoma Regional de Risaralda), with the ultimate – albeit uncertain – goal of releasing them into the wild in the Colombian Caribbean.³¹

January 27, 2026

Marmato, Department of Caldas, Colombia

A woman who had kept a solitary capuchin (*Cebus* spp., synonymous with *Sapajus* spp., Appendix II) tied by his back and secured to a post for three years voluntarily surrendered him to police, thereby evading prosecution. The capuchin was handed over to the municipal police, national police, and the department's environmental protection officers, and later transferred to the CAVR in Montelindo.³²

MEXICO

December 9, 2025

State of Nuevo León, Mexico

The presence of the Geoffroy's spider monkey (*Ateles geoffroyi*, Appendix I or II) in a crate at the back of a vehicle – which was fortunately intercepted by the police during the night – did not bode well for him. He was handed over to the State forest rangers and will carry with him, etched somewhere deep inside, the inevitably brutal circumstances that severed his connection with the forest.³³



December 21, 2025

Guadalajara, State of Jalisco, Mexico

City security officers seized a Geoffroy's spider monkey (*Ateles geoffroyi*, Appendix II) with a potentially illegal microchip implant and turned him over to Profepa.³⁴

January 25, 2026

Between Díaz Ordaz and Entronque Sabancuy, State of Campeche, Mexico

The National Guard, on a crime prevention mission, was patrolling the road when it spotted a three-wheeled delivery vehicle approaching. The driver abandoned the car and fled, leaving behind nine live juvenile Geoffroy's spider monkeys (*Ateles geoffroyi*, Appendix II) in the cargo area.³⁵

PANAMA

December 20, 2025

Bejuco, West Panama Province, Panama

Following a call to the 311 hotline, two Geoffroy's tamarins (*Saguinus geoffroyi*, Appendix I) were freed from a cage. The tamarins were reportedly found as infants by a family along the banks of the Lagarto River and had allegedly bitten a child.³⁶

PARAGUAY

November 19, 2025

Luque, Central Department, Paraguay

A 26-year-old man and a 27-year-old woman were caught red-handed by officials from the Ministry of the Environment and representatives from the police and army. They had agreed to trade two Azara's night monkeys (*Aotus azarae*, Appendix II), captured in the Chaco, but officials tracked them down using WhatsApp and busted them at the delivery site with the two monkeys.³⁷



November 20, 2025

Luque, Central Department, Paraguay

Ruth Centurión and Andrés González were arrested in possession of a small northern night monkey (*Aotus trivirgatus*, Appendix II) in their pockets. The species carries not just high ecological value but also high economic value on the black market for "jungle toys".³⁸



PERU

Mid-November 2025

Arequipa, Province of Arequipa, Department of Arequipa, Peru



A small woolly monkey (*Oreonax flavicauda*, Appendix I, or *Lagothrix lagotricha*, Appendix II), dressed in hand-knitted baby clothes and a diaper, was abandoned in front of the office of the National Forestry and Wildlife Service (Serfor).³⁹

November 20, 2025

Acolla, Province of Jauja, Department of Junín, Peru

A tiny, 23-cm-tall Peruvian squirrel monkey (*Saimiri boliviensis*, Appendix II) with painted nails somehow ended up in the middle of a field. A farmer saved him from being run over by a machine or eaten by birds of prey.⁴⁰

Beginning of December 2025

Tingo María, Province of Leoncio Prado, Department of Huánuco, Peru

After the captors of a capuchin monkey (*Cebus* spp., synonymous with *Sapajus* spp., Appendix II) injured his right eye, they abandoned the now-unsellable monkey. Thankfully, the loss of the right eye will not lead to an infection, and the monkey has since been treated and transferred to the Amazon Shelter in Puerto Maldonado, in the Madre de Dios department (800 km away, 1,800 km by road). Credit for the operation goes to the ATFFS (Administración Técnica Forestal y de Fauna Silvestre), the citizen initiative Unidos por los Animales, the department of Madre de Dios, LATAM Airlines, and veterinary ophthalmologist Michelle Freundt.⁴¹

December 11, 2025
Puerto Maldonado, Province of Tambopata,
Department of Madre de Dios, Peru



A black spider monkey (*Ateles chamek*, Appendix II) (or “maquisapa”), tied to a pole with a rope, was rescued and examined. After confirming he had no serious injuries, the monkey was transferred to the Amazon Shelter for rehabilitation and, hopefully, eventual release back into the wild. This was all thanks to a phone call to Gerfor (Regional Forestry and Wildlife Management Office), the Peruvian agency responsible for wildlife and forest management and conservation.⁴²

VENEZUELA

Beginning of November 2025
Sucre, Bolivar State, Venezuela

Eleven collared titi monkeys (*Cheracebus lugens*, Appendix II) were seized from the back of a Ford F-350, registered to the Táchira State-based company, Zoocriadero ALAZÁN GAC (ALAZÁN Wildlife Breeding Farm). Two people, Edixon Giovany and Alberth Yampiers, were arrested. The company is working with the Ministry of Ecosocialism on a conservation program for Orinoco crocodiles (*Crocodylus intermedius*, Appendix I) but has already been implicated on several occasions in wildlife smuggling cases.⁴³

EASTERN ASIA

CHINA

October 11, 2025 and
January 25, 2026
Baokang and
Huanglonggoucun Counties,
Xiangfan Prefecture, Hubei
Province, China



The macaque (*Macaca* spp., Appendix II) was immobilised. His right hand was caught in the jaw trap. Several specialists were called in and quickly arrived at the scene, high up in the mountains and in the snow. After 10 minutes, the mechanism was unlocked. The injuries were treated and the macaque released. The investigation very quickly led to a certain “Wen”. Another trap was seized, along with frozen muntjac deer and wild boar meat. Following the sentencing of 5 individuals to prison terms ranging from 7 months to 2 years and a fine of 140,000 yuan (20,000 US\$) for ecological damages for having trapped, transported 11 macaques in cruel conditions and attempted to sell them in other provinces, the specialist prosecutor from the “Mountains and Rivers” Public Prosecutor’s Office told the press that educational and legal awareness campaigns would be launched with the aim of “promoting social acceptance of the harmonious coexistence between humans and nature”. “Wild animals are essential to the ecosystem. We are not simply dismantling the entire illegal trade through criminal prosecutions; by fully exercising our powers, we are taking public interest action to ensure that those who harm the environment face consequences in proportion to the damage caused.” The prosecutor concluded the press conference with reassuring news about the macaques. They have been transferred to a care and rehabilitation centre, and the media outlet Ctdsb.net offers a bucolic and lyrical conclusion: “Rocked by the branches and leaves, caressed by the mountain breeze, the macaques have finally regained their freedom and their zest for life.”⁴⁴

SOUTHEASTERN ASIA

INDONESIA

EXCLUDING ORANGUTANS

November 3, 2025

Citerek Kidul, Lebak Regency, Banten Province, Java Island, Indonesia

Alerted by a tip on Saturday, the Serang BKSDA drove four hours on Monday to the remote village. At the specified address, the team indeed found a Moloch gibbon (*Hylobates moloch*, Appendix I) in a wire cage, through which he could extend one arm. The family said they had found him in the forest about a year and a half ago and decided to voluntarily hand him over to the BKSDA. In good health but tame, he is expected to be placed under the Aspinall Foundation's keepers' care, with the uncertain prospect of eventual release back into the wild.⁴⁵



Beginning of November 2025

Kediri City, East Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia

"Amid the hustle and bustle of urban and industrial life, this story reminds us that the space set aside for wildlife is constantly under threat," said the province's Directorate General of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Conservation in a press release. The BKSDA's mobile response team, known as Matawali, intervened in one industrial zone to gently capture a long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*, Appendix II) wandering among the factories.⁴⁶

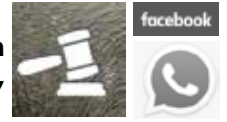
November 11, 2025

Gondanglegi, Nganjuk Regency, East Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia

The BKSDA's mobile response unit, known as Matawali, freed a Moloch gibbon (*Hylobates moloch*, Appendix I) that Sri Haryani had kept for 10 years. After a series of negotiations and legal threats, he agreed to hand him over voluntarily, thereby avoiding any legal repercussions.⁴⁷

November 18, 2025

Tasikmalaya, Tasikmalaya Regency, West Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia



Cecep Nasir Al Baekuni, 30, was sentenced to 3 years in prison and a fine of 10 million rupiah (600 US\$), which, if unpaid, will be replaced by an additional month in prison, and 5,000 rupiah (0.30 US\$) in court costs for possessing and attempting to sell, in July 2025 via the Internet, a 7-month-old male and an 18-month-old female grey gibbon (*Hylobates moloch*, Appendix I)—a 7-month-old male and an 18-month-old female—that he had just purchased and was having delivered by bus (see "On the Trail" n°47, p. 66, ref. 23).⁴⁸

November 19, 2025

Jampet, Bojonegoro Regency, East Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia

A long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*, Appendix II) who had been kept in captivity for years was voluntarily handed over to firefighters and emergency responders. His strength and aggression had started to concern his human family. He was placed under observation.⁴⁹

November 25, 2025

Sampang Regency, East Java Province, Madura Island, Indonesia

The Region III Directorate of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Conservation notified the Region IV Directorate that a Sampang resident wished to voluntarily surrender two Javan langurs (*Trachypithecus auratus*, Appendix II). The man had purchased them at a market without knowing the species is protected and that the law prohibits their transport, possession, and trade. A team from Region IV immediately went to the site to retrieve the monkeys and transport them to the East Java Directorate of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Conservation sanctuary in Sidoarjo. After several months of nursing and care, they will hopefully be released back into the wild. In the wild, female Javan langurs give birth to one baby every year starting at the age of 3–4. Mothers work together to raise their young, and the young become independent within 12 months. Their bright orange fur at birth allows adults to spot them easily, though the fur darkens with age. As adults, they measure on average 55 cm in length and weigh about 7 kg.⁵⁰

December 1, 2025

Bujel, Kediri City, East Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia

In the remote corner of an isolated village, a long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*, Appendix II) spent about 10 years behind bars. Alerted by a kind soul, the BKSDA quickly arrived on scene to assess the situation and free the prisoner, who had become aggressive and outgrown his cage. The cage lock, set in cement, was seized with rust – proof that the door had remained shut for years. The Kediri firefighters came to the rescue with electric metal saws and other tools so that the macaque could be safely evacuated. The family that held the macaque captive said that they bought him out of sympathy from a street vendor.⁵¹

Beginning of December 2025

Way Waya Protected Forest, Central Lampung Regency, Lampung Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia



Six slow lorises (*Nycticebus coucang*, Appendix I) have returned to Mother Nature. Four were rescued from the illegal wildlife trade in Bogor, on the island of Sumatra, and in Jakarta, on the island of Java. The other two were voluntarily handed over to the Lampung Directorate of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Conservation. All underwent months of behavioural rehabilitation training at a specialised facility run by YIARI (Yayasan Inisiasi Alam Rehabilitasi Indonesia, Indonesian Foundation for Nature Rehabilitation). Regaining freedom is a step-by-step process: a long journey in transport cages followed by a week in an acclimatization cage to adapt to the sounds, smells and risks of their new home. If all goes well, after a week, the doors open and the little nocturnal primates set off on an adventure through the trees in search of fruit, while keeping an eye out for pythons.⁵²

Mid-December 2025

Probolinggo Regency, East Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia



Thanks to a cyber patrol investigation, a 3- to 4-week-old Javan langur (*Trachypithecus auratus*, Appendix II) was confiscated from an online seller. The Matawali (wildlife anti-poaching unit) is bottle-feeding the langur every two hours with diluted goat's milk while awaiting his transfer to a dedicated sanctuary. The seller managed to flee.⁵³

December 17, 2025

Cisompet, Garut Regency, West Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia

A baby Moloch gibbon (*Hylobates moloch*, Appendix I) was voluntarily handed over to wildlife protection officers by a couple who mistakenly adopted him out of compassion. He was entrusted to the Aspinall Foundation's primate rehabilitation centre.⁵⁴

December 26, 2025

Palembang City, South Sumatra Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia



A two-month-old silvered langur (*Trachypithecus villosus*, synonymous with *Trachypithecus cristatus*, Appendix II) was voluntarily surrendered to the Directorate General of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Conservation (BKSDA). A teenager named Aqiella was recognized by the BKSDA for her compassion on two occasions: first, when, with her parents' help and consent, she bought the baby silvered langur from a street vendor; and second, when, three days later, she realized that the animal was unsuited to life in captivity and belonged to a protected species.⁵⁵

January 5, 2026
Surabaya City, East Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia



Ismu Yahya and Susanto were sentenced to 7 months in prison, a fine of one million rupiah (60 US\$) – with an additional month in prison in the event of non-payment – and 2,000 rupiah (0.12 US\$) in court costs each for transporting two long-nosed monkeys (*Nasalis larvatus*, Appendix I) from the island of Borneo. They were working on behalf of a man named Budi and were bringing the monkeys to a man named Hendro on the island of Jakarta.⁵⁶

January 8, 2026
Sukajadi, Pekanbaru City, Riau Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia



A man named Budianto was sentenced to 5 months and 11 days in prison, a fine of one million rupiah (60 US\$) – with an additional month in prison in the event of non-payment – and 5,000 rupiah (0.30 US\$) in court costs for keeping an agile gibbon (*Hylobates agilis*, Appendix I) that he had “found” behind his workshop. He was arrested and the gibbon was seized on August 1, 2025.⁵⁷

January 20 and 28, 2026
Benowo and Dukuh Menanggal, Surabaya City, East Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia

- Two long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*, Appendix II) were voluntarily surrendered to Matawali. They were acquired as tiny, cute babies but, after several years in captivity, had become aggressive and sporadic. Mr. Taufik Rahman and his family chose the right course of action. “Rather than abandoning the animals on public roads or in a nearby forest, they opted for an orderly transfer, sparing themselves remorse and legal repercussions while ensuring the animals receive the appropriate care,” said the BKSDA.

- A female long-tailed macaque who had spent the first years of her life chained in a cage was also voluntarily surrendered. The Directorate of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Conservation was notified the day prior, while local elected officials and the Babinsa – police officers responsible for overseeing village security – were contacted to ensure the Matawali team could safely intervene. Mahmud, the owner of the macaque, had bought her about 15 years ago from an “acquaintance” and had been “caring” for her since. “He agreed to part ways after learning about the benefits of free-roaming long-tailed macaques, as well as the physical dangers and legal risks associated with their captivity,” the BKSDA said. The regulatory report on the handing over was co-signed by Mahmud and the Matawali.⁵⁸

January 21, 2026
East Labuh Baru, Pekanbaru City, Riau Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia

YUS was arrested for attempting to sell a siamang (*Symphalangus syndactylus*, Appendix I) for 10 million rupiah (600 US\$) to plainclothes police officers. An investigation is underway to identify the siamang’s “owner”.⁵⁹

January 26, 2026
Kenali Asam Bawah, Jambi City, Jambi Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia



The Jambi Directorate of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Conservation (BKSDA) announced that it rescued two juvenile siamangs (*Symphalangus syndactylus*, Appendix I) from traffickers with the help of the municipal police. A 41-year-old man known by his initials, B.S., was caught red-handed transporting the two juvenile siamangs in a fruit basket. A cyber patrol officer had detected his attempts to sell the animals on Facebook. “Remember, friends, Siamang are protected animals that should live freely hanging in the forest, not to be traded, let alone kept in captivity. Buying wild animals is the same as supporting their extinction.”⁶⁰

January 26, 2026
Paya Kumang, Ketapang Regency, West Kalimantan Province, Borneo Island, Indonesia

A Bornean white-bearded gibbon (*Hylobates albibarbis*, Appendix I) that spent roughly 15 years in captivity will unfortunately never regain his freedom. The family that held him captive voluntarily surrendered it to the local Directorate of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Conservation, driven by a desire to alleviate themselves of unnecessary burdens rather than sincere remorse.⁶¹

January 26, 2026
Bangkinang, Kampar Regency, Riau Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia

Police arrested D.E., 30, on the ring road with an agile gibbon (*Hylobates agilis*, Appendix I) hidden inside a cigarette carton in his back seat. He had sold him for 8 million rupiah (470 US\$) and received a down payment of 500,000 rupiah (30 US\$).⁶²

January 27, 2026
Tiron, Kediri Regency, East Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia

A domesticated 5-year-old Moloch gibbon (*Hylobates moloch*, Appendix I) was voluntarily surrendered to authorities. He had been kept in captivity since the age of 3–4 months, though the circumstances surrounding his early capture are unknown. The Matawali is the special task force of the local BKSDA agency responsible for wildlife rescue, under the Directorate General of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Conservation.⁶³

INDONESIA – ORANGUTANS

November 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026



Bornean orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*, Appendix I)



December 10, 2025
Samboja Lestari, Kutai Kartanegara Regency, East Kalimantan Province, Borneo Island



December 2025
Berau Regency, East Kalimantan Province, Borneo Island

December 23, 2025

Suvarnabhumi International Airport, Bangkok, Thailand and Jakarta, Special Capital Region of Jakarta, Java Island, Indonesia

Cooperation between Thailand and Indonesia led to the return of three juvenile orangutans (*Pongo* spp., Appendix I) to the island of Java. The three were recovered in Chumphon Province back in January, while a fourth was seized in Bangkok in May. A fifth orangutan, approximately one month old at the time of his rescue in Bangkok, did not survive the smuggling (see "On the Trail" n°46, p.69, ref.39). Before their flight to Jakarta, Thai and Indonesian experts celebrated their collaboration at Wildlife Sanctuary n°3 in Thailand's Ratchaburi Province. The two males are travelling in separate crates, while the two females are sharing a crate. The road trip between Ratchaburi Province and Bangkok International Airport takes an average of 2 hours and 30 minutes, and the flight from Bangkok to Jakarta takes 3 hours and 30 minutes.⁶⁴

Between 2016 and 2025, 74 orangutans were seized in Thailand, where they are considered exotic animals. Return of orangutans to Indonesia from Thailand; see "On the Trail" n°11, p. 41; n°19, p. 58 (ref. 15); n°31, p. 101 (ref. 35); and n°43, p. 68 (ref. 30).

MALAYSIA

November 15, 2025

Bachok District, State of Kelantan, Malaysia

One minute and 44 seconds. An unemployed man describing himself as a "monkey trainer" hits, throws, picks up and grabs a macaque (*Macaca* spp., Appendix II) whilst people laugh. The incident was shared on social media. The young man and his accomplice have been arrested. The male macaque is now in the care of vets. The Malaysia Stray Animal Association has received several reports and harsh comments directed at the torturers. "I hope you get caught and punished by being put in a tiger cage." "After seeing this, I don't even know which one is the animal."⁶⁵

December 14, 2025

Kuala Lumpur International Airport, State of Selangor, Malaysia

A 38-year-old woman, holding a Malaysian passport, was intercepted as she was about to fly to Mumbai, in the State of Maharashtra, India, with two live gibbons (*Hylobates* spp., Appendix I) whose financial value on the domestic market is estimated at 3,000 rupees, or 740 US\$ per animal.⁶⁶

November 14, 2025

Khlong Hat and Phan Suek Sai Subdistricts, Sa Kaeo Province, Thailand. Border with Cambodia.

- In the morning, Company 1302 was patrolling the subdistrict when it heard animal cries coming from a sugarcane field behind the village. They soon uncovered 62 long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*, Appendix II)—44 males and 18 females—hanging from trees in blue nylon bags, the same ones used to store captured monkeys for animal experimentation in previous "On the Trail" reports. They were transferred to the Krabok Ku sanctuary in Chachoengsao Province, where their health and behaviour will be monitored with the aim of eventual release.



- In the afternoon, the same patrol unit operating in the Phan Suek subdistrict spotted a pick-up truck registered in the Nakhon Sawan Province. Two men were unloading blue nylon nets containing live animals. Authorities intercepted 81 long-tailed macaques—later revealed to be 30 males and 51 females—and transferred them to the Krabok Ku sanctuary. The two men, Suwat and Suebphong, were arrested. They claim to be merely low-level operatives recruited by ringleaders to transport macaques as well as methamphetamine.⁶⁷



November 27, 2025

Kabin Buri District, Prachinburi Province, Thailand

Inside an SUV driven by Than, a Cambodian national, authorities recovered 63 long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*, Appendix II)—32 males and 31 females—in 10 plastic crates covered with wire mesh, along with 2 slingshots, 3 darts, and nylon rope. Than was arrested on Route 33, 90 km from the Cambodian border. He was charged with the illegal possession of protected species and with not having a valid residence permit in Thailand. The operation was carried out by the environmental police with assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which combats illegal wildlife exports from Thailand to the United States and around the world.⁶⁸

January 6, 2026

Samut Sakhon Province, Thailand



What do we have here? A “foreign” monkey was rescued near a railroad track and identified by the Ban Pong shelter veterinarian as a female long-nosed monkey (*Nasalis larvatus*, Appendix I) native to the island of Borneo. She had one finger and the tip of her tail amputated due to open wounds. Investigators believe she may have escaped from a passenger or freight train. Long-nosed monkeys—whose males are recognizable by their prominent noses—are difficult to keep in captivity, but in recent years have been subject to a trafficking ring in Thailand that facilitates their smuggling into India, where the upper class and clandestine zoos have developed a passion for exotic animals.⁶⁹ Long-nosed monkeys, see “On the Trail” n°33, p. 233 (ref. 88), n°38, p. 115 (ref. 38) and p. 206 (ref. 35), n°39, p. 78 (ref. 28), n°41, p. 118 (ref. 98), n°42, p. 136 (ref. 35), n°44, p. 184 (ref. 56), and n°45, p. 126 (ref. 57).

VIET NAM

December 1, 2025

Hai Phong City, Viet Nam

T. B. Q., 21, was sentenced to 14 months in prison for purchasing, transporting, and attempting to sell a dead pygmy slow loris (*Nycticebus pygmaeus*, Appendix I) on August 6, 2025 (see “On the Trail” n°47, p. 70, ref. 34). He faced a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison.⁷⁰



December 28, 2025

Xuan Thai, Thanh Hoa Province, Viet Nam

Two years after illegally purchasing an Assam macaque (*Macaca assamensis*, Appendix II) and a long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*, Appendix II) and keeping them in cages, Mr. and Mrs. Le Van finally agreed to voluntarily surrender them. The couple now claims to understand the importance of wildlife living in the wild, after dealing with the police and facing severe penalties. The two macaques were transferred to an enclosure in Ben En National Park as a preliminary step toward their release into the mountains.⁷¹

January 4, 2026

Dam Rong 4, Lam Dong Province, Viet Nam



Three o'clock in the morning. A heavily laden motorbike was stopped for inspection. Seizure of a torch, an air rifle, ammunition, butchered monkeys (primates, Appendix I or II) and three other forest animals. Arrest of Ma Van Phu and Ma Van Chin, residents of Hamlet n°6 in the commune of Quảng Hòa.⁷²

January 7 and 13, 2026

Phan Son and Ta Dung National Park, Lam Dong Province, Viet Nam

- A villager from Ta Moon handed over to the police a 9 kg Northern pig-tailed macaque (*Macaca leonina*, Appendix II) whom he had acquired under unknown circumstances.
- Handing over to the police of a Northern pig-tailed macaque by a villager from Ro Song, a 2.8 kg long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*, Appendix II) by a villager from Sa U, 2 long-tailed macaques, each weighing 3 kg, by a villager from Pang So, and another Northern pig-tailed macaque by a villager from My Thanh. The 5 monkeys were released into the wild in Ta Dung National Park and the Ta Cu Nature Reserve.⁷³

SOUTHERN ASIA

BANGLADESH

November 4, 2025

Kalaipara, Mymensingh District, Mymensingh Division, Bangladesh

Police arrested Majnu Mia, member of the ring-tailed lemur (*Lemur catta*, Appendix I) trafficking network, in his village after stealing three lemurs from the Gazipur Zoo on March 23, 2025. Only one was recovered; he had been listed for sale online. The other two are believed to have been shipped abroad. Five other people were arrested and have confessed to the crimes.⁷⁴

INDIA

December 10, 2025

Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru-rural District, State of Karnataka, India

Two live red-shanked douc langurs (*Pygathrix nemaeus*, Appendix I) were seized from the checked luggage of a passenger arriving from Bangkok.⁷⁵

December 27, 2025

Kodimial Mandal, Jagtial District, State of Telangana, India

Seizure of 2 grey langurs (*Semnopithecus entellus*, Appendix I) awaiting delivery from the concrete shed of a rice mill. According to the NGO SAFI (Stray Animal Foundation of India), the trafficking is allegedly organised by a man named Srinu, who lives in Andhra Pradesh and is thought to deliver the monkeys to Telangana and other States with the help of accomplices. SAFI states that it is in possession of business cards, telephone numbers, recordings and other information relating to this case that could contribute to the completion of the investigation and the dismantling the network. "The district authorities must not be content simply with the seizure."⁷⁶

January 24, 2026

Thekkampatti, Coimbatore District, State of Tamil Nadu, India

Seizure at K Shankar's premises, in a wooden crate with a sliding door, of 2 grey slender lorises (*Loris lydekkerianus*, Appendix II) captured in a forest near the Masani Amman temple in Mettupalayam. He was released on bail.⁷⁷

PAKISTAN

December 6, 2025

Chak No 21/3-R, Province of Punjab, Pakistan. Border with India.

All those who captured and beat a langur (*Semnopithecus* spp., Appendix I) who had entered Pakistan from the Indian State of Punjab and posted footage of him on social media are wanted by the police. Two suspects have already been arrested. They claim that the monkey was starving and was entering homes to steal food from children.⁷⁸

Lynching of a nilgai from India in the province of Punjab, see p. 64 ref. 32.

WESTERN ASIA

ISRAEL

November 10, 2025

Tayibe, Central District, Israel

Rescue of a monkey (*Chlorocebus* spp., Appendix II) found tied up in a house under construction. This is the 61st *Chlorocebus* monkey taken in by the monkey sanctuary at the request of the Nature and Parks Authority since March 2025. The natural range of *Chlorocebus* monkeys extends from Senegal and Ethiopia to South Africa.⁷⁹



January 23, 2026

Between Ramla and Lod, Central District, Israel

After 4 days of research, the monkey (*Chlorocebus* spp., Appendix II) who had been wandering in the Central District was found run over on Road 40. This is the 62nd *Chlorocebus* monkey, dead or alive, to have been discovered in Israel since March 2025. Dr Tamar Friedman, founder and director of the Israeli Monkey Sanctuary and a volunteer with the Nature and Parks Authority, said: "A monkey is not a pet to be raised at home; they bite, cause damage and have no place in a household. It is not known whether the monkey had escaped from his owners' home ... or whether they simply released him because they realised they could not look after him; sadly, the animal paid the price for this illegal captivity. It was a young monkey with his whole life ahead of him; it is heartbreaking."⁸⁰

January 24, 2026

Israel

Release by Tamar Friedman of a captive monkey (*Chlorocebus* spp., Appendix II). He was transferred to the sanctuary to receive the necessary care. He is identified by number 63. "If you notice a monkey at large or being kept by a private individual, call the Israel Nature and Parks Authority's emergency line on 3639 or your local municipal veterinary service immediately. Do not attempt to approach the monkey or lure him with food. Stay nearby, keeping the animal in sight, until the professional teams arrive."⁸¹

TURKIYE

January 13, 2026

Bursa Province, Türkiye

Rescue of 3 macaques (*Macaca* spp., Appendix I or II) being kept entirely illegally. They are 8 months old. They were transferred to the Ovakorusu Celal Acar Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre in the Karacabey district. Azizcan Sezer, the director, explains the conditions for care: "We feed the young monkeys twice a day. As well as fruit and vegetables such as apples, pears, carrots and quinces, we give them peanuts. Each young monkey receives between 400 and 500 grammes of food per day, including bread specially baked at our centre. Our vets carry out daily health checks and monitor their weight on a weekly basis."⁸²

WESTERN EUROPE

FRANCE

November 15, 2025

Jouy-en-Josas, Department of Yvelines, France

A Barbary macaque (*Macaca sylvanus*, Appendix I) has been spotted on the rooftops of houses in the neighbourhood and in the trees. She escaped from a travellers' camp. It took the fire brigade 2 hours to catch her. It is a female aged around one year.⁸³

End of December 2025

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



Another arrival of a Barbary macaque (*Macaca sylvanus*, Appendix I) at Tonga Terre d'Accueil, a baby seized from a private individual. For the time being, he won't let go of his soft toy.⁸⁴

SOUTHERN EUROPE

ITALY

Beginning of November 2025

Syracuse, Free Municipal Consortium of Syracuse, Region of Sicily, Italy

Rescue of a 3- to 4-year-old chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*, Appendix I) outside a villa belonging to a Maltese national near the racecourse. He was taken to the veterinary hospital in Messina to receive first aid. He sustained an injury to the groin caused by the chain with which he was restrained. He is believed to have been purchased on the black market in Malta and smuggled into Italy. Inside the villa, CITES carabinieri also seized an eclectus parrot (*Eclectus roratus*, Appendix II) originating from Indonesia and Oceania.⁸⁵

EASTERN EUROPE

HUNGARY

January 18, 2026

Rédics Border Crossing Point, Zala County, Hungary. Border with Slovenia.

Seizure of a golden headed lion tamarin (*Leontopithecus chrysomelas*, Appendix I) from a minibus by customs officials. The Romanian driver claimed that he received him from a friend in Moldova and that he wanted to give him to his daughter in Italy – a trip of over 2,000 km through Romania, Hungary and Slovenia. The species is native to Brazil and a single individual is worth thousands of US\$ on the black market.⁸⁶



RUSSIA

End of January 2026

Moscow Federal City, Russia

Following an investigation, the website run by a businesswoman that was offering for sale animals prohibited from trade, such as white-handed gibbons (*Hylobates lar*, Appendix I), was closed by court order.⁸⁷



Collared peccary (*Pecari tajacu*). Photo Puffleg (BY-NC 4.0)

AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

January 25, 2026

Mtubatuba, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa



A hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*, Appendix II) got trapped on the banks of the Umfolozi River, which flows into the Indian Ocean. A crowd of villagers gathered, preventing officials from Ezemvelo, the wildlife management agency, from assessing and effectively managing the situation. Given the challenges of operating on a muddy and unstable riverbank amid a tense environment, officials decided to euthanise the hippopotamus as humanely as possible and called in a veterinarian. Ezemvelo was able to remove the hippopotamus's head to prevent his ivory tusks from being stolen, and the rest of the carcass was left on site for crocodiles and other aquatic and marsh scavengers. Still, the most determined local community members wanted to cut up the carcass—at least the best parts—and two of them drowned.¹



© Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife / Isimangaliso Wetland Park Authority

AMERICA

BOLIVIA

November 9, 2025

Oruro, Department of Oruro, Bolivia



© Policia Oruro

Seizure by the forest police of 8 rattles made from armadillo shells (family Dasypodidae or Chlamyphoridae) during the parade of folk groups held as a prelude to the Oruro Carnival in February 2026.²

BRAZIL

November and December 2025, January 2026

States of Acre, Alagoas, Ceara, Espírito Santo, Mato Grosso, Minas Gerais, Piaui, Rio Grande do Sul, Río de Janeiro, and São Paulo, Brazil



Seizure during 13 operations carried out by the environmental military police, the federal police, the Special Environmental Patrol Group for High-Risk Areas (Grupo Especial de Patrulhamento Ambiental em Área de Risco – GEPAAR) and Ibama (Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources) of the whole carcasses or meat of at least 15 armadillos (family Dasypodidae or Chlamyphoridae), 5 pacas (*Cuniculus paca*, Appendix III in Honduras), 4 peccaries, including one collared peccary (*Pecari tajacu*, Appendix II), 3 agoutis (genus *Dasyprocta*), 3 capybaras (*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*) and 2 South American coatis (*Nasua nasua*, Appendix III in Uruguay). Nine live armadillos were also seized, and a capybara found wandering in a garden with a trap's rope wrapped around his chest was treated at the Zoonosis Control Centre (CCZ) in Caraguatatuba (State of São Paulo) and subsequently released. Twelve rifles of various calibres were confiscated, including a .22-calibre rifle fitted with a silencer and an air rifle, 2 pistols, approximately 200 cartridges, traps, nets, gunpowder and pellets. "The Environmental Military Police Battalion emphasizes that hunting, slaughtering, and trading wild animals are environmental crimes, and urges the public to report illegal practices through the Military Police and Green Line (181) hotlines." Ibama's Operation Feira Virtual (Virtual Market), carried out with the support of the federal police at the homes of "influencers", led to the collection of physical and digital evidence demonstrating acts of poaching, the exploitation of live wild animals and the promotion of illegal hunting. An unspecified number of "influencers" were fined a total of 430,000 reais, equivalent to 79,730 US\$.³



© Polícia Ambiental

Capybara
January 5, 2026, State of São Paulo, Brazil



© Polícia Militar do Ceará (PMCE)

4 six-banded armadillos (*Euphractus sexcinctus*)
November 22, 2025, Quixadá, State of Ceara, Brazil

December 11, 2025

Recanto Nuara, State of Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil

A beloved and harmless South American tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*, Appendix II) was struck and killed by a bullet to the back, causing consternation in the community. The tapir was born in the area, and people would come say hello to him and watch him eat mangoes. A man named Tafarel, a local resident of 16 years, found him lifeless. Until that point, wildlife there had peacefully coexisted with humans, but the recent surge of visitors on weekends and holidays has begun to erode that dynamic. The tapir's death was confirmed on Thursday, and judging by the state of decomposition, the fatal wound was inflicted several days earlier.⁴

COLOMBIA

January 29, 2026
Chinchiná, Department of Caldas, Colombia



Illegal sale of a central American agouti (*Dasyprocta punctata*, Appendix III in Honduras) at the market. He got out of trouble thanks to a police patrol. It is hoped that he will be released soon.⁵

GUATEMALA

January 19, 2026
La Naranjita, Department of Petén, Guatemala
The environmental police arrested José M. and José C., who were found in possession of a dead central American agouti (*Dasyprocta punctata*, Appendix III in Honduras), a hunting rifle, and 11 rounds of ammunition on their motorcycle.⁶

PERU

January 28, 2026
Moyobamba, Department of San Martín, Perú
Seizure of frozen armadillos (family Dasypodidae or Chlamyphoridae) at the Punto Selvático II restaurant.⁷

SURINAME

November 2025
Suriname
A live giant anteater (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*, Appendix II) was recovered and released back into the wild. The first-time offender was hit with a 10,000 dollar (260 US\$) fine.
In another case, 38.5 kg of meat believed to be from wild animals was seized at a small grocery store. The meat was donated to the Paramaribo Zoo.⁸



ASIA

INDONESIA

December 2025
Tawangrejo, Madiun City, East Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia

Darwanto is facing legal charges for having captured two Sunda porcupines (*Hystrix javanica*) on his plot of land three years ago to prevent them from damaging young leaves. Today, he has six that he is raising "out of compassion." Despite his humanitarian claims, the Madiun court is proceeding with the case, and Darwanto will stand trial for violating the Environmental Protection Law.⁹

December 30, 2025
Batu City, East Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia

Wanda Fenny's sister saw cute videos of people interacting with Asian palm civets (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*, Appendix III in India) online, and so decided to purchase one herself. However, it turned out to be a male, who over time began exhibiting not-so-affectionate behaviour, incompatible with life in a cage. Three years later, the Fenny family decided to hand the animal over to two officers from Matawali, the specialised anti-poaching brigade of the Directorate of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Conservation (BKSDA). The commendable handover was filmed and posted on the Directorate's website along with a statement on the importance of civets. "They play a vital role, helping to disperse seeds, maintain the balance of small animal populations, and strengthen ecosystem health." The Fenny family's former pet will undergo a health checkup, a behavioural assessment, and a program to reduce his dependence on humans before he is eventually released back into the wild. "Ultimately, every wild animal returned to the wild is not simply "returned," but restores a vital link in forest life, reminding us that conservation begins with knowledge, care, and the right choices."¹⁰

January 18, 2026

Cigandeng, Pandeglang Regency, Banten Province, Java Island, Indonesia



An adult binturong (*Arctictis binturong*, Appendix III in India)—195 cm long from head to tail—had come down from the mountains during torrential rains and was apparently mistaken for a wild dog by villagers. They caught him in a trap and shot him, leaving him for dead. By the time agents from the Regional Disaster Management Agency arrived to rescue him, it was too late. The binturong was buried nearby to prevent the smell of decay.¹¹



January 19, 2026

Kedungmiri, Ngawi Regency, East Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia

After the ill-fated binturong (*Arctictis binturong*, Appendix III in India), at least one had better luck. A family that held a binturong captive since a very young age decided to voluntarily hand him over to Matawali, the mobile wildlife rescue team. The animal, in good health, was placed in a cage and transported to the Madiun assessment centre. According to the province's Directorate of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Conservation (BKSDA), "this event is more than just an animal evacuation. It is a sign that small pockets of hope still exist within the community, that conservation is not solely the responsibility of State services, but also stems from the decisions of residents who choose to protect, not possess."¹²

January 22, 2026

Madiun City, East Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia



Darwanto, a 45-year-old farmer, was sentenced to 5 months in prison, suspended for one year, and ordered to pay 5,000 rupiah (0.30 US\$) in court costs for the illegal possession of 6 Javan porcupines (*Hystrix javanica*). In 2021, he had caught two porcupines that he claimed were threatening his crops and had locked them in a cage. By late 2024, when a joint team from the police and regency BKSDA visited him, the animals—still in their cage and fed bran and vegetable scraps—had multiplied.¹³

January 29, 2026

Bondowoso, Bondowoso Regency, East Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia

A Sunda porcupine (*Hystrix javanica*) was voluntarily handed over to the district fire department. Firefighters assist in wildlife rescues during forest fires and in the urban jungle... and when families decide to drop off wildlife outside their stations. The prickly mammal was released into the wild at a refuge run by the Directorate of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Conservation (BKSDA), a first step toward freedom. The family that deprived him from it will not face legal action. "The porcupine was saved through a change of heart, not through intervention," said the BKSDA's communications office.¹⁴

MALAYSIA

January 9, 2026

Perai, State of Penang, Malaysia

Seizure by the federal police, with support from the Seberang Jaya Motorcycle Brigade and the Penang State Perhilitan, from the property of a Chinese national of a binturong (*Arctictis binturong*, Appendix III in India), whose economic value on the domestic market is estimated at 50,000 ringgit, or 12,350 US\$.¹⁵

MONGOLIA

October 16-November 20, 2025

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia



Seizure in the capital of 297 marmots (*Marmota baibacina* or *Marmota sibirica*) and marmot organs. Total fines of 50 million tugriks (14,000 US\$) and 370 million tugriks (104,000 US\$) in damages imposed on 135 poachers. Marmot hunting is prohibited from October 16, 2025 to August 20, 2026. It is prohibited at all times to sell marmots and skunks, raw meat and fresh skins in towns and villages. The meat and organs seized in Ulaanbaatar were handed over to the National Centre for Zoonotic Diseases for destruction.¹⁶

THAILAND

December 10, 2025

Sop Prap District, Lampang Province, Thailand

A patrol seized a dead Himalayan porcupine (*Hystrix brachyura*) and a revolver, and arrested a suspect in the Mae Than Forest near the Mae Thok River in Wiang Kosai National Park.¹⁷

VIET NAM

December 16, 2025

Hai Van, Da Nang City, Viet Nam

On the outskirts of Da Nang (population 1.3 million), police recovered the following from a bus whose driver is suspected of trafficking: 11 frozen binturongs (*Arctictis binturong*, Appendix III in India), frozen and decapitated wild boars (*Sus scrofa*), and 3 frozen carcasses of unidentified animals with amputated limbs.¹⁸

EUROPE

GERMANY

Beginning of November 2025

Minden, Minden-Lübbecke District, North Rhine-Westphalia Land, and Bremerhaven, Free and Hanseatic City of Bremen, Germany

The torture and grilling of hedgehogs is gaining ground in Germany.

- On Ederstrasse, someone shot a European hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) with an air rifle, fracturing one of its hind legs. "We've never seen anything like it," says Kerstin Pehlke, the animal rescuer who has already treated 4,000 hedgehogs during her career at the specialist sanctuary in Herford. Outraged reactions and eye-opening accounts are pouring in. "Our cat died as a result. A pellet lodged in his nose and, despite an operation, he died of lead poisoning." Pehlke is more reassuring about the hedgehog from Ederstrasse. The pellet has been removed and the fracture is healing.

- A bag containing 2 live hedgehogs was seized from a van. A 3rd hedgehog is said to have been thrown out of a window during the police arrest. This case, too, has sparked outrage. Stefanie Röse, chair of a hedgehog welfare organisation, is in shock. She had never heard of hedgehogs being caught, let alone roasted. However, according to the Bremerhaven police, reports of hedgehogs being caught have been coming in for the past year. "It seems that in certain cultures, hedgehogs are caught for consumption."¹⁹

ITALY

End of November 2025

Santa Cristina d'Aspromonte, Metropolitan City of Reggio Calabria, Region of Calabria, Italy



According to tradition, fat dormice (*Glis glis*) are a hit at banquets, used in a certain type of cuisine. The carabinieri arrested a trapper targeting Glis glis in Aspromonte National Park. He was charged with animal cruelty, aggravated theft of game, and violation of the law regarding hunting and the protection of warm-blooded wildlife. The fat dormouse is also protected by the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats. A dead fat dormouse was discovered by the carabinieri just as the poacher was coming to check his traps.²⁰

POLAND

Mid-January 2026

Malhowice Border Crossing Point, Subcarpathian Voivodeship, Poland. Border with Ukraine.



A woman driving a vehicle registered in Ukraine attempted to bring a coat made from South American chinchilla fur (*Chinchilla* spp., Appendix I) into Poland and was fined 1,000 zlotys (2,800 US\$).²¹



RUSSIA

December 24, 2025

Moscow Federal City, Russia

According to the RIA Novosti news agency, the Moscow court, at the request of the Prosecutor General's Office, ruled that all online advertisements for the sale of chinchillas (*Chinchilla* spp., Appendix I, except for the domesticated form) should be banned. The 2 wild species of chinchilla – the short-tailed chinchilla (*Chinchilla chinchilla*, native to Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Peru) and the long-tailed chinchilla (*Chinchilla lanigera*, native to Argentina and Chile) – are considered to be endangered. They have long been poached for their fur. They are currently facing a new scourge in Russia. Many people want to keep one or two as pets. The selling price (with no indication of whether they are domestic or wild) is around 2,000 to 8,000 roubles (25 to 100 US\$).²²



Andean condor (*Vultur gryphus*). Photo amrtn_photography (CC BY-NC 4.0)

NORTHERN AFRICA

TUNISIA

December 7, 2025

El Waara, Governorate of Tataouine, Tunisia

Abdelmajid Dabbar, a leading member of the Tunisia Ecology Association, announced that a poacher from Qatar was apprehended by forest rangers in Tataouine, in the arid region of El Waara, and that a saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*, Appendix II) was seized.¹

WESTERN AFRICA

BURKINA FASO

January 17 and February 26, 2026

Dori, Seno Province, Burkina Faso

- A foreign national suspected of poisoning at least 30 hooded vultures (*Necrosyrtes monachus*, Appendix II) near the Dori slaughterhouse was arrested.
- Sentenced to 24 months in prison, including 6 months to be served without parole, a suspended fine of 360 US\$, and damages equal to 9,000 US\$. The vultures were being smuggled to a neighbouring country to be used in healing rituals or black magic.²



LIBERIA

Beginning of November 2025

Marshall, Margibi County, Liberia

Release of 2 African harrier-hawks (*Polyboroides typus*, Appendix II) which had arrived at the Libassa sanctuary several weeks ago. Supposedly "fallen from a tree" according to their former owners, they were emaciated, thirsty, and had injuries to their legs caused by a rope, as well as injuries to their heads and beaks. Thanks to medical treatment and attentive care, they were deemed fit for release by the sanctuary's vets.³

CENTRAL AFRICA

CAMEROON

December 12, 2025

Bertoua, East Region, Cameroon

Three men, including a Ghanaian national, were arrested while transporting 60 grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*, Appendix I) in a government vehicle assigned to a Divisional Officer of Messok. Messok is located 300 km from Bertoua, about a 6-hour drive, presenting an additional period of discomfort and mistreatment for the 60 birds, which were reportedly captured in a village 25 km from Messok.⁴

**The night of 6 to 7, and January 9, 2026
Martap, Adamawa Region, Cameroon**

Discovery of a decomposing donkey carcass and 43 dead white-backed vultures (*Gyps africanus*, Appendix I since March 5, 2026) within the boundaries of the Daniel Plateau bauxite mine. Mass poisoning is suspected. On the orders of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, the carcasses were incinerated to prevent the spread of mortality to other domestic or wild species. Arrest of 2 suspects believed to have acted on behalf of 2 witch doctors. Vulture organs are used in witchcraft and healing rituals.⁵



EASTERN AFRICA

ZIMBABWE

November 5, 2025

Harare, Harare Province, Zimbabwe

Three men between the ages of 26 and 36 were arrested and placed in pretrial detention for attempting to sell four dried vulture heads (Accipitridae, Appendix I or II). In Zimbabwe, white-backed vulture heads (*Gyps africanus*, Appendix I since March 5, 2026) are sought by traditional healers and sorcerers.⁶

SOUTHERN AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

December 1, 2025

Marikana, North West Province, South Africa

The Owl Rescue Centre has noticed a resurgence in the trafficking of spotted eagle-owls (*Bubo africanus*, Appendix II). A juvenile was recovered from a trafficker who was caught by the Malinois shepherd dog Chakita, whilst his accomplice managed to escape with another specimen.⁷

Beginning of January 2026

Hartbeespoort, North West Province, South Africa

Yet another rescue of a spotted eagle-owl (*Bubo africanus*, Appendix II) by the Owl Rescue Centre, which relates its story as follows: "They locked me in a cage and clipped my wings to keep me from escaping. Then, this charming young man came to my rescue. He promised that as soon as my flight feathers grow back, I'll have my freedom."⁸



Beginning of January 2026

Howick, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

Members of the Fletcher family, having spotted 2 grey-crowned crane chicks (*Balearica regulorum*, Appendix II) being sold on the street, contacted the KZN Crane Foundation. The chicks were rescued from trafficking and taken to the FreeMe Wildlife NGO sanctuary for care.⁹



End of January 2026

Hartbeespoort, North West Province, South Africa

Rescue by the Owl Rescue Centre of a live Verreaux's eagle-owl (*Bubo lacteus*, Appendix II) in a crate ready for export.¹⁰

NORTHERN AMERICA

CANADA

Beginning of January 2026

Regina, Province of Saskatchewan, Canada

Attempted rescue of a merlin (*Falco columbarius*, Appendix II) found lying on the ground in a neighbourhood of Regina, with its eyes open and unable to move. It was transferred to the Salthaven veterinary sanctuary. There was no alternative but to put it out of its misery. A post-mortem X-ray confirmed that the bird of prey's paralysis was irreversible. A shotgun pellet was lodged in the lower part of its spinal cord. "Every year, we receive birds injured by shotgun shots."¹¹

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

December 1, 2025

San Diego, San Diego County, State of California, United States of America

Juandaniel Medina was ordered to pay 1,486 US\$ in damages to the Lacey Act Reward Fund and 1,000 US\$ in restitution to SoCal Parrot, a San Diego-based NGO specialising in parrot rescue and rehabilitation, for attempting to smuggle seven amazon parrots—including six red-lore amazons (*Amazona autumnalis*, Appendix II)—into the United States via the San Ysidro port of entry back in May 2025 (see “On the Trail” n°46, p. 79, ref. 10).¹²



Beginning of December 2025

South Haven, Van Buren County, State of Michigan, United States of America

A great horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*, Appendix II) was found in a sack of maize for livestock, abandoned by the roadside like rubbish. Its history remains a mystery. It had a plastic ring so tightly wrapped around one leg that it was probably fitted when it was young. It is blind in one eye. The West Michigan Wildlife Centre administered emergency treatment: antibiotics, foot baths, eye drops, and pain relief. If its leg does not heal, federal regulations require that it be put down. Even if it does recover, it will not be released back into the wild.¹³



Beginning of December 2025

Casa Grande, Pinal County, State of Arizona, United States of America

Harris's hawks (*Parabuteo unicinctus*, Appendix II) have been living in the area for over 10 years. This coexistence came to an abrupt end with the discovery of 2 individuals wounded by gunshots, one of which had to be put out of its misery.¹⁴

December 5, 2025

Erath, Vermilion Parish, State of Louisiana, United States of America

If your information leads to the conviction of the poacher of a bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, Appendix II), you will receive 15,000 US\$ (9,000 US\$ from the Centre for Biological Diversity, 2,500 US\$ from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, 2,500 US\$ from Humane World for Animals and 1,000 US\$ from Louisiana Operation Game Thief). If you are the poacher, you face a fine of up to 250,000 US\$ and 2 years' imprisonment, and you will not receive 15,000 US\$ for turning yourself in.¹⁵

January 2026

Madera County, State of California, United States of America

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has broken up a cockfighting ring and seized products derived from kestrels (*Falco tinnunculus*, Appendix II).¹⁶

FAMILY AFFAIRS

January 4, 2026

Lincoln-Juarez Port of Entry, Laredo, Webb County, State of Texas, United States of America. Border with Mexico.

Seizure from the glove compartment of the vehicle belonging to Jennifer and Andres Garcia, Mexican passports, of 3 red-lore amazons (*Amazona autumnalis*, Appendix II). In order to be released pending their first court appearance, the couple must provide a guarantee of 50,000 US\$.¹⁷

January 7, 2026

Potter County, State of South Dakota, United States of America

A fallen king, the golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*, Appendix II), struck by multiple hunting pellets, will never be able to return to the wild skies and will spend the rest of its life in captivity.¹⁸



January 12, 2026

Northglenn, Adams County, State of Colorado, United States of America

Struck by a projectile resembling a ball bearing, the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, Appendix II) has undergone successful surgery. It is now recovering. Colorado Parks and Wildlife is appealing for witnesses.¹⁹



January 26, 2026

San Diego, San Diego County, State of California, United States of America. Border with Mexico.



Naim Lajud Libien was sentenced to 9 months in prison, 3 years' probation, and 2,300 US\$ in restitution to the Lacey Act Reward Fund for attempting to smuggle 12 orange-fronted conures (*Eupsittula canicularis*, synonymous with *Aratinga canicularis*, Appendix II) into the US back in April 2025. He was arrested at the Otay Mesa port of entry with 6 conures stuffed in his boots and the remaining 6 in the seat cushions of his Jeep Grand Cherokee. Two of the birds, which are native to Mexico and Costa Rica, had died inside the socks and tights, while others were dying as well. The sentence imposed on Libien corresponds to his time spent in prison since his arrest.²⁰



LATIN AMERICA

ARGENTINA

November and December 2025, January 2026

Municipality of Buenos Aires, Provinces of Entre Rios, Buenos Aires, Catamarca, Cordoba, Corrientes, Jujuy, Mendoza, Misiones, Salta, San Juan, Santa Fe, Santiago del Estero, Tucuman, Argentina



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Around 50 operations carried out by the environmental police and provincial police forces on private property or on the roads have led to the seizure of more than 1,300 live birds:

- 112 conures (*Aratinga* spp., Appendix II) including 70 Patagonian conure chicks (*Cyanoliseus patagonus*, Appendix II) which 2 traffickers stopped at a roadside checkpoint claimed were "toiletries", 38 monk parakeets (*Myiopsitta monachus*, Appendix II), and one maroon-bellied parakeet (*Pyrrhura frontalis*, Appendix II).
- 66 blue-fronted amazons (*Amazona aestiva*, Appendix II) including 35 chicks and 5 orange-winged amazons (*Amazona amazonica*, Appendix II).
- 80 budgerigars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*).
- one parrot of unspecified species (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II).
- 200 passerines (family Thraupidae) of unspecified species.
- 60 red-crested cardinals (*Paroaria coronata*, Appendix II).
- 48 finches (genus *Sicalis*) including 44 saffron finches (*Sicalis flaveola*) and 4 grassland yellow-finches (*Sicalis luteola*).
- 35 saltators including 23 golden-billed saltators (*Saltator aurantiifrons*), 7 many-coloured Chaco finches (*Saltatricula multicolor*), and 5 blue-grey saltators (*Saltator coerulescens*).
- 34 black-backed grosbeaks (*Pheucticus aureoventris*) and about 10 yellow cardinals (*Gubernatrix cristata*, Appendix II).
- 27 great kiskadees (*Pitangus sulphuratus*).
- 24 seedeaters (genus *Sporophila*) including 20 dark-throated seedeaters (*Sporophila ruficollis*), 2 lined seedeaters (*Sporophila lineola*), and one double-collared seedeater (*Sporophila caerulescens*).
- 23 red pileated finches (*Coryphospingus cucullatus*).
- 23 hooded siskins (*Spinus magellanicus*), 2 European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine) and 2 black siskins (*Spinus atratus*, synonymous with *Carduelis atrata*).
- 16 meadowlarks (genus *Leistes*).
- 11 grey-hooded sierra finches (*Phrygilus gayi*).
- 10 band-tailed seedeaters (*Catamenia analis*).
- 8 shiny cowbirds (*Molothrus bonariensis*).
- 8 Java sparrows (*Lonchura oryzivora*, Appendix II).
- 7 rufous-browed peppershrikes (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*).
- 5 many-coloured rush tyrans (*Tachuris rubrigastra*).
- 5 unicoloured blackbirds (*Agelasticus cyanopus*).
- 2 blue-and-yellow tanagers (*Thraupis bonariensis*, synonymous with *Raueia bonariensis*) and one diademed tanager (*Stephanophorus diadematus*).
- 2 thrushes and one blackbird (genus *Turdus*). (.../...)

(.../...)

- One house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) and one society finch (*Lonchura striata domestica*).

- One crested myna (*Acridotheres cristatellus*).

In addition, 4 eared doves (*Zenaida auriculata*), one Chilean flamingo (*Phoenicopterus chilensis*, Appendix II), 12 fighting cocks and 400 other birds of unspecified species were seized, 120 of which have been described by the media as "exotic".

Thirteen traffickers were arrested. 319 cages, 150 traps, 5 rifles, a pair of binoculars, a hunting knife and 4 muzzles were seized.

Yellow cardinals are victims of trafficking in several provinces. It is estimated that only 1,500 to 3,000 individuals remain in the wild in Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and possibly Paraguay. "The yellow cardinal is much more than just one of Mendoza's most beautiful birds: it is a vital link in the health of our ecosystems, particularly in areas of scrubland and thorny undergrowth," emphasises Ignacio Haudet, Director of Biodiversity and the Ecopark for the Government of Mendoza. The yellow cardinal's diet helps to disperse seeds and regulate insect populations. In the province of Entre Ríos, they are classified as natural monuments.



In the town of González Catán (province of Buenos Aires), two searches ordered by the Federal Criminal and Correctional Court n°3 of Morón led to the dismantling of a bird trafficking ring operating via social media (Facebook Marketplace, WhatsApp, etc.). A fishing tackle shop was being used as a base of operations. More than 300 birds, including 4 green cardinals, were seized and transferred to the TEMA Foundation.

In the province of Santa Fe, 2 men were caught in the act of capturing widow conure chicks; they had the cruel practice of bleaching the birds' ash-grey feathers with hydrogen peroxide. Birds with yellow plumage fetch a higher price.

In addition to these seizures, an operation was carried out in Gualeguay (province of Entre Ríos). Following an investigation by the NGO Conciencia Animal Entre Ríos and the Centre for the Study and Defence of Wild Birds (Centro para el Estudio y Defensa de las Aves Silvestres – Ceydas), the Federal Court in Victoria ordered a search of the Faro del Lago hotel complex. One hyacinth macaw (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*, Appendix I), 6 greater flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus*, Appendix II), 4 Indian peafowls (*Pavo cristatus*, Appendix III in Pakistan), 3 black-necked swans (*Cygnus melancoryphus*, Appendix II), 3 upland geese (*Chloephaga picta*), 2 southern screamers (*Chauna torquata*) and 40 white-faced whistling ducks (*Dendrocygna viduata*) were seized. All the birds had their wings clipped and most were taken for veterinary examination at the Interlagos leisure centre in María Grande, except for the whistling ducks, which were released immediately. A blue-and-yellow macaw (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II), a red-and-green macaw (*Ara chloropterus*, Appendix II) and 3 toco toucans (*Ramphastos toco*, Appendix II) spotted during the investigation are missing. According to the complex' manager, they are either "dead" or have "flown away".²¹



November 4, 2025
Province of Entre Ríos, Argentina

November 27 and 29, 2025
Volcán and Termas de Reyes, Province of Jujuy, Argentina



- Rescue of an Andean condor (*Vultur gryphus*, Appendix I). It is on the ground. It is struggling to stand and spread its wings. It shows clear signs of poisoning. Taken into the care of the Volcán municipal police, it was then transferred to the wildlife care centre 70 km from Volcán, where the poisoning was confirmed and initial stabilisation measures were carried out. Given the complexity of this hybrid rescue programme, which involved both detoxification and rewilding, the condor was transferred to Buenos Aires to an enclosure at the Temaikén Foundation to undergo an intensive, solitary programme of muscle-building exercises and flight tests. On December 20, after experts confirmed that it had regained its ability to fend for itself, it was released at the top of the Cuesta de Lipán at an altitude of 4,000 metres.

- A dead condor in an advanced state of decomposition was discovered by nature guides. Poisoning by anticoagulant rodenticide was quickly confirmed by the veterinary team at the Jujuy Native Wildlife Care Centre. Malvina Quintana, speaking on behalf of the Minister for the Environment, has condemned the use by livestock farmers of poisoned bait to “get rid of” pumas, who have a reputation for attacking herds. Condors are collateral victims, either by eating the meat bait directly or by tearing apart the carcasses of poisoned pumas.²²

December 3, 2025
Presidencia de la Plaza, Province of Chaco, Argentina



Seizure from a man on a motorbike of 5 15-day-old toco toucan chicks (*Ramphastos toco*, Appendix II) and a further 2 chicks from his home. They were handed over to the zoo in Presidencia.²³

December 22, 2025
Concepción del Uruguay, Province of Entre Rios, Argentina

Natural park rangers and the national police in the Islas y Canales Verdes del Río Uruguay Park rescued two greater rheas (*Rhea americana*, Appendix II), each just a few days old. The species is protected provincially by a 1990s ordinance, and internationally under CITES Appendix II. The chicks were found inside a bag at an abandoned school courtyard. The poachers have not been identified. The chicks were released back into the park among a flock of rheas, which should care for them.²⁴

January 14, 2026
Coronel Rosales, Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina

Seizure in a car of 4 dead rheas (*Rhea americana*, Appendix II, or *Pterocnemia pennata*, Appendix I or II), an air pistol, a knife, 541 lead pellets and a torch. Arrest by the rural police of 3 men aged between 18 and 37.²⁵

BOLIVIA

December 5, 2025
Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Province of Andrés Ibáñez, Department of Santa Cruz, Bolivia



With the help of Pofoma (Policía Forestal y Preservación del Medio Ambiente), officers recovered 50 parrot chicks (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II) which kids and teenagers were trying to sell at the Barrio Lindo market.²⁶

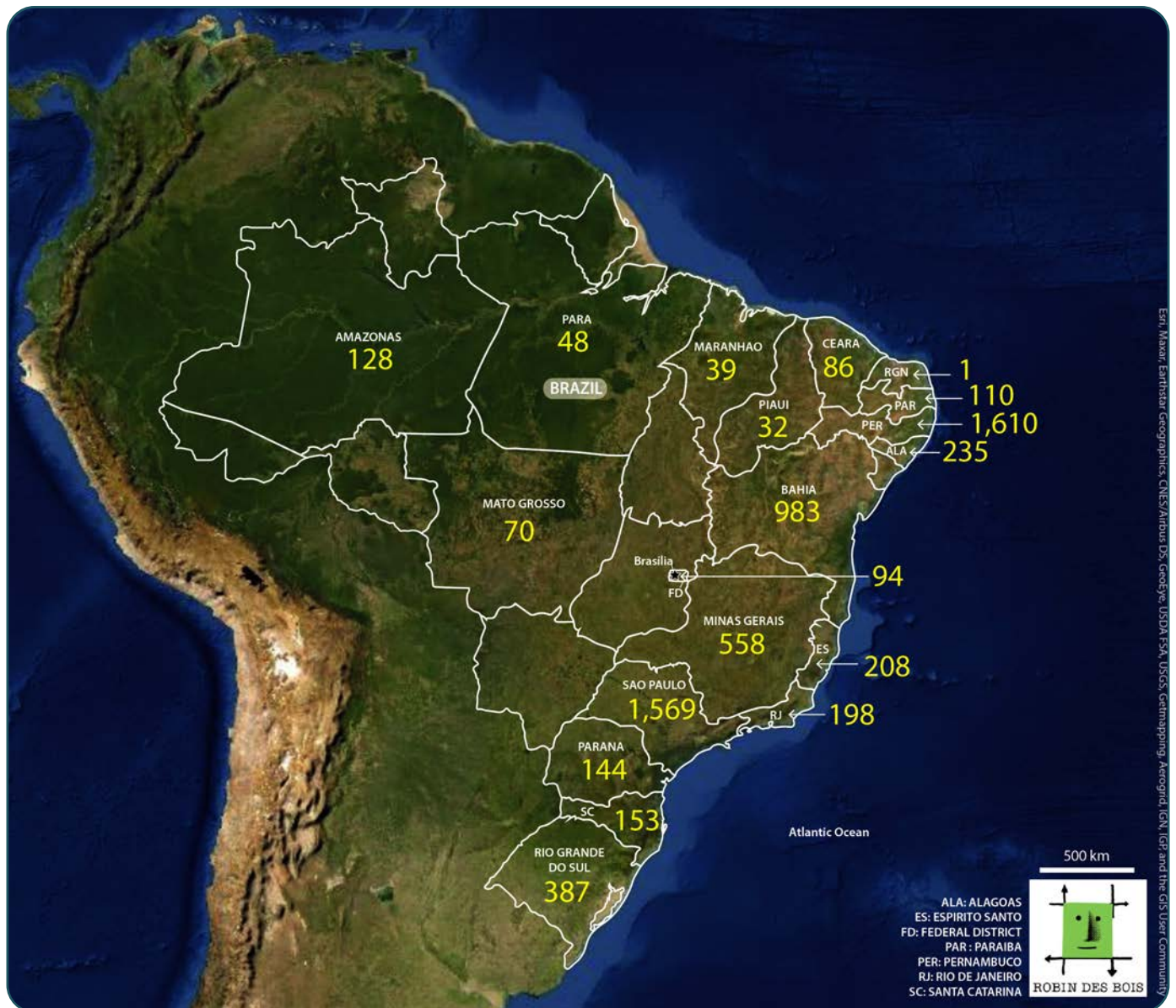
December 23, 2025
Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Province of Andrés Ibáñez, Department of Santa Cruz, Bolivia

During a traffic stop one night, police found 42 monk parakeets (*Myiopsitta monachus*, Appendix II), 46 blue-fronted amazons (*Amazona aestiva*, Appendix II), 3 scaly-headed parrots (*Pionus maximiliani*, Appendix II), 4 white-eyed parakeets (*Psittacara leucophthalmus*, Appendix II), 9 blue-headed parrots (*Pionus menstruus*, Appendix II), and 3 toucans (family Ramphastidae) inside the vehicle. The driver was transporting them 700 km from Tarija to Santa Cruz. The birds were handed over to Pofoma, with the aim to release them back into the wild. During the holiday season, chicks are highly sought-after gifts, and officers stepped up their routine checks.²⁷



BRAZIL

Seizure of 6,653 birds between November 1, 2025 and January 31, 2026



Counterfeit rings
January 9, 2026, State of São Paulo, Brazil

ALAGOAS (235)

3 bananaquits (*Coereba flaveola*)
2 passerines (family Icteridae)
2 chestnut-bellied seed finches (*Oryzoborus angolensis*, synonymous with *Sporophila angolensis*, Appendix II since March 5, 2026)
2 red-cowled cardinals (*Paroaria dominicana*)
2 Passeriformes
2 saffron finches (*Sicalis flaveola*)
2 white-throated seedeaters (*Sporophila albogularis*)
2 yellow-bellied seedeaters (*Sporophila nigricollis*)
2 tanagers (family Thraupidae)
2 blue-black grassquits (*Volatinia jacarina*)
1 rufous-collared sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*)
213 unidentified birds

AMAZONAS (128)

127 saffron finches (*Sicalis flaveola*)
1 red-and-green macaw (*Ara chloropterus*, A.II)

BAHIA (983)

364 red-cowled cardinals (*Paroaria dominicana*)
35 ultramarine grosbeaks (*Cyanocompsa brissonii*)
27 campo troupials (*Icterus jamaicii*)
19 Passeriformes
19 yellow-bellied seedeaters (*Sporophila nigricollis*)
18 double-collared seedeaters (*S. caerulescens*)
16 saffron finches (*Sicalis flaveola*)
15 parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II)
10 green winged saltators (*Saltator similis*)
10 lined seedeaters (*Sporophila lineola*)
10 rufous-collared sparrows (*Zonotrichia capensis*)
8 copper seedeaters (*Sporophila bouvreuil*)
6 chopi blackbirds chopi blackbird (*Gnorimopsar chopi*)
5 chestnut-bellied seed finches (*Oryzoborus angolensis*, synonymous with *Sporophila angolensis*, Appendix II since March 5, 2026)
4 macaws (*Ara* spp., Appendix I or II)
4 blue-and-yellow macaws (*Ara ararauna*, A.II)
4 caatinga parakeets (*Aratinga cactorum*, Appendix II)
3 plain parakeets (*Brotogeris tirica*, Appendix II)
2 conures (*Aratinga* spp., Appendix II)
2 buff-throated saltators (*Saltator maximus*)
2 American barn owls (*Tyto furcata* synonymous with *Tyto alba furcata*, Appendix II)
1 blue-fronted amazon (*Amazona aestiva*, A.II)
1 grey pileated finch (*Coryphospingus pileatus*)
1 raptor (Falconiformes, A. I or II, except 5 species)
1 cinnamon tanager (*Schistochlamys ruficapillus*)
396 unidentified birds

CEARÁ (86)

30 saffron finches (*Sicalis flaveola*)
15 white-throated seedeaters (*Sporophila albogularis*)
10 Columbidae
8 red-cowled cardinals (*Paroaria dominicana*)
7 yellow-bellied seedeaters (*Sporophila nigricollis*)
6 lined seedeaters (*Sporophila lineola*)
2 grey pileated finches (*Coryphospingus pileatus*)
1 ultramarine grosbeak (*Cyanocompsa brissonii*)
1 passerine (family Icteridae)
1 chestnut-bellied seed finch (*Oryzoborus angolensis*, synonymous with *Sporophila angolensis*, Appendix II since March 5, 2026)
1 blue-black grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*)
4 unidentified birds

FEDERAL DISTRICT (94)

64 saffron finches (*Sicalis flaveola*)
30 unidentified birds

ESPIRITO SANTO (208)

32 double-collared seedeaters (*Sporophila caerulescens*)
13 green winged saltators (*Saltator similis*)
5 blue-black grassquits (*Volatinia jacarina*)
4 buffy-fronted seedeaters (*Sporophila frontalis*)
4 rufous-collared sparrows (*Zonotrichia capensis*)
3 red-browed amazons (*Amazona rhodocorytha*, Appendix I)
2 blue-and-yellow macaws (*Ara ararauna*, A. II)
2 grey pileated finches (*Coryphospingus pileatus*)
2 ultramarine grosbeaks (*Cyanocompsa brissonii*)
2 common waxbills (*Estrilda astrild*)
2 blue-winged parrotlets (*Forpus xanthopterygius*, Appendix II)
2 chestnut-bellied seed finches (*Oryzoborus angolensis*, synonymous with *Sporophila angolensis*, Appendix II since March 5, 2026)
2 scaly-headed parrots (*Pionus maximiliani*, A. II)
2 parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II)
2 saffron finches (*Sicalis flaveola*)
2 copper seedeaters (*Sporophila bouvreuil*)
2 rusty-collared seedeaters (*Sporophila collaris*)
2 Temminck's seedeaters (*Sporophila falcirostris*)
2 lined seedeaters (*Sporophila lineola*)
2 plumbeous seedeaters (*Sporophila plumbea*)
2 tanagers (family Thraupidae)
2 rufous-bellied thrushes (*Turdus rufiventris*)
1 white-eyed conure (*Aratinga leucophthalma*, Appendix II)
114 unidentified birds

MARANHÃO (39)

2 chestnut-bellied seed finches (*Oryzoborus angolensis*, synonymous with *Sporophila angolensis*, Appendix II since March 5, 2026)
1 yellow-rumped cacique (*Cacicus cela*)
1 yellow-bellied seedeater (*Sporophila nigricollis*)
35 unidentified birds

MATO GROSSO (70)

10 tanagers (family Thraupidae)
2 blue-fronted amazons (*Amazona aestiva*, A. II)
2 orange-winged amazons (*Amazona amazonica*, Appendix II)
2 blue-and-yellow macaws (*Ara ararauna*, A.II)
2 red-bellied macaws (*Orthopsittaca manilata*, Appendix II)
1 lined seedeater (*Sporophila lineola*)
51 unidentified birds

MINAS GERAIS (558)

293 saffron finches (*Sicalis flaveola*)
22 green winged saltators (*Saltator similis*)
17 double-collared seedeaters (*S. caerulescens*)
5 yellow-bellied seedeaters (*Sporophila nigricollis*)
4 hybrids of hooded siskin (*Spinus magellanicus*)
3 ultramarine grosbeaks (*Cyanocompsa brissonii*)
3 parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II)
2 blue-and-yellow macaws (*Ara ararauna*, A. II)
2 red-cowled cardinals (*Paroaria dominicana*)
2 hooded siskins (*Spinus magellanicus*) (.../...)

(.../...)

2 lined seedeaters (*Sporophila lineola*)
2 plumbeous seedeaters (*Sporophila plumbea*)
1 blue-fronted amazon (*Amazona aestiva*, A. II)
1 hyacinth macaw (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*, Appendix I)
1 chestnut-bellied seed finch (*Oryzoborus angolensis*, synonymous with *Sporophila angolensis*, Appendix II since March 5, 2026)
1 seedeater (genus *Sporophila*)
1 blue-black grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*)
1 rufous-collared sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*)
195 unidentified birds

PARÁ (48)

20 chestnut-bellied seed finches (*Oryzoborus angolensis*, synonymous with *Sporophila angolensis*, Appendix II since March 5, 2026)
18 double-collared seedeaters (*Sporophila caerulescens*)
3 yellow-rumped caciques (*Cacicus cela*)
2 ultramarine grosbeaks (*Cyanocompsa brissonii*)
2 lined seedeaters (*Sporophila lineola*)
1 campo troupial (*Icterus jamaicensis*)
1 variable oriole (*Icterus pyrrhopterus* synonymous with *Icterus cayanensis pyrrhopterus*)
1 saffron finch (*Sicalis flaveola*)

PARAÍBA (110)

3 white-throated seedeaters (*Sporophila albogularis*)
107 unidentified birds

PARANA (144)

17 hooded siskins (*Spinus magellanicus*)
16 saffron finches (*Sicalis flaveola*)
12 green winged saltators (*Saltator similis*)
12 double-collared seedeaters (*S. caerulescens*)
9 ultramarine grosbeaks (*Cyanocompsa brissonii*)
9 hybrids of hooded siskin (*Spinus magellanicus*)
9 serins des Canaries Atlantic canary (*Serinus canaria*)
5 blue-fronted amazons (*Amazona aestiva*, A. II)
5 chestnut-bellied seed finches (*Oryzoborus angolensis*, synonymous with *Sporophila angolensis*, Appendix II since March 5, 2026)
4 rufous-collared sparrows (*Zonotrichia capensis*)
2 blue-black grassquits (*Volatinia jacarina*)
1 yellow-rumped cacique (*Cacicus cela*)
1 red pileated finch (*Coryphospingus cucullatus*)
1 golden-rumped euphonia (*Euphonia cyanocephala*)
1 parrot (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II)
1 lined seedeater (*Sporophila lineola*)
1 ruby-crowned tanager (*Tachyphonus coronatus*)
38 unidentified birds

PERNAMBUCO (1,610)

400 red-cowled cardinals (*Paroaria dominicana*)
300 yellow-bellied seedeaters (*Sporophila nigricollis*)
290 seedeaters (genus *Sporophila*)
150 saffron finches (*Sicalis flaveola*)
58 rufous-collared sparrows (*Zonotrichia capensis*)
54 ultramarine grosbeaks (*Cyanocompsa brissonii*)
10 green winged saltators (*Saltator similis*)
348 unidentified birds

PIAUI (32)

3 orange-winged amazons (*Amazona amazonica*, Appendix II)
1 chopi blackbird (*Gnorimopsar chopi*)
28 unidentified birds

RÍO DE JANEIRO (198)

35 double-collared seedeaters (*Sporophila caerulescens*)
21 buffy-fronted seedeaters (*Sporophila frontalis*)
17 blue-black grassquits (*Volatinia jacarina*)
6 green winged saltators (*Saltator similis*)
6 saffron finches (*Sicalis flaveola*)
4 parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II)
3 blue-fronted amazons (*Amazona aestiva*, A. II)
3 ultramarine grosbeaks (*Cyanocompsa brissonii*)
3 chestnut-bellied seed finches (*Oryzoborus angolensis*, synonymous with *Sporophila angolensis*, Appendix II since March 5, 2026)
3 rufous-collared sparrows (*Zonotrichia capensis*)
2 white-eyed conures (*Aratinga leucophthalma*, Appendix II)
2 Passeriformes
2 tanagers (family Thraupidae)
2 rufous-bellied thrushes (*Turdus rufiventris*)
1 amazon parrot (*Amazona* spp., Appendix I or II)
1 yellow-rumped cacique (*Cacicus cela*)
1 chestnut-capped blackbird (*Chrysomus ruficapillus*)
1 uniform finch (*Haplospiza unicolor*)
1 cockatiel (*Nymphicus hollandicus*)
1 Temminck's seedeater (*Sporophila falcirostris*)
83 unidentified birds

RIO GRANDE DO NORTE (1)

1 blue-and-yellow macaw (*Ara ararauna*, A. II)

RIO GRANDE DO SUL (387)

65 monk parakeets (*Myiopsitta monachus*, Annexe II)
40 ultramarine grosbeaks (*Cyanocompsa brissonii*)
34 green winged saltators (*Saltator similis*)
28 red-crested cardinals (*Paroaria coronata*, Annexe II)
24 saffron finches (*Sicalis flaveola*)
20 double-collared seedeaters (*Sporophila caerulescens*)
14 hooded siskins (*Spinus magellanicus*)
12 diademed tanagers (*Stephanophorus diadematus*)
11 diademed tanagers (*Saltator fuliginosus*)
5 Atlantic canaries (*Serinus canaria*)
5 hybrids of hooded siskin (*Spinus magellanicus*)
3 blue-fronted amazons (*Amazona aestiva*, A. II)
3 Passeriformes
3 golden-billed saltator (*Saltator aurantirostris*)
3 rufous-collared sparrows (*Zonotrichia capensis*)
2 red pileated finches (*Coryphospingus cucullatus*)
2 tanagers (family Thraupidae)
1 blue-and-yellow macaws (*Ara ararauna*, A. II)
1 golden-winged cacique (*Cacicus chrysopterus*)
1 passerine (family Icteridae)
1 saltator (genus *Saltator*)
1 rusty-collared seedeater (*Sporophila collaris*)
1 yellow-legged thrush (*Turdus flavipes*)
1 pale-breasted thrush (*Turdus leucomelas*)
1 blue-black grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*)
105 unidentified birds

SANTA CATARINA (153)

4 ultramarine grosbeaks (*Cyanocompsa brissonii*)
3 vinaceous-breasted amazons (*Amazona vinacea*, Appendix I)
3 green winged saltators (*Saltator similis*)
3 double-collared seedeaters (*Sporophila caerulea*)
3 rufous-collared sparrows (*Zonotrichia capensis*)
2 yellow-faced siskins (*Carduelis yarrellii*, Appendix II)
2 red pileated finches (*Coryphospingus cucullatus*)
2 monk parakeets (*Myiopsitta monachus*, Appendix II)
2 red-crested cardinals (*Paroaria coronata*, A. II)
2 scaly-headed parrots (*Pionus maximiliani*, A.II)
2 saffron finches (*Sicalis flaveola*)
2 blue-black grassquits (*Volatinia jacarina*)
1 lovebird (*Agapornis* spp., Appendix II except *Agapornis roseicollis*)
1 blue-fronted amazon (*Amazona aestiva*, A.II)
1 campo troupial (*Icterus jamacaii*)
1 diademed tanager (*Saltator fuliginosus*)
119 unidentified birds

SÃO PAULO (1,569)

182 green winged saltators (*Saltator similis*)
164 saffron finches (*Sicalis flaveola*)
158 seedeaters (genus *Sporophila*)
149 double-collared seedeaters (*Sporophila caerulea*)
25 lined seedeaters (*Sporophila lineola*)
24 ultramarine grosbeaks (*Cyanocompsa brissonii*)
22 chopi blackbirds (*Gnorimopsar chopi*)
15 rufous-collared sparrows (*Zonotrichia capensis*)
13 red-cowled cardinals (*Paroaria dominicana*)
12 chestnut-bellied seed finches (*Oryzoborus angolensis*, synonymous with *Sporophila angolensis*, Appendix II since March 5, 2026)

12 blue-black grassquits (*Volatinia jacarina*)
11 lovebirds (*Agapornis* spp., Appendix II except *Agapornis roseicollis*)
11 parakeets (*Cyanoramphus* spp., Appendix I or II)
11 red-crested cardinals (*Paroaria coronata*, A.II)
11 rose-ringed parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*)
9 yellow-bellied seedeaters (*Sporophila nigricollis*)
8 white-eyed conures (*Aratinga leucophthalma*, Appendix II)
7 blue-fronted amazons (*Amazona aestiva*, A.II)
7 campo troupials (*Icterus jamacaii*)
7 cinnamon tanagers (*Schistochlamys ruficapillus*)
6 white-eyed conures (*Aratinga leucophthalma*, Appendix II)
6 Atlantic canaries (*Serinus canaria*)
6 hooded siskins (*Spinus magellanicus*)
6 plumbeous seedeaters (*Sporophila plumbea*)
5 red pileated finches (*Coryphospingus cucullatus*)
5 great-billed seed finches (*Sporophila maximiliani*, Appendix I since March 5, 2026)
5 tanagers (family Thraupidae)
4 crested pigeons (*Ocyphaps lophotes*)
4 rosellas (*Platycercus* spp., Appendix II)
4 hybrids of hooded siskin (*Spinus magellanicus*)
3 chestnut-capped blackbirds (*Chrysomus ruficapillus*)
3 grey pileated finches (*Coryphospingus pileatus*)
3 Passeriformes
3 parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II)
3 rufous-bellied thrushes (*Turdus rufiventris*)
2 plum-headed parakeets (*Psittacula cyanocephala*, Appendix II)
1 amazon parrot (*Amazona* spp., Appendix I or II)
1 copper seedeater (*Sporophila bouvreuil*)
1 buffy-fronted seedeater (*Sporophila frontalis*)
1 toucan tico (*Ramphastos tico*), Appendix I
646 unidentified birds



A toucan
November 7, 2025. State of São Paulo



A blue-and-yellow macaw
January 26, 2026. State of Rio Grande do Norte



Chestnut-bellied seed finches
and lined seedeaters
January 4, 2026. State of Pará

November 13, 2025

Nova Santa Rita, State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

Seizure on a rural property of birds of unknown origin or stolen from the zoos in Sapucaia do Sul and Cachoeira do Sul, with an estimated total value of 280,000 reais, or 52,000 US\$. One arrest. Santana, São Paulo, Santos, João Pessoa: thefts of parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II), birds of prey and black swans (*Cygnus atratus*) are not uncommon from zoos or private aviaries.²⁸

FAMILY AFFAIRS

January 22, 2026

Salvador, State of Bahia, Brazil

In the first instance, Weber Sena Oliveira, alias "Paulista," was sentenced to 18 years in prison; his wife, Ivonice Silva, to 6 years and 2 months; Josevaldo Moreira Almeida to 8 years; and Uallace Batista Santos, Ademar de Jesus Viana, Gilmar José dos Santos, and Messias Bispo dos Santos each to 5 years and 7 months. The defendants were convicted for their roles as the leader, financial director, suppliers, receivers, and sellers of what the courts and the press described as the largest criminal organisation specialising in the trafficking of wild birds. They were found guilty of trafficking nationally protected species and animal cruelty. Their operations extended from the poaching of birds to their sale in markets and unscrupulous pet stores across the States of Bahia, Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, and Espírito Santo (see "On the Trail" n°48, p. 88, map of bird seizures in Brazil).²⁹



CHILE

November 11, 2025

Tambillos, Elqui Province, Coquimbo Region, Chile

The Bicrim (Criminal Investigation Brigade) and SAG (Agricultural and Livestock Service) seized the following from a drug and exotic bird trafficker: 2 New Zealand parakeets (*Cyanoramphus* spp., Appendix I or II), 12 Patagonian conures (*Cyanoliseus patagonus*, Appendix II), 38 rosellas (*Platycercus* spp., Appendix II), 6 Java sparrows (*Lonchura oryzivora*, Appendix II), one red-crested cardinal (*Paroaria coronata*, Appendix II), 14 lovebirds (*Agapornis* spp., Appendix II except *Agapornis roseicollis*), 6 Gouldian finches (*Erythrura gouldiae*), 3 Austral blackbirds (*Curaeus curaeus*), 17 rose-ringed parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*), 2 zebra finches (*Taeniopygia guttata*), and 5 California quails (*Callipela californica*), as well as a firearm, 286 rounds of ammunition of various calibres, and raw and processed cannabis.³⁰



December 29, 2025

Tarapacá Region, Chile

Near the Loa River, customs officers seized five blue-fronted amazon chicks (*Amazona aestiva*, Appendix II) from a bus travelling from Iquique to Santiago. The chicks were between 2- to 3-weeks old. They were entrusted to the SAG, and due to their good health and having received emergency care, their return to Bolivia was coordinated with the Senasag (National Service for Agricultural and Livestock Health and Food Safety). Since January, 32 parrots from Bolivia have been seized.³¹

COLOMBIA

November and December 2025 and January 2026

Bogotá, Departments of Antioquia, Atlántico, Tolima, and Valle del Cauca, Colombia

Seizure from homes, shops and on the road during operations carried out by the National Police and the Bogotá Metropolitan Police, in coordination with environmental protection units and with the assistance of the IDPYBA (Instituto Distrital de Protección y Bienestar Animal – District Institute for the Protection and Welfare of Animals), of 68 live birds:

- One scarlet macaw (*Ara macao*, Appendix I) and 4 blue-and-yellow macaws (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II).
(.../...)



Scarlet macaw (*Ara macao*)
December 22, 2025
Department of Valle del Cauca

(.../...)

- 37 yellow-crowned amazons (*Amazona ochrocephala*, Appendix II) and orange-winged amazons (*Amazona amazonica*, Appendix II), and 2 southern mealy amazons (*Amazona farinosa*, Appendix II).
- 9 orange-chinned parakeets (*Brotogeris jugularis*, Appendix II) and 5 budgerigars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*).
- 2 blue-headed parrots (*Pionus menstruus*, Appendix II).
- 2 brown-throated conures (*Aratinga pertinax*, Appendix II).
- 3 American coots (*Fulica americana*).
- One vermilion cardinal (*Cardinalis phoeniceus*).
- One saffron finch (*Sicalis flaveola*).
- One tropical mockingbird (*Mimus gilvus*).



Yellow-crowned amazon
(*Amazona ochrocephala*)
January 30, 2026
Departement of Antioquia, Colombia

19 amazon parrot chicks were being transported in the luggage compartment of a public bus travelling from Puerto Boyacá to Doradal (Antioquia), a 50-minute journey. They were handed over to the Wildlife Care and Assessment Centre (CAV) at La Cornare (Corporación Autónoma Regional de las Cuencas de los Ríos Negro y Nare – Regional Autonomous Corporation of the Negro and Nare River Basins). "The CAV's interdisciplinary team is responding to this new emergency by providing the chicks with the specialist care required to stabilise their condition and begin their rehabilitation process." La Cornare emphasises the importance of reporting any incidents by calling the wildlife emergency hotline on 3217811388.³²

Beginning of November 2025 Bucaramanga, Department of Santander, Colombia

Seizure in the José María Córdoba neighbourhood, to the north of the city, of a spectacled parrotlet (*Forpus conspicillatus*, Appendix II), an orange-chinned parakeet (*Brotogeris jugularis*, Appendix II), a brown-throated conure (*Aratinga pertinax*, Appendix II), 24 large-billed seed-finches (*Sporophila crassirostris*, Appendix II since March 5, 2026), 5 lesser goldfinches (*Spinus psaltria*), 5 black-striped sparrows (*Arremonops conirostris*), 3 saffron finches (*Sicalis flaveola*), 2 slate-coloured seedeaters (*Sporophila schistacea*), 2 great-billed seed finches (*Sporophila maximiliani*, Appendix I since March 5, 2026), 2 yellow-bellied seedeaters (*Sporophila nigricollis*), 2 blue-back grassquits (*Volatinia jacarina*), 2 blue-back grosbeaks (*Cyanocompsa cyanoides*), 2 yellow orioles (*Icterus nigrogularis*), one ruddy-breasted seedeater (*Sporophila minuta*), one black-and-white seedeater (*Sporophila luctuosa*) and one buff-throated saltator (*Saltator maximus*). Large-billed seed-finches have been listed in CITES Appendix II and great-billed seed finches in Appendix I during the 20th plenary meeting in December 2025 in Uzbekistan. The GEA (Grupo Élite Ambiental para la Sostenibilidad) and the CAV (Centro de Atención y Valoración de Fauna Silvestre) assisted with species identification and health assessments. Six birds are injured. The other 49 are in good condition and should be able to fly away again shortly. They were all destined for the black market. The Regional Autonomous Corporation for the Protection of the Bucaramanga Plateau, which coordinated the operation, had 2 objectives: to free the animals and to disrupt the trafficking network in the city (population 620,000).³³



January 10, 2026
Colombia

To mark World Migratory Bird Day, checks were stepped up at coach stations and, with the help of 3 sniffer dogs, 96 live birds – including 2 owls (*Strigidae*, Appendix I or II), one peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I) and 4 American purple gallinules (*Porphyrio martinica*) were seized and will be released into suitable habitats as soon as their physical condition allows and all species have been identified.³⁴

MEXICO

November and December 2025 and January 2026

Mexico City, States of Chiapas, Jalisco, Michoacán, Morelos, Querétaro, and Yucatán, Mexico

Seizure of 186 live birds from a hotel, in markets, on the street and in private homes:

- 3 military macaws (*Ara militaris*, Appendix I).
- 9 red-lored amazons (*Amazona autumnalis*, Appendix II), 9 lilac-crowned amazons (*Amazona finschi*, Appendix I), one white-fronted amazon (*Amazona albifrons*, Appendix II), and one yellow-headed amazon (*Amazona oratrix*, Appendix I).
- 13 orange-fronted conures (*Eupsittula canicularis*, synonymous with *Aratinga canicularis*, Appendix II).
- 36 parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II) of unspecified species.
- 14 painted buntings (*Passerina ciris*).
- 6 solitaires (genus *Myadestes*).
- 2 cockatiels (*Nymphicus Hollandicus*).
- 2 emerald toucanets (*Aulacorhynchus prasinus*).
- One white-crowned parrot (*Pionus senilis*, Appendix II).
- One orange-bellied trogon (*Trogon collaris*), as well as Northern cardinals (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), grassland yellow-finches (*Sicalis luteola*), and yellow-headed troopials (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*).



Military macaw
December 22, 2025
Guadalajara, State of Jalisco, Mexico

Six traffickers have been arrested. The NGO Proyecto Santa María, which has taken in amazon parrots in critical condition, points out that parrots are protected under Mexican law but that, in practice, the law is poorly enforced. "The law is more symbolic than a genuine tool for protecting birds."³⁵

December 3, 2025

State of Yucatán, Mexico

Rescue of a roadside hawk (*Rupornis magnirostris*, Appendix II). It was found motionless on the side of a road, its wings clipped "like a farmyard fowl," said the newspaper Diario Peninsular. It was treated by a veterinarian at the Animalizando clinic. It will begin a several-month molting process at a bird rehabilitation shelter in Santa Maria, which will prevent it from fulfilling its role as a rodent predator in fields and forests. According to the shelter's director, "someone must have captured it and tried to tame it" before abandoning it.³⁶

December 10, 2025

Celaya, State of Guanajuato, Mexico

Seizure of 2 falcons (*Falco* spp., Appendix I or II), including an American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*, Appendix II), by the municipal police at the market in the Emiliano Zapata neighbourhood. As a first step, they were taken to safety at Moroleón Zoo. The seller was arrested and brought before the public prosecutor's office. The incident is classified as a federal crime. Birds of prey are protected under CITES and national law and must not be kept, transported or sold without the prior consent of Profepa or Semarnat (Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales).³⁷

December 23, 2025

Mérida international Airport, State of Yucatán, Mexico



Seizure in a wooden crate of a salmon-crested cockatoo (*Cacatua moluccensis*, Appendix I) with clipped wings to prevent it from flying. On the black market, a specimen sells for around 2,000 US\$.³⁸

PARAGUAY

November 11, 2025

Ciudad del Este, Department of Alto Paraná, Paraguay

Estela Fernández, 23, was arrested while attempting to sell around ten parrots on a public street; based on photos published by Diario Vanguardia, they were likely monk parakeets (*Myiopsitta monachus*, Appendix II).³⁹

PERU

November 17, 2025

Juancito, Province of Ucayali, Department of Loreto, Peru



A wildlife protection team rescued a scarlet macaw (*Ara macao*, Appendix I) and a blue-and-yellow macaw (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II) from a dock along the Ucayali River. They had both been abandoned in a crate and were presumably awaiting shipment. With the help of the Air Force, both were sent to Iquitos for a health examination.⁴⁰

November 2025 and beginning June 2026

Near Totara, Department of Apurímac, Perú



An Andean condor (*Vultur gryphus*, Appendix I) is discovered on the side of the road by the Totorá Oropesa highway patrol. The bird is drooling and shows all the signs of severe poisoning. It was transferred by Serfor to the Taraccasa Zoo. After six months of treatment, it was released from the Huayhuacalle lookout point at an elevation of 3,310 metres. Credit for the operation goes to Serfor, the MasterVet, Tiutis, and SomnusVet veterinary clinics, the “Entre Perros y Gatos” (Between Dogs and Cats) veterinary centre at the University of Apurímac’s School of Veterinary Medicine, the Animal Welfare Union, and the Denver Zoo.⁴¹

URUGUAY

Beginning of November 2025

Minas, Lavalleja Department, Uruguay



A total of 54 caged birds were seized from the garden of a private property, including yellow cardinals (*Gubernatrix cristata*, Appendix II), red-crested cardinals (*Paroaria coronata*, Appendix II), and blue-and-yellow tanagers (*Thraupis bonariensis*, synonymous with *Rauenia bonariensis*). They were transferred to the ECFA (Estación de Cría de Fauna Autóctona). A conspiracy had captured them with nets in the Pan de Azúcar and Sierra de las Animas forests, as well as in quarries. The birds were then sent to Minas before being sold at markets, on the streets, or via social media for between 4,000 and 6,000 pesos (100 US\$ to 150 US\$), depending on the species.⁴²

THE CARIBBEAN

JAMAICA

December 24, 2025

Mammee Bay, Saint Ann Parish, Jamaica

Two yellow-billed amazons (*Amazona collaria*, Appendix II) were recovered by the NEPA (National Environment and Planning Agency) and JCF (Jamaica Constabulary Force). One individual was charged with the illegal possession and sale of this species in violation of Section 6 of the Wild Life Protection Act. The parrots were transferred to Hope Zoo for a health evaluation. The Jamaica Observer notes that Jamaica’s native parrots play a vital role in maintaining healthy ecosystems and are afforded protection due to increasing threats from habitat loss and illegal trade.⁴³



CENTRAL ASIA

KYRGYZSTAN

January 2026

Papan, Osh Region, Kyrgyzstan; Bazar-Korgon District, Jalal-Abad Region, Kyrgyzstan; Toolos, Osh Region, Kyrgyzstan



- On January 1st, the Environmental and Technical Monitoring Service, the Department of Protected Natural Areas and Biodiversity, and the NGO NABU intercepted three individuals in possession of seven Himalayan goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis caniceps*, Appendix III in Ukraine). Each was fined 10,000 soms (115 US\$), and the birds were immediately released.

- A man was fined 10,000 soms (115 US\$) for illegally keeping Himalayan goldfinches. The birds were released. - Inspections in the Nookat district by the Department of Protected Natural Areas and Biodiversity, the police, and the NGO NABU culminated in four men being caught with 6 Himalayan goldfinches in cages. They were each fined 14,000 soms (160 US\$).⁴⁴

January 27, 2026

Konokbai-Talaa, Osh Region, Kyrgyzstan



Acting on a tip, the province's Environmental and Technical Monitoring Service rescued a golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*, Appendix II) that was held captive at a private residence. The owner was fined 20,000 soms (230 US\$), while the bird of prey took flight into the snow-capped mountains.⁴⁵



UZBEKISTAN

November 24 and 25, 2025

Navoiy Border Crossing, Tashkent Region, Uzbekistan. Border with Kazakhstan.

Customs officials seized 30 and then 380 European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine) from 2 people coming from Kazakhstan. The estimated value of the 410 songbirds is 80 million sums, or 6,600 US\$, and 16 US\$ per specimen on the domestic market. They were handed over to experts from the Department of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change of the Tashkent region and will be released into the wild as soon as possible.⁴⁶

TAJIKISTAN

Beginning of December 2025

Navobod-2, Sughd Region, Tajikistan

Reports have been filed against two individuals caught in the act of capturing European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine) by environmental protection officers.⁴⁷



EASTERN ASIA

CHINA

Beginning of November 2025

Pulandian District, Dalian Prefecture, Liaoning Province, China



In August 2025, an amateur ornithologist reported the presence of bird nets in rice paddies and reed beds to the authorities. An investigation was launched. It led to the dismantling of a well-organised network trafficking in passerines, which involved trapping along the migration corridors of yellow-breasted buntings (*Emberiza aureola*), relocating traps based on the birds' behaviour, consolidating the catch in six buildings, and transporting the cages in a black sedan to the final points of sale. The ringleader was arrested and placed in pretrial detention along with 8 accomplices. 1,200 yellow-breasted buntings and 350 other birds were seized alive and released. About 100 nets and traps were confiscated. The economic value of the birds is estimated at 3.6 million yuan (505,000 US\$), or 326 US\$ per specimen. "The criminals mainly sell rare birds for two purposes: some are consumed as game, while others are kept as pets for their melodious songs," explains Senior Engineer Li Hongbo, who is in charge of monitoring and evaluating the birds.⁴⁸

November 2025
Port of Xiamen, Fujian Province, China



Seizure in the luggage of 4 passengers upon disembarkation from a cruise ship of 76 parakeet eggs, including monk parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*, Appendix II) originating from Latin America and coconut lorikeet (*Trichoglossus haematodus*, Appendix II) originating from Indonesia and Oceania.⁴⁹

November 2025
Haikou Meilan International Airport, Hainan Province, China

Seizure of 12.169 kg of "bird's nests" from the luggage of 2 incoming passengers, or approximately 1,500 nests based on an average weight of 8 grammes per nest.⁵⁰

November 11, 2025 and December 2025
Qidong District, Nantong Prefecture, and Taixing, Taizhou Prefecture, Jiangsu Province, China

- Arrest of "Zhang" and "Liu." They were renting a house in the industrial zone and scouring the surrounding area in search of suitable locations to trap vinous-throated parrotbills (*Suthora webbiana*) using nets purchased online and by playing bird calls from their cell phones. An estimated 300 birds were captured, numbered, weighed, photographed, and offered for sale on a WeChat group (maximum price of 650 yuan per bird, or 90 US\$). Sixty vinous-throated parrotbills seized alive were released.
 - Arrest of "Yang," who was selling vinous-throated parrotbills online for between 90 and 960 yuan (12 to 135 US\$); seizure of capture nets, Bluetooth speakers used as bird calls, and 31 live vinous-throated parrotbills from his home.⁵¹



December 6, 2025 and January 18-19, 2026

Gongqingcheng, Jiujiang Prefecture, Jiangxi Province, China



In the lake's wetlands, about 100 white-naped cranes (*Antigone vipio*, Appendix I), hooded cranes (*Grus monacha*, Appendix I), common cranes (*Grus grus*, Appendix II), swan geese (*Anser cygnoides*), and white-fronted geese (*Anser albifrons*) were poisoned by toxic grains. All these birds typically arrive in pairs from Siberia to spend the winter in China and sometimes Japan. An ornithologist discovered the dead birds and immediately alerted authorities. The city police then set up a special investigation unit and arrested five suspects. The intended use of the poisoned birds remains unknown. Lake Poyang (4,000 km²) flows into the Yangtze River, and in the past has been home to finless porpoises (see "On the Trail" n°47, pp. 177–178, "When yesterday's poetry speaks today's truth").⁵²



White-naped cranes (*Antigone vipio*)

December 8 and 12, 2025
Zhuhai Prefecture, Guangdong Province, China. Border with Macau.

The importation of "bird's nests" is prohibited in China due to the risk of spreading avian influenza and other animal diseases. Only sterilized, canned nests are permitted. Three seizures were made back-to-back in vehicles entering from the Macao Special Administrative Region:

- 2.6 kg under the hood of a BMW at the Gongbei border crossing.
- 4.6 kg in the armrest of a car at the Hengqin checkpoint.
- 55.1 kg in a hidden compartment between the chassis and the battery of a bus at the Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macau Bridge border crossing.

These 3 seizures represent approximately 7,700 nests, based on an average weight of 8 grammes per nest.⁵³

December 12, 2025
Hong Kong International Airport, Région
Administrative Spéciale de Hong Kong, China



Further evidence of illegal breeding of exotic birds in Hong Kong or on the Chinese mainland via Hong Kong. Customs officials seized 714 eggs believed to be from wild species from the checked luggage of a 26-year-old passenger arriving from Thailand. Identification is underway.⁵⁴

December 29, 2025
Daxing District, Beijing Autonomous Municipality, China



"Ge" (a pseudonym) was sentenced on appeal to a fine of 52,500 yuan, or 7,400 US\$, for selling a stuffed rough-legged buzzard (*Buteo lagopus*, Appendix II) in April 2024 for 300 yuan, or 40 US\$, which he claimed to have found in his dead friend's home. The fine imposed at the trial court level was upheld, equivalent to 2.1 times the estimated ecological value of a live specimen.⁵⁵

January 24, 2026
Tanshizhen, Quzhou Prefecture, Zhejiang Province, China

Seizure by police at the border checkpoint between Zhejiang and Jiangxi provinces of a besra sparrowhawk (*Accipiter virgatus*, Appendix II), a Chinese bamboo partridge (*Bambusicola thoracicus*), and a silver pheasant (*Lophura nycthemera*), all alive. The 2 men had just captured them in the Yushan Forest in Jiangxi and were driving home to Kaihua in Zhejiang (100 km).⁵⁶

SOUTHEASTERN ASIA

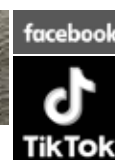
CAMBODIA

December 5, 2025
Prang, Sre Ambel District, Koh Kong Province, Cambodia

Seizure by rangers of 270 metres of nets used to catch birds from a "foreigner".⁵⁷

INDONESIA

November 10 and December 15, 2025
Brebes, Brebes Regency, and Semarang City, Central Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia



The Semarang High Court sentenced Rizki Gilang Andre Saputra, 23, to 3 years in prison and a fine of 200 million rupiah (12,000 US\$), or 2 additional months in prison for non-payment, for holding captive since 2023 a nankeen kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*, Appendix II), a changeable hawk-eagle (*Spizaetus cirrhatus*, Appendix II), and nine black-winged kites (*Elanus caeruleus*, Appendix II), all of which he intended to sell for profit. His punishment also includes his attempt to tame a Javan hawk-eagle (*Spizaetus bartelsi*, Appendix II) and teach it to hunt on behalf of a Tangerang Selatan resident. Saputra received one million rupiah, or 60 US\$, for each successful training session. At his initial trial on November 10, 2025, Saputra was sentenced to the same fine and alternate penalty but with six months in prison instead of three years. Saputra was arrested on July 19, 2025, at his parents' home in Kebogadung by the municipal police and forest police after an anti-poaching cyber patrol identified suspicious sales offers on TikTok and Facebook. The time spent in prison since his arrest will be deducted from the sentence imposed by the appellate court.⁵⁸

November 10 and December 16, 2025
Tanjung Karang, Bandar Lampung City, Lampung Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia



The Tanjung Karang High Court sentenced Mr. Yusuf, a truck driver, to 3 years in prison and a fine of 200 million rupiah (12,000 US\$), or an additional 4 months in prison in the event of non-payment, for attempting to smuggle 22 crimson sunbirds (*Aethopyga siparaja*), 49 blue-winged leafbirds (*Chloropsis cochinchinensis*), 28 lesser green leafbirds (*Chloropsis cyanopogon*), 30 greater green leafbirds (*Chloropsis sonnerati*), 3 blue-masked leafbirds (*Chloropsis venusta*), 35 Van Hasselt's sunbirds (*Leptocoma brasiliana*), 132 olive-backed sunbirds (*Cinnyris jugularis ornatus*), 11 Sunda bulbuls (*Ixos virescens*), 12 brown-cheeked bulbuls (*Alophoixus bres*), and 4 olive-winged bulbuls (*Pycnonotus plumosus*). He planned to deliver the birds to Mr. Wawan in the Jatiwarna neighbourhood of Bekasi (West Java province) and to Mr. Paris at the Pulo Gebang bus station (East Java province). The two recipients had promised him 1.9 million rupiah (equivalent to 110 US\$) and 500,000 rupiah (equivalent to 30 US\$) upon delivery. Meanwhile, the shippers on the island of Java, identified as Messrs. Haji and Yan Rijal, are on the run.

(.../...)

(.../...) At the trial court, Mr. Yusuf had been sentenced to the same fine and alternate penalty but with five years in prison instead of three. The High Court ruled that the trial court's prison sentence was excessive and failed to consider mitigating circumstances, namely that Yusuf is the breadwinner and must provide for his wife and four children, that he regrets his actions, and that the 326 birds were successfully reintroduced to their original habitats.⁵⁹

November 12, 2025

Manado City, North Sulawesi Province, Sulawesi Island, Indonesia

Fidel, 22, was sentenced to 3 years in prison following his arrest on May 15, 2025. He was caught red-handed transporting 6 azure-rumped parrots (*Tanygnathus sumatranus*, Appendix II) and 9 ornate lorikeets (*Trichoglossus ornatus*, Appendix II), stuffed into plastic bottles. He attempted to sell the parrots online for 250,000 rupiah (15 US\$) each and the ornate lorikeets for 200,000 rupiah. The time Fidel has spent in pretrial detention will be deducted from the court's sentence. The birds were released, except for two ornate lorikeets that did not survive the trauma of capture and transport.⁶⁰



November 13, 2025

Sukadana, East Lampung Regency, Lampung Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia

Edi Darmawan, a 40-year-old self-employed entrepreneur, was sentenced to 3 years in prison and fined 12,000 US\$, or an additional 3 months in the event of non-payment, for delivering birds to a man named Anwar, who is on the run, between 2024 and 2025. At the time of his arrest, he was caught with 27 greater green leafbirds (*Chloropsis sonnerati*), 3 lesser green leafbirds (*Chloropsis cyanopogon*), and 15 blue-winged leafbirds (*Chloropsis cochichinensis*) – all weak and dehydrated but thrilled to be released. For the last two years, Darmawan ran a small bird stall and trafficked species protected by national law, violating the Law on the Conservation of Natural Biological Resources and Their Ecosystems, introduced in 1990 and amended in 2024.⁶¹



November 17, 2025

Palu City, Central Sulawesi Province, Sulawesi Island, Indonesia

On first instance, Ahmad Dahlan, a seller of birds and bird feed under the alias Papa Dipa, was sentenced to 3 years in prison and a fine of 200 million rupiah (11,930 US\$), which would be replaced by an additional month in prison in the event of non-payment. He had purchased 16 ornate lorikeets (*Trichoglossus ornatus*, Appendix II) from an unidentified individual for 100,000 rupiah (5.60 US\$) each and attempted to resell them for 130,000 rupiah.⁶²



November 18, 2025

Sidoarjo, Sidoarjo Regency, East Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia

Zainal Arifin, a 34-year-old schoolteacher, was sentenced in the first instance to 3 years in prison and a 25 million rupiah (1,500 US\$) fine, or an additional 2 months in prison, for the possession of 3 salmon-crested cockatoos (*Cacatua moluccensis*, Appendix I), one Tanimbar corella (*Cacatua goffiniana*, Appendix I), 6 sulphur-crested cockatoos (*Cacatua galerita*, Appendix II), and one white cockatoo (*Cacatua alba*, Appendix II). They are native to the Moluccas and considered exotic on the island of Java. He had purchased them for between 2.1 million and 5 million rupiah (between 125 US\$ and 300 US\$) each and hoped to resell them for between 3 million and 6 million rupiah (between 180 US\$ and 360 US\$).⁶³



November 19, 2025

Pangkalpinang City, Bangka Belitung Islands Province, Indonesia

Antonio Saputra, alias Kribo, and Maknor, alias M, both 28-year-old day labourers, were each sentenced to 3 years in prison and a 10 million rupiah (600 US\$) fine, with an additional 6 months in prison for non-payment, as well as 5,000 rupiah (0.30 US\$) in court costs for trafficking two white-bellied sea eagles (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*, Appendix II) in February 2025. Maknor had captured them in nets, while Saputra was supposed to transport them to Jakarta, disguised as a pepper shipment, to someone named Mr. Adrian for 250,000 rupiah (150 US\$) per bird.⁶⁴



December 2, 2025

Tanjung Karang, Bandar Lampung City, Lampung Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia

Lukmanudin, a 34-year-old self-employed worker, was sentenced to 3 years in prison, a 100 million rupiah (5,960 US\$) fine or 2 additional months in prison in case of non-payment, and 5,000 rupiah (0.30 US\$) in court costs for attempting to resell a live yellow-crested cockatoo (*Cacatua sulphurea*, Appendix I) and two live black-capped lorises (*Lorius lory*, Appendix II) on Facebook. He purchased them on Facebook in early March 2025, paying 2.5 million rupiah (150 US\$) for the cockatoo and 2.7 million rupiah (160 US\$) for the two lorises, and kept them as pets for three months.⁶⁵



December 8, 2025

Surabaya City, East Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia

Mochamad Askan was sentenced to one year and 10 months in prison, a 200 million rupiah (11,920 US\$) fine or an additional month in prison in the event of non-payment, and 5,000 rupiah (0.30 US\$) in court costs for the illegal possession of 2 red-breasted parakeets (*Psittacula alexandri*, Appendix II), 2 black-capped lorries (*Lorius lory*, Appendix II), one olive-headed lorikeet (*Trichoglossus euteles*, Appendix II), and 3 ornate lorikeets (*Trichoglossus ornatus*, Appendix II).⁶⁶



REPEATED OFFENCE

December 11, 2025

Sidoarjo, Sidoarjo Regency, East Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia

Samsul Arifin, 21, was sentenced in the first instance to 3 years in prison, a 50 million rupiah (3,000 US\$) fine or an additional month in prison in the event of non-payment, and 2,000 rupiah (0.12 US\$) in court costs for selling a sun conure (*Aratinga solstitialis*, Appendix II, native to Latin America) over Facebook and attempting to sell two red lorises (*Eos rubra*, Appendix II) and two coconut lorikeets (*Trichoglossus haematodus*, Appendix II).⁶⁷



January 7, 2026

Patokan, Situbondo Regency, East Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia

Masir, alias Mr. Sey, 75, was sentenced to 5 months and 20 days in prison and ordered to pay 5,000 rupiah (0.30 US\$) in court costs for capturing 5 long-tailed shrikes (*Lanius schach*) in Baluran National Park using glue traps and grasshoppers as bait (see "On the Trail" n°47, p. 90, map of bird seizures).⁶⁸



January 12, 2026

Ponorogo, Ponorogo Regency, East Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia

Unemployed 21-year-old Bramasta Rosadinaya was sentenced to 5 months and 10 days in prison and ordered to pay 5,000 rupiah (0.30 US\$) in court costs for the illegal possession of a spotted kestrel (*Falco moluccensis*, Appendix II), a brahmyn kite (*Haliastur indus*, Appendix II), a grey-headed fish-eagle (*Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*, Appendix II), and two crested goshawks (*Accipiter trivirgatus*, Appendix II). Rosadinaya fled while authorities recovered the birds at his home on July 1, 2025, but was arrested on August 15, 2025. The two crested goshawks died after their rescue.⁶⁹



January 21, 2026

Sungguminasa, Gowa Regency, South Sulawesi Province, Sulawesi Island, Indonesia

Luqman Daeng Bilu, 45, was sentenced to 2 years and 8 months in prison, a fine of 200 million rupiah (11,920 US\$) with an additional month in prison in the event of non-payment, and 3,000 rupiah (0.20 US\$) in court costs for attempting to resell 48 Nicobar pigeons (*Caloenas nicobarica*, Appendix I) over Facebook (see "On the Trail" n°48, pp. 99–100). He had purchased them from a man named Ahmad for between 12 and 18 US\$ per bird and marketed them to a group of "rare bird enthusiasts." The younger pigeons were listed for 24 US\$, the adults for 30 US\$ to 40 US\$ per specimen.⁷⁰



January 21, 2026

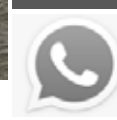
Madiun, Madiun City, East Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia

Akbar Fauzy, aged 32, a day labourer and owner of a bird shop, has been sentenced to 5 months' imprisonment, a fine of one million rupiah (60 US\$) with an additional 10 days' imprisonment in the event of non-payment, and 5,000 rupiah (0.3 US\$) in court costs for purchasing via Facebook and reselling in his shop and via WhatsApp blue-crowned hanging parrots (*Loriculus galgulus*, Appendix II), blue-masked leafbirds (*Chloropsis venusta*), greater green leafbirds (*Chloropsis sonnerati*) and blue-winged leafbirds (*Chloropsis cochinchinensis*) for prices ranging from 80,000 to 350,000 rupiah (5 to 20 US\$) per bird.⁷¹

January 28, 2026

Bangkinang, Bangkinang Regency, Riau Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia

Muhammad Zikri, alias Zikri, a 29-year-old animal street vendor, was sentenced to 8 months in prison and ordered to pay 5,000 rupiah (0.30 US\$) in court costs after being caught red-handed attempting to resell three blue-crowned hanging parrots (*Loriculus galgulus*, Appendix II) for 40,000 rupiah (2.40 US\$) each on August 11, 2025. He had purchased them the day before from a man named Diru for half that price. One of the blue-crowned hanging parrots died shortly after its rescue.⁷²



January 29, 2026

**Kalianda, South Lampung Regency,
Lampung Province, Sumatra Island,
Indonesia**



Hendrik Arum Eko Prasetyo was sentenced to 2 years in prison, a fine of 50 million rupiah (2,940 US\$) with 50 days' probation in the event of non-payment, and 2,000 rupiah (0.10 US\$) in court costs; Pandu Ajialang Pamungkas was sentenced to one year and four months in prison, a fine of 30 million rupiah (1,760 US\$) with 30 days' probation in case of non-payment, and 2,000 rupiah (0.10 US\$) in court costs. Both men were

caught transporting 1,298 birds by bus without the relevant documents, specifically 425 Javan mynas (*Acridotheres javanicus*), 350 prinias (genus *Prinia*), 300 olive-backed sunbirds (*Cinnyris jugularis*), 120 shrikes (family Laniidae), 35 scarlet-breasted flowerpeckers (*Prionochilus thoracicus*), 25 common ioras (*Aegithina tiphia*), 25 woodpeckers (genus *Picus*), 9 fulvous-chested jungle flycatchers (*Cyornis olivaceus*), 6 blue-masked leafbirds (*Chloropsis venusta*) and 3 Sunda bulbuls (*Ixos virescens*). They were transporting the birds from Kayu Agung in South Sumatra Province to Jakarta on the island of Java (see "On the Trail" n°47, p. 90).⁷³

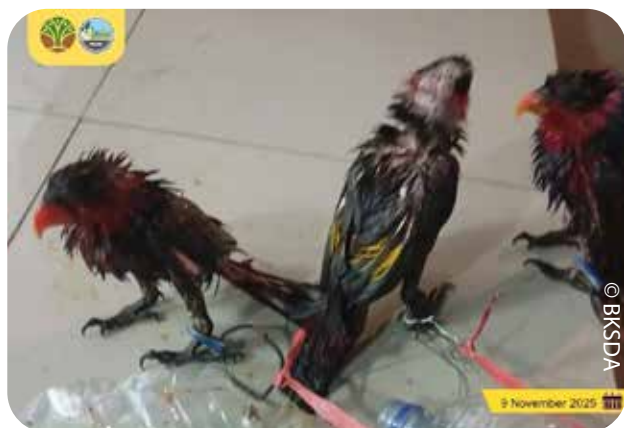
Seizures and poaching of 14,277 birds between November 1, 2025 and January 31, 2026 Maps and details on the following pages



8 birds including 4 coconut lorikeets (*Trichoglossus haematodus*)
January 27, 2026
Special Capital Region of Jakarta



Seizure of 7,355 birds, including 5,720 weavers (family Ploceidae) and 388 yellow-ringed white-eyes (*Zosterops wallacei*), from a lorry heading for the port of Padangbai, and release into the wild
January 20, 2026, Bali Province



3 black-capped lorries (*Lorius lory*)
November 9, 2025, Maluku Province

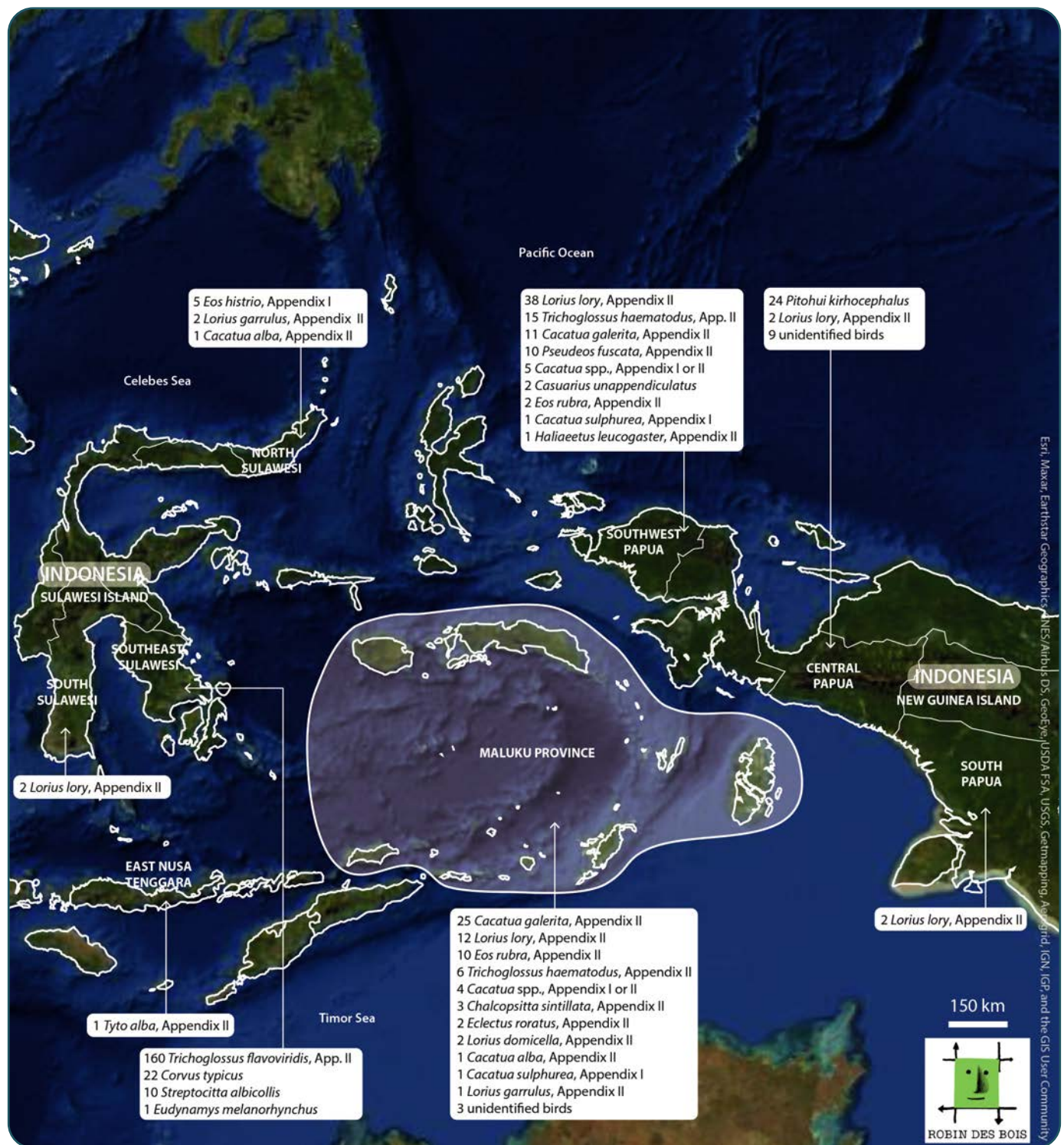


Black-capped lory (*Lorius lory*)

INDONESIA

Seizures and poaching of 14,277 birds between November 1, 2025 and January 31, 2026





**Seizures and poaching of 14,277 birds between
November 1, 2025 and January 31, 2026
Map details**

5,720 weavers (family Ploceidae)
2636 white-eyes (genus *Zosterops*)
934 Oriental magpie-robins (*Copsychus saularis*)
640 prinias (genus *Prinia*)
460 citrine lorikeets (*Trichoglossus flavoviridis*, Appendix II) including 300 *Trichoglossus flavoviridis meyeri*
388 olive-backed sunbirds (*Cinnyris jugularis*) including 313 *Cinnyris jugularis ornatus*
388 yellow-ringed white-eyes (*Zosterops wallacei*)
306 bar-winged prinias (*Prinia familiaris*)
300 grosbeak starlings (*Scissirostrum dubium*)
250 zebra finches (*Taeniopygia guttata*)
180 yellow-vented bulbuls (*Pycnonotus goiavier*)
170 Japanese white-eyes (*Zosterops japonicus*)
135 fulvous-chested jungle flycatchers (*Cyornis olivaceus*)
125 long-tailed shrikes (*Lanius schach*)
105 shrikes (family Laniidae)
72 ashy tailorbirds (*Orthotomus ruficeps*)
72 grey-headed babblers (*Stachyris poliocephala*)
71 honeyeaters (family Meliphagidae)
62 rufous-tailed tailorbirds (*Orthotomus sericeus*)
60 brown-cheeked bulbuls (*Alophoixus bres*)
60 thrushes (genus *Geokichla*)
57 munias (genus *Lonchura*)
56 black-capped lorries (*Lorius lory*, Appendix II)
56 sunbirds (family Nectariniidae)
50 woodpeckers (family Picidae)
45 blue-breasted blue flycatchers (*Cyornis herioti*)
45 flycatchers (genus *Ficedula*)
45 laughingthrushes (genus *Garrulax*)
45 purple-throated sunbirds (*Leptocoma sperata*)
45 velvet-fronted nuthatches (*Sitta frontalis*)
45 drongo-cuckoos (genus *Surniculus*)
45 Indian paradise flycatchers (*Terpsiphone paradisi*)
37 sulphur-crested cockatoos (*Cacatua galerita*, Appendix II)
28 flowerpeckers (family Dicaeidae)
25 coconut lorikeets (*Trichoglossus haematodus*, Appendix II)
24 variable pitohuis (*Pitohui kirhocephalus*)
22 yellow-crested cockatoos (*Cacatua sulphurea*, Appendix I)
22 flame-breasted sunbirds (*Cinnyris solaris*)
22 piping crows (*Corvus typicus*)
22 chattering lorries (*Lorius garrulus*, Appendix II)
20 drongos (family Dicruridae)
20 eclectic parrots (*Eclectus roratus*, Appendix II)
20 black-capped bulbuls (*Pycnonotus melanicterus*)
20 Blyth's paradise flycatchers (*Terpsiphone affinis*)
20 hairy-backed bulbuls (*Tricholestes criniger*)
17 large-fig parrots (*Psittaculirostris desmarestii*, Appendix II)
15 ornate lorikeets (*Trichoglossus ornatus*, A. II)
13 salmon-crested cockatoos (*Cacatua moluccensis*, Appendix I)
13 Psittaciformes, Appendix I or II except 4 species
12 red lorries (*Eos rubra*, Appendix II)

10 tiger shrikes (*Lanius tigrinus*)
10 dusky lorries (*Pseudeos fuscata*, Appendix II)
10 white-necked mynas (*Streptocitta albicollis*)
9 cockatoos (*Cacatua* spp., Appendix I or II)
9 birds of paradise (Paradisaeidae, Appendix II)
8 cinereous tits (*Parus cinereus*)
8 changeable hawk-eagles (*Spizaetus cirrhatus*, Appendix II)
7 black drongos (*Dicrurus macrocercus*)
6 black-winged kites (*Elanus caeruleus*, Appendix II)
5 concave-casqued hornbills (*Buceros bicornis*, Appendix I)
5 red-and-blue lorries (*Eos histrio*, Appendix I)
5 zebra dove (*Geopelia striata*)
5 streaked bulbuls (*Ixos malaccensis*)
5 long-tailed parakeets (*Psittacula longicauda*, Appendix II)
4 crested goshawks (*Accipiter trivirgatus*, Appendix II)
4 blue-streaked lorries (*Eos reticulata*, Appendix II)
4 crested serpent eagles (*Spilornis cheela*, A. II)
3 yellow-streaked lorries (*Chalcopsitta sintillata*, Appendix II)
3 white-rumped shamas (*Copsychus malabaricus*, Appendix II)
3 Nias hill mynas (*Gracula religiosa robusta*, A. II)
2 black-headed bulbuls (*Brachypodius melanocephalos*)
2 hornbills (family Bucerotidae)
2 white cockatoos (*Cacatua alba*, Appendix II)
2 Northern cassowaries (*Casuarius unappendiculatus*)
2 ashy drongos (*Dicrurus leucophaeus*)
2 indigo flycatchers (*Eumyias indigo*)
2 black-naped monarchs (*Hypothymis azurea*)
2 Bali mynas (*Leucopsar rothschildi*, Appendix I)
2 purple-naped lorries (*Lorius domicella*, Appendix II)
2 Melanesian megapodes (*Megapodius eremita*)
2 Pesquet's parrots (*Psittarchas fulgidus*, Appendix II)
2 wrens (family Troglodytidae)
1 Chinese sparrowhawk (*Accipiter soloensis*, Appendix II)
1 common myna (*Acridotheres tristis*)
1 Tanimbar corella (*Cacatua goffiniana*, Appendix I)
1 little bronze cuckoo (*Chalcites minutillus*)
1 lesser green leafbird (*Chloropsis cyanopogon*)
1 greater green leafbird (*Chloropsis sonnerati*)
1 blue-masked leafbird (*Chloropsis venusta*)
1 violet cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus*)
1 common green magpie (*Cissa chinensis*)
1 Wilson's bird-of-paradise (*Diphyllodes respublica*, Appendix II)
1 black-billed koel (*Eudynamis melanorhynchus*)
1 orange-headed thrush (*Geokichla citrina*)
1 white-bellied sea eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*, Appendix II)
1 brahminy kite (*Haliastur indus*, Appendix II)
1 palm cockatoo (*Probosciger aterrimus*, Appendix I)
1 sooty-headed bulbul (*Pycnonotus aurigaster*)
1 wreathed hornbill (*Rhyticeros undulatus*, A. II)
1 Javan hawk-eagle (*Spizaetus bartelsi*, Appendix II)
1 barn owl (*Tyto alba*, Appendix II)
1 Sunda pygmy woodpecker (*Yungipicus moluccensis*)
70 unidentified birds

MALAYSIA

November 9, 2025

Kijal, State of Terengganu, Malaysia

Seizure of 16 blue-rumped parrots (*Psittinus cyanurus*, Appendix II) by the maritime police and Perhilitan (Department of Wildlife and National Parks), with an estimated value of 80,000 ringgits or 20,000 US\$ and 1,250 US\$ per bird.⁷⁴

November 19, 2025

Kahang, State of Johor, Malaysia

Seizure of 3 hanging parrots (*Loriculus* spp., Appendix II) and 2 cages from a man's home. Malaysia is home to blue-crowned hanging parrots (*Loriculus galgulus*, Appendix II). The value of the seizure is estimated at 700 ringgits (170 US\$).⁷⁵

December 15, 2025

Gua Musang, State of Kelantan, Malaysia

Seizure of 2 white-rumped shamas (*Copsychus malabaricus*, Appendix II) and a red junglefowl (*Gallus gallus*) from farm workers' shacks. Five undocumented workers from Myanmar were handed over to the police. Gua Musang is known for its durian (*Durio zibethinus*) plantations.⁷⁶

December 17, 2025

Semenyih, State of Selangor, Malaysia

Arrest in the act of a man who had been trapping birds in the forest for the past 2 days. Seizure of birds of prey (Falconiformes or Strigiformes, Appendix I or II, except for 6 species), leafbirds (family Chloropsidae), and a white-breasted waterhen (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*).⁷⁷

End of December 2025

State of Kelantan, Malaysia

Seizures from 6 farms of 18 live birds valued at 10,500 ringgits (2,600 US\$, or 140 US\$ per bird): a parakeet (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II except for 3 species), a leafbird (family Chloropsidae) and 16 white-rumped shamas (*Copsychus malabaricus*, Appendix II) and streak-eared bulbuls (*Pycnonotus conradi*). Six farm workers aged between 20 and 50 were arrested. "Investigators believe the suspects are involved in the capture of birds intended for breeding and sale," said Datuk Abdul Kadir Abu Hashim, the Director-General of Perhilitan.⁷⁸

PHILIPPINES

Beginning of December 2025

Sicalao, Province of Cagayan, Philippines

According to a report by Ali Cabison, an animal rights activist with a local NGO, a man shot a rufous hornbill (*Buceros hydrocorax*, Appendix II) near a stream and ate it right there. Cabison found the remains. He filmed the red helmet and the legs and posted an appeal on social media calling for peace toward hornbills.⁷⁹

Mid-January 2026

Olongapo, Province of Zambales, Philippines

The 9 Philippine hanging parrots (*Loriculus philippensis*, Appendix II), known locally as "Kulasisi," that were seized by the port city's maritime police were handed over to the local office of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.⁸⁰

SINGAPORE

December 6, 2025

Woodlands Checkpoint, Singapore. Border with Malaysia.

The 5 Oriental white-eyes (*Zosterops palpebrosus*) were in a plastic crate covered by a raincoat in the storage compartment of the motorbike that was about to enter into Malaysia. Customs will consider the option of releasing them with the Singapore National Parks Board.⁸¹

THAILAND

November 10, 2025

Phu Sa Dok Bua National Park, Amnat Charoen Province, Thailand

A patrol of forest rangers arrested Preecha, 53, and recovered a vehicle, a rifle, 6 rounds of ammunition, a knife, 6 dead black-naped orioles (*Oriolus chinensis*), and a dead lineated barbet (*Psilopogon lineatus*).⁸²

VIET NAM

November and december 2025, january 2026

Bac Ninh, Dong Nai, Hung Yen, Ninh Binh, Quang Ninh, Tuyen Quang and Vinh Long Provinces, Viet Nam



A total of 5,051 live birds were seized from 14 bird shops, street vendors' stalls and traffickers. Sales channels are often a mix of shops and social media. Three bird shops were fined between 6 million dong (227 US\$) and 15 million dong (571 US\$), an insufficiently deterrent sum, as evidenced by the repeated offence of a bird trapper from Ninh Binh province who had already been fined 4 million dong for buying birds from poachers-trappers. Four street vendors were each fined 6 million dong, the same amount as some established shopkeepers. Sales in the vicinity of temples are still active. A trapper who resold birds through a local distribution channel was fined 3 million dong (113.5 US\$) for hunting and possessing wild animals, and 13.75 million dong for 11 online sales advertisements (520 US\$ and 47 US\$ per advertisement).

(.../...)

(.../...) These operations were carried out by provincial and local police forces, in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Crime Prevention and Control under the Ministry of Public Security and the Regional Forestry Directorates. Some of the information leading to these seizures was obtained thanks to the ENV hotline (Education for Nature – Vietnam): 1800-1522 (from within Viet Nam, Monday to Friday, 8.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.).

These 5,051 birds include:

- 409 white-eyes including chestnut-flanked white-eyes (*Zosterops erythropleurus*)
- 253 red-whiskered bulbuls (*Pycnonotus jocosus*).
- 145 flowerpeckers (family Dicaeidae).
- 122 red-billed leiothrixes (*Leiothrix lutea*, Appendix II) and some silver-eared mesias (*Leiothrix argentauris*, Appendix II).
- 66 zebra doves (*Geopelia striata*).
- 66 spotted doves (*Spilopelia chinensis*).
- 64 grey-headed parakeets (*Psittacula finschii*, Appendix II) and 54 budgerigars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*)
- 54 white-rumped shamas (*Copsychus malabaricus*, Appendix II)
- 50 pin-tailed parrotfinches (*Erythrura prasina*).
- 31 white-crested laughingthrushes (*Garrulax leucolophus*), 11 black-throated laughingthrushes (*Garrulax chinensis*) and 9 lesser necklaced laughingthrushes (*Garrulax monileger*).
- 22 common mynas (*Acridotheres tristis*).
- hill mynas (*Gracula religiosa*, Appendix II), red-vented bulbuls (*Pycnonotus cafer*), crows (family Corvidae) ...

Most of the birds were released back into the wild.⁸³



December 9, 2025, Da Nang Municipality, Viet Nam
Release of red-whiskered bulbuls (*Pycnonotus jocosus*), white-eyes (family Zosteropidae) and red-billed leiothrixes (*Leiothrix lutea*)

Beginning of November 2025 Phu Dinh, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam



A man was fined 7.5 million dong (285 US\$) following his arrest on June 17, 2025, for the possession of a black-shouwinged kite (*Elanus caeruleus*, Appendix II), two crested goshawks (*Accipiter trivirgatus*, Appendix II), and 11 shikras (*Accipiter badius*, Appendix II), which he attempted to sell online.⁸⁴



November 14, 2025 An Khe, Da Nang City, Viet Nam



A bird shop was fined 8.75 million dong (330 US\$) for attempting to sell online, on seven separate occasions, red-whiskered bulbuls (*Pycnonotus jocosus*), white-eyes (family Zosteropidae), Oriental magpie-robins (*Copsychus saularis*), common mynas (*Acridotheres tristis*), munias (genus *Lonchura*), spotted doves (*Spilopelia chinensis*), and red turtle doves (*Streptopelia tranquebarica*). The shop failed to comply with the provisions of Circular 27/2025 issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, regulating the management of endangered, precious and rare species, the breeding of common forest species, and implementation of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). In effect since July 1, 2025, it names the species whose removal from the wild and trade are prohibited or restricted.⁸⁵

November 28, 2025

Quang Ninh, Thanh Hoa Province, Viet Nam

Fine of 4.25 million dong\$ or 170 US\$ for the owner of a live crested goshawk (*Accipiter trivirgatus*, Appendix II) of unknown origin, who was attempting to sell it online. The average weight of an adult crested goshawk is 300 grammes. A tip-off via the ENV hotline enabled the forest police to put a stop to the dirty trick.⁸⁶



FAMILY AFFAIRS

December 11, 2025

Quang Ninh Province, Viet Nam

A woman was fined 620 US\$ for attempting to sell online black drongos (*Dicrurus macrocercus*), koels (genus *Eudynamys*), black-crowned night herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), and egrets (family Ardeidae) that her husband had allegedly captured legally.⁸⁷



December 28, 2025

Quy Chau, Nghe An Province, Viet Nam

Pleasant pheasant

Mr Vi Van Dau was looking for firewood in the forest, a two-hour walk from his village of Mun. When he reached the top of the mountain, he heard something that sounded like a bird's cry. It was indeed a bird, but not just any bird: a black-and-white pheasant with a bright yellow beak and vivid red legs – in short, a *Crossoptilon crossoptilon*, or white eared-pheasant, listed in Appendix I of CITES, caught in a rope-snare. Mr Dau, a connoisseur of poultry, estimated that the bird weighed around 2 kg. Aware of the bird's rarity, he released it whilst recording the event on his mobile phone. It does not appear that, on the eve of the year 2026, Vi Van Dau received any recognition from the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, which, in its 2025 circular, confirmed that the white eared-pheasant was on the list of endangered, rare and precious forest animals.⁸⁸



January 5, 2026

Trung An, Dong Thap Province, Viet Nam

Handing over by Nguyen Tan H. to the provincial forestry authorities of 2 oriental pied hornbills (*Anthracoceros albirostris*, Appendix II) which he had purchased on the Internet. Mr H. stated that he had not been aware, prior to the purchase, that the species was protected in Viet Nam and internationally. Through this gesture of understanding and remorse, H. has avoided legal proceedings and has given a written undertaking not to commit offences of this kind in future.⁸⁹

January 5, 2026

Tan Viet Hoa, Bac Ninh Province, Viet Nam

Q., 32, was fined 15 million dong\$ (570 US\$) for offering for sale via TikTok and Facebook black-throated laughingthrushes (*Garrulax chinensis*), red-whiskered bulbuls (*Pycnonotus jocosus*), Chinese hwamei (*Garrulax canorus*, Appendix II), and magpie-robins (genus *Copsychus*).⁹⁰



facebook



January 12, 2026

Tan Thanh, Lam Dong Province, Viet Nam

A fine of 320 US\$ was imposed on Ms. O. for purchasing 16 wild birds—including koels (genus *Eudynamys*), doves (family Columbidae), and egrets (family Ardeidae)—through illegal channels, transporting them, and attempting to sell them via Facebook.⁹¹



facebook

January 12, 2026

Lam Dong Province, Viet Nam

High alert ahead of the Lunar New Year and its festivities. Seizure of 16 dead birds ready for barbecues: 10 munias (genus *Lonchura*), 5 cinnamon bitterns (*Botaurus cinnamomeus*), and one Asian koel (*Eudynamys scolopaceus*). Fine of 327 US\$.⁹²



January 16, 2026

Van Quan, Lang Son Province, Viet Nam

T. was fined 1.25 million dong\$ (47 US\$) for each of the 9 posts on his Facebook account offering scops owls (*Otus* spp., Appendix II) and crested goshawks (*Accipiter trivirgatus*, Appendix II) for sale, for a total of 11.25 million dong\$ (430 US\$). T. touted their quality, specifying that they had been captured in the wild.⁹³

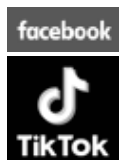


facebook

January 19, 2026

Phu Yen, Son La Province, Viet Nam

A fine of 8 million dongs (310 US\$) was imposed on a 17-year-old minor who attempted to sell through TikTok and Facebook birds of prey such as the crested goshawk (*Accipiter trivirgatus*, Appendix II), the shikra (*Accipiter badius*, Appendix II), the changeable hawk-eagle (*Spizaetus cirrhatus*, Appendix II), and the besra sparrowhawk (*Accipiter virgatus*, Appendix II). The fine is proportionate to the offender's age. He may have been "recruited" by his family precisely to avoid severe penalties in the event of legal trouble.⁹⁴



January 23 and 28, 2026

Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam

A resident of Ba Diem, on the outskirts of Ho Chi Minh City, has been fined 3 million dongs (110 US\$) for having, on January 23, 2026, kept at his home and attempted to sell a sun conure (*Aratinga solstitialis*, Appendix II) and a red-breasted parakeet (*Psittacula alexandri*, Appendix II).⁹⁵



SOUTHERN ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

November 2025

Ghazni Province, Afghanistan

Release of 2 falcons (*Falco* spp., Appendix I or II) that had been caught by a resident of the province's 3rd district by officers from the Provincial Environment Directorate. It was established that the individual had breached Prime Ministerial Order n°14-14, which prohibits hunting throughout the territory, and he will be brought before the relevant judicial authorities.⁹⁶

December 17, 2025

Badakhshan Province, Afghanistan



Seizure by the security forces of a juvenile bearded vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*, Appendix II) from a private individual's home and release into the wild by the Provincial Directorate for Environmental Protection.⁹⁷

December 2025 and January 2026

Orozgan Province, Afghanistan

A total of 64 live red-fronted serins (*Serinus pusillus*) were seized during 3 operations carried out by officers from the Department of Environmental Protection.⁹⁸

BANGLADESH

January 2, 2026

Keraniganj Upazila, Dhaka Division, Bangladesh

The Wildlife Crime Control Unit of the Dhaka Forest Department seized, from the storeroom of a bird shop, 5 hill mynas (*Gracula religiosa*, Appendix II), 4 parakeets (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II except 3 species) and 3 Indian pond herons (*Ardeola grayii*), caught in the wild and immediately returned back to the wild.⁹⁹

January 13, 2026

Uttara, Dhaka Division, Bangladesh

The Wildlife Crime Control Unit of the Forest Department seized 8 cormorants (family Phalacrocoracidae), 3 black-crowned night herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), 3 gulls (family Laridae) and 2 lesser whistling ducks (*Dendrocygna javanica*) from a poultry trader.¹⁰⁰



January 15, 2026

Safipur, Dhaka Division, Bangladesh

Forest rangers intervene at the Safipur market and seize 10 rose-ringed parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*), 12 common mynas (*Acridotheres tristis*), and 2 doves (family Columbinae), and release them immediately back into the wild.¹⁰¹

January 30, 2026

Narayanganj, Dhaka Division, Bangladesh

The Wildlife Crime Control Unit of the Forest Department seized in Fatullah neighbourhood 5 hill mynas (*Gracula religiosa*, Appendix II), 3 rose-ringed parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*), an Indian pond heron (*Ardeola grayii*) and 6 munias (family Estrildidae), all alive, 15 birds caught in the wild and immediately returned back to the wild.¹⁰²

INDIA

November and December 2025 and January 2026

States of West Bengal, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, India

Arrest of 16 traffickers and seizure of 1,109 birds by the Department of Forests, Customs, the WCCB (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau), and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI):

- 1,071 rose-ringed parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*) and Alexandrine parakeets (*Psittacula eupatria*, Appendix II). The largest seizure (334) took place at the Varanasi train station from smugglers who were buying the birds for between 150 and 200 rupees each (1.7–2.2 US\$) in Uttar Pradesh and reselling them for ten times that price in West Bengal.

- 11 cockatiels (*Nymphicus hollandicus*).

- 9 blue-and-gold macaws (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II), African grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*, Appendix I), blue-crowned parakeets (*Aratinga acuticaudata*, Appendix II), and green-cheeked conures (*Pyrrhura molinae*, Appendix II) in a roadside pub.

- 7 plum-headed parakeets (*Psittacula cyanocephala*, Appendix II).

- 6 tarctic hornbills (*Penelopides panini*, Appendix II), 2 iris lorikeets (*Psitteuteles iris*, Appendix II), and 3 sun conures (*Aratinga solstitialis*, Appendix II) at Cochin International Airport in the luggage of a couple travelling with their 7-year-old child, arriving from Bangkok via Kuala Lumpur. The sedated birds were in crates placed inside a large suitcase. Only the husband was charged. "It is learnt that smugglers use common travellers as carriers, often couples with young children," said a senior customs officer.

- 4 lorises (subfamily Loriinae, 35 species listed in Appendix II), 2 hanging parrots (*Loriculus* spp., 11 species listed in Appendix II), and a sun conure, at the Kolkata airport in luggage arriving from Bangkok.¹⁰³



Alexandrine parakeet (*Psittacula eupatria*)

November and December 2025 and January 2026 States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Pendjab, and Rajasthan, India

- Seizure of 12 live Indian peafowls (*Pavo cristatus*, Appendix III in Pakistan), along with parakeets, by the Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force (STF), the Department of Forests, and the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) from a vehicle operated by smugglers specialising in the West Bengal–Uttar Pradesh route.

- Seizure by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) of 33 live Indian peafowls, along with 5 partridges and 2 common emerald doves, stuffed into plastic bags in car S-7 at Dehri-on-Sone station aboard the Kalinga Utkal Express (2,367 km and 73 stops).

- Arrest of 3 individuals who were preparing to kill, cook, and eat an Indian peafowl: Rooplal Meena, Rajasthan Congress leader; Arjun Meena, who already faces more than 50 criminal charges; and Rakesh Meena, who faces 16. They were released on bail after 10 days in custody. When he was going out, Rooplal was welcomed by his supporters and Congress Party members with music and garlands of flowers.

- Seizure of a stuffed Indian peafowl at Sri Guru Ram Das Ji International Airport (Amritsar) in the luggage of a passenger arriving from Bangkok.¹⁰⁴

November 7, 2025

Umari, Chandrapur District, State of Maharashtra, India

Seizure at a poaching camp on the shores of Lake Umari of 225 dead streak-throated swallows (*Petrochelidon fluvicola*), 7 nets, 16 bamboo stakes, 8 wooden posts, and a motorcycle. Arrest of 4 men from Pardi, a village in Gadchiroli district. Speaking on condition of anonymity, a forest ranger told the Times of India that in Gadchiroli (55,000 residents in the town, more than one million in the district), there is high demand for streak-throated swallows for food.¹⁰⁵

November 19, 2025 and December 2, 2025

Lake Chilika, State of Odisha, India

- Pradeep Mallick was apprehended by Forest Department officers on patrol along the lake's shores while in possession of 23 northern pintails (*Anas acuta*), 9 garganey (*Anas querquedula*), 8 pheasant-tailed jacanas (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*), 3 northern shovelers (*Anas clypeata*), and one dead bronze-winged jacana (*Metopidius indicus*). His accomplice, Bhalu Bhola, managed to escape.

- Sheikh Mustak was apprehended in possession of a dead little egret (*Egretta garzetta*) and a dead cattle egret (*Bubulcus ibis*), a homemade rifle, and ammunition. Lake Chilika, located near the Bay of Bengal, is a Ramsar Site (wetland of international importance) and a hotspot for poaching. "The winged guests, mostly from beyond the Himalayas in the Northern Eurasia, Caspian region, Siberia, Kazakhstan, Lake Baikal and the remote areas of Russia and neighbouring countries, visit the Chilika every winter and start their homeward journey before the onset of summer in the first or second week of March," explain the authorities, who have set up 21 temporary anti-poaching camps and are using drones to assist in their efforts.¹⁰⁶

November 23, 2025

Shahpur, Ahmedabad District, State of Gujarat, India

Following confidential information received on Sunday, November 23, the SOG (Special Operations Group) and the Ahmedabad Forest Division raided a private residence and seized 101 rose-ringed parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*). The birds were transferred to the Bodakdev Wildlife Care Center.¹⁰⁷

December 10 and 17, 2025

Ukhrul, State of Manipur, India

Seized during a routine inspection conducted by the Department of Forests: one brown hornbill (*Anorrhinus tickelli*, Appendix II), 3 kalij pheasants (*Lophura leucomelanos*, Appendix III in Pakistan), one barred cuckoo-dove (*Macropygia unchall*), and 27 other birds, including black-crested bulbuls (*Rubigula flaviventris*), blue-throated barbet (*Psilopogon asiaticus*), black bulbuls (*Hypsipetes leucocephalus*), yellow-browed bulbuls (*Acritillas indica*), eyebrowed thrushes (*Turdus obscurus*), grey-breasted prinias (*Prinia hodgsonii*), all of which were dead, and other unidentified species. They were being offered for sale or as lottery prizes. They were “destroyed” on the court’s orders.¹⁰⁸

December 11, 2025

Banskopa Toll Plaza, State of West Bengal, India

Search of Sheikh Wazed’s van at the toll booth. Seizure of 6 peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I), including 2 juveniles. The Durgapur Forest Division had been keeping an eye on Wazed. He was known to be involved in the trafficking of raptors from Bihar to Bardhaman in West Bengal.¹⁰⁹

December 20, 2025

Khungring, Chirang District, State of Assam, India

Three arrests. They were eating a male Bengal florican (*Houbaropsis bengalensis*, Appendix I) captured between Sikhna Jhwla National Park and Manas National Park, a corridor known for its lush biodiversity but also at risk. The Bengal bustard population is estimated to be no more than 1,000. The irreversible loss of even a single bird brings the species closer to extinction.¹¹⁰

January 21, 2026

Lake Alwara, State of Uttar Pradesh, India

Lake Alwara, located some 800 km northwest of Lake Chilika, is also a stopover for migratory birds. A poacher was arrested with 7 lesser whistling ducks (*Dendrocygna javanica*) in his possession. He stated that he would throw poisoned food into the lake at night and collect the dead birds in the early morning. The Department of Forests is accused by villagers of being slow to respond when they report suspicious activity.¹¹¹



January 26, 2026

Majuli Island, State of Assam, India

The fields on the island in the Brahmaputra River had turned into fields of dead birds in the early morning. More than 50 migratory birds were found dead from poisoning, and 8 others—still alive but in great distress—were taken to the veterinary clinic in Ratanpur. The marshy terrain, thick fog, and difficult access complicated the Forest Department’s response. Seventeen people, including 4 women, were arrested in possession of duck feathers and pesticides such as Furadon.¹¹²



IRAN

December 2025 and January 3, 2026

Taft, Yazd Province, Kerman, Kerman Province, and Khaf, Khorassan-e Razavi Province, Iran



- Seizure of 5 live bustards (Otididae, Appendix I or II) and arrest of a trafficker. “Unfortunately, due to the serious injuries inflicted on the legs and wings of these bustards by the offender during their capture and improper confinement, these birds can no longer be released into the wild,” lamented the head of the Department of Environmental Protection.

- Seizure of 6 live bustards and one dead bustard in a vehicle travelling on the Rudbar-Qaleganj road.

- Arrest of 2 bustard poachers on a motorcycle. They had come to check 15 cage traps. The three provinces are home to the Macqueen’s bustard (*Chlamydotis macqueenii*, Appendix I), and the area around Khaf is also home to little bustards (*Tetrax tetrax*, Appendix II).¹¹³



December 2025
Yazd Province, Iran

Beginning of November and December 2025

Damghan, Semnan Province, Astara, Gilan Province, Kerman Province, Iran

- Seizure of a live falcon (*Falco* spp., Appendix I or II) and 3 live wild pigeons from “non-local hunters” during a nighttime anti-poaching operation. Three arrests.

- A fine of 2 billion rials, or 47,500 US\$, in addition to the upcoming criminal penalty, for capturing and possessing a falcon. The trafficker killed the bird upon seeing law enforcement arrive.

- Seizure of 3 saker falcons (*Falco cherrug*, Appendix II). Two arrests.¹¹⁴

November 2025 and January 2026 Ardabil, Guilan, Kermanschah, and Qazvin Provinces, Iran

Seizures during patrols or following reports from citizens of approximately 200 European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine), as well as nets, cages, perches, ropes, transport boxes, and a loudspeaker. The birds captured alive were released into their natural habitat after a brief veterinary examination. Seven arrests were made.¹¹⁵

PAKISTAN

Beginning of November 2025 Cholistan Wildlife Reserve, Province of Punjab, Pakistan

Two individuals were caught red-handed poaching in the Cholistan Wildlife Reserve whilst in possession of a houbara bustard (*Chlamydotis undulata*, Appendix I). Joint fine of 1.9 million rupees (7,000 US\$).¹¹⁶



WESTERN ASIA

AZERBAIJAN

FAMILY AFFAIRS November 2025 Hacıqabul, Qobustan and Zardab Districts, Azerbaijan

- Nationals of Qatar and Syria were fined 2,000 manats (1,180 US\$) for keeping a peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I) and 3 pigeons, which were being used as decoys, in their vehicle. The 4 birds were released into Shirvan National Park. Foreigners are far from the only ones poaching in the country.

- Forest rangers arrested a father and son who were hunting birds listed on the Red List of threatened species. According to Aligeydar Mammadov of the NGO Həyacan, this particular case should not be "the tree that hides the forest". Speaking to the Kaspiy media outlet, he said that the poaching and trafficking of wild animals has become a source of income for many of his compatriots. He gives the example of the large-scale poaching of waterfowl in the Sarysu and Makhmutchala districts – 25 ducks in a single haul instead of the authorized quota of 5 – and the use of off-road vehicles to track down animals in all seasons. For Aligeydar Mammadov, those who have turned hunting into a speculative business are primarily responsible for the destruction of nature.¹¹⁷



CYPRUS

Mid-November, Beginning of December 2025, and January 7, 2026 Larnaca District, Cyprus

The last migrating passerines, such as the willow warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*) en route to their wintering grounds south of the Sahara and as far as Cape Town in South Africa, continue to be harassed by poachers.

- Due to the authorities' unavailability, nets were hastily cut open by members of the NGO CABS and then transported to a safe location to rescue 79 birds, including willow warblers, common whitethroats (*Sylvia communis*), Eurasian blackcaps (*Sylvia atricapilla*, Appendix III in Ukraine), and lesser whitethroats (*Sylvia curruca*, Appendix III in Ukraine).
- Seizure by game wardens of 21 electronic bird calls, hunting rifles, and dead birds, including Eurasian skylarks (*Alauda arvensis*, Appendix III in Ukraine). Twelve poachers were identified. Hunting is permitted, but the use of bird calls is not.
- Arrest of 3 poachers on their hunting grounds; discovery of 2 air rifles, approximately 700 rounds of ammunition, and 3 dead passerines stuffed into a jacket along with a small box filled with white powder, likely cocaine. The owner was arrested for drug possession.¹¹⁸

IRAQ

November 2025 Safwan Border Post, Basra Governorate, Irak. Border with Kuwait.

Seizure of 3 falcons (*Falco* spp., Appendix I or II) by customs. The most sought-after species are peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I) and saker falcons (*Falco cherrug*, Appendix II).

Seizures of falcons at the Safwan border post, see "On the Trail" n°42 p.94 (ref.97) and n°43 p.89 (ref.77).¹¹⁹

ISRAEL

December 17, 2025 HaMa'ayanot Park, Northern District, Israel

Arrest of 2 individuals in the "Valley of the Springs". They were catching European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine) using a folding net. They claim to live in Nablus in the West Bank. The Tiberias Public Prosecutor's Office is seeking to have them remanded in custody on charges of illegal entry into Israel and poaching.¹²⁰



LEBANON

Beginning of November 2025

Jabboule, Ersal, Jdeide and El-Qaa, Baalbek-Hermel Governorate, Lebanon

Anti-poaching activists from the MESH (Middle East Sustainable Hunting Centre) and the SNPL (Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon), together with the police and supported by the CABS (Committee Against Bird Slaughter), dismantled and destroyed 52 invisible or Japanese nets, seized batteries and solar panels powering electronic bird calls, removed 48 dead birds and rescued 27 birds, European robins (*Erithacus rubecula*, Appendix III in Ukraine), Eurasian blackcaps (*Sylvia atricapilla*, Appendix III in Ukraine), serins (*Serinus serinus*, Appendix III in Ukraine), bluethroats (*Luscinia svecica*, Appendix III in Ukraine), willow warblers (*Phylloscopus trochilus*), common redstarts (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*) and Northern wheatears (*Oenanthe oenanthe*).¹²¹

PALESTINE

November 29-30, 2025 Palestine



Seizure of a Eurasian eagle-owl (*Bubo bubo*, Appendix II) kept in appalling conditions by an elite Tzahal unit during “an operation” in a village. “We are proud to protect our country and also our animals,” say the soldiers. Seizure of 4 European goldfinches from a refugee camp in the West Bank, see “On the Trail” n°43 p. 89 (ref. 78).¹²²

January 18, 2026

East Jerusalem, Palestine occupied by Israel

Seizure in the Jabal Mukaber neighbourhood of around 100 European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine), yellow-fronted canaries (*Crithagra mozambica*) and Atlantic canaries (*Serinus canaria*). Crossbreeding between the 2 species produces hybrid birds combining colourful plumage and a virtuoso song, commonly known as “banducs” (meaning “bastards” in Arabic). Eliezer Gelber, inspector of the national park surrounding the ramparts of Jerusalem, said: “I would like to thank the Israeli police for their swift response and their determination to support us in the fight against those who harm nature and protected species. We will continue to take firm action against those who seek to harm wildlife through trade or by any other means.”¹²³

TURKIYE

Mid-November 2025

Selim District, Kars Province, Türkiye

A joint fine over 27,000 US\$ was imposed on 2 Syrians caught by the gendarmerie in possession of 5 falcons (*Accipitridae*, Appendix I or II), 17 pigeons and 2 grey partridges (*Perdix perdix*) used as decoys, a firearm and various accessories such as hoods. Kars Province is home to peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I), red-footed falcons (*Falco vespertinus*, Appendix II), kestrels (*Falco tinnunculus*, Appendix II) and lesser kestrels (*Falco naumanni*, Appendix II).¹²⁴



Mid-November 2025

Osmangazi and Yıldırım Districts, Bursa Province, Türkiye

Fines and damages totalling 415,000 lira (nearly 9,900 US\$) for 2 poachers and traffickers following the seizure of 39 European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine) and 40 European greenfinches (*Chloris chloris*), which were subsequently released.¹²⁵



December 16, 2025

Antalya Province, Türkiye

A fine of 1,060 US\$ for the man who was keeping 24 exotic parrots (*Psittaciformes*, Appendix I or II except 4 species), including lovebirds (*Agapornis* spp., Appendix II except *Agapornis roseicollis*) from Africa, and rose-ringed parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*) from Africa and Asia. Following the issue of the search warrant, the operation was carried out by the Bureau against Smuggling and Organised Crimes, the Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks, and the railway police.¹²⁶



End of December 2025

Biga, Çanakkale Province, Türkiye

Seizure by the Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks in the absence of any documentation proving their lawful origin of 2 lovebirds (*Agapornis* spp., Appendix II except *Agapornis roseicollis*) from Africa, a monk parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*, Appendix II) from South America and 6 cockatiels (*Nymphicus hollandicus*) from Australia.¹²⁷

End of December 2025

Izmir Province, Türkiye

Thanks to a video shared on social media showing a little owl (*Athene noctua*, Appendix II) with a piece of string tied round its leg ensuring its captivity, the seller was traced and, after a treatment time, the owl was released.¹²⁸

Beginning of January 2026 Adana Province, Türkiye

A fine of 2.92 million lira or 68,000 US\$ was imposed on a poacher, keeper and trafficker of 400 European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine). Following a period of observation and light care, the birds were deemed fit for release. The operation is to the credit of the Nature Conservation and National Parks teams.¹²⁹



NORTHERN EUROPE

DENMARK

Beginning of December 2025 Copenhagen, Capital Region, Denmark

Confirmation by the Statens Serum Institute at the University of Copenhagen that the white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*, Appendix I) with a wingspan of 2.26 metres, found dead in March 2025 in a wheat field near Rudkøbing in the South Denmark Region, was poisoned with carbofuran.¹³⁰



December 15, 2025 Horsens, Central Jutland Region, Denmark

Sentence in absentia to a 40-day suspended prison term of a 33-year-old man working as a “sniper” for poisoning, nearly 5 years ago, two marsh harriers (*Circus aeruginosus*, Appendix II) with a dead hen laced with carbofuran. The estate manager and the manor’s owner considered the birds of prey a threat to the farmed pheasants, which served as targets for wealthy recreational hunters. In a rare alliance, the Danish Federation of Hunting Associations and BirdLife Denmark protested the leniency of the sentence. Although banned for 18 years, carbofuran is still widely used in Denmark. The poisoner’s hunting licence was not revoked.¹³¹



NORWAY

End of January and beginning of March 2026 Molde, Møre og Romsdal County, Norway



Theft of eggs from the nests of snowy owls (*Nyctea scandiaca*, Appendix II), ortolan buntings (*Emberiza hortulana*, Appendix III in Ukraine), rustic buntings (*Emberiza rustica*), barred warblers (*Curruca nisoria*), corn crakes (*Crex crex*), northern lapwings (*Vanellus vanellus*) and common mures (*Uria aalge*).

- 90 days’ imprisonment and seizure of 29,000 kroner (2,900 US\$) from his assets for a man aged between 50 and 60 who had kept 8 wild bird eggs at his home and had bought, sold and exchanged 327 eggs, around 100 of which came from species classified as endangered, threatened or near-threatened on Norway’s current Red List.

- 5 months’ imprisonment and confiscation of 300,000 kroner (nearly 30,000 US\$) from his assets, corresponding to the profits from his trafficking, for an 80-year-old man who had kept 174 wild bird eggs at his home without authorisation and had received, sold and exchanged 630 eggs from Arctic or migratory species.¹³²

UNITED KINGDOM

November 6-7, 2025 Towcester, Northamptonshire County, England, United Kingdom

A Eurasian sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*, Appendix II) was fatally wounded by a hunting rifle. The rural crime unit is appealing for witnesses.¹³³

November 8, 2025

Heriot, Scottish Borders Council, Scotland, United Kingdom

G819's tracking device has stopped working. The Scottish Police are treating this latest disappearance as suspicious and are asking anyone with information to contact them on 101 or 0800 555 111, quoting incident number PS-20251215-1347. This is the 3rd white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*, Appendix I) monitored as part of the reintroduction project run since 2019 by Forestry England (the government's forestry agency) and the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation to suffer this fate. In September, 2 white-tailed eagles had already gone missing and their transmitters had been found cut with a sharp instrument (see "On the Trail" n°48 p. 111, map of raptor poaching in the United Kingdom). Since 2019, 45 white-tailed eagles have been released and 6 chicks have been born on English soil – the first since the 1780s.¹³⁴

November 8, 2025

Whiterashes, Aberdeenshire Council, Scotland, United Kingdom

A northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*, Appendix II) was found seriously injured after being shot. It died before it arrived at the vet's. Another appeal for witnesses.¹³⁵

November 2025

Orsett, Essex County, England, United Kingdom

Five red kites (*Milvus milvus*, Appendix II) were found dead in a field. They had been poisoned.

Red kites, along with all birds of prey, are protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. A suspect is being questioned.¹³⁶



November 9, 2025

Nottingham, Nottinghamshire County, England, United Kingdom



The prognosis is very guarded for a common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*, Appendix II) found on the ground. After several days of searching, during which he fed it properly, its rescuer identified the Brinsley Animal Rescue shelter. X-rays show the presence of several hunting pellets in its body and a broken tail, no doubt caused by a forced landing.¹³⁷

November 22, 2025

Fort William, Highland Council, Scotland, United Kingdom

Another European robin (*Erithacus rubecula*, Appendix III in Ukraine) has been found trapped in an urban bush by a piece of wood coated in glue. Glue traps are prohibited under the Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Act 2024. The SPCA points out that 2 robins died in similar circumstances in Edinburgh in 2024 and that glue also kills bats. The use of glue is still permitted for catching insects.¹³⁸



December 23, 2025

Kibworth, Leicestershire County, England, United Kingdom

X6F was born and died this year. It was a beautiful female peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I). Found in a garden with its humerus fractured by several bullets or pellets, it had to be finished off. Another appeal for witnesses.¹³⁹

January 9, 2026

Strabane, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom. Border with Ireland.

An injured peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I) has been found in a garden. It has pellets in its body and a broken leg. Another appeal for witnesses.¹⁴⁰

January 12, 2026

Scarborough, North Yorkshire County, England, United Kingdom



Thomas Munday, a gamekeeper, was fined 1,215 pounds (1,040 US\$) for beating a common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*, Appendix II) to death back in March 2024. The buzzard had been captured in a cage trap he set to protect pheasants and partridges on the grounds of a private hunting club. The images had been legally captured by a camera trap operated by the RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds).¹⁴¹

January 15, 2026

Stanhope, Scottish Borders Council, Scotland, United Kingdom

Hamlet, a four-year-old golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*, Appendix II) fitted with a tracking device, was wounded in the wing by hunting pellets. It was treated and promptly released back into the wild. Another appeal for witnesses.¹⁴²

January 26, 2026

Wigginton, North Yorkshire County, England, United Kingdom

A hunting pellet hit it in the leg. The common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*, Appendix II) also has damaged feathers. It is in the care of the Battle Flatts veterinary clinic. Another appeal for witnesses. Rewards, as in the United States of America, would no doubt free tongues.¹⁴³

January 29, 2026

York, North Yorkshire County, England, United Kingdom

Racster Dingwall, a gamekeeper, was ordered to pay a fine of 1,520 pounds (2,050 US\$), plus court costs and a surcharge for the victims, for fatally shooting, with his semiautomatic rifle at dusk in October 2024, a northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*, Appendix II) that had taken refuge for the night with others of its kind in the thickets of a grouse flock. Game wardens on private estates are obsessed with northern harriers, which they accuse of decimating game populations, and northern harriers are persecuted to such an extent that, although they have a life expectancy of 15 years on paper, their actual life expectancy in the wild after leaving their nests is 4 months.¹⁴⁴



January 31, 2026

Stanton by Dale, Derbyshire County, England, United Kingdom

Shots from a hunting rifle struck it in the right and left wings. The northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*, Appendix II) had to be finished off. Another appeal for witnesses.¹⁴⁵

WESTERN EUROPE

AUSTRIA

November 26, 2025

Sankt Andrä am Zicksee, Burgenland State, Austria. Border with Hungary.

Poaching of two long-eared owls (*Asio otus*, Appendix II). The first was shot in the head, and the second had fractures to a wing, a leg, and other bones. BirdLife and the WWF have filed a complaint.¹⁴⁶

BELGIUM

November 17, 2025

Kapellen, Province of Antwerp, Flemish Region, Belgium. Border with the Netherlands.

The common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*, Appendix II) was grounded, with one wing hit by enemy fire. It was taken to the VOC Kapellen-Brasschaat wildlife rescue centre.¹⁴⁷

REPEATED OFFENCE

November 24, 2025

Kortrijk, Province of West Flanders, Flemish Region, Belgium

Filip V. (58), a truck driver, was sentenced to 150 hours of community service and a fine of 10,000 € or 11,760 US\$, for capturing, one fine morning in November 2022 in Beringen using invisible nets, yellowhammers (*Emberiza citrinella*, Appendix III in Ukraine), Eurasian siskins (*Carduelis spinus*, synonymous with *Spinus spinus*, Appendix III in Ukraine), and chaffinches (*Fringilla coelebs*), and for attempting to sell them in Putte in the parking lot of a bird fair, using the trunk of his car as a sales stall. The prosecutor had sought a 2-year prison sentence, noting that V. had previously been convicted of bird poaching and the use of prohibited traps in 2001, 2007, and 2010.¹⁴⁸

January 12, 2026

Kortrijk, Province of West Flanders, Flemish Region, Belgium

A fine of 1,600 € (1,880 US\$), half of which is suspended, for possessing about twenty songbirds—including European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine) and European greenfinches (*Chloris chloris*)—without leg bands, all of which were taken directly from the public domain. The 63-year-old man, who suffers from alcohol addiction, told the court that “his love for his birds was a little too great. He sought refuge in the birds during his treatment and exchanged specimens with colleagues in the same situation”.¹⁴⁹



FRANCE

November 4, 2025

Douai, Department of Nord, France

Romain A., who had previously been sentenced at first instance to 3 years' imprisonment for human procuring, was this time sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment, 9 of which were suspended, for trafficking in parrots (Psittaciformes, Appendix I or II except 4 species), to pay compensation to 12 injured customers (15,000 € in total, 17,600 US\$) and to pay 47,300 € (55,600 US\$) to URSSAF (Social Security and Family Allowance Contribution Collection Office), and has been banned from working in any profession involving animals and from running any business for 10 years. When he delivered the birds, he was unable to provide the certificate of origin straight away. His trick was to blame this on his printer, which (if he had one) was 'out of order'. The newspaper La Voix du Nord also reports that, where necessary, and still without a certificate, he would deliver the birds that had been fraudulently imported from Belgium via BlaBlaCar.¹⁵⁰



November 4, 2025

Lons-le-Saunier, Department of Jura, France

Fines ranging from 1,000 to 4,000 € (1,175 to 4,700 US\$) have been imposed on Erick Leques, Fernand Denot, André Becerra, Jean-Marc Guenver, Yann Guenver and the SAS Oisellerie du temple who, between 2009 and 2018, elaborated a network from the Basque Country through the Jura and Isère departments to catch and sell around a thousand red-billed leiothrixes (*Leiothrix lutea*, Appendix II), also known as Japanese nightingales. At the home of one of the key figures of the trafficking network, a man from Jura living in Champagnole, the OFB (Office Français de la Biodiversité) and the police had discovered bundles of illegal invoices. In accordance with its editorial policy, the article in the newspaper Le Progrès is discreet regarding the profiles of those convicted. "The identity of the defendants is disclosed in cases where the sentence is at least one year's imprisonment with a committal order or 2 years' imprisonment without committal order."

The selling price of a red-billed leiothrix ranges from 100 to 500 €. ¹⁵¹

Leiothrix lutea, see Index.



November 12, 2025

Nice, Department of Alpes-Maritimes, France

Long live hygiene controls. They prevent cases of gastroenteritis and much more. Seizure of 2 European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine) and anabolic substances at a restaurant.¹⁵²

November 14, 2025

Vérignon, Department of Var, France

'The operation took place at the break of day,' reports Nice-Matin. The gendarmes, working in conjunction with the Draguignan public prosecutor's office, officers from the French Biodiversity Agency (OFB) and the Departmental Directorate for Territories and the Sea (DDTM), apprehended a poacher who was using glue traps and was in possession of around 60 live thrushes (genus *Turdus*). They were released back into the wild. Around 100 dead passerines and 18 hunting weapons were also seized from illegal structures on land classified as a nature reserve.¹⁵³



November 19 and 24, 2025

Mazamet et Castres, Department of Tarn, France

Arrest of a man suspected of drug trafficking on Rue du Moulin (Mill Street), search of his home and discovery of 4 conures (*Aratinga* spp., Appendix II) and a macaw (*Ara* spp., Appendix I or II). When OFB officers arrived at the scene 5 days later, they were only able to seize the 2 pairs of conures. According to the trafficker's partner, the macaw had 'flown away'. He was sentenced by the Castres court to 24 months' imprisonment for drug trafficking. The investigation into the trafficking of endangered species is still ongoing.¹⁵⁴



December 2, 2025

Oloron-Sainte-Marie, Department of Pyrénées-Atlantiques, France



Seizure from a house of a European goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine). It was handed over to the gendarmerie brigade before being transferred to the shelter of a NGO.¹⁵⁵

Night of December 16 to 17, 2025 Reims, Department of Marne, France

After thefts from zoos and pet shops, there are now thefts from private homes. One or more individuals cut through the wire fence of a car park and climbed over a 1.8-metre-high wall to reach the aviaries in the garden of a house. Two blue-and-yellow macaws (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II) were stolen. Feathers on the ground show that the birds struggled. Aged 8 and 10 years, they were ringed at the time of the incident (nos. 140502 and F160017) and are estimated to be worth 1,000-2,000 € (1,160-2,300 US\$).¹⁵⁶



December 17, 2025 Reims, Department of Marne, France

The sentences imposed at first instance in October 2024 on a fish farmer operating a pond in Saint-Morel in the Ardennes who, in May 2024, had poisoned a white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*, Appendix I) with carbofuran have been slashed on appeal. The 8-month suspended prison sentence has been quashed. The fine of 32,000 € has been reduced to 5,000 € (5,800 US\$). "With this ruling, the courts have recognised the difficulties faced by the fish farming sector in the face of the cormorant invasion," emphasises Timothée Dufour, Frédéric Mahaut's lawyer. His client had therefore mistaken the white-tailed eagle for a black cormorant. The fine of 40,000 € – of which 20,000 € was suspended – imposed on his company was upheld.¹⁵⁷



Night of January 1 to 2, 2026 Marmillac, Department of Lot, France

Two grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*, Appendix I) were stolen from a retired bird breeder, from an aviary under a shed near his home. He has promised to withdraw his complaint if the thieves return the parrots alive; it's unlikely that this will coax them. They might demand a ransom.¹⁵⁸

January 7 and March 26, 2026 Causse Méjean and Mende, Department of Lozère, France

The tracking device of "Pyrénées", a 5-year-old female bearded vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*, Appendix II) released as part of the European LIFE GypaConnect programme, has stopped transmitting. Its body was found dead by environmental inspectors responsible for monitoring the species. It was killed by lead pellets. The poacher was quickly identified. He claims to have mistaken the bearded vulture for a crow and to have fired "by reflex". The court in Mende sentenced him to an 18-month suspended prison sentence as part of proceedings following a prior guilty plea. His hunting licence was not revoked.¹⁵⁹



January 21, 2026 Lyon, Department of Rhône, France

A hunter has been convicted on appeal for killing a black stork (*Ciconia nigra*, Appendix II) in Neuville-sur-Ain in September 2022, having, according to his lawyer, mistaken it for a cormorant. He was handed the same fine as at first instance (a suspended fine of 3,000 €, 3,500 US\$), plus an additional 6,000 € (7,000 US\$) in ecological damages to be paid to the League for the Protection of Birds.¹⁶⁰



January 30, 2026 Nice, Department of Alpes-Maritimes, France

Seizure by the police and OFB officers of around 100 birds, including 45 European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine), from a flat and its balcony. Neighbours had raised the alarm. 21 goldfinches were released into the Vinaigrier Departmental Nature Park in the heights above the town. A man was taken into police custody and an investigation has been launched into the illegal offer for sale or sale of a non-domestic animal species, the illegal possession of a non-domestic animal species, and the unauthorised operation and opening of an establishment keeping non-domestic animal species in captivity without a certificate of competence.¹⁶¹

THE NETHERLANDS

November 25, 2025 Province of Gelderland, The Netherlands



In the eastern part of the province, a person was caught red-handed capturing 6 Eurasian bullfinches (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*, Appendix III in Ukraine) using mist nets.¹⁶²

End of December 2025

Bellevue, Canton of Geneva, Switzerland

Seizure of about 30 birds. This follows the arrest in November 2024 in the Grand-Saint-Bernard Tunnel, on the border between Italy and Switzerland, of 2 individuals of Portuguese origin who were found in illegal possession of about 10 birds protected under CITES. The ensuing investigation led to the arrest of a third individual, also of Portuguese origin, and uncovered a trafficking ring operating across Switzerland, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Portugal. More than 50 birds are believed to have been smuggled into Switzerland, with a total value of nearly 100,000 Swiss francs or 126,000 US\$ (more than 2,000 US\$ per bird). The investigation is continuing as the year draws to a close, with the birds being seized—still at the border, in French-speaking Switzerland, and in the canton of Ticino—and placed in safe custody at the Geneva Bioparc pending the final findings. Three birds did not survive the rigors of transport. A careful examination of the video and photographic footage taken at the Bioparc has made it possible to identify a hyacinth macaw (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*, Appendix I), a yellow-headed amazon (*Amazona oratrix*, Appendix I), 4 Java sparrows (*Lonchura oryzivora*, Appendix II), an Australian king-parrot (*Alisterus scapularis*, Appendix II), 2 turquoise parrots (*Neophema pulchella*, Appendix II), 2 barred parakeets (*Bolborhynchus lineola*, Appendix II), 2 parakeets (*Cyanoramphus* spp., Appendix I or II), 3 plum-headed parakeets (*Psittacula cyanocephala*, Appendix II), an elegant parrot (*Neophema elegans*, Appendix II), a Derbyan parakeet (*Psittacula derbiana*, Appendix II), a crimson rosella (*Platycercus elegans*, Appendix II), an eastern rosella (*Platycercus eximius*, Appendix II), 4 black-capped parakeets (*Pyrrhura rupicola*, Appendix II), a blue-and-yellow macaw (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II), a red-shouldered macaw (*Diopsittaca nobilis*, Appendix II), a blue-fronted amazon (*Amazona aestiva*, Appendix II), and 2 budgerigars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*).¹⁶³



Eastern rosella (*Platycercus eximius*)

SPAIN

November and December 2025 and January 2026

Autonomous Community of Andalusia, Autonomous Community of Catalonia, Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia, Valencian Community, Spain



The hundred or so species of birds that migrate from Eurasia to the Mediterranean basin and Africa are easy targets for poachers. The Guardia Civil, Seprona (Servicio de Protección de la Naturaleza) and the Catalan rural officers have increased anti-poaching operations in both rural and urban areas. 65 poachers are expected to face prosecution. *Parany* – modernised versions of traditional traps (see box) – and Japanese nets have in common to trap anything that flies, without distinction. 68 nets, including at least 11 Japanese nets, around 3,000 glue-coated sticks (used in particular in parany traps), a pot of glue, 4 cage traps, 7 loudspeakers and other devices used as bird calls, 2 hunting rifles and 22 crossbows were seized, along with more than 400 live birds and around 50 already dead: around 100 European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine), European greenfinches (*Chloris chloris*), song thrushes (*Turdus philomelos*, Appendix III in Ukraine), red crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra*, Appendix III in Ukraine), Eurasian blackcaps (*Sylvia atricapilla*, Appendix III in Ukraine), common linnets (*Carduelis cannabina*, synonymous with *Linaria cannabina*, Appendix III in Ukraine), spotted flycatchers (*Muscicapa striata*), chaffinches (*Fringilla coelebs*)... When their condition allowed, they were released, worn out by their immobilisation, exhausted by their attempts to free themselves from the nets and the glue, and having lost much of their chance of reaching their wintering areas.¹⁶⁴



Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*)

January 16, 2026

Autonomous Community of Cataluña, Spain

The *parany* ("trap" in Catalan)

"The *parany* is a device which uses limed sticks to catch birds, an ancient technique reported by Greek authors of the second century BC. In Comunidad Valenciana, as in ancient times, the *parany* are set up in September and trapping lasts mainly (but not only) from October to November, coinciding with the peak in the number of migrating thrushes.

The *parany* consists of a tree or group of trees (usually Olive *Olea europaea* or Carob *Ceratonia siliqua* although other species may be used) pruned in such a way that wooden poles perforated by small holes can be placed in branches of the crown. Until the 1960s, stalks of esparto grass *Stipa tenacissima* or other species were placed vertically in the wooden poles with the aid of a type of putty. Previously, the sticks were covered with lime, an adhesive substance extracted by trappers from different plants. At night, passing thrushes were lured to the *parany* by calls produced by captive birds or using whistles. When birds perched, they came into contact with the limed sticks and lost the ability to fly. The birds fell to the ground and were caught by the trappers.

Now, trees are often surrounded by a wall; the poles, sticks and lime are synthetic and may be purchased in shops; poachers do not use a whistle to attract birds but an amplified recording of bird song played from a tape or CD player. These changes mean that (i) *parany* have become much more efficient; and (ii) bird trapping has become much more convenient for the poachers than in the past. As a consequence bird trapping has become a widespread practice in Comunidad Valenciana."



Extracts from Murgui E. When governments support poaching: a review of the illegal trapping of thrushes *Turdus* spp. in the *parany* of Comunidad Valenciana, Spain. Bird Conservation International. 2014;24(2):127-137. doi:10.1017/S095927091300052X



December 17, 2025

Burriana, Province of Castellón, Valencian Community, Spain

The landlord finds 3 dead birds—including a grey parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*, Appendix I)—in the apartment of a tenant who left without providing a new address. According to preliminary findings from the investigation, the birds appear to have died of starvation and dehydration.¹⁶⁵

January 15, 2026

Badajoz, Province of Badajoz, Autonomous Community of Extremadura, Spain



A man living in Montemolín was sentenced on appeal to one year in prison, a 35-month hunting ban, and 20,000 € (23,500 US\$) in damages to the Autonomous Community of Andalusia for shooting four hermit ibises (*Geronticus eremita*, Appendix I) that were part of a reintroduction program funded and developed by the community. A group of five hermit ibises had flown away from the Vejer de la Frontera Zoo where were raised, only for four of them to be shot down in the Badajoz province, 210 km from Vejer de la Frontera. In November 2024, during a small-game hunt, another northern bald ibis was shot in the Badajoz province.

There are reportedly only 20 breeding-age pairs in Spain. The species' only viable population is in Morocco, where there are reportedly 200 adult pairs. A remnant population in Syria is nearly extinct due to hunting and habitat loss. Hermit ibises disappeared from Europe in the 16th–17th centuries due to intensive hunting. In the 21st century, faced with the species' imminent extinction, reintroduction programs were launched in several countries, including Germany and Spain. Hermit ibises, see "On the Trail" n°36, pp. 150–151; n°38, p. 161 (ref. 174) and pp. 162–163; n°39, pp. 115–116; n°40, p. 155 (ref. 145); n°43, p. 92 (ref. 100); n°44, pp. 140–141, and n°48, pp. 116–117.¹⁶⁶



Hermit ibis (*Geronticus eremita*)

January 18, 2026

Between Peñarrubia and Cillorigo de Liébana, Autonomous Community of Cantabria, Spain

Death by poisoning of "Centenario," the bearded vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*, Appendix II). Its body was found between Peñarrubia and Cillorigo de Liébana in the Picos de Europa National Park. Its death occurred just before the breeding season. Donated by the government of Aragon, it had been released in 2017 as part of the species' reintroduction program in the Cantabrian Mountains, from which they had disappeared in the 1950s. In the days following "Centenario's" death, a search operation of the surrounding area was carried out under the direction of the canine poison detection unit to locate baits laced with an agricultural toxin and remove them.¹⁶⁷

GREECE

**November - December 2025
Santorini Island, Region of South Aegean, Greece**



The island of Santorini, with a winter population of 15,000, including 1,000 poachers, is a paradise for bird trappers. Across 76 km² of scrubland and cliffs, it has only one game warden.

- Police and game wardens destroyed seven nets, cage traps, and 92 glue traps, and rescued 128 finches (family Fringillidae), including European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine) and European greenfinches (*Chloris chloris*).
- Authorities recovered an additional 27 finches (family Fringillidae), including European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine), common linnets (*Carduelis cannabina*, synonymous with *Linaria cannabina*, Appendix III in Ukraine), serins (*Serinus serinus*, Appendix III in Ukraine), and hawfinches (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*). In total, during the fall, 8 nets, 94 glue traps, and 27 cage traps were seized and destroyed by the game warden and the police, with support from the German NGO CABS (Committee Against Bird Slaughter).¹⁶⁸

**November and beginning of December 2025
Lesbos Island, Region of North Aegean, and Kallithea, Region of Attica, Greece**

Over the course of a few days, 31 birds of prey were brought under the care of ANIMA (Hellenic Wildlife Care Association). Nine of them had been struck by shots of lead: eagles, a peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I), a long-eared owl (*Asio otus*, Appendix II), and several buzzards (Accipitridae), including a long-legged buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*, Appendix II) that is too severely injured to ever be released back into the wild.¹⁶⁹



ITALY

November 19, 2025

Avellino, Province of Avellino, Region of Campania, Italy



Sabatino Leopoldo, 74, received a suspended fine of 800 € (940 US\$) for transferring the CITES certificate and identification ring of a deceased captive peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I) to a middleman, now-deceased, who used it to "launder" a falcon chick illegally taken from the wild. The WWF and Legambiente were awarded 2,000 € and 1,200 €, respectively, to cover their legal costs.¹⁷⁰

**Poaching and seizures of birds (843) between
November 1, 2025 and January 31, 2026
Map detail**

131 European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine)
100 starlings (genus *Sturnus*)
89 European robins (*Erithacus rubecula*, Appendix III in Ukraine)
79 chaffinches (*Fringilla coelebs*)
55 Eurasian skylarks (*Alauda arvensis*, Appendix III in Ukraine)
46 song thrushes (*Turdus philomelos*, Appendix III in Ukraine)
19 common blackbirds (*Turdus merula*, Appendix III in Ukraine)
17 parrots (Psittaciformes, Appendix I or II except 4 species)
13 common buzzards (*Buteo buteo*, Appendix II)
8 dunnocks (*Prunella modularis*)
5 hybrids of European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine)
5 Eurasian blackcaps (*Sylvia atricapilla*, Appendix III in Ukraine)
4 hawfinches (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*)
4 serins (*Serinus serinus*, Appendix III in Ukraine)
4 Eurasian collared doves (*Streptopelia decaocto*)
3 blue-and-yellow macaws (*Ara ararauna*, A.II)
3 European greenfinches (*Chloris chloris*)
2 Corsican finches (*Carduelis corsicana*)
2 pigeons (genus *Columba*)
2 peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I)
1 hermit ibis (*Geronticus eremita*, Appendix I)
1 short-toed eagle (*Circus gallicus*, Appendix II)
1 eclectus parrot (*Eclectus roratus*, Appendix II)
1 kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*, Appendix II)
1 griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*, Appendix II)
1 tawny owl (*Strix aluco*, Appendix II)
1 coconut lorikeet (*Trichoglossus haematodus*, Appendix II)
1 common linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*, synonymous with *Linaria cannabina*, Appendix III in Ukraine)
1 bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*, Appendix III in Ukraine)
1 little stint (*Calidris minuta*)
1 Eurasian jay (*Garrulus glandarius*)
1 great grey shrike (*Lanius excubitor*)
1 Italian sparrow (*Passer italiae*)
1 black redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*)
1 woodpecker (family Picidae)
1 sardinian warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala*)
1 redwing (*Turdus iliacus*)
235 unidentified birds

ITALY

Poaching and seizures of birds (843) between November 1, 2025 and January 31, 2026



MALTA

November 3, 2025

Gozo Region, Malta

Poaching of a saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*, Appendix II). It was found with a fractured wing infested with maggots.

Saker falcons are rare visitors to the island of Malta.

¹⁷¹

November 4 and 12, 2025

Western Region, Malta

A kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*, Appendix II) and a short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*, Appendix II) were injured by shots from a hunting rifle. No further information is available on their fate. In October, BirdLife Malta recorded the poaching of 15 kestrels, a Eurasian hobby (*Falco subbuteo*, Appendix II), 3 Eurasian collared doves (*Streptopelia decaocto*), a common shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*), a black-headed gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*), a grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*), a little egret (*Egretta garzetta*), a yellow-legged gull (*Larus michahellis*).¹⁷²

November 18, 2025

Buskett Forest, Western Region, Malta

Buskett Forest is supposed to be a protected bird area. A family out for a walk there discovered a barn owl (*Tyto alba*, Appendix II) injured in its right wing.¹⁷³

November 27, 2025

Valetta, Malta

A fine of 1,000 € (1,175 US\$) imposed on the person who kept 52 passerines (family Fringillidae) in his garage in Attard.¹⁷⁴



End of November 2025

Gozo Region, Malta

Two scops owls (*Otus scops*, Appendix II), which had undoubtedly suffered the torment of captivity, were nursed back to health at a BirdLife shelter supported by the Malta Environment Foundation as part of the 'Wings of Hope' project, and subsequently released back into the wild.¹⁷⁵

Beginning of December 2025

Valetta, Malta

The owner of a pet store sentenced to a fine of 1,500 € or 1,760 US\$ for the illegal possession of 2 European tree sparrows (*Passer montanus*) and a jay (family Corvidae) while alive, as well as frozen finches (family Fringillidae), bee-eaters (family Meropidae), and little stints (*Calidris minuta*), and a 2-year suspension of his licence to sell birds.¹⁷⁶



December 4, 2025

Valetta, Malta

A fine of 1,500 € (1,760 US\$) for holding 28 finches (family Fringillidae) hostage in his garage in the fall of 2024 after capturing them as part of the "collaborative scientific program" established by the government to preserve traditional hunting.¹⁷⁷



End of December 2025

Kerċem, Gozo Region, Malta

Seizure on the island of Gozo of European robins (*Erithacus rubecula*, Appendix III in Ukraine) kept in a garage.¹⁷⁸

End of December 2025

Eastern Region, Malta

A stuffed greater flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*, Appendix II) and a stuffed grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*) were recovered from a landfill in the Saint Julien Valley, buried among household trash and polystyrene. "If you buy a property and find taxidermied animals on the premises, do not throw them away in landfills. Notify the WBRU (Wild Birds Regulation Unit): wildbirds@gov.mt".¹⁷⁹



January 2026

Donja Gorica, Municipality of Podgorica, Montenegro

Instead of admiring the Eurasian eagle owl (*Bubo bubo*, Appendix II) before them, someone shot it with a rifle. It was found in the early morning and transported to the veterinary clinic run by Milan Mitić. "It's truly disheartening to see such things happen to protected birds. After the X-ray, we quickly confirmed that it was a gunshot wound. The bird has multiple foreign objects, projectiles, embedded in it. We believe they are diabolo-type pellets fired from an air rifle. The projectiles are lodged in both wings as well as near the knee joint; the bird also has a broken wing, likely caused by a fall," the statement explains, adding: "This is just one case among many; this clinic and this operating table have treated cormorants, waterfowl, and rare, protected migratory species. Unfortunately, these gunshot wounds occur regularly and most often result in death." The eagle owl's fate is uncertain. The lead fragments were not removed for fear that the surgery might increase the risk of death. In the medium term, the raptor risks losing its health and mobility due to lead poisoning.¹⁸⁰

PORTUGAL

November 30, 2025

Mafra, Lisbon District, Portugal

The Sepna (Serviço de Proteção da Natureza e do Ambiente) recovered 13 birds, including European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine) and Eurasian siskin (*Carduelis spinus*, synonym of *Spinus spinus*, Appendix III in Ukraine), 18 stakes, a net, a pair of binoculars, acoustic decoys, 27 cages, and 11 traps. The birds were immediately released. By the time the SEPNA patrol discovered the poaching camp, it had been abandoned.¹⁸¹



January 12, 2026

Leomil, Guarda District, Portugal

After the GNR (Guarda Nacional Republicana) reported to the INCF (Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e das Florestas), 17 red kites (*Milvus milvus*, Appendix II) were found on the ground, gathered together. Poisoning is the likely culprit; electrocution and collision have been ruled out, as there are no high-voltage power lines or wind turbines nearby. According to GNR data, at least 3 red kites died from poisoning by strychnine or carbofuran between January 1, 2021, and June 30, 2024. Red kites migrate in large numbers from central or northern Europe to hibernate in the Alentejo, Beiras, and Trás-os-Montes regions. Breeding populations have dwindled to the point that the species is under threat of extinction. The remaining viable populations are found on the Mirandês Plateau near the Spain border. In Portugal, other poisoning victims include cinereous vultures (*Aegypius monachus*, Appendix II).¹⁸²



BULGARIA

Sunday, December 14, 2025

Plovdiv, Plovdiv Province, Bulgaria

Seizure on the "Russian market", where cheap Chinese or Turkish junk is available, of more valuable "goods", namely 35 birds, including European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, 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), European greenfinches (*Chloris chloris*) and serins (*Serinus serinus*, Appendix III in Ukraine). The sellers fled, leaving the cages and their occupants on the spot, having been alerted by the arrival of a police van, even before officers from the Regional Environment and Water Inspectorate had begun to patrol the aisles. The songbirds, freshly caught, were released in the hope that they would not be recaptured by the poachers.¹⁸³

January 11 and 14, 2026

Kotel, Sliven Province, Bulgaria

The Sliven Province is fatal to vultures, and it is clear that a group of diehards are



opposed to their reintroduction. Already in March 2022 (see "On the Trail" n°35 p. 143, ref. 148), 4 cinereous vultures, including one native bird, had been poisoned, and their deaths notified by GPS trackers that had suddenly gone silent. The anti-vulture campaign resumed in the winter of 2025–2026.

Within 4 days, a griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*, Appendix II) and 6 cinereous vultures (*Aegypius monachus*, Appendix II), including one pair mature enough to raise chicks in the spring and another pair, were found dead, struck down by poisoned bait just before reaching their nests. The 7 carcasses were sent to Trakia University to identify the lethal poisons. The NGO Green Balkans and the Foundation for Wild Fauna and Flora are appalled.¹⁸⁴



HUNGARY

Beginning of December 2025 Szombathely, Vas County, Hungary

The county prosecutor is calling for legal proceedings to be brought against a chicken farmer who had set a swan neck trap (a type of leg-hold trap) on the fence of his poultry yard, in which a common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*, Appendix II), a species protected by law, became trapped by one of its legs. Despite the intervention of the rescue team and veterinary care, the bird died as a result of its injury.¹⁸⁵



December 4, 2025 Szolnok, Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok County, Hungary

Seizure of 12 European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine), 15 Eurasian siskins (*Carduelis spinus*, synonymous with *Spinus spinus*, Appendix III in Ukraine), 3 serins (*Serinus serinus*, Appendix III in Ukraine), 3 common linnets (*Carduelis cannabina*, synonymous with *Linaria cannabina*, Appendix III in Ukraine), 3 European greenfinches (*Chloris chloris*), all alive, a dead Eurasian sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*, Appendix II), and of cage traps and birdlime at the premises of a bird trapper and trafficker who had come to the attention of the police via his Facebook account, on which he was offering birds of prey and passerines for sale. The European sparrowhawk's wings were coated in birdlime and it is believed to have been killed with a spear.¹⁸⁶



December 19, 2025 Budapest, Hungary

According to the animal welfare organisation led by Richárd Kapin, which campaigns for animal rights, Romanians are begging in Budapest's chic neighbourhoods whilst showing big, dazed and bewildered St Bernards; and today, Budapest's urban zoo is enriched by a barn owl (*Tyto alba*, Appendix II). It is the working tool for a Ukrainian refugee, who places it in tourists' arms or on their shoulders and sells them instant photos. The owl was confiscated by the police. The animal rights organisation is not claiming victory. Another owl will be poached from a tree and prostituted on the pavement. Street photographers and other animal exploiters are tough guys. Expelled from the Hungarian border post, Romanian beggars return dressed as Father Christmas in December and as rabbits for the Easter holidays, always accompanied by St Bernards whose paw pads are worn and chapped by the cobblestones and tarmac.¹⁸⁷ Animal handlers and street and beach photographers in Europe, see Index.

Mid-January 2026

Röske, Csongrád County, Hungary. Border with Serbia.

Seizure of 8 live European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine) from the boot of a Mercedes driven by an Albanian; their value is estimated at 200,000 forints or 610 US\$ and 76 US\$/bird.¹⁸⁸

POLAND

Mid-January 2026

Korczowa Border Crossing Point, Subcarpathian Voivodeship, Poland. Border with Ukraine.

A 47-year-old passenger on a coach from Ukraine attempted to bring a little owl (*Athene noctua*, Appendix II) into Poland. It was taken to a wildlife rehabilitation centre.

Customs officials in the Subcarpathian Voivodeship must keep a close eye on everything. A coach driver travelling from Ukraine was carrying 34 packets of a rodenticide banned in the European Union, enough to poison all the owls in Poland.¹⁸⁹

ROMANIA

Mid-November and December 30, 2025

Târgu Mureş, Mureş County, and Ariceştii Rahtivani, Prahova County, Romania

- Seizure by the police of 7 European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine), 2 Eurasian siskins (*Carduelis spinus*, synonymous with *Spinus spinus*, Appendix III in Ukraine), a common linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*, synonymous with *Linaria cannabina*, Appendix III in Ukraine) and 2 European greenfinches (*Chloris chloris*) in 2 cages. They were released into the wild, except for a goldfinch whose wings had been mutilated by the poacher's birdlime.

- Arrest in flagrante delicto of 2 poachers by the gendarmerie. Rescue of 15 European goldfinches and 7 European greenfinches. Seizure of sticks coated in glue, acoustic decoys and cages. The birds were released by a representative of the county hunters' association.¹⁹⁰



RUSSIA

November 16, 2025

Moscow Federal City, Russia

Sentencing of a national of the United Arab Emirates to 6 years' imprisonment for attempting to export, by air, 5 gyr falcons (*Falco rusticolus*, Appendix I) with a total estimated value of 11.3 million roubles or 185,000 US\$ and 37,000 US\$ per falcon. One of his Russian accomplices has already been given a five-and-a-half-year suspended prison sentence, whilst the second, having reached a plea agreement with the courts prior to his trial, has been given a two-and-a-half-year suspended prison sentence. See "On the Trail" n°38 p.169 ref. 208.¹⁹¹



November 27, 2025

Kansk, Krasnoyarsk Krai, Russia

Seizure from a woman known in the area for caring for distressed birds of a honey buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*, Appendix II), a common crane (*Grus grus*, Appendix II), 2 owls (Strigiformes, Appendix I or II) and a peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I). Running out of money, she had put the falcon up for sale on the internet for 60,000 roubles (745 US\$).¹⁹²

Mid-December 2025

Belogorsky District, Amur Oblast, Russia. Border with China.

Check of a suspicious vehicle on a dirt track in the middle of fields. Seizure of cage traps, live pigeons and pieces of meat to bait peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I), Amur falcons (*Falco amurensis*, Appendix II) or Eurasian hobbys (*Falco subbuteo*, Appendix II) had the individual not been arrested by the oblast's wildlife rangers.¹⁹³



End of January 2026

Nizhny Novgorod, Nizhny Novgorod Oblast, Russia

A Steller's sea eagle (*Haliaeetus pelagicus*, Appendix II) was found abandoned in a plastic bag in the zoo car park. It was emaciated and had an injured wing. It is being treated by vets, and experts wonder about how it came to be found more than 4,000 km from its usual strongholds in the Russian Far East and Kamchatka.¹⁹⁴



SLOVAKIA

Saturday, December 13, 2025

Senianske Rybníky Nature Reserve, Košice Region, Slovakia

There are those who come to gaze at, photograph or listen to the Eurasian spoonbills, white-tailed eagles, coots, bitterns and little egrets, and there are those who come to shoot them. A common crane (*Grus grus*, Appendix II) that had come to spend the winter in these marshes was shot in broad daylight by a vandal. There was no option but to finish it off after it had been transferred to a specialist veterinary office.¹⁹⁵

SERBIA

Beginning of November 2025

Klek, Central Banat District, Serbia

A marsh harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*, Appendix II) was shot near a fish farm pond and later transported to a veterinary clinic in Novi Sad. It could not be saved. Fish ponds, particularly in Vojvodina, continue to be death traps for fish-eating birds of prey. Serbia has pledged to take action at international forums, but in truth chooses to do nothing and stand idly by in the face of fish farmers and their guns.¹⁹⁶

OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA

End of November 2025

Bundall, State of Queensland, Australia

Birds are falling by the dozens in Gladys Moncrieff Public Park near the sea, including noisy miners (*Manorina melanocephala*), Australian white ibis (*Threskiornis molucca*), crested pigeons (*Ocyphaps lophotes*), currawongs (genus *Strepera*), and magpies (family Corvidae). These birds feast on mussels and crustaceans by cracking them open with their beaks (over 16 cm long in males), as well as food scraps. Australian white ibises prefer marshes and lagoons as their natural habitats, but due to habitat fragmentation and urbanization, they are becoming peri-urban birds. "The bird could be walking and flying one minute and then, two minutes later, it's on the ground having a seizure," according to Amy Wregg, a spokesperson for the NGO WIRES (Wildlife Information Rescue and Education Service), dedicated to wildlife conservation. "We've never seen a poisoning of this scale on the Gold Coast." Gladys Moncrieff Garden remains open to the public, including children and leashed dogs, for the time being. The RSPCA is investigating the origins of the poisoning, and the Queensland Biosecurity Laboratory is working to identify the deadly substance. Bird poisoning in Australia; see "On the Trail" n°21, p. 43 (ref. 109), n°26, p. 47 (ref. 55) and p. 113 (ref. 81), n°34, p. 179 (ref. 217), n°35, p. 146 (ref. 167), n°36, p. 159 (ref. 162), and n°47, pp. 102–103 (ref. 84).¹⁹⁷



VARIOUS REPTILE SPECIES



Common tegu (*Tupinambis teguixin*). Photo morgane_ltt (BY-NC 4.0)

AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

November 24, 2025

Palm Ridge, Gauteng Province, South Africa

Parents who allowed their child to “play” with about 50 reptiles at their home were sentenced to a 1,200 US\$ fine or 24 months in prison, along with a 20-year ban on owning animals. The reptiles, confined to plastic boxes, included boa constrictors (*Boa constrictor*, Appendix II), pythons (Pythonidae, Appendix I or II), viper (family Viperidae), green iguanas (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II), geckos (family Gekkonidae), red-eared sliders (*Trachemys scripta elegans*), and marsh terrapins (*Pelomedusa subrufa*). Some were left unattended until they died, while the survivors were taken to the Johannesburg clinic in a state of distress never before seen by veterinarians.¹



AMERICA

ARGENTINA

December 19, 2025

Ingeniero Sourdeaux, Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina

Officials seized 2 broad-nosed caimans (*Caiman latirostris*, Appendix II), one Argentine tortoise (*Chelonoidis chilensis*, Appendix II), one spiny softshell turtle (*Apalone spinifera*, Appendix II), and one snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*, Appendix II)—all alive and in poor condition—as well as two stuffed tarantulas from the home of an Argentine citizen who claimed to possess psychic abilities and offered ritual ceremonies online.²

COLOMBIA

December 22, 2025

Pajonales, Department of Cundinamarca, Colombia

Two spectacled caimans (*Caiman crocodilus*, Appendix I or II) and a box turtle (genus *Trachemys*) were seized from a private property. They were transported to the CAV (Centro de Atención y Valoración de Fauna Silvestre) in Tocaima to be reintroduced to the wild and, eventually, freed.³

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

November 17, 2025

Vero Beach, Indian River County, State of Florida, United States of America

A county sheriff, while executing a search warrant at a residence in connection with a common-law offence, summoned FWC (Florida Wildlife Commission) agents to identify the snakes present, determine whether they were being kept in compliance with State regulations, and assess the risk they posed. It was evident even to novices in herpetology that the snakes' enclosures were not properly sealed and were unsanitary. Following an assessment, the snakes were found to include a horrid eloderm (*Heloderma horridum*, Appendix II) native to Mexico and Guatemala; a western diamondback rattlesnake (*Crotalus atrox*) native to the southwestern United States and Mexico; an Egyptian cobra (*Naja haje*); a snouted cobra (*Naja annulifera*) from southern Africa, whose bites are rare but whose venom is neurotoxic; a Gaboon viper (*Bitis gabonica*), a flat-headed bamboo rattlesnake (*Craspedocephalus puniceus*) native to Southeast Asia, and a viper (genus *Atheris*) native to sub-Saharan Africa—all of which were smuggled into the country without proof of registration by veterinary authorities.⁴

December 23, 2025

Buffalo, Erie County, State of New York, United States of America

Wei Qiang Lin, a prolific trafficker of turtles destined for Hong Kong, was convicted for smuggling specimens with a total market value of approximately 1.4 million US\$. He was sentenced to two years in prison and fined 2,339 US\$. Because most of the shipments were intercepted before leaving the United States, the confiscated Cora mud turtles (*Kinosternon cora*, Appendix I) were transferred to the Buffalo Zoo, where they now serve as an assurance population should the wild population decline below the threshold of viability. In addition to Cora mud turtles, Lin trafficked arboreal alligator lizards (*Abronia* spp., Appendix I or II), eastern box turtles (*Terrapene carolina carolina*, Appendix II), three-toed box turtles (*Terrapene carolina triunguis*, Appendix II), palm pit vipers (genus *Trimeresurus*), and palm pit vipers (genus *Bothriechis*) (see "On the Trail" n°47, p. 108, ref. 6).



The Cora mud turtle is distinguished by its hinged plastron, which allows it to close its shell tightly. Although this adaptation does not render it invulnerable, it provides effective protection against birds of prey and other predators. The species inhabits marshes, slow-moving rivers, and shallow, muddy water bodies rich in aquatic vegetation. Omnivorous in diet,

it is most active at dawn and dusk. It takes its common name from the Cora (Náayeri) Indigenous people of the Mexican State of Nayarit, where the species was first described in 1962.⁵

MEXICO

December 20, 2025

Querétaro International Airport, State of Querétaro, Mexico

During a cargo inspection, the National Guard recovered 6 spectacled caimans (*Caiman crocodilus*, Appendix II) and terrestrial arboreal alligator lizards (*Abronia graminea*, Appendix II) from inside a hidden package, thanks to X-rays and a K-9 unit. Terrestrial arboreal alligator lizards, known locally as blue dragons (dragoncito azul), are endemic to Mexico and highly sought after on international markets.⁶

ASIA

INDIA

December 8, 2025

Trichy International Airport, State of Tamil Nadu, India

A passenger on an AirAsia flight from Kuala Lumpur had 13 green iguanas (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II), one of which had died, 32 red-eared slider turtles (*Trachemys scripta*), and 3 raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) seized from his luggage upon arrival. The animals were immediately sent back to Kuala Lumpur.

The day before, two female travellers were also arrested on their way back from Kuala Lumpur. They were transporting 5,061 juvenile red-eared slider turtles, which are considered an invasive species in India.⁷

INDONESIA

November 25, 2025

Pelni Port, North Jakarta City, Special Capital Region of Jakarta, Java Island, Indonesia

Scandal aboard the *Dobonsolo*, a ship previously featured in "On the Trail." After unloading passengers, cargo, and vehicles from Jayapura (Papua), a crew member attempted to smuggle 133 reptiles, packed into socks or plastic bottles and hidden in various discreet locations on the ship: blue tree monitors (*Varanus macraei*, Appendix II), emerald monitors (*Varanus prasinus*, Appendix II), mangrove monitors (*Varanus indicus*, Appendix II), bluetail monitors (*Varanus doreanus*, Appendix II), peach-throated monitors (*Varanus jobiensis*, Appendix II), golden speckled tree monitors (*Varanus boehmei*, Appendix II), crocodile monitors (*Varanus salvadorii*, Appendix II), green tree pythons (*Morelia viridis*, Appendix II), and white-lipped pythons (*Leiopython albertisii*, Appendix II).

(.../...)

(.../...) Credit for the operation goes to the Directorate of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Conservation (BKSDA), the Indonesian Navy, the Tanjung Priok Port Police, and the Pelni Fisheries Agency. "We will not give space to anyone who tries to damage the nation's biological wealth through smuggling," said the Commander of Regional Command III, Rear Admiral Uki Prasetya, "The sea is the nation's living space and must be protected, including from wildlife smuggling crimes. This success is the result of the synergy and vigilance of all elements in the field."



March 2024

KM *Dobonsolo*, see "On the Trail" n°37 p. 158 (ref. 41), n°40 p. 119 (ref. 13), n°41 p. 119 (ref. 13), and n°42 p. 73 (ref. 7).⁸

December 8, 12 and 15, 2025

Jakarta Soekarno-Hatta International Airport, Special Capital Region of Jakarta, Java Island, Indonesia

A rough time for wildlife smugglers. Thanks to the vigilance of the BKSDA, Avsec (Aviation Security) and the Quarantine Agency, the animals were handed over to the Tegal Alur Wildlife Rescue Centre.

- Seizure from a Chinese passenger of 23 reticulated pythons (*Malayopython reticulatus*, synonymous with *Python reticulatus*, Appendix II), including 6 albinos, 4 common tegus (*Tupinambis teguixin*, Appendix II), 3 black tree monitor lizards (*Varanus beccarii*, Appendix II) and 2 leopard geckos (*Eublepharis macularius*).

- Seizure from a Chinese passenger of 5 Oriental magpie-robins (*Copsychus saularis*), 3 white-rumped shamas (*Copsychus malabaricus*, Appendix II), 2 indigo flycatchers (*Eumyias indigo*), a sooty-headed bulbul (*Pycnonotus aurigaster*), an orange-headed thrush (*Geokichla citrina*) and a greater green leafbird (*Chloropsis sonnerati*).

- Seizure from an Egyptian passenger of 94 reticulated pythons (*Malayopython reticulatus*, synonymous with *Python reticulatus*, Appendix II), 45 Burmese pythons (*Python bivittatus*, Appendix II) and 40 green iguanas (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II) from South America. He was about to fly to Jeddah (Saudi Arabia). He has been remanded in custody at Salemba Prison. He faces a maximum sentence of 5 years' imprisonment and/or a fine of 5 billion rupiah (300,000 US\$). The Egyptian Embassy has been assured that the trial will be fair and in accordance with international law.⁹

January 28, 2026

Bakauheni Seaport, South Lampung Regency, Lampung Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia



The Agricultural Quarantine Agency is conducting operations at the port to prevent lumpy skin disease, and trucks bound for the island of Java are being inspected. Seizure of 445 python skins (Pythonidae, Appendix I or II), 32 live turtles including South Asian box turtles (*Cuora amboinensis*, Appendix II), one monitor lizard (*Varanus* spp., Appendix I or II), and 3 ornamental bettas (genus *Betta*) originating from Southeast Asia. The truck had come from Pekanbaru in Riau Province. The turtles and bettas were bound for Cirebon, and the python skins were bound for Surabaya.¹⁰

January 29 and February 8, 2026

Bali International Airport, Badung Regency, Bali Province, Lesser Sunda Islands, Indonesia

- Seizure from 19 parcels bound for Russia of 89 royal pythons (*Python regius*, Appendix II) from Africa, 112 iguanas (family Iguanidae) including 8 dead ones from America, and a Burmese python (*Python bivittatus*, Appendix II) native to Indonesia.

- Arrest of a Russian national suspected of organising the attempted smuggling.¹¹

MALAYSIA

FAMILY AFFAIRS

December 9, 2025

Kuala Lumpur, Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Charges have been filed against so-called Nina Grace, an “influencer,” and her husband for the illegal possession of 3 green tree pythons (*Morelia viridis*, Appendix II), a carpet python (*Morelia spilota*, Appendix II), one reticulated python (*Malayopython reticulatus*, synonymous with *Python reticulatus*, Appendix II), one green iguana (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II), and one African spurred tortoise (*Centrochelys sulcata*, Appendix II), which Nina featured in her videos to encourage her audience to purchase exotic animals. The prosecutor requested a statutory bail of 2,500 US\$ for each animal, which the judges reduced to 1,250 US\$ due to 2 children the couple must raise.¹²



January 28, 2026

Wakaf Bharu, State of Kelantan, Malaysia. Border with Thailand.

Seizure of 17 non-native animals—9 green iguanas (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II) from the Americas and 8 African spurred tortoises (*Centrochelys sulcata*, Appendix II)—as well as 5 cages. Two men, one of whom underage, had been operating this business for a year by purchasing the animals in Thailand.¹³

EUROPE

SPAIN

November 15, 2025

Burgohondo, Province of Avila, Autonomous Community of Castile and León, Spain

A fake nongovernmental organisation that purportedly rehabilitated abandoned wild animals was in fact a conspiracy that trafficked Hermann's tortoises (*Testudo hermanni*, Appendix II) and exotic animals online, including leopard tortoises (*Stigmochelys pardalis*, Appendix II), African spurred tortoises (*Centrochelys sulcata*, Appendix II), Nile monitors (*Varanus niloticus*, Appendix II), iguanas (family Iguanidae), geckos (infraorder Gekkota), and tarantulas. The organisers of the so-called NGO

would give talks at schools in Madrid and Ávila. The 472 animals recovered from their network were transferred to legitimate animal shelters. Four individuals are now in custody, thanks to an operation by the Guardia Civil, Tragsatec (a public company providing technical assistance in the fields of the environment and agriculture), and CITES officers from the Ministry of Ecological Transition.¹⁴

November 28, 2025

Las Palmas, Province of Las Palmas, Autonomous Community of the Canary Islands, Spain



A man from Agüimes was sentenced to two years in prison and barred from practicing any profession or trade involving animals for three years after keeping 47 animals—including 17 species listed in CITES Appendix II and four in Appendix I—in his home: a rhinoceros iguana (*Cyclura cornuta*, Appendix I), a king cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*, Appendix II), a Peter's cobra (*Naja samarensis*, Appendix II), a monocled cobra (*Naja kaouthia*, Appendix II), a Cape cobra (*Naja nivea*), a black-necked spitting cobra (*Naja nigricollis*), 2 reticulated pythons (*Malayopython reticulatus*, synonym of *Python reticulatus*, Appendix II), a Gaboon viper (*Bitis gabonica*), 2 Southwestern speckled rattlesnakes (*Crotalus pyrrhus*), 10 California kingsnakes (*Lampropeltis californiae*), a green bush viper (*Atheris chlorechis*), a green mamba (*Dendroaspis angusticeps*), a horned pit viper (*Cerastes cerastes*), an alligator snapping turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*, Appendix II), one Mindanao water monitor (*Varanus cumingi*, Appendix II), two quince monitors (*Varanus melinus*, Appendix II), 2 emerald monitors (*Varanus prasinus*, Appendix II), a blue tree monitor (*Varanus macraei*, Appendix II), a yellow-spotted monitor (*Varanus panoptes*, Appendix II), a Nile monitor (*Varanus niloticus*, Appendix II), 2 yellow tree monitors (*Varanus reisingeri*, Appendix II), one Gila monster (*Heloderma suspectum*, Appendix II), one Chinese crocodile lizard (*Shinisaurus crocodilurus*, Appendix I), 2 Central bearded dragons (*Pogona vitticeps*), one African dwarf crocodile (*Osteolaemus tetraspis*, Appendix I), one broad-nosed caiman (*Caiman latirostris*, Appendix I except Appendix II in Brazil and Argentina), two Cuvier's smooth-fronted caimans (*Paleosuchus palpebrosus*, Appendix II), one Chilean rose tarantula (*Grammostola rosea*, Appendix II since March 5, 2026), one Mexican fireleg tarantula (*Brachypelma boehmei*, Appendix II), and two black-tufted marmosets (*Callithrix penicillata*, Appendix II).

A man from Güimar (on the island of Tenerife) who had sold the rhinoceros iguana to the man from Agüimes in 2022 was sentenced to a two-year ban on any profession or trade related to animals and to an unspecified fine.

Wildlife import or export to the Canary Islands; see “On the Trail” n°5, p. 32; n°26, p. 36 (ref. 2); n°35, p. 150 (ref. 18); n°35, p. 185 (ref. 73); n°38, p. 160 (ref. 161); and n°47, p. 148 (ref.83).¹⁵

January 17, 2026

Alicante, Province of Alicante, Valencian Community, Spain

Three people were arrested in possession of a chameleon (family Chamaeleonidae) listed under CITES and a painted turtle (*Chrysemys picta*) native to North America and listed in Spain as an invasive species. According to the media outlet CBNoticias, the animals were recovered as part of an investigation into cocaine and hashish trafficking, which was intended for "immediate consumption by people with limited resources".¹⁶

FRANCE

November 24, 2025, and January 29, 2026

Tinqueux and Reims, Department of Marne, France



An eight-month suspended prison sentence was handed to the man who attempted to sell three spectacled caimans (*Caiman crocodilus*, Appendix I or II) and a common musk turtle (*Sternotherus odoratus*, Appendix II) on Snapchat. During a November 2025 visit to his home, the gendarmerie and OFB seized the four reptiles and later entrusted them to "a specialised animal care association."¹⁷

POLAND

Week-end of November 8 and 9, 2025

Lublin, Lublin Voivodeship, Poland

Seizure during an exotic animal fair from the stall of a 27-year-old woman of 25 royal pythons (*Python regius*, Appendix II) from Africa, 6 European pond turtles (*Emys orbicularis*, Appendix III in Ukraine), common thick-tailed geckos (*Underwoodisaurus milii*, Appendix III in Australia) and leopard geckos (*Eublepharis macularius*) from South Asia, which were handed over to the town's "exotarium". The observation of the photographs by the "On the Trail" investigators also revealed the seizure of an axolotl (*Ambystoma mexicanum*, Appendix II) from Mexico.¹⁸

ROMANIA

January 12, 2026

Ștei, Bihor County, Romania

Found in a three-room flat on Andrei Mureșanu Street were 3 boa constrictors (*Boa constrictor*, Appendix II) from America, a reticulated python (*Malayopython reticulatus*, synonymous with *Python reticulatus*, Appendix II) from Asia, 2 Mangshan pit vipers (*Trimeresurus mangshanensis*, synonymous with *Protobothrops mangshanensis*, Appendix II) from China, a western hognose snake (*Heterodon nasicus*) from America, a corn snake (*Pantherophis guttatus*) from America, a yellow-spotted monitor (*Varanus panoptes*, Appendix II) from Southeastern Asia and Australia, a caiman (Alligatoridae,

Appendix I or II) from America, a red-footed tortoise (*Chelonoidis carbonarius*, Appendix II) from America, and 10 tarantulas (family Theraphosidae), including electric blue tarantulas (*Chilobrachys natanicharum*) from Thailand. The engineering student at the University of Oradea kept them in his 12 m² room at his grandparents' home. He had purchased them through unknown channels in Romania, Spain and Germany. The 2 venomous Mangshan pit vipers came from Estonia. There is no antidote for their bite in Romania. They were urgently transferred to the Natural History Museum in Bucharest. The 21-year-old man says he is driven by a passion for reptiles and is uninterested in the profits of breeding them. He reassured his grandparents by repeating that none of the members of his menagerie [despite being housed in precarious conditions] was able to escape, bite, sting or strangle.¹⁹



RUSSIA

November 6, 2025

Kazan International Airport, Republic of Tatarstan, Russia



Seizure in the luggage of a passenger arriving from Istanbul of 612 wallets, coin purses, and handbags made of python skin (Pythonidae, Appendix I or II), crocodilian skin (Crocodylia, Appendix I or II), monitor lizard skin (*Varanus* spp., Appendix I or II), and cobra skin (family Elapidae). The fashion accessories trafficker presented forged CITES certificates to clear customs.²⁰

November 17, 2025

Moscow Federal City, Russia

Closure of a temporary exhibition of exotic animals at the Panfilovsky shopping centre. Pythons (Pythonidae, Appendix I or II), a Greek tortoise (*Testudo graeca*, Appendix II), chameleons (family Chamaeleonidae), geckos (infraorder Gekkota), toads, and a basilisk (genus *Basiliscus*, a tree-dwelling lizard native to Central America) were on display under conditions of extreme unsanitary conditions and discomfort. The animals were reportedly transferred to the Moscow Zoo, but the exhibition organiser told the newspaper Moskovski Komsomolets otherwise. Claiming 12 years of experience in breeding exotic animals and calling himself a victim of slander by competitors, the exhibition director asserts that only one python—in a terrarium deemed too small by regulatory authorities—was seized and that it will be returned to him within a few days.²¹

January 22, 2026

Moscow Federal City, Russia

After a child was hospitalized from a venomous snake bite, authorities probed the family's apartment. Inside where the father, mother and three minors all lived, authorities seized blue tree monitors (*Varanus macraei*, Appendix II) from Indonesia, emerald monitors (*Varanus prasinus*, Appendix II) from Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and Australia; a red teju (*Salvator rufescens*, Appendix II) originating from Argentina, Bolivia, and Paraguay; Tanimbar-island pythons (*Morelia nauta*, Appendix II) from Indonesia; short-tailed pythons (*Python curtus*, *Python breitensteini*, or *Python brongersmai*, Appendix II) native to Southeast Asia, and a Japanese ratsnake (*Elaphe climacophora*). Moreover, a white-lipped island pitviper (*Trimeresurus insularis*) native to Indonesia, a Sri Lankan pit viper (*Trimeresurus trionocephalus*), and another viper (either a *Protobothrops elegans*, native to Japan, or *Trimeresurus gracilis*, native to Taiwan) were handed over.²²

TORTOISES AND FRESHWATER TURTLES



Angulate tortoise (*Chersina angulata*). Photo sarah_on_earth (BY-NC 4.0)

AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

November 1, 2025

Table Bay Nature Reserve, Cape Town, Western Cape Province, South Africa

At noon on a Saturday, visitors to a nature trail were horrified at the sight of 19 empty angulate tortoise (*Chersina angulata*, Appendix II) shells. The meat and organs, intended for human consumption or use in black magic, had been removed by two men claiming to be anglers. The reserve is located 15 km from Cape Town.

Angulate tortoises are found in South Africa and southern Namibia, in arid, sandy terrain. Adults measure 20 to 26 cm. It is one of the few turtle species in which males are larger than females. They have a spur at the front of their plastron, under the throat, which they use during fights to win over females.¹

MADAGASCAR

**Beginning of November, Night of November 7-8, November 15 and 18, and December 3-4, 2025
Ambaliandro, Androy Region, Andavakotoko, Diana Region, Nosy Be-Fascene International Airport, Diana Region, Antananarivo, Antananarivo Region, Ivato, Antananarivo Region, and Agnaviavy Ambone, Androy Region, Madagascar**

The Interception of Radiated Tortoises

- Officials seized 26 radiated tortoises from Madagascar (*Astrochelys radiata*, Appendix I) and arrested 4 traffickers.

- Illegal emigration and endangered species trafficking. At the port, the gendarmerie boarded a speedboat and found 11 people, including three children, preparing to set sail for the Comoros, 400 km away. Amid fuel cans, alcohol and bags of food, they discovered 312 juvenile tortoises.
 - Realizing they were being watched by airport staff, two Malagasy nationals swiftly abandoned their luggage and managed to escape. Inside were 56 turtles, hidden inside shoe boxes and potato chip bags. They were about to board an Ethiopian Airlines flight bound for Addis Ababa, and their final destination was Viet Nam, where hawksbill turtles sell for between 1,000 US\$ and 5,000 US\$.
- (.../...)



(.../...)

- Officials arrested a trafficker and seized 6 turtles he had listed for sale on social media.
- Near the airport, 162 juvenile radiated tortoises were seized from the bedroom and yard of a Chinese casino owner. Neighbours were fed up to watch stray dogs fighting over dead tortoises outside his door.



- Authorities arrested a trafficker and seized 85 radiated tortoises, along with seven bicycles used to transport the animals before they were loaded onto trucks bound for Antananarivo Airport. Six accomplices—including a trapper who operated during the favourable rainy season and bikers—remain at large.



Radiated tortoises, known locally as *sokabé*, continue to be subjected to capture, abuse, mistreatment, and repeated smuggling attempts, along with *angonoka* (*Astrochelys yniphora*, Appendix I), *sokabato* (*Pyxis arachnoides*, Appendix I), and *kapidolo* (*Pyxis planicauda*, Appendix I).²

NAMIBIA

January 3, 2026

Tsandi, Omusati Region, Namibia

Two individuals, ages 24 and 75, were arrested in possession of two tortoises worth an estimated 10,000 Namibian dollars, or 320 US\$ per specimen. Namibia is home to seven tortoise species: the angulate tortoise (*Chersina angulata*, Appendix II), leopard tortoise (*Stigmochelys pardalis*, Appendix II), speckled tortoise (*Chersobius signatus*, Appendix II), Nama tortoise (*Chersobius solus*, Appendix II), Speke's hinged tortoise (*Kinixys spekii*, Appendix II), serrated tortoise (*Psammobates oculifer*, Appendix II), and tent tortoise (*Psammobates tentorius*, Appendix II).³

NORTHERN AMERICA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

January 8, 2026

Jackson, Hinds County, State of Mississippi, United States of America



Jeffery Budziszewski, 66, was sentenced to one year of probation and fined 3,000 US\$ for exporting numerous three-toed box turtles (*Terrapene carolina triunguis*, Appendix II), which he would repackage and smuggle to Hong Kong. "The Lacey Act, a federal law, prohibits exporting, transporting, and purchasing in interstate or foreign commerce any wildlife taken, possessed, transported, or sold in violation of any law or regulation of any State or in violation of any foreign law." "Three-toed box turtles are an important part of Mississippi's natural heritage, and their removal for illegal trade puts the species at serious risk while undermining conservation efforts," said Assistant Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Office of Law Enforcement.⁴

LATIN AMERICA

ARGENTINA

December 23, 2025

Maipú, Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina

Acting on information, rural police found a passenger aboard Mery Tour minibus n°6, travelling from Buenos Aires to Mendoza (1,000 km), with a live Argentine tortoise (*Chelonoidis chilensis*, Appendix II) inside a cardboard box with no water or food. The tortoise was transferred to the province's Ecoparc, and the man was taken into custody.⁵

BRAZIL

November 26, 2025

Park Way, Federal District, Brazil

The police recovered 12 red-footed tortoises (*Chelonoidis carbonarius*, Appendix II) and one additional tortoise, which were held in captivity under unsanitary conditions, without access to water or food. They were transported to a wildlife hospital.⁶

COLOMBIA

November 16, 2025

Valle de Aburrá, Department of Antioquia, Colombia



A poor red-footed tortoise (*Chelonoidis carbonarius*, Appendix II) was brought to the CAVR (Centro de Atención, Valoración y Rehabilitación de fauna silvestre), deformed, flattened, fractured, colourless, and weak. In two years, the CAVR has taken in 1,900 red-footed tortoises, the basic pet, cheap, passive, and suffering in silence.

Red-footed tortoises generally measure around 30 cm and can live for roughly 60 years. They are sought after as pets but are also threatened by the collection of their eggs and hunting for food.⁷

December 11, 2025

Arauca, Department of Arauca, Colombia



Following a report to the 123 emergency hotline, six red-footed tortoises (*Chelonoidis carbonarius*, Appendix II) which had been abandoned in a wooden crate were rescued by the Carabineros and an animal rescue unit.⁸

December 22, 2025

Department of Valle del Cauca, Colombia

Wildlife protection officers remain on high alert. In an official statement, authorities emphasized that "during the end-of-year holidays, the illegal trafficking and possession of wild animals, the stresses associated with travel, festive celebrations, and fireworks all have detrimental effects on animal welfare and the balance of ecosystems." Five Colombian sliders (*Trachemys callirostris*) were seized and transferred to the CAVR (Centro de Atención y Valoración de Fauna Silvestre) in San Emigdio for care and evaluation.⁹

January 26, 2026

El Roble, Department of Sucre, Colombia

Jean Medrano Causado was stopped at kilometre 1 of the road connecting the city to the San Francisco district. He was caught transporting 5 live Colombian sliders (*Trachemys callirostris*) in a plastic bag, worth an estimated 32.5 million pesos, or 1,720 US\$ per specimen.¹⁰

MEXICO

November 5, 2025

Tuxtla Gutierrez, State of Chiapas, Mexico

Authorities recovered 3,445 juvenile Meso-American sliders (*Trachemys venusta*) from the luggage compartment of a bus on the San Cristóbal de Las Casas-Tuxtla Gutiérrez highway. José R. was arrested and released on the condition that he report to the police station every 15 days pending trial.



According to environmental authorities, Meso-American sliders are endangered due to habitat destruction and poaching for food or the pet trade. Vendors transport these turtles in overcrowded cardboard boxes, resulting in high mortality rates even before they reach their destination.¹¹

November 12, 2025

Tijuana International Airport, State of Baja California, Mexico

Authorities intercepted nine parcels originating from Mexico and falsely declared as containing “cosmetics.” Inside were 774 juvenile turtles, including four that had died during transport. The shipment included Cora mud turtles (*Kinosternon cora*, Appendix I), Tabasco mud turtles (*Kinosternon acutum*, Appendix II), scorpion mud turtles (*Kinosternon scorpioides*, Appendix II), Mexican mud turtles (*Kinosternon integrum*, Appendix II), and Oaxaca mud turtles (*Kinosternon oaxacae*, Appendix II). According to a preliminary report, both the sender and recipient are believed to be Chinese nationals. The genus *Kinosternon* is endemic to the Americas, comprising 22 species whose range extends from the United States to Argentina. The genus is threatened by habitat loss (fragmentation, loss of vegetation cover, pollution of water bodies) and overexploitation for local food consumption or the illegal international trade as pets. Many specimens are smuggled into the European Union. The genus was listed in CITES Appendix II in 2023. The comprehensive compilation of *Kinosternon* seizures conducted by “On the Trail” between 2013 and 2022 helped support the proposal for its inclusion, which was submitted by the United States of America, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, and Panama.¹² *Kinosternon*, see Index.

PERU

December 11, 2025

Department of Ancash, Perú

The Serfor came to the rescue of a yellow-footed tortoise (*Chelonoidis denticulatus*, Appendix II) and two yellow-headed sidenecks (*Podocnemis unifilis*, Appendix II) that were abandoned in a public area. Another report led to the rescue of a northern hawk owl that was suffocating from forest fire smoke. The Serfor reminded the public that “wild animals are not pets. It is therefore essential to respect their natural habitat and avoid any actions that harm them, such as forest fires or other human activities.”¹³

ASIA

BANGLADESH

November 30, 2025

Rupsa Upazila, Khulna District, Khulna Division, Bangladesh

The Coast Guard intercepted a bus at a toll booth on Sunday morning, conducted a thorough search, and discovered 62 Indian flapshell turtles (*Lissemys punctata*, Appendix II) captured in the Sundarbans marshes. The driver and controller, suspected of routine smuggling, were released on bail.¹⁴

January 5 and 7, 2026

Pekua, Cox’s Bazar District, Chattogram Division, and Narayanganj, Narayanganj District, Dhaka Division, Bangladesh

- An operation by the Wildlife Crime Control Unit culminated in the interception of 74 turtles of the genus *Pangshura*, as well as of the equipment used to capture them. In Bangladesh, the genus *Pangshura* is represented by the Indian roofed turtle (*Pangshura tecta*, Appendix I), brown roofed turtle (*Pangshura smithii*, Appendix II), Assam roofed turtle (*Pangshura sylhetensis*, Appendix II), and Indian tent turtle (*Pangshura tentoria*, Appendix II). The 74 turtles were released into natural bodies of water.

- A new operation by the Wildlife Crime Control Unit leads to the confiscation of 34 Indian flapshell turtles (*Lissemys punctata*, Appendix II) and of the tools used to capture them. Two arrests were made, and the turtles were released into natural bodies of water.¹⁵

CHINA

November 2025

Huanggang Checkpoint, Shenzhen Prefecture, Guangdong Province, China. Border with Hong Kong.

Anticipating the inspection would go badly, the driver of an SUV threw something into the bushes. Customs officials were not fooled and recovered five bags containing five Chinese three-striped box turtles (*Cuora trifasciata*, Appendix II), three Vietnamese three-striped box turtles (*Cuora cyclornata*, Appendix II) from China and Viet Nam, and a red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*), an invasive species, all of which were alive.¹⁶

November 7, 2025

Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge Border Post, Guangdong Province, China. Border with Hong Kong and Macau.

A total of 374 juvenile scorpion mud turtles (*Kinosternon scorpioides cruentatum*, Appendix II) from Latin America were seized from the spare tire compartment of a coach arriving from Hong Kong. The driver said that he had loaded them on behalf of a third party. Not long before, in September 2025, Hong Kong customs officials seized 324 turtles of the same species from under a truck trailer chassis. The value of a scorpion turtle in Hong Kong is estimated at 1,260 US\$ (see “On the Trail” n°48, p. 130, ref. 26).¹⁷

December 5, 2025

Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge Border Post, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China. Border with Inner China.



Seizure at the rear of a van of 42 live turtles in boxes and plastic bags. The species has/have not yet been identified, but they are presumed to be endangered, listed in CITES Appendix II and on the national list of protected species. Their value is estimated at 420,000 HK\$, or 54,000 US\$, which amounts to 1,285 US\$ per specimen. The 33-year-old driver has already been charged with attempting to export endangered species and has been brought before the West Kowloon Magistrates' Court.¹⁸

December 2025

Luohu Border Post, Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, China. Border with Hong Kong.

Seizure from the shirt and pants pockets of 2 passengers of 13 live turtles wrapped in tissue paper: 2 leopard tortoises (*Stigmochelys pardalis*, Appendix II) originating from Africa and 11 Hermann's tortoises (*Testudo hermanni*, Appendix II). Both species are listed in CITES Appendix II, but in China, Hermann's tortoises—native to the Mediterranean basin—are considered an invasive species and may be killed under the People's Republic of China's Biodiversity Law.¹⁹

December 2025

West Kowloon Station, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China

Three Vietnamese three-striped box turtles (*Cuora cyclornata*, Appendix II) in the backpack of a passenger who was attempting to smuggle them into mainland China. In accordance with CITES and the regulations of the People's Republic of China regarding the import and export of endangered wildlife, the trade, transport, or mailing of endangered species and their derivatives is prohibited when entering or leaving Chinese territory, except for individuals duly in possession of an import and export certificate for wild animals and plants. "Anyone who violates these regulations will be prosecuted."²⁰

January 2026

Shenzhen Bay Control Point, Guangdong Province, China. Border with Hong Kong.



Two adult radiated tortoises (*Astrochelys radiata*, Appendix I) wrapped in newspaper in the back of a car.²¹

January 27, 2026

Shenzhen Bay Control Point, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China. Border with China Mainland.



Seizure of 2 snapping turtles (family Chelydridae) and 4 cacti from the luggage of an incoming passenger in the presence of officials from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. Customs remind the public that any import into or export from Hong Kong is prohibited unless the special and prior permits have been issued. "Members of the public may report any suspected smuggling activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 182 8080 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk)."²²



INDIA

Night of November 6-7 and 13, 2025

Kamarguda and Anantapalli, Malkangiri District, State of Odisha, India

- Forest rangers and revenue officials from Motu seized 51 live Indian flapshell turtles (*Lissemys punctata*, Appendix II) from Mandal and Bachhad, who were driving overnight from Vemullarai in Andhra Pradesh to Odisha. The flapshell turtles, packed into two bags, weighed 160 kg, or 3 kg per specimen.

- One week later, 60 km from Bhubaneswar, Motu Forest rangers and revenue officials recovered 85 Indian flapshell turtles, 39 of which were dead, as well as two Hero Splendor Plus motorcycles. They made three arrests and released the surviving turtles into a suitable habitat.²³

OPERATION WILEP

November 7 and December 3, 9, and 11, 2025

Dhanbad, Dhanbad District, State of Jharkhand, India

Indian flapshell turtles smuggled aboard the Doon Express

- At dawn, authorities seized 78 live Indian flapshell turtles (*Lissemys punctata*, Appendix II) with an estimated market value of 780,000 rupees (approximately 8,800 US\$, or 113 US\$ per individual). The turtles were concealed beneath the seats of a women-only carriage in bags of clothing. None of the female passengers claimed ownership.



- In a separate operation, authorities discovered 35 live Indian flapshell turtles hidden under the seats of another women-only carriage in three bags of clothing. Again, none of the female passengers claimed the bags. According to the RPF (Railway Protection Force), the trafficker's method is to conceal the turtles in women-only coaches while travelling in another carriage. If the bags remain undetected until the train reaches Howrah, he retrieves them and delivers the turtles to an intermediary.

- The RPF also seized 60 live Indian flapshell turtles from a bag stored beneath the seats of a general-class carriage open to passengers of both sexes. Two 50-year-old passengers admitted ownership, stating that they had boarded the Doon Express at a station in Uttar Pradesh. They told investigators

that the turtles were destined for a man identified as Kartik Shah in the South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal and acknowledged having participated in the trafficking operation for two years, making two to three deliveries each month.

- In another case, seven live Indian flapshell turtles were recovered from a general-class carriage near the locomotive. Dhanbad (population 1.2 million), where the seizure took place, is widely known as the coal capital of India.²⁴

November 11, 2025

Nagla Karnai, Mainpuri District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India

The STF (Special Task Force) seized 197 turtles, either Indian softshell turtles (*Nilssonina gangetica*, Appendix I) or Indian flapshell turtles (*Lissemys punctata*, Appendix II), from a luxury vehicle travelling toward Uttarakhand. Two suspects, Rakesh Kashyap, a resident of Bareilly district, and Mukeshwala, from Udham Singh Nagar district, were arrested in Uttarakhand. They told investigators that they had purchased the turtles at low prices in the Uttar Pradesh districts of Etawah, Mainpuri, and Firozabad and intended to resell them at a substantial profit in Sitarganj, Uttarakhand.

The movement of soft-shelled turtles from Uttar Pradesh to neighbouring and more distant States for resale is a well-established trafficking pattern documented by the STF, the WCCB, and "On the Trail" (see n°44 p. 155, refs. 30, 31, and 32; p. 156, ref. 36; p. 157, ref. 41; n°46 p. 105, ref. 16; p. 106, refs. 22 and 25; and n°47 p. 111, ref. 20).²⁵

REPEATED OFFENCE

Mid-November 2025

Ahmedabad District, State of Gujarat, India



Soni operated the Instagram account "Ahmedabad_dog_lovers", which in reality served as a front for selling Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix I). Within the trafficking network, Notwani managed customer orders, Chauhan coordinated with suppliers, and Sonwane organised deliveries through porters and courier services. Investigators believe the group sold at least 50 Indian star tortoises in the States of Rajasthan and Gujarat. The conspiracy was dead after they accepted an order for 10 Indian star tortoises at a price of 50,000 rupees each (approximately 5,640 US\$ for the shipment), unaware that the buyer was an undercover officer from the SOG (Special Operations Group). The 10 tortoises were seized at the time of delivery.

The suspects face penalties of up to 7 years' imprisonment and a fine of 25,000 rupees (approximately 280 US\$) for each specimen sold or offered for sale.²⁶

November 19, 2025

Gwalior, Gwalior District, State of Madhya Pradesh, India

Two young men on a motorcycle sped up and fled as police ordered them to stop at the DD Nagar intersection, near Pinto Park. In their haste, they threw a bag onto the shoulder of the road with 17 live Indian flapshell turtles (*Lissemys punctata*, Appendix II) inside. Police are reviewing surveillance footage to try to identify the fugitives and their motorcycle.²⁷

November 21, 2025

Hansa, Jalaun District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India

Raju Ahirwar and Chand Babu ate a turtle they had just caught in a pond. It is unclear whether the turtle was a Indian softshell turtle (*Nilssonina gangetica*, Appendix I), a red-crowned roofed turtle (*Batagur kachuga*, Appendix I), a spotted pond turtle (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*, Appendix I), or one of the other 14 protected species living in the Uttar Pradesh waters. All we know is that Raju and Babu were reported and that forest rangers, led by Major Dixit, seized the turtle's remains, mixed in with kitchen utensils, from their home.²⁸

November 23, 2025

Dumila, Mainpuri District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India

Police seized 74 Indian flapshell turtles (*Lissemys punctata*, Appendix II) that two traffickers were attempting to transport into Udham Singh Nagar District (Uttarakhand). Yanendra Gangwar and Arsh Pathania, both from the Bareilly district (Uttar Pradesh), were arrested. Acting on a tip, officers had set up a checkpoint between the Etawah and Mainpuri districts.²⁹

November 23, 2025

Shahpur, Ahmedabad District, State of Gujarat, India

Following confidential information received on Sunday, November 23, the SOG (Special Operations Group) and the Ahmedabad Forest Division raided a private residence and seized 34 Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix I). They were transferred to the Bodakdev Wildlife Care Center.³⁰

November 28, 2025

Chennai International Airport, State of Tamil Nadu, India

Seizure of nearly 3,000 red-eared sliders (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) from the luggage of a Malaysian national travelling from Kuala Lumpur on a Singapore Airlines flight. They were reportedly returned to Malaysia.³¹

End of November 2025

Tulsipaka, Alluri Sitharama Raju District, State of Odisha, India

Forest rangers seized 248 turtles—18 of which were dead—from a hidden compartment in a vehicle travelling from Ravulapalem, Andhra Pradesh, to Odisha. Two people were arrested. The turtles most commonly trafficked in Andhra Pradesh are Indian flapshell turtles (*Lissemys punctata*, Appendix II).³²

FAMILY AFFAIRS

December 4, 2025

Raiwala, Dehradun District, State of Uttarakhand, India

Authorities seized 14 Indian flapshell turtles (*Lissemys punctata*, Appendix II) from a car belonging to Barkha and her husband Betabnath. The turtles were reportedly purchased in Najibabad (Uttar Pradesh), and the couple was heading to Rishikesh (Uttarakhand), where they hoped to sell them for a profit. Since a bomb exploded in Delhi (National Capital Territory) in November 2025,

numerous checkpoints on the roads leading into the neighbouring State of Uttar Pradesh have been added.³³

December 6, 2025

Alangombu, Coimbatore District, State of Tamil Nadu, India

Authorities recovered an Indian star tortoise (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix I) from Saraswathi. Investigators believe the animal had been captured by Abdul Muthaleef, who, together with six accomplices, planned to sell it to traffickers for onward smuggling by sea to Sri Lanka. There, the species is highly prized by the Chinese community, which considers it a symbol of good fortune. The Indian star tortoise has been listed in CITES Appendix I since 2019, and all international commercial trade in the species is prohibited.³⁴

OPERATION WILEP

December 15, 19, and 20, 2025

Gaya Junction Railway Station, Gaya District, State of Bihar, India

- Four backpacks and one suitcase containing 76 live Indian softshell turtles (*Nilssonina gangetica*, Appendix I) or Indian flapshell turtles (*Lissemys punctata*, Appendix II) were seized on Platform 3 from a carriage of the Netaji Express. No passenger claimed ownership of the luggage. The Netaji Express connects Kalka (population 45,000) in Haryana with Howrah, the twin city of Kolkata on the western bank of the Hooghly River in West Bengal, covering approximately 1,700 km in 24 hours with 38 stops, including 14 in Uttar Pradesh. This State has long been identified as a major source of poaching and trafficking of freshwater turtles within India and to neighbouring countries. The 76 turtles were valued at an estimated 3.8 million rupees (42,500 US\$, or 559 US\$ per specimen). The RPF (Railway Protection Force) maintains a full-time team dedicated to preventing fraud and trafficking at Gaya Junction, where several strategic railway lines converge, making it a key hub for both passenger travel and trade.

- The RPF seized 102 live turtles from Car n°3 of the Doon Express. The turtles were concealed in two bags belonging to a passenger who denied any involvement in the trafficking and was unable to provide investigators with any useful information. Their value was estimated at 5.1 million rupees (57,000 US\$, or 559 US\$ per specimen). The Doon Express connects Rishikesh (population 150,000), a pilgrimage town in Uttarakhand, with Howrah, completing the journey in 34 hours with 72 stops through Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Jharkhand.

- The RPF and the GRP (Government Railway Police) seized 48 turtles from two yellow-and-white bags in carriage n°7 on platform n°2. None of the passengers claimed ownership or provided any information that could assist the investigation. The turtles were valued at an estimated 2.4 million rupees (26,900 US\$, or 559 US\$/specimen). Altogether, the 226 turtles seized on Monday the 15th, Friday the 19th, and Saturday the 20th were placed in the care of the forestry services. Releasing them before their health deteriorates presents logistical challenges, as the turtles were confiscated several hundred kilometres from the rivers in Uttar Pradesh where they had originally been captured.³⁵

OPERATION WILEP

December 19, 2025

Barharwa, Sahibganj District, State of Jharkhand, and Malda, Malda District, State of West Bengal, India

- The Railway Protection Force (RPF) seized 662 Indian flapshell turtles (*Lissemys punctata*, Appendix II) concealed in 22 bags aboard the Farakka Express. Three individuals—a man and two women, Karan Patrakat, Kusma Patrakat, and Manju Patrakat, all residents of Sultanpur district, Uttar Pradesh—were arrested. The flapshell turtles were reportedly purchased in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, and were being transported to West Bengal. The Farakka Express connects Bathinda in Punjab with Balurghat in West Bengal, near the border with Bangladesh, covering 1,832 km in a two-day journey with 81 stops. Its route crosses West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, the National Capital Territory of Delhi, Haryana, and Punjab.

- The RPF seized 128 Indian softshell turtles (*Nilssonina gangetica*, Appendix I) or Indian flapshell turtles concealed in five bags aboard the Intercity Express travelling from Kiul in Bihar to Malda in West Bengal via Farakka. A woman was arrested in connection with the seizure.³⁶



December 24, 2025

Vadodara, Vadodara District, State of Gujarat, India

The Wildlife Reserve Trust, led by Tushar Uttekar, seized two Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix I) from an employee at Sayaji Baug, a public park that includes a zoo. The man said his son had caught them in a pond and was keeping them at the family home for fun, not commercial purposes.³⁷

January 17, 2026

Sasaram, Rohtas District, State of Bihar, India

311 live turtles—Indian softshell turtles (*Nilssonina gangetica*, Appendix I) or Indian flapshell turtles (*Lissemys punctata*, Appendix II)—were found in a carriage on the Netaji Express, distributed among 11 bags under a seat. Estimated value: 300,000 rupees (3,341 US\$) or 10.7 US\$ per specimen. The Netaji Express runs from Kalka (State of Haryana) to Howrah (West Bengal), covering 1,714 km in 32 hours with 39 stops, and passes through Haryana, the National Capital Territory of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal.³⁸

January 18, 2026

Varanasi, Varanasi District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India

Vikram, Babban, Prakash, Rahul, and Shubham had just arrived from Sultanpur by bus and were preparing to board a train to West Bengal, carrying 13 bags, when they were approached by an RPF squad led by Sandeep Kumar Yadav. Seizure of 363 live turtles, including Indian softshell turtles (*Nilssonina gangetica*, Appendix I) and Indian flapshell turtles (*Lissemys punctata*, Appendix II), with an estimated value of 7.3 million rupees (813,000 US\$)—a significant sum that could be explained by the size of the turtles.³⁹

January 22, 2026

Bhanvad, Devbhoomi Dwarka District, State of Gujarat, India

Arrest of the director of a refrigerator factory who was keeping 12 Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix I) in a corner of his facility. Either he was hoping to attract prosperity 12 times over, as the legend surrounding the Indian star tortoise suggests, or he was trafficking them by selling them for 500,000 to 700,000 rupees (5,570 to 7,800 US\$) each.⁴⁰

January 28, 2026

Munshiganj, Amethi District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India

Officials seized 1,203 turtles from a pick-up truck bed, hidden underneath a cargo of bananas. The turtles included Indian softshell turtles (*Nilssonina gangetica*, Appendix I), Indian flapshell turtles (*Lissemys punctata*, Appendix II), and Indian tent turtles (*Pangshura tentoria*, Appendix II), altogether worth an estimated 3 million rupees (33,407 US\$). Three individuals were arrested.⁴¹

KAZAKHSTAN

December 18, 2025

Kazakhstan

On the basis of the findings of the Republic's Institute of Zoology dated March 31, 2025, the Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources has prohibited, until 2040, any removal of Horsfield's tortoises (*Testudo horsfieldii*, Appendix II) from the wild, as well as the use of its parts and derivatives within the territory of Kazakhstan without prior approval. The statement from the Institute of Zoology emphasises that the species plays a key role in the ecosystems and biocoenoses of the steppes and semi-arid deserts of Kazakhstan and Central Asia, in particular because it serves as a food source for birds of prey and mammals. "Uncontrolled harvesting and habitat destruction of the Horsfield's tortoise may lead to its complete disappearance in certain areas, which in turn can cause a decline in the reproductive success of predatory birds and mammals and their total disappearance in a given region."

(.../...)

(.../...)

The predators of Horsfield's tortoises – whether at the egg, juvenile or adult stage – include grey monitors, badgers, foxes, steppe eagles and golden eagles. The statement specifies that, in addition to poaching, Horsfield's tortoise populations are affected by "land ploughing, uncontrolled livestock grazing, annual grass burning". Anyone who fails to comply with this ban will be liable under Article 339 of the Criminal Code of Kazakhstan and face a fine equivalent to 25,800 US\$, 800 hours of community service, or 3 years' imprisonment, as well as confiscation of property and deprivation of the right to engage in certain activities for up to 5 years.⁴²



MALAYSIA

November 27, 2025

Kuala Lumpur International Airport, State of Selangor, Malaysia

Arrest of a Vietnamese national. Seizure of 116 scorpion mud turtles (*Kinosternon scorpioides*, Appendix II) found in 2 plastic boxes, hidden under cloth and socks, with an estimated value of 7,400 US\$, or 64 US\$ per turtle. From January 2024 to May 2025, customs and AVSEC (Aviation Security) seized 5,000 plants and animals at Kuala Lumpur International Airport, with an estimated value of 1.5 million US\$. Scorpion mud turtles are native to Latin America.⁴³

January 4, 2026

Bagan Lalang, State of Penang, Malaysia

Seized by Perhilitan, the agency responsible for managing wildlife and national parks, from a Bangladeshi national: 94 turtles, including 48 South Asian box turtles (*Cuora amboinensis*, Appendix II), 44 black marsh turtles (*Siebenrockiella crassicollis*, Appendix II), 6 Asiatic softshell turtles (*Amyda cartilaginea*, Appendix II)—all endemic species—one red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*), and one Chinese stripe-necked turtle (*Mauremys sinensis*, Appendix III in China). He intended to sell them for between 20 and 200 ringgit (5 to 50 US\$) to worshippers outside temples as part of ritual mercy releases of wild animals to seek forgiveness from the deities. The endemic turtles will be released after judicial approval; the exotic turtles will be handed over to the quarantine service and may be euthanised if they are deemed invasive.⁴⁴

OPERATION BERSEPADU KHAZANAH

January 21, 2026

Bukit Rahman Putra, State of Selangor, Malaysia

Four alligator snapping turtles (*Macrochelys temminckii*, Appendix II) were found in 2 tanks at the home of a man in his twenties. He was released on bail of 10,000 rupees (2,470 US\$). He is suspected of attempting to breed them. His wife and 2 Indonesian women were questioned by the police.⁴⁵

VIET NAM

December 19, 2025

Xuan Hoa, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam

A Mekong snail-eating turtle (*Malayemys subtrijuga*, Appendix II) was seized after being found for sale on the sidewalk. The street vendor was issued a citation and a warning.⁴⁶

December 24, 2025

Kim Son, Gia Lai Province, Viet Nam

Police recovered two yellow-headed temple turtles (*Heosemys annandalii*, Appendix II) and 10 Asian box turtles, including Chinese three-striped box turtles (*Cuora trifasciata*, Appendix II) and South Asian box turtles (*Cuora amboinensis*, Appendix II), from an illegal breeder and seller.⁴⁷

December 29, 2025

Tan An, Can Tho City, Viet Nam

Officials seized six Mekong snail-eating turtles (*Malayemys subtrijuga*, Appendix II) and one Asiatic softshell turtle (*Amyda cartilaginea*, Appendix II) from a restaurant that served parts of reptiles (snakes and turtles) and other wild animals on its menu.⁴⁸

January 8, 2026

Hong Ha, Hanoi City, Viet Nam

Seizure of 2 African spurred tortoises (*Centrochelys sulcata*, Appendix II) by forest rangers. Arrest of P.M.H., 21, who was on his way to deliver them. According to ENV records, he is reportedly employed by a pet seller who, in 2022, was fined the equivalent of 110 US\$ for illegal trafficking of exotic species. P.M.H. was fined 6 million dong, or 230 US\$.⁴⁹



January 21, 2026

Chuong My, Hanoi City, Viet Nam

Another seizure of exotic turtles: 11 alligator snapping turtles (*Macrochelys temminckii*, Appendix II) originating from the United States of America. A 20-year-old man was selling them online. The globalisation of the illegal turtle trade is intensifying due to new forms of communication.⁵⁰



January 28, 2026

Le Chan, Hai Phong City, Viet Nam

Seizure of 165 turtles from a store specialising in the sale of aquarium fish: yellow-headed tortoises (*Indotestudo elongata*, Appendix II), keel-backed turtles (*Cuora mouhotii*, Appendix II), Chinese stripe-necked turtles (*Mauremys sinensis*, Appendix III in China), and red-eared sliders (*Trachemys scripta elegans*). A fine of 400 US\$ was imposed. The turtles were transferred to the Cuc Phuong Turtle Conservation Centre, except for the red-eared sliders, which are native to North America and are considered invasive; they will be culled “humanely.”⁵¹



EUROPE

GERMANY

October 9, November 4 and 9, 2025

Marsberg, Hochsauerland district, North Rhine-Westphalia Land and Füssen (Border with Austria), Ostallgäu District, Bavaria Land, Germany

- A Hermann's tortoise (*Testudo hermanni*, Appendix II) abandoned in the hikers' parking lot.
- A Greek tortoise (*Testudo graeca*, Appendix II) abandoned at the same location 3 weeks later.
- In March 2025, in Erwitte (North Rhine-Westphalia), 12 tortoises -some of which were still alive- found in a trash bag. The person responsible was never identified.
- In a car stopped on the A7 highway, 31 Hermann's tortoises found in shoe boxes. The driver, who did not have a valid driver's licence, claimed he was taking them to a Belgian zoo on behalf of a friend. After an investigation, it quickly became clear that the Belgian zoo did not exist and that the tortoises' original papers were forged.⁵²

FRANCE

FAMILY AFFAIRS

December 9, 2025

Servance-Miellin, Department of Haute-Saône, France

Under the gendarmerie's supervision, several members of the SPA (Society for the Protection of Animals) recovered an alligator snapping turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*, Appendix II), 6 red-eared sliders (*Trachemys scripta elegans*), a tortoise (Testudinidae, Appendix I or II) with an injured carapace, and 58 cats, some of whom are suffering from rhinitis. The intervention, assisted by an OFB member and a representative from the department prefecture, took place at the home of a 53-year-old woman and her two daughters, ages 28 and 32. They were placed in pretrial detention on November 25, 2025, for neglect and jeopardizing the health and safety of two elderly individuals who have since passed.⁵³

ITALY

November 5, 2025

Macchia, Province of Foggia, Region of Apulia, Italy

A wild or escaped Hermann's tortoise (*Testudo hermanni*, Appendix II) was reportedly struck by a car in broad daylight. With its shell shattered, the tortoise is doomed despite the best efforts of a good samaritan named Paolo, who stopped on his way from work, and call for help by the newspaper StatoQuotidiano.it.⁵⁴

Mid-December 2025

Ercolano, Metropolitan City of Naples, Region of Campania, Italy

An apartment search conducted as part of a drug trafficking investigation led to the seizure of 13,000 € (15,000 US\$) in cash and a precision scale. During the operation, the carabinieri Forestry Unit was called in as reinforcement and discovered 26 Hermann's tortoises (*Testudo hermanni*, Appendix II) and one Greek tortoise (*Testudo graeca*, Appendix II) in the building's courtyard. Three individuals were arrested: one for drug trafficking and two others—a man and a woman—for trafficking protected species in violation of national legislation and the Washington Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).⁵⁵

End of December 2025

Pedara, Metropolitan City of Catania, Region of Sicily, Italy

The carabinieri and Guardia di Finanza (Financial Police) seized the following from an illegal agricultural cooperative: 5,400 litres of diesel fuel, 50 LPG cylinders, fertilizer, animal feed stored in sheds built without permits or fire safety measures, 6 Hermann's tortoises (*Testudo hermanni*, Appendix II), and one Eurasian jay (*Garrulus glandarius*).⁵⁶

Night of January 15–16, 2026

Trecastagni, Metropolitan City of Catania, Region of Sicily, Italy

Night-time theft between 11:20 p.m. and 11:38 p.m. at a farm-zoo of 4 African spurred tortoises (*Centrochelys sulcata*, Appendix II), one of which weighed 60 kg, by 3 individuals who immediately went to the correct enclosure without bothering to fully cover their faces. Adults sell for up to 3,000 € (3,500 US\$). The owner does not rule out the possibility that he is being targeted by the “cavallo di ritorno” (Horse is back) scam, which involves demanding a ransom before returning the stolen goods—most often a car or a work of art.⁵⁷

POLAND

Mid-December 2025

**Medyka, Subcarpathian Voivodeship, Poland.
Border with Ukraine.**

Seizure of a live European pond turtle (*Emys orbicularis*, Appendix III in Ukraine) was seized by rail customs officials from a 60-year-old Ukrainian woman travelling from Kyiv.

The flow of smuggling and attempted smuggling between Ukraine and the Subcarpathian Voivodeship in Poland is impressive with its diversity. In 2024, 6,200 items were seized by customs, including clothing and accessories made from the skins of endangered animals, corals, parts of walrus, seahorse extracts, leeches, live animals such as servals and parrots, and stuffed animals.⁵⁸ Seizures in Poland of wildlife smuggling originating from Ukraine, in this issue see p. 99 ref. 21, p.142 ref. 189, p.162 ref. 16, p.163 ref. 17 and 18, p.171 ref. 19, p. 172 ref. 20, p. 204 ref. 7, p. 225 ref. 46.

SNAKES



Saint Lucia boa (*Boa constrictor orophias*). Photo Valentin Peguiron (BY-NC 4.0)

AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

November 2025

Johannesburg, Gauteng Province, South Africa

Fortunately, a South African python (*Python natalensis*, Appendix II), abandoned, unresponsive, severely emaciated, with loose, sagging, abraded skin and on the precipice of death, was brought to a veterinary clinic in Johannesburg. Despite an initial prognosis that seemed closer to euthanasia than to a recovery that would allow it to survive, the python gradually regained strength. After the first 48 hours, it began hissing and tongue-flicking. Its condition improved from being tube-fed 10 ml of nutritional formula to consuming 120 ml of a carnivore diet. Within a few weeks, its weight increased from 1.6 kg to 2.4 kg. By comparison, an adult male South African python typically weighs around 40 kg.¹



© Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary Hospital

January 9 and 28, 2026

**Bethal and Mbombela (ex-Nelspruit),
Mpumalanga Province, South Africa**

- As part of the "Safer Festive Season" operation and targeted traffic checks, a royal python (*Python regius*, Appendix II) was seized and transferred to the SPCA.

- Following information received from the Wildlife Crime Information Network regarding a python at a private residence in Mbombela, environmental police officers visited the address and, with the owner's consent, seized not one but two South African pythons (*Python natalensis*, Appendix II), estimated to be 6 to 7 months old. The owner claimed to have "found" the snakes in his yard and had decided to keep them, without having considered what he would do with them in the future. Due to his cooperation and lack of criminal record, the python keeper was let off with a warning. The pythons were subsequently released back into the wild.²

KENYA

Beginning of January 2026

Kenya

Two individuals were arrested in possession of python skins (*Python* spp., Appendix II) based on a tip from the Big Life Foundation.³

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

PERU

December 22, 2025

El Agustino, Province of Lima, Department of Lima, Perú

A boa constrictor (*Boa constrictor*, Appendix II) abandoned in a cardboard box on the banks of the Rimac River was rescued by municipal authorities and transferred to the animal shelter on Riva Agüero Avenue, where it will remain until it is taken in by Serfor.⁴

SAINT-LUCIA

End of December 2025

Saint Lucia

An investigation was launched after a video circulated on social media showing the staged lynching of five “Dog-headed Boas,” or Saint Lucia boas (*Boa constrictor orophias*, Appendix II), a subspecies endemic to the Caribbean island. Ritual persecution, mistaken identification as venomous vipers, poisoning with rat poison in banana plantations, and the destruction of coastal forests, burrows, and caves resulting from real estate development are all contributing to the gradual and largely unnoticed disappearance of this boa constrictor subspecies. Females can reach 3 metres in length, yet the species is now restricted to approximately one-tenth of the island of Saint Lucia. The Ministry of Forests condemned what it described as “this heinous and horrific crime,” but those responsible face a maximum fine of 1,845 US\$ per animal and a prison sentence that may be suspended.⁵

ASIA

INDIA

Night of December 2-3, 2025

Koirpurwa, Buxar District, State of Bihar, India

A brown sand boa was seized early Tuesday morning (*Eryx johnii*, Appendix II) and three individuals were arrested, including Indrajit Singh, alias Koairi, who had just been released from prison for attempted murder. Brown sand boas, also known as two-headed boas, measure 1–1.2 metres in length as adults and are reportedly sold for 20–30 million rupees (223,000–335,000 US\$) on the black market as a symbol of good luck and prosperity.⁶

December 26, 2025

Nuh District, State of Haryana, India

A man who was collecting dry cow dung around his cabin killed about 10 snakes ranging in length from 30 cm to 2.1 metres and hung them from a tree, drawing a crowd that dispersed when forest rangers arrived. Animal rights activists say the person responsible for this display committed a crime and are calling for a trial. Given the length of the hanging snakes, they could include, among others, Oriental rat snakes (*Ptyas mucosus*, Appendix II) or monocled cobras (*Naja kaouthia*, Appendix II).⁷

January 19, 2026

Laskana, Surat District, State of Gujarat, India

Seizure of 6.5 litres of Indian cobra venom (*Naja naja*, Appendix II), with an estimated value of 58.5 million rupees, or 600,000 US\$, and 100,000 US\$ per litre if ongoing genetic analyses confirm the substance's authenticity. Seven individuals aged 40 to 74 were arrested and are currently charged with poaching a species listed in Appendix I of the Wildlife Protection Act and Appendix II of CITES. According to the Deputy Police Commissioner of Surat, this is the largest seizure of cobra venom in the State of Gujarat. Snake venom “is used for preparing intoxicating substances, called “snakebite,” consumed at rave parties as well as life-saving medicines”.⁸

Third week of January 2026

Virar, Palghar District, State of Maharashtra, India

Seizure from the hands of 3 men of a brown sand boa (*Eryx johnii*, Appendix II) and their vehicle. The State forestry authorities list the false reasons why sand boas are sold for a fortune:

- There is a common misconception that keeping this snake at home brings prosperity or “rains money” during religious rituals.
- Some believe the snake helps in finding hidden treasures or ensures success in occult practices performed on New Moon (Amavasya) nights.
- These snakes are also smuggled to countries like China and Japan for use in traditional medicines.⁹

INDONESIA

November 12, 2025

Yos Sudarso Port, Ambon, Maluku Province, Maluku Archipelago, Indonesia

More live “cargo” that was about to be loaded onto the *Labobar* and unloaded on the island of Java. Inside 9 boxes were 14 royal pythons (*Python regius*, Appendix II).

KM Labobar, see “On the Trail” n°46, p. 59 (ref. 14), n°47, p. 58 (ref. 16), and n°48, p. 65 (ref. 25) and p. 171 (ref. 7).¹⁰

UZBEKISTAN

Mid-January 2026

Bukhara, Bukhara Region, Uzbekistan

In the parking lot of the city's central market (population nearly 300,000), a man by the initials F.M. was impressing passersby with a little act involving a Burmese python (*Python bivittatus*, Appendix II). When stopped by the environmental police, he could not show a permit enabling him to keep this exotic animal in the country (the species is native to Southeast Asia). The python was turned over to the Samanides Park Zoo pending further legal action.¹¹

PHILIPPINES

January 4, 2026

Tagum, Province of Davao del Norte, Philippines

Seizure by the police maritime unit of a royal python (*Python regius*, Appendix II) that a man nicknamed "Ric" was attempting to sell for approximately 8,000 Philippine pesos, or 135 US\$.¹²

VIET NAM

December 18, 2025

Lao Bao, Quang Tri Province, Viet Nam. Border with Laos.



Officers seized 676 monocled cobras (*Naja kaouthia*, Appendix II) from the luggage compartment of a bus arriving from Laos, weighing 1,000 kg in total. An adult monocled cobra weighs 3 kg. The driver, Mr. V. B., and the controller, N. D. K., were arrested. The shipment belonged to a certain H. T. N., age 35, who had hired Mr. V. B. and N. D. K. to smuggle the snakes into the country.¹³

EUROPE

BELGIUM

December 9, 2025

Sint-Niklaas, Province of East Flanders, Flemish Region, Belgium

Seizure of a Madagascar boa (*Acrantophis madagascariensis*, Appendix I). This species is arboreal. In the eastern tropical forests, they are green. In the western forests, they are most often orange.¹⁴

FRANCE

November 2025

Mauvezin-sur-Gupie, Department of Lot-et-Garonne, France

This is the second boa constrictor (*Boa constrictor*, Appendix II) found in the department in three months. The one found in September was still alive when firefighters rescued it near the Garonne Canal. This one was found dead near a pond, its head crushed. It is believed to have been killed by its "owner" and left there at the mercy of scavengers.¹⁵

POLAND

End of December 2025

Medyka, Subcarpathian Voivodeship, Poland. Border with Ukraine.



Seizure of a pair of python-skin boots (Pythonidae, Appendix I or II) from the luggage of a Ukrainian woman.¹⁶

Mid-January 2026
Malhowice Border Crossing Point,
Subcarpathian Voivodeship, Poland.
Border with Ukraine.



© Podkarpacki Urząd Celnno-Skarbowy w Przemyślu

A 28-year-old woman driving a vehicle from Ukraine, registered in Moldova, attempted to bring into Poland a bag and a pouch made from the skin of an Asiatic rock python (*Python molurus*, Appendix I) native to India, and was fined 600 zlotys (170 US\$).¹⁷

Mid-January 2026
Malhowice Border Crossing Point,
Subcarpathian Voivodeship, Poland.
Border with Ukraine.



© Podkarpacki Urząd Celnno-Skarbowy w Przemyślu

A man from Ukraine attempted to bring a pair of python-skin boots (Pythonidae, Appendix I or II) into Poland and was fined 500 zlotys (140 US\$).¹⁸

RUSSIA

December 10, 2025
Barnaul International Airport, Altai Krai, Russia



© ФТС России

Seizure in the luggage of a Russian national of a bottle labeled "snake wine" and containing, according to the expert analysis, a monocled cobra (*Naja kaouthia*, Appendix II) and a root soaking in rice wine.¹⁹



Monitor lizard (*Varanus nebulosus*). Photo Robinnnnnn (BY-NC 4.0)

LATIN AMERICA

COLOMBIA

January 13, 2026

Puebloviejo, Department of Magdalena, Colombia

Officials seized 122 green iguana eggs (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II). Experts from the CAVFS (Centro de Atención y Valoración de Fauna Silvestre) estimate that 8 female iguanas lost their reproductive capacity as a result of the eggs being extracted through evisceration. "This practice constitutes animal cruelty and poses a public health risk due to the potential transmission of zoonotic diseases such as salmonellosis." The eggs were destroyed by burial.¹

January 24, 2026

Arjona, Department of Cesar, Colombia

A 19-year-old man was arrested while transporting 42 live iguanas (*Iguana iguana* or *Ctenosaura similis*, Appendix II) and 95 eggs intended for sale on his motorcycle. Captain Albor González, head of the carabinieri and Environmental Protection Unit, sounded the alarm. "The sale or consumption of iguanas and their eggs is not only an environmental crime but also jeopardizes the species' survival. Iguanas play a fundamental role in seed dispersal and forest regeneration." He pointed out that traffickers of iguanas and eggs face a minimum of five years in prison and a fine equal to 300 times the monthly minimum wage, which, in Colombia at the time of the incident, was approximately 1.75 million pesos, or 470 US\$.²

January 29, 2026

Cicuco, Department of Bolívar, Colombia

Seizure and destruction by the national police of 1,600 iguana eggs (*Iguana iguana* or *Ctenosaura similis*, Appendix II). According to experts, at least 50 female iguanas were hunted down, opened up and stripped of their eggs; and although they have some chance of surviving this mutilation, they are sterile for the rest of their lives.³



ASIA

CAMBODIA

December 4, 2025

Tatai Wildlife Sanctuary, Koh Kong Province, Cambodia

Rangers and military police seized 9 traps, 2 live clouded monitor lizards (*Varanus nebulosus*, Appendix I) which were released the following day and a motorbike. The Tatai Wildlife Sanctuary was established in 2016. It covers an area of 1,440 km². The forests are home to Malayan sun bears, Asian black bears, clouded leopards, Asiatic wild dogs and Siamese firebacks, which attract poachers, loggers and settlers without ownership titles.⁴



CHINA

December 9, 2025

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

Seizure of 34 live geckos (suborder Gekkota) with an estimated value of 20,400 Hong Kong dollars or 2,620 US\$ and 77 US\$ per specimen from a hidden compartment in a wooden box from Indonesia. A close examination of the photograph published by Hong Kong Customs suggests that the geckos are probably of the genus *Hemidactylus* and that most of them are already dead.⁵



December 27, 2025

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



Seizure from 3 air freight parcels from Australia, which were declared as containing "treats", of 13 live lizards, including skins (family Scincidae), with an estimated total value of 92,000 Hong Kong dollars or 12,000 US\$ and 920 US\$ per specimen, wrapped in socks and tucked into 3 pairs of boots.⁶



December 2025

Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, China

Postal customs seized from an incoming parcel 4 dried tokay geckos (*Gekko gecko*, Appendix II), a typical Indonesian speciality. A live gecko weighs on average 200 grammes, whilst a dried gecko weighs 30 grammes. Traditional Asian medicines attribute healing and restorative properties to it in various forms. The Chinese customs authorities accompanied their seizure with the following message: "Dried meat is not a New Year's gift."⁷

INDIA

November 13, 2025

Mitong Khul, Chandel District, State of Manipur, India



A “hangkok,” the local name for two-banded monitors (*Varanus salvator*, Appendix II)—the largest adult monitor lizard after the Komodo dragon—was rescued from tribal hunters thanks to a man named Andrew Moyon. The district forestry official released the lizard and praised Moyon’s courage and compassion: “Such gestures reflect the growing public awareness and support for wildlife conservation.”⁸

December 1, 2025

Alipurduar, Alipurduar District, State of West Bengal, India

Manik Hossain Sarkar, Manirul Haque, and Asraf Hossain were sentenced to 3 years in prison and fined the equivalent of 560 US\$ for attempting to sell 3 tokay geckos (*Gekko gecko*, Appendix II) on December 23, 2019, during the holiday season.⁹



PAKISTAN

December 2025

Lahore, Province of Punjab, Pakistan

Seizure of 100 Hardwick’s spiny-tailed lizards (*Saara hardwickii*, Appendix II), known locally as “sandda”, from a vendor-apothecary who was extracting oil from them to sell at markets. Sandda oil is believed to cure sexual impotence and joint and muscle pain.¹⁰

THAILAND

December 12, 2025

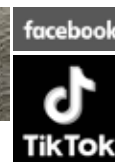
Patong, Phuket Province, Thailand

A street photographer was stopped in front of Banana Walk for offering passersby the chance to pose with green iguanas (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II) native to the Americas for money.¹¹

VIET NAM

November 6 and December 12, 2025, and January 21, 2026

Thoai Son, An Giang Province, and Nha Be, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam



South American green iguanas are invading Viet Nam. The first ones arrived by plane, and it is possible for some escaped or abandoned specimens to acclimate to the local environment and disrupt native species.

- 191 common iguanas (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II) were discovered at the home of a 30-year-old man. They were waiting behind wire racks to be sold on TikTok.

- The trafficker was fined 37.5 million dong (1,400 US\$). The authorities “destroyed” the iguanas shortly thereafter.¹²

December 12, 2025

Nha Be, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam



75 green iguanas (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II) were discovered on private property. They were facing each other in a hallway under a glass roof.¹³

December 10 and 12, 2025

Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam

A total of 1,354 green iguanas (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II) were seized from four private residences. The trafficking of exotic and invasive species presents a cause for concern for ENV, the environmental police, and the Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment. A few breeders have obtained permits to raise non-native species protected under CITES, but authorities have not approved any legal imports of these species.¹⁴

EUROPE

THE NETHERLANDS

End of December 2025

Amsterdam-Schiphol International Airport, Province of North Holland, The Netherlands

Seizure of 4 green iguanas (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II) in a vacuum bag. "I've been abroad and I'm coming back with 4 iguanas for Christmas dinner." These "tree chickens", as they are called, are a popular dish in some countries. The iguana is not a gourmet souvenir; it is a protected species. "When returning from a trip outside the European Union, you're not allowed to bring back meat, but on top of that, bringing a protected species back in your suitcase is utter nonsense," says Customs on Facebook. Iguanas are festive dishes on the Dutch island of Curaçao off the coast of Venezuela.¹⁵

RUSSIA

Mid-January 2026

Irkutsk International Airport, Irkutsk Oblast, Russia

A woman disembarking a flight from Viet Nam was caught with a gecko (*infraorder Gekkota*) inside a glass jar. She was issued an administrative fine, and the reptile was reportedly returned to Viet Nam under the airline's supervision.¹⁶

OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA

Beginning of November 2025

Sydney, State of New South Wales, Australia

Shiyao Wang, a Chinese national, was sentenced to 2 years and 7 months in freedom restriction for attempting to ship 94 Cunningham's skinks (*Egernia cunninghami*, Appendix III in Australia), shingleback lizards (*Tiliqua rugosa*, listed under Appendix III in Australia), Eastern ranges rock-skinks (*Liopholis modesta*), and blue-tongued lizards (*Tiliqua scincoides*) to Hong Kong back in November-December 2024. The sentence under the Intensive Corrections Order (ICO) entails probation accompanied by house arrest, monitored movement through an electronic ankle monitor, a curfew, a ban on consuming alcohol and narcotics, or community service.¹⁷

November 2025

Brisbane, State of Queensland, Australia

"Crime syndicates are increasingly targeting students in Queensland to smuggle native wildlife overseas," according to the Ministry of the Environment. In November, Yatian Luo, a student at the University of Queensland, was sentenced to 18 months in prison for attempting to export seven blue-tongued skinks (genus *Tiliqua*) between October 15 and 25, 2024. He shipped three packages from post offices in Brisbane that were declared to contain "dishes" and "toys", and responded positively to enticing offers from traffickers on a platform called Red Note. "Since 2023, four international students based in Queensland have been convicted of wildlife crimes." "Students should be vigilant when looking for work online and be aware of the risks of getting involved with the crime syndicates driving this cruel trade." Luo's 18-month prison sentence was commuted to a three-year probationary period.¹⁸

NEW ZEALAND

October 16 and December 5, 2025

Manukau City, Auckland Region, North Island, New Zealand

Gunak Lee, a 24-year-old South Korean national, was sentenced to 14 months in prison after being caught in the act of purchasing jewelled geckos (*Naultinus gemmeus*, Appendix II) during a brief trip to a hotel in Auckland. Upon returning to Seoul, Lee expected to receive a commission of at least 2,000 US\$

from an unidentified recruiter. His assignment was to purchase 10 geckos and smuggle them out of New Zealand concealed in his socks, in the hope of passing undetected through customs. The recruiter had assured him that, even if he were caught, he would face little more than a fine. At the time of his arrest, Lee was carrying 15,000 US\$ in cash, which was confiscated by the authorities—an indication of the value of the planned transaction. In Asian and European markets, a single jewel gecko can sell for as much as 8,000 US\$. The prosecutor sought a two-year prison sentence, arguing that Lee's actions were part of a premeditated international trafficking operation. As the prosecutor observed, "Wildlife doesn't have brothers, sisters, fathers and mothers to call the police if something happens."¹⁹

CROCODILIANS

AFRICA

LIBERIA

Beginning of November 2025 Marshall, Margibi County, Liberia

The main difference between an elephant and an African dwarf crocodile (*Osteolaemus tetraspis*, Appendix I) is that the crocodile never turns around as if to say thank you to those who cared for it. When it was released by caretakers at the Libassa sanctuary after spending several weeks reacclimating to the wild, it immediately jumped into the water without a second thought.¹



NORTHERN AMERICA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FLORIDA

Mid-November 2025 Tate's Hell Wildlife Management Area, Franklin County, State of Florida, United States of America

Morgan Ryan Babb was fined 350 US\$ for killing an adult American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II) one night with the help of three accomplices, two of whom were women. Babb used a steel hook baited with mullet fillets to lure the alligator, dragged it onto the rocks, and shot it in the head with a single .22-calibre bullet.²



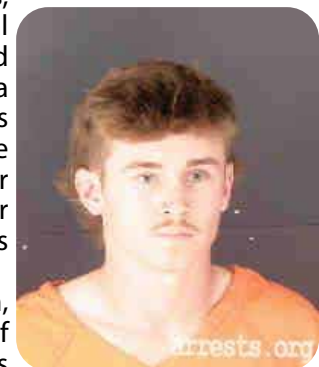
Agent Stallings and his team pose in front of the slaughtered American alligator.

December 19, 2025 and February 4, 2026 Sarasota, Sarasota County, State of Florida, United States of America



- Connor Riley Wiegand, a 21-year-old butcher; Reagan David Widner, 19, unemployed (and a minor at the time of the offences); and a 17-year-old whose identity has not been released were arrested for capturing or killing American alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II) with firearms from a pick-up truck in Manatee, Sarasota, and Hardee counties in 2023. Investigators allege that the animals were also stabbed, decapitated, and had their tails amputated. The three suspects face a total of 69 felony charges and 23 misdemeanour charges, including possession of a firearm during commission of felony, discharging a firearm from a vehicle, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, sale of firearms to minors, alligator poaching, animal fighting, and aggravated animal cruelty. GPS data analyzed by investigators indicate that some of the poaching occurred after hours in Myakka River State Park, one of Florida's oldest State parks.

- Benjamin Quinlan, 19, identified as one of their accomplices, was arrested on February 4.³



MARYLAND

Beginning of November 2025 Prince George's County, State of Maryland, United States of America

A family discovered an American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II) measuring over one metre long at the home of a relative who had recently died. The NRP (Natural Resources Police) was immediately notified. After a stop at Eco Adventures in Millersville, the alligator was transferred to the Thurmont Zoo. Maryland prohibits private individuals from owning alligators.⁴

MASSACHUSETTS

November 12, 2025

**Boston, Suffolk County, State of Massachusetts,
United States of America**



A baby American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II) splashing around in the Charles River right in the middle of the city was rescued by Joe Kenney, director of Joe's Crazy Critters, a wildlife education organisation that occasionally deals with escaped or abandoned lions, tigers, and other big cats. Without Joe, the alligator would have frozen to death. The list of wild animals whose ownership is permitted (and regulated) by Massachusetts can be found at mass.gov/guides/wildlife-as-pets. It includes, among others, milk snakes, snapping turtles, painted turtles, and several species of frogs and toads.⁵

MICHIGAN

Mid-November 2025

**Detroit, Wayne County, State of Michigan,
United States of America**

After her son's funeral, a woman in Detroit discovered an American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II) in his bedroom. Her son had apparently kept it in an aquarium with no lighting, heating, water, or room to move. Mark Rosenthal, director of Animal Magic, was called in to assist. "I don't know how it's in this good of shape. It was in horrible conditions," he said. The alligator was subsequently transported to Florida, approximately 1,500 km south of Detroit. Animal Magic, an organisation dedicated to wildlife rescue and public education on wildlife conservation, receives frequent calls concerning alligators in distress, despite the fact that keeping them is illegal in Michigan.⁶

NEW YORK

December 10, 2025

**Yonkers, Westchester County, State of New York,
United States of America**

A juvenile crocodile (Crocodylidae, Appendix I or II) and a Cuvier's smooth-fronted caiman (*Paleosuchus palpebrosus*, Appendix II) were discovered during a criminal's arrest at his home.⁷

LATIN AMERICA

ARGENTINA

January 8, 2026

Tres Palmeras, Province of Salta, Argentina

A broad-nosed caiman (*Caiman latirostris*, Appendix II) was captured in the Arias River, a tributary of the Salado del Norte, near the Finca Las Costas Nature Reserve. According to Mariana Chanampa, head of the province's biodiversity program, this marks the first recorded sighting of the species in Tres Palmeras. The caiman was most likely released after having been kept in captivity as a pet. Although the broad-nosed caiman naturally lives in the Río Bermejo basin, including the provinces of Jujuy, Salta, Chaco, and Formosa, its presence in the Arias River is considered unusual. As a precaution, nighttime patrols have been initiated to determine whether the area is at risk of colonization following the deliberate release of a captive specimen.⁸

BRAZIL

January 19, 2026

Duque de Caxias, State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

The broad-nosed caiman (*Caiman latirostris*, Appendix II), washed away by floods following the night's storm, was swimming in the Jardim Gramacho neighbourhood before being captured by local residents and bluntly killed. Ricardo Freitas Filho, president of the Jacaré Institute, confirms that following heavy rainfall, caimans expand their territory without distinguishing between their native river and the city's streets. He points out that caimans are not aggressive towards humankind and that the best way in such situations is to keep a cool head, call the fire brigade if they have a water rescue unit, or simply wait for the waters to recede and for the caiman to return to its natural habitat. "Otherwise, the alligators end up being victims twice: first, because they lose their natural environment; second, because they are killed by people who believe they are protecting themselves."⁹

CUBA

January 26, 2026

Caibarién, Villa Clara Province, Cuba

The dismembered body of a Cuban crocodile (*Crocodylus rhombifer*, Appendix I) that had escaped its zoo was found in a landfill in La Picadora. An activist with Bienestar Animal Cuba who saw the crocodile's remains said that the municipality's statement from a few hours prior, claiming that the Cuban crocodile had been found and was being held safely at the zoo, was a ruse.¹⁰

ASIA

CHINA

Beginning of November 2025

Rizhao Port, Shandong Province, China



Recovery of 1,550 crocodile skins (*Crocodylia*, Appendix I or II) concealed in a container declared to contain "cattle hides."¹¹

INDIA

January 17 and 23, 2026

Chorbhuj, Vadodra District, State of Gujarat, India

Arrest of Vitthal Nayak and Bipin Nayak, day farm workers. They have been sent to prison. They lynched a mugger crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*, Appendix I) to death with sticks and boasted about it, with images to back it up, on social media. The crocodile, aged approximately 5 years, was at the edge of a marsh adjacent to the Vishwamitri River. The crocodile has been given the highest level of protection in the Indian Union, and the perpetrators cannot be released on bail whilst awaiting trial. They face a maximum of 7 years' imprisonment and a fine of 500,000 rupees or 5,600 US\$. There are between 300 and 400 crocodiles in the basin of the 200-km-long Vishwamitri river.

The authorities provide information and caution instructions, which add to the traditional knowledge of local residents and may be useful to newcomers or occasional visitors.

"Crocodiles determine prey based on ripples in the water. When someone washes clothes or utensils or splashes in a river, the crocodile feels that some prey has come to the bank to drink water. In these circumstances, the crocodile attacks it. If a person dies in a crocodile attack, the government pays 400,000 rupees as compensation.

- Do not go to a river or pond if there is a crocodile there.
- Keep an eye on the water while washing clothes and utensils.
- Do not wash clothes and utensils with your back to the river.
- Do not go to the river alone, draw water with a motor.
- Do not go more than 1 foot into the water to give water to cattle."¹²

INDONESIA

Beginning of January 2026

Karawang Regency, West Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia

After being alerted by police, a local office of the province's Directorate of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Conservation recovered a false gharial (*Tomistoma schlegelii*, Appendix I) and a salt-water crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*, Appendix II) and transferred them to the Cikananga Assessment and Care Centre.¹³

MALAYSIA

OPERATION BERSEPADU KHAZANAH

January 2, 2026

Johor Bahru, State of Johor, Malaysia. Border with Singapore.



Four juvenile salt-water crocodiles (*Crocodylus porosus*, Appendix II), with an estimated value of 240,000 ringgits (59,300 US\$, or 14,800 US\$ per crocodile), in a polystyrene box in the boot of a luxury car driven by a man in his 40s.¹⁴

OPERATION BERSEPADU KHAZANAH

January 16, 2026

Kampar, State of Perak, Malaysia

Seizure by the GOF (General Operations Force) of 168 pieces of crocodile meat (*Crocodylidae*, Appendix I or II) worth 5,000 US\$ from a cold store. Arrest of a man in his 30s. He got the meat from Puchong in the State of Selangor and delivered it on demand to restaurants in the area.

There are 3 species of crocodiles in peninsular Malaysia: the Siamese crocodile (*Crocodylus siamensis*, Appendix I), the false gharial (*Tomistoma schlegelii*, Appendix I) and the salt-water crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*, Appendix II).¹⁵

SRI LANKA

December 17, 2025

Kalutara, Western Province, Sri Lanka

A fine of 70,000 rupees (230 US\$) for the man who was keeping in a basin a very young mugger crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*, Appendix I) or salt-water crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*, Appendix I), which the court ordered to be released under the supervision of the veterinary services.¹⁶



EUROPE

ITALY

December 1, 2025

Falcone Borsellino Palermo International Airport, Metropolitan City of Palermo, Region of Sicily, Italy



Customs and the Financial Guard recovered a crocodilian head (*Crocodylia*, Appendix I or II) from the luggage of a passenger arriving from Bangkok via Rome Fiumicino. Thailand is home to two crocodile species: the salt-water crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*, Appendix I) and the Siamese crocodile (*Crocodylus siamensis*, Appendix I).¹⁷

POLAND

Beginning of November 2025

Ława, Warmian–Masurian Voivodeship, Poland



This is the first time in the history of Ława (population 32,000) that a stuffed caiman (*Alligatoridae*, Appendix I or II) has ended up on a policewoman's desk.¹⁸

End of December 2025

Medyka and Przemyśl, Subcarpathian Voivodeship, Poland. Border with Ukraine.

- Seizure of a crocodile skin bag (*Crocodylidae*, Appendix I or II) from a Ukrainian woman in a car.
- Seizure of a crocodile skin bag from a Ukrainian woman on a train (Odesa–Przemyśl line).¹⁹



End of December 2025
Malhowice Border Crossing Point, Subcarpathian
Voivodeship, Poland. Border with Ukraine.



Seizure from the hand luggage of a male passenger on a coach arriving from Ukraine of a shoulder bag made of American crocodile skin (*Crocodylus acutus*, Appendix I or II).²⁰

RUSSIA

November 25, 2025
Ufa International Airport, Republic of
Bashkortostan, Russia

Seizure of a Siamese crocodile head (*Crocodylus siamensis*, Appendix I) from the luggage of a passenger arriving from Viet Nam, who was going through the green channel and claimed to have nothing to declare.²¹

End of December 2025
Moscow-Sheremetyevo International Airport,
Moscow Oblast, Russia



55 crocodile skins (*Crocodylia*, Appendix I or II) were seized from two suitcases belonging to a Chinese passenger disembarking a flight from China. The skins carry an estimated minimum value of 1.7 million roubles, or 21,600 US\$, at 400 US\$ per skin.²²

End of January 2026
Krasnoyarsk International Airport, Krasnoyarsk
Krai, Russia



Seizure of a stuffed Siamese crocodile (*Crocodylus siamensis*, Appendix I), 1.05 metres long and weighing 1.6 kg, from the luggage of a female passenger returning from Nha Trang, Viet Nam. She said she was unaware that this souvenir was prohibited. An adult Siamese crocodile measures approximately 3 metres.²³

AMPHIBIANS



Blue-and-yellow frog (*Phyllomedusa bicolor*). Photo jonathan_m_c (BY-NC 4.0)

AMERICA

COLOMBIA

November 19, 2025

Bogota; Cali, Department of Valle del Cauca; Filandia, Department of Quindío; San Diego, Department of Caldas, Colombia

The Return of Kambo (see "On the Trail" n°27 p. 39, ref. 1).

A group known as the Kambo Gang is believed to have earned more than one billion pesos (approximately 400,000 US\$). Its members primarily trafficked blue-and-yellow frogs (*Phyllomedusa bicolor*) and related species, which were captured from trees overhanging waterholes in the upper Amazon basin, where the borders of Brazil, Peru, and Colombia converge. The frogs were transported by boat to Putumayo before being moved overland to Cali and, ultimately, to the department of Risaralda, approximately 300 km from Bogotá.¹

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mid-November 2025

Erie, Erie County, State of Pennsylvania, United States of America

CBS News in Pittsburgh, despite being 2,500 km from Mexico, reported that "An aquatic creature that is extinct in the wild everywhere except Mexico City was found swimming in a waterway near Lake

Erie." The creature, a female axolotl (*Ambystoma mexicanum*, Appendix II), was rescued by a good samaritan and rushed to a pet store, where, despite receiving medical care, it died of exposure and a fungal infection. What a cruel end to its life as a pet.²

Beginning of January 2026

Chicago O'Hare International Airport, Cook and DuPage Counties, State of Illinois, United States of America

Within a batch of legally imported ornamental fish was a collection of amphibians, specifically axolotls (*Ambystoma mexicanum*, Appendix II), which authorities intercepted. Protected by CITES, axolotls live in the wild exclusively near Mexico City, are threatened with extinction, and, moreover, have been considered a threat to native amphibians in the United States since 2025.³

Axolotl, see also p. 148 ref. 18 and p. 183 ref. 24.



PERU

December 2 and 30, 2025

Juliaca, Province of San Román, Department of Puno, Perú

"Don't be an accomplice to crime; stay out of the illegal wildlife trade." SERFOR's slogan saved nine Titicaca water frogs (*Telmatobius culeus*, Appendix I), an endangered species.

- Six Titicaca water frogs were rescued from a bucket. They were for sale in an organic store. There's nothing better for making love and achieving success than a good glass of freshly squeezed frog juice.

- Another three Titicaca water frogs (20 cm) were seized. They, too, were splashing around in a bucket.⁴

Titicaca water frogs, see Index.

ASIA

CHINA

December 11, 2025

Beilun District, Ningbo Sub-Provincial City, Zhejiang Province, China

The trial took place in the presence of 260 people, including representatives of the District People's Assembly, students and nature conservation organisations. Newts and salamanders were at the heart of the debates.

Four men were accused of capturing and trading, between April 2023 and April 2025, 26 Chinghai spiny newts (*Echinotriton chinghaiensis*, Appendix II), eggs of Yiwu salamander (*Hynobius yiwuensis*), 9 black crocodile newts (*Tylototriton taliangensis*, Appendix II) and 10 Kuankuoshui salamanders (*Pseudohynobius kuankuoshuiensis*).

Chinghai spiny newts are a species endemic to China. They were stolen from the Chinghai Spiny Newt Park in Jiufengshan, in the Beilun District of Ningbo City. Given their rarity and their deep-rooted place in Chinese culture, they are nicknamed the 'Ningbo pandas'.



The black crocodile newts and the Kuankuoshui salamanders are also endangered species. The capture of these protected species or their eggs constitutes a violation of Article 341 of the Criminal Code of the People's Republic of China.



"Li" was sentenced to one year's imprisonment, suspended for one year and 9 months, and fined 10,000 yuan (1,410 US\$).

"Yu" was sentenced to one year's imprisonment, suspended for one year and 6 months, and fined 4,000 yuan (565 US\$).

"Chen" was sentenced to 9 months' imprisonment, suspended for one year and 3 months, and fined 4,000 yuan.

"Zhong" was sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment, suspended for one year, and fined 2,000 yuan (280 US\$).

In view of the defendants' voluntary guilty pleas and the remorse they expressed publicly, the court "deemed it appropriate to show them leniency", according to the statement signed by the Chief Prosecutor of the Beilun Public Prosecutor's Office.⁵

INSECTS, ARACHNIDS, ANNELIDS AND GASTROPODS



Polymita picta. Photo klabapop (BY-NC 4.0)

AMERICA

CUBA

December 21, 2025

La Habana, Province of La Habana, Cuba

Seizure of painted snail shells (*Polymita* spp., Appendix I) from a storefront display case. A praiseworthy yet derisory gesture by the Ministry of Science, Technology, and the Environment. The 6 species of painted snails endemic to Cuba, with their multicoloured spiral shells, attract arts-and-crafts enthusiasts and makers of trinkets for ears, necks, wrists, lampshades, and beaded curtains. Poachers who pluck them from plant stems or tree branches fuel a continuous global supply. One day, that supply will run dry, and painted snail shells will be made of plastic. Painted snails are useful. They feed on lichens, mosses, and fungi, and rid plants of parasites and fungal diseases. Their natural predators include an endemic bird of prey, the Cuban hook-billed kite (*Chondrohierax wilsonii*, Appendix I), and a tree-dwelling lizard, the Baracoa giant anole (*Anolis baracoae*, Appendix III). There is likely no other species listed in CITES Appendix I that elicits so little emotion or interest from NGOs, Interpol, and biodiversity conservationists. "I invite our artisans and artists to explore biodiversity-friendly alternatives by promoting sustainable materials that celebrate nature without destroying it." "Protecting painted snails, hawksbill sea turtles, and West Indian top shells [*Cittarium pica*] means protecting our identity and our heritage," says Minister Armando Rodríguez Batista.¹

Painted snails: see "On the Trail" n°23 p.37 (ref.1). "Atlas du business des espèces menacées" (Atlas of the Endangered Species Business), Robin des Bois, published by Arthaud 2019. Pages 80, 81, 82, 83. Available only in french.

ASIA

CHINA

November 2025

Beijing Capital International Airport, Beijing Autonomous Municipality, China



Customs officials seized 12 decorative panels with 58 butterflies inside, including menelaus blue morphos (*Morpho menelaus*), postman butterflies (*Heliconius melpomene*), *Phoebis argante*, and *Protesilaus protesilaus* originating from South America, as well as flambeau butterflies (*Dryas iulia*) originating from the United States of America and Mexico.²

November 2025

Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, China

Discovery by postal customs officials in a package from Germany of *Orthochirus innesi* scorpions native to North Africa, *Smeringurus mesaensis* scorpions native to the southern United States and Mexico, and so-called "Cuban" spiders, the species of which the editors of "On the Trail" were unable to identify. Yet another consequence of the reptile and insect fair in Hamm, in the North Rhine-Westphalia Land (Germany).³

December 9, 2025

Jiangning District, Nanjing Prefecture, Jiangsu Province, China

Discovery in a postal package declared to contain "toys" of 2 live beetles in 2 plastic boxes lined with sawdust. The Nanjing Customs Analysis Centre identified them as elephant beetles (*Megasoma elephas*). The male measures 12 cm long and the female 4 cm. The species is considered invasive. It is native to Latin America.⁴

December 2025

Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, China



Seizure in an incoming package of 478 butterflies, including menelaus blue morpho (*Morpho menelaus*), *Morpho portis*, and *Panacea prola*, all originating from Latin America. This is believed to be the first attempt to introduce butterflies into the province.⁵

January 2026

Yantai, Shandong Province, China



Inspection of 3 postal packages declared to contain "toys." Discovery of 886 preserved insects, including Goliath beetles (*Goliathus goliatus*), giant African fruit beetles (*Mecynorhina polyphemus*), and flower chafers (*Chelorhinella savagei*) originating from Africa.⁶

TURKIYE

November 12, 2025

Istanbul International Airport, Istanbul Province, Türkiye



Seizure of 5,000 northern medicinal leeches (*Hirudo medicinalis*, Appendix II) in the luggage of an incoming passenger. Administrative fine of 377,783 lira or 9,000 US\$.⁷ Leeches, see Index.

EUROPE

BELGIUM

Beginning of December 2025

Charleroi, Province of Hainaut, Walloon Region, Belgium

Seizure at the home of a spider enthusiast—whose identity and profile have not been disclosed—of 150 spiders enclosed in yogurt containers and other food packaging, including golden red rump tarantulas (*Brachypelma albiceps*, Appendix II) native to Mexico, and wandering spiders, a species of the genus *Phoneutria* native to Brazil and known to be highly venomous. The exact location of the seizure was also not disclosed to avoid causing a phobia of escaped spiders. The wandering spiders were confined in coffin-shaped boxes.⁸

THE NETHERLANDS

November 21, 2025
Amsterdam-Schiphol International Airport,
Province of North Holland, The Netherlands



Discovery in a postal package declared to contain "chocolates" of 112 live tarantulas, including *Brachypelma* (Appendix II) originating from Latin America. The package accidentally passed through the Netherlands. It had originally been sent from Thailand to India, where it was refused and returned to Thailand.⁹

RUSSIA

November 13, 2025
Moscow Federal City, Russia



Moscow's postal customs authorities recovered 200 dried beetles from two packages from Peru, addressed to two Stavropol Krai residents, located 1,200 km from Moscow. The beetles were mounted on cardboard and wrapped in cellophane. The shipment included Titan beetles (*Titanus giganteus*) native to South America, which reach 20 cm in length as adults, and rhinoceros beetles (subfamily Dynastinae, species found worldwide). The total value of the seized goods is estimated at 1.5 million roubles, or 18,700 US\$.¹⁰

Tarantula, see also p. 144 ref. 2, p. 147 ref. 15, p. 148, ref. 19, p. 183 ref. 30, p. 184 ref. 36, p. 198 ref. 110, p. 200 ref. 117.

Events concerning among others elephants, rhinos, felines, bears or pangolins and their by-products are indicated by these pictograms:



NORTHERN AFRICA

EGYPT

January 2026

Cairo, Governorate of Cairo, Egypt



An inspection of the Diana Market, suspected of being an active hub for wildlife trafficking, culminated in the rescue of two horned owls (*Strigiformes*, Appendix I or II), an eagle (*Accipitridae*, Appendix I or II), 4 common chameleons (*Chamaeleo chamaeleon*, Appendix II), and an Egyptian tortoise (*Testudo kleinmanni*, Appendix I), all of which were alive. Five falcons (*Falco* spp., Appendix I or II), a parrot (*Psittacidae*, Appendix I or II), 5 red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), and an Egyptian mongoose (*Herpestes ichneumon*) were also found but stuffed. This operation was carried out under the direction of Manal Awad Mikhail, the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, in coordination with eight prominent figures from Greater Cairo. This included General Khaled Abdel, responsible for nature conservation in the governorate; Dr. Mohamed Ismail, head of the wildlife unit, and General El-Sukkari, head of the Azbakeya district. Adult Egyptian mongooses measure over one metre in length from head to tail. While their bodies are lithe and fluid, their tails are bushy and exuberant. When assuming a defensive posture, by arching their backs and raising their fur, they can appear twice as long to their predators.

They were celebrated under the distinguished name "cats of the pharaohs" and have achieved a measure of immortality, even if the species were to one day become extinct, thanks to the frescoes of Ancient Egypt. In the wild, they may travel in groups of a few individuals led by a guide, with the followers tracking the group from a distance thanks to two anal glands that emit a distinctive scent.¹



A statuette depicting an Egyptian mongoose, circa 664–404 BC © The Walters Art Museum
Votive gift to the cobra-goddess Wadjet
<https://art.thewalters.org/object/54.410/>

WESTERN AFRICA

NIGERIA

November 16, 2025

Gbaji, Lagos State, Nigeria. Border with Benin.



A lion cub (*Panthera leo*, Appendix II) and two tantalus monkeys (*Chlorocebus tantalus*, Appendix II) were seized from a vehicle about to leave Nigeria. Officials arrested Mathew Kofi, a Beninese national, and Nasiru Usman Gwandu, a Nigerian national, who claim to have purchased the animals in Kano, Kano State, 1,000 km from the Gbaji border crossing.²

November 21, 2025

Lagos, Lagos State, Nigeria

Sentencing of Anthony Onyebu-chi and Monday Nnamanni to 2 years in prison or fines of 2 million naira (1,390 US\$) for possessing and attempting, in conspiracy, to sell 839 kg of giant pangolin scales and 145 kg of raw ivory with a total value estimated at the time of the offence, on February 2, 2022, at 3 billion naira (7.6 million US\$) (see "On the Trail" n°35, p. 14, ref. 3). In May 2023, 2 accomplices, Kanu and Obinna, were sentenced to 4 years in prison (see "On the Trail" n°40, p. 17, ref. 3). Over time, unlike in all other countries in Africa and Asia, it appears that penalties for major wildlife traffickers in Nigeria are becoming more lenient rather than stricter. The seizure took place near the Lekki Arts and Crafts Market thanks to cooperation between customs officials and the Wildlife Justice Commission.³



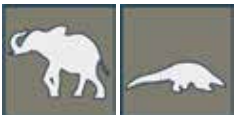
CENTRAL AFRICA

CAMEROON

January 16, 2026

Off Debouscha, South West Region, Cameroon

The BIR (Rapid Intervention Battalion) recovered the following from a rigid-hulled inflatable boat that had departed Wovia for Ibaka, Nigeria: 19 elephant tusks or sections of tusks, 50 kg of pangolin scales, gorilla hands (*Gorilla* spp., Appendix I), parrot heads (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II), vulture heads (Accipitridae, Appendix I or II), hornbill helmets (family Bucerotidae), vulture feathers, and a bale of used shoes. Wovia is 400 km from the Dja Wildlife Reserve in Cameroon (see "On the Trail" n°48, p. 148, ref. 6) and 160 nautical miles from Ibaka in Nigeria. Two traffickers were arrested.



As a reminder, there are five vulture species in Cameroon: the white-backed vulture (*Gyps africanus*), Rüppell's vulture (*Gyps rueppelli*), hooded vulture (*Necrosyrtes monachus*), lappet-faced vulture (*Torgos tracheliotos*), and white-headed vulture (*Trigonoceps occipitalis*), as well as three hornbill species: the grey-cheeked hornbill (*Bycanistes subcylindricus*), black-casqued hornbill (*Ceratogymna atrata*), and yellow-casqued hornbill (*Ceratogymna elata*).⁴

GABON

Beginning of November 2025

Nyali Control Post, Nyanga Province, Gabon

High-impact operation. Authorities seized 104 wildlife specimens and animal parts, including a python (*Python* spp., Appendix II), bucks (genus *Tragelaphus*), and duikers (genus *Philantomba* or *Cephalophus*) that were intended for sale in local markets. During the same operation, officers intercepted 10 logging trucks transporting loads of timber that exceeded the legal height limit—a practice that reduces transportation costs for logging companies but significantly increases the risk of serious road accidents. The operation was led by Lieutenant Colonel Teddy Edou and the officers under his command.⁵

EASTERN AFRICA

KENYA – TANZANIA

January 7, 2026

Kitenden Corridor, Kajiado County, Kenya, and Arusha Region, Tanzania

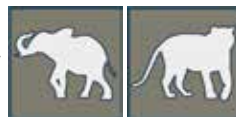


The headline in Kahawa Tungu read, "Shock as poisoned carcass kills 6 lions, 34 vultures near Amboseli National Park". Along the Tanzania-Kenya border, lions (*Panthera leo*, Appendix II) were lured by a cow carcass laced with poison and devoured it. A group of vultures, including white-backed vultures (*Gyps africanus*, Appendix II), then stripped the lions' bodies. All the carcasses were burned on site to conceal the evidence. Hyenas were nearby when veterinarians conducted postmortem examinations. Authorities in Tanzania and Kenya have professed their willingness to cooperate with the investigation. Herders are no longer permitted to graze their herds along the Kitenden wildlife corridor, which connects the two countries, until further notice.⁶

KENYA

January 28, 2026

Lokichar, Turkana County, Kenya



Three individuals - two men and one woman - were arrested in possession of 42 kg of elephant tusk sections worth an estimated 4.2 million shillings or 32,200 US\$ (equivalent to 770 US\$ per kg), three leopard skins (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) and three python skins (*Python* spp., Appendix II).⁷

MALAWI

January 27, 2026

Nchalo, Southern Region, Malawi

Arrest of Kingsley Kapilingana, age 46, and Bonezi Mzambana, age 50, who were caught in the act of selling 2 ivory tusks, 2 live Temminck's ground pangolins, and pangolin scales, under the guise of selling amaranth seeds.⁸



ZIMBABWE

November 5, 2025

Popoteke, Kyle Recreational Park, Masvingo Province, Zimbabwe

The Herald described the operation as an "anti-poaching blitz." Three men exhibiting suspicious behaviour were stopped, and one suspect was arrested along with his four hunting dogs. Searches carried out by ZimParks and the criminal police at the homes of the two other suspects, who had fled, led to the seizure of a dead Temminck's ground pangolin, a zebra (genus *Equus*) carcass, hides of a wildebeest (genus *Connochaetes*) and an African buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*), as well as three flashlights, two axes, and a dagger.⁹



SOUTHERN AFRICA

BOTSWANA

December 4, 2025

Lesoma, Chobe District, Botswana. Border with Zimbabwe.

Livestock farmers in the district are engaged in a sort of wildlife cull. Any means are acceptable, especially agricultural poisons. Four lions (*Panthera leo*, Appendix II), one black-backed jackal (*Canis mesomelas*), and 14 vultures (Accipitridae, Appendix I or II) have died. Those responsible face up to one year in prison, yet they are never arrested. Are the investigations, too, tainted?¹⁰



AFRICA / ASIA

SOUTH AFRICA / SINGAPORE

November 8 and December 1, 2025

Changi International Airport, Singapore, and Kempton Park, Gauteng Province, South Africa

- Seizure of 20 white rhinoceros horns weighing a total of 35.7 kg and estimated to be worth 1.13 million Singapore dollars (870,000 US\$ or 24,370 US\$/kg), as well as 150 kg of bones, claws, and teeth from tigers (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I) and lions (*Panthera leo*, Appendix II). The packages were



declared to contain "furniture fittings," but the odor of the feline parts alerted staff at SATS (Singapore Airport Terminal Services), which describes itself as the world's largest air cargo logistics provider. The packages originated in South Africa and were bound for Laos (a repeat of the situation involving the rhinoceros horns seized on October 4, 2022; see "On the Trail" n°38, p. 46, ref. 33, and n°44, p. 33, ref. 22).



- Following cooperation between Singaporean and South African authorities, Tunji Olanrewaju Koyi and Koyode Adukunle Ongundele, both Nigerian nationals, were arrested, and 17 rhinoceros horns weighing a total of 55.4 kg, along with 26.2 kg of bones, claws, and skulls from tigers (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I) or lions (*Panthera leo*, Appendix II).¹¹

NORTHERN AMERICA

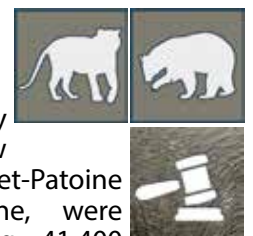
CANADA

FAMILY AFFAIRS

December 10, 2025

Province of Alberta, Canada

Hunting organiser Wesley Seely, along with fellow Quebec residents Olivier Binet-Patoine and Alexandre Binet-Patoine, were sentenced to fines totalling 41,400 dollars (30,600 US\$) and a 6-year suspension of their hunting licences for killing an American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II), a female puma (*Puma concolor*, Appendix II), an elk (*Cervus canadensis*), a mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), and two white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) in violation of the Wildlife Act.¹²



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Beginning of November 2025 Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai County, State of Idaho, United States of America

Information received through the "Citizens Against Poaching" hotline led to the identification of four individuals suspected of illegally hunting American black bears (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II), deer (genus *Odocoileus*), elk (*Cervus canadensis*), and wild turkeys in the Coeur d'Alene area. Idaho Fish and Game said additional information will be released once the case has been referred to the prosecutor. Coeur d'Alene, see "On the Trail" n°41, p. 170 (ref. 8), n°46, p. 57 (ref. 2), n°47, p. 30 (ref. 17), and p. 56 (ref. 4).¹³



FAMILY AFFAIRS November 13 and December 3, 2025

Lewis and Clark County, State of Montana, United States of America



Cameron Wyant was ordered to pay 19,250 US\$ in restitution and a 2,500 US\$ fine, perform five days of community service, and surrender his hunting, fishing, and trapping privileges for 10 years, with the possibility of reinstatement after four years upon appeal. Between 2022 and 2024, he, his brother, and two accomplices illegally killed one American black bear (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II), six elk (*Cervus canadensis*), three mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), and four white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*). According to the charges, the animals were taken without valid licences, without the permission of landowners, outside the legal hunting season, and in violation of hunting district regulations. In most cases, the deer were decapitated for their trophies, the meat was left to rot, and the offal was discarded in trash bins in Helena, where Cameron Wyant resides.

Maxwell Krupp, who was 19 at the time of the offences, received two concurrent six-month suspended prison sentences—one for wasting game meat and the other for hunting on private property. He was also prohibited from hunting, fishing, and trapping for four years and ordered to pay 1,800 US\$ in fines and restitution. Proceedings against Christian Wyant, Cameron's brother, and Dylan Boyer are still pending.¹⁴

End of November 2025

Jackson County, State of Oregon, United States of America



Antlers (3 branches on one side, 4 on the other) and meat belonging to a mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) were recovered from a private residence. The deer had been killed on November 21, outside hunting season in the Applegate Wildlife Management Unit. The suspect also admitted to poaching two American black bears (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) on private property south of Ashland in September.¹⁵

December 1, 2025

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



At the Born to Be Free Zoo, located within Frazier Park, 15 animals were rescued: leopards (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I), lions (*Panthera leo*, Appendix II), a serval (*Leptailurus serval*, Appendix II), a fishing cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*, Appendix II), a leopard-tiger hybrid, a lion-tiger hybrid, a brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II), a wolf-dog hybrid, and warhogs (genus *Phacochoerus*) held without a permit. Fines, penalties, and costs amount to 50,435 US\$. All animals were transferred to facilities accredited by the Department of Agriculture, some of which are members of the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries. In her defence, the director of Born to Be Free stated that she had purchased or taken in animals held under a Restricted Species Permit (RSP) by their previous owners and was unaware that these RSPs were not transferable.¹⁶

Mid-December 2025

Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, State of New Mexico, United States of America



David Mendoza-Enriquez, a Mexican national, was sentenced to 17 years in prison for trafficking fentanyl and wildlife, including a Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*, Appendix I) and an American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*, Appendix II), between Mexico and New Mexico (see "On the Trail" n°39, p. 31, ref.1).¹⁷

**End of December 2025
Downieville, Sierra County,
State of California, United
States of America**



Cameron Gilbert was sentenced to 30 days in prison, a 5,000 US\$ fine, three years of probation, and a ban on owning firearms; Michael Hubbard was sentenced to 80 hours of community service, a 2,000 US\$ fine, one year of probation, and a three-year ban on hunting. They had killed eight American black bears (*Ursus americanus*, Appendix II) without a licence using a pack of dogs and spotlights, as well as a bobcat (*Lynx rufus*, Appendix II), a raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), and wild boars (*Sus scrofa*) without a licence. County District Attorney Sandra Groven unequivocally described Gilbert and Hubbard's actions as poaching. "Sierra County provides abundant opportunities for lawful hunting and outdoor recreation, but those opportunities come with clear legal responsibilities. Ethical sportsmen follow the rules. Those who choose to poach should expect to be prosecuted."¹⁸

**January 2026
Fresno County, State of
California, United States of
America**



Three suspects are in jail. The case began when the US Fish and Wildlife Service seized 4 elephant trunks from a parcel originating in Thailand. The investigation revealed that, 10 years after California banned the import of ivory and other elephant parts, a bypass network still exists. Carved ivory and tusks were seized, along with rhino horn slices, walrus tusks (*Odobenus rosmarus*, Appendix III in Canada), bear gallbladders (*Ursidae*, Appendix I or II), saiga antelope trophies (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II) and sea turtle shells.¹⁹



**End of January 2026
State of Oregon, United States of
America**



Following the discovery of deer offal (family *Cervidae*) in a landfill, investigators searched the suspect's home and found a sign from the Mount Hood National Forest, numerous deer heads, meat from deer, elk (*Cervus canadensis*), and bears (*Ursus* spp., Appendix II); a stolen 9-mm pistol, another firearm, flashlights, ammunition, compound bows, and 70 grammes of methamphetamine. The man admitted to hunting in the Sandy River Delta in Multnomah County.²⁰



LATIN AMERICA

ARGENTINA

**November 15, 2025
Mburucuyá, Province of Corrientes, Argentina**

A park ranger at Mburucuyá National Park (176.60 km²) had spotted a house where wild animals were being kept. The 77-year-old female owner offered no resistance to their seizure and has therefore avoided prosecution. A black howler monkey (*Alouatta caraya*, Appendix II), 2 Patagonian conures (*Cyanoliseus patagonus*, Appendix II), 4 eared doves (*Zenaida auriculata*), a southern screamer (*Chauna torquata*), a southern long-nosed armadillo (*Dasypus hybridus*) and 3 catfish (family *Loricariidae*) will be returned to their natural habitats if they successfully pass their veterinary examinations.²¹

**November 18, 2025
Province of Misiones, Argentina**

Seizure of 5 green-billed toucans (*Ramphastos dicolorus*, Appendix III in Argentina), a short-tailed nighthawk (*Lurocalis semitorquatus*) and an Azara's agouti (*Dasyprocta azarae*) from several houses.²²

December 16, 2025

Neuquén, Province of Neuquén, Argentina

The Environmental Crimes Division and the Theft and Burglary Division searched the home of a notorious suspect in the neighbourhood and recovered deer antlers (family Cervidae), a pichi (*Zaedyus pichi*), one egg, two dead Darwin's rheas (*Pterocnemia pennata*, Appendix I or II), a firearm, ammunition of various calibres, a rifle scope, fishing nets, and inside a barrel, a live hairy armadillo (*Chaetophractus villosus*). The poacher was arrested.²³

December 18, 2025

Junín de los Andes, Province of Neuquén, Argentina

Officials seized 14 axolotls (*Ambystoma mexicanum*, Appendix II), a corn snake (*Pantherophis guttatus*), and a Hilaire's toadhead turtle (*Phrynops hilarii*) from a pet shop. They will be handed over to the Bubalcó Foundation pending the unlikely return of the axolotls to Mexico, the corn snake to the US, and the release of the Hilaire's toadhead turtle into the wild. Provincial authorities are wary of exotic species and captive-bred animals that manage to escape. The most painful blow is the disappearance of the torrent duck from the Aluminé River following the proliferation of farmed minks.²⁴

December 23, 2025

Olavarría, Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina

Following a complaint lodged by the local council and the director of the municipal zoo "Bioparc La Máxima", the private residence being used as a base by cyber-traffickers was searched by order of the court. 11 Argentine tortoises (*Chelonoidis chilensis*, Appendix II) and 10 birds, including 2 monk parakeets (*Myiopsitta monachus*, Appendix II), were seized and taken to the bioparc described as an "alternative habitat". One person was arrested and charged with insult to a public official, trafficking, cruelty and animal abuse.²⁵

January 12, 2026

Laguna Larga, Province of Cordoba, Argentina

Seizure from a house, thanks to an anonymous tip-off, of 2 black-tufted marmosets (*Callithrix penicillata*, Appendix II) endemic to Brazil, a Java sparrow (*Lonchura oryzivora*, Appendix II) originating from Indonesia, a blue-fronted amazon (*Amazona aestiva*, Appendix II), 3 red-crested cardinals (*Paroaria coronata*, Appendix II), 2 monk parakeets (*Myiopsitta monachus*, Appendix II), a maroon-bellied parakeet (*Pyrrhura frontalis*, Appendix II), a crested myna (*Acridotheres cristatellus*), a house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) and another passerine.

Adrián Rinaudo, secretary of the environmental police, highlighted the seriousness of the discovery of the marmosets: "These are exotic species that have no natural range either in the province or in Argentina." International trafficking has been proven.²⁶

BOLIVIA

January 14, 2026

El Alto, Province of Murillo, Department of La Paz, Bolivia



The Forest and Environmental Police (Pofoma) seized three snake skins, taxidermied skins of Andean mountain cats (*Leopardus jacobita*, Appendix I), armadillos (family Dasypodidae or Chlamyphoridae), and porcupines (family Erethizontidae), from a 28-year-old herbalist.²⁷

BRAZIL

October 29 and November 18, 2025

Fortaleza, Maracanaú, Camocim and Bela Cruz, State of Ceará, Brazil



Charges have been filed against Alex de Sousa Santos, Antônio Leão Neto, Silmauro Trajano da Silva, Carlos César Gonzaga da Silva Júnior, Marcos dos Santos Gonzaga, and João Edjackson Silveira, all of whom are suspected of trafficking ocelots (*Leopardus pardalis*, Appendix I) and monkeys (Primates, Appendix I or II). Authorities recovered 90 birds, including macaws (*Ara* spp., Appendix I or II), jandaya conures (*Aratinga jandaya*, Appendix II), parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II), and toucans (family Ramphastidae).²⁸

November 9, 2025

Corumbá, State of Mato Grosso, Brazil



A cattle-rearing "businessman" and 2 of his workers were fined the equivalent of 3,340 US\$ for poisoning 2 jaguars (*Panthera onca*, Appendix I), 14 vultures (genus *Cathartes*), 2 crested caracaras (*Caracara plancus*, Appendix II) and a crab-eating fox (*Cerdocyon thous*, Appendix II) with a dead cow soaked with agricultural poison in May 2021. The court considers that the analysis of the defendants' mobile phones constituted sufficient evidence of premeditation and their guilt. Their lawyers have lodged an appeal.²⁹

November 14, 2025

Bodoquena, State of Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil



Four men had established their base of operations in a secluded house, but not secluded enough to evade the attention of nearby residents. When military police arrived, they intercepted a pick-up truck carrying the four suspects. The vehicle contained three walkie-talkies, flashlights, slingshots, ropes, and a trap cage. A search of the house uncovered a live snake, a lizard, two tarantulas (family Theraphosidae), and a capuchin (*Cebus* spp., synonymous with *Sapajus* spp., Appendix II), all confined in cages or boxes and apparently ready for delivery. The four men were fined a total of 65,000 reais (approximately 12,000 US\$).³⁰

REPEATED OFFENCE

November 15, 2025

Garanhuns, State of Pernambuco, Brazil

Another successful operation by the Federal Highway Police. Early Saturday morning on BR-423, they stopped a car on its way to deliver the following to a bird market in Caruaru: 400 red-cowled cardinals (*Paroaria dominicana*), 290 seedeaters (genus *Sporophila*), 58 rufous-collared sparrows (*Zonotrichia capensis*), 49 ultramarine grosbeaks (*Cyanocompsa brissonii*), 88 other birds of unspecified species, and 18 tortoises (*Chelonoidis carbonarius* or *Chelonoidis denticulatus*, Appendix II) purchased in Ouro Branco, Alagoas. The driver, a repeat offender in wildlife trafficking, was arrested.³¹

November 23, 2025

Ribeira do Pombal, State of Bahia, Brazil

The Federal Highway Police stopped a car on the BR-110 expressway and seized 2 common marmosets (*Callithrix jacchus*, Appendix II) and 583 birds, including 523 red-cowled cardinals (*Paroaria dominicana*), 25 ultramarine grosbeaks (*Cyanocompsa brissonii*), and 21 campo troupials (*Icterus jamacaii*). All were crammed into overcrowded racks, covered with tarps and on the verge of suffocating. That Sunday, they were destined for sale at a neighbourhood market, but fortunately, the driver was arrested beforehand. The Jornal Correio tallied the numbers: between January and September, 4,343 birds were seized in the State of Bahia, including more than 4,000 on the BR-116 highway, which connects Fortaleza (Ceará) to Jaguarão (Rio de Janeiro).³²

End of November – Beginning of December 2025

State of Bahia, Brazil

After collecting evidence for several months, Ibama conducted a two-week-long series of rescue operations in the southern part of the State. A total of 207 illegally held animals were recovered from breeders and private individuals, including 11 parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II, except for three species), four macaws (*Ara* spp., Appendix I or II), plain parakeets (*Brotogeris tirica*, Appendix II), yellow-bellied seedeaters (*Sporophila nigricollis*), double-collared seedeaters (*Sporophila caerulea*), lined seedeaters (*Sporophila lineola*), saffron finches (*Sicalis flaveola*), and chestnut-bellied seed-finches (*Oryzoborus angolensis*, synonym of *Sporophila angolensis*, Appendix II since March 5, 2026). The operation also led to the seizure of 56 tortoises (*Chelonoidis carbonarius* or *Chelonoidis denticulatus*, Appendix II) and two common marmosets (*Callithrix jacchus*, Appendix II), all of them alive. Some animals were in good health and suitable for immediate release into the wild, while others, weakened and not suitable for survival, were transferred to the CETAS (Centro de Triagem de Animais Silvestres) in Vitória da Conquista for rehabilitation. A collared peccary (*Pecari tajacu*, Appendix II) and two armadillos (family Dasypodidae or Chlamyphoridae) were found dead. Authorities issued fines totalling more than one million reais (approximately 190,000 US\$). The Federal Police arrested a bird breeder found in possession of falsified invoices and counterfeit identification rings.³³



FAMILY AFFAIRS

December 8, 2025

Sorocaba, State of São Paulo, Brazil

The police, assisted by an animal welfare unit, recovered 39 snakes, 40 rodents (used to feed the snakes), 2 parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II, except for 3 species), one songbird and 7 black-bellied sliders (*Trachemys dorbigni*). The Cão Mayky public veterinary hospital sounded the alarm after the mother brought a dog in such a pitiful condition that he had to be euthanised. An administrative fine of 15,000 reais, or 2,800 US\$, was imposed. Legal proceedings are pending.³⁴



Weekend of December 13-14, 2025

Duque de Caxias, State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Authorities recovered 40 wild animals in the Costa Verde, including marmosets (*Callitrichidae*, Appendix I or II) and cockatiels (*Nymphicus hollandicus*), as part of a regional operation against wildlife trafficking. The Costa Verde is a section of the coastline stretching from Itaguaí (State of Rio de Janeiro) to Santos (State of São Paulo). It's named after the lush greenery of the Atlantic Forest (Mata Atlântica), of which it constitutes the largest contiguous stretch extending to the ocean.

Duque de Caxias, see "On the Trail" n°2, p. 72; n°20, p. 35 (ref. 18) and p. 36 (ref. 28); n°31, p. 173 (ref. 26), n°33, pp. 158 and 224 (ref. 23), n°40, p. 117 (ref. 3), n°42, p. 67 (ref. 19), n°44, p. 179 (ref. 30), n°45, p. 96 (ref. 13), n°47, p. 109 (ref. 8), and n°48, p. 152 (ref. 23).³⁵

January 12, 2026

Sapopemba, State of São Paulo, Brazil

Authorities seized 14 snakes, 200 small rodents used to feed them, 4 tarantulas, 2 turtles, and 2 lizards from a man suspected of animal cruelty and trafficking.³⁶

January 22, 2026

Lages, State of Santa Catarina, Brazil

A boa constrictor (*Boa constrictor*, Appendix II), five tortoises (*Chelonoidis carbonarius* or *Chelonoidis denticulatus*, Appendix II), and a lovebird (*Agapornis* spp., Appendix II except *Agapornis roseicollis*) were seized and turned over to the IMA (Instituto do Meio Ambiente). The suspects will be charged with wildlife trafficking and, where applicable, animal cruelty under the Law on Environmental Crimes.³⁷

January 25, 2026

Palmital, State of São Paulo, Brazil



Authorities recovered an ocelot skin (*Leopardus pardalis*, Appendix I), a tegu skin (*Tupinambis* or *Salvator* spp., Appendix II), two cascabel rattlesnake skins (*Crotalus durissus*, Appendix III in Honduras), and 6 kg of native fish found inside a freezer while searching a young man's home. He was fined 7,000 reais (1,270 US\$) and proclaimed his friend had found the animals dead on the side of a road and given him the skins.³⁸



COLOMBIA

November 4, 2025

Barranquilla, Department of Atlántico, Colombia

Seizure of a capuchin monkey (*Cebus* spp., synonymous with *Sapajus* spp., Appendix II), 2 blue-and-yellow macaws (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II) and a vermilion cardinal (*Cardinalis phoeniceus*) as part of anti-pet trade operations carried out by the Barranquilla Wildlife Department and the environmental police.³⁹

January 27, 2026

Usme, Rafael Uribe Uribe and Antonio Nariño Districts, Bogotá Capital District, Colombia



Bogotá continues its cleanup efforts. The environmental police, alongside the SDS (Secretaría Distrital de Ambiente), seized the following animals from several homes and businesses: a common squirrel monkey (*Saimiri sciureus*, Appendix II), a red-footed tortoise (*Chelonoidis carbonarius*, Appendix II), a southern mealy amazon (*Amazona farinosa*, Appendix II), two brown-throated conures (*Aratinga pertinax*, Appendix II), a saffron finch (*Sicalis flaveola*), a tropical mockingbird (*Mimus gilvus*), and three American coots (*Fulica americana*). The owners were hit with a Category 1 general fine of 116,727 pesos (30 US\$). Since the start of the year, 76 wild animals have been seized.⁴⁰

EL SALVADOR

January 26, 2026

El Salvador



The Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources rescued several wild animals, including white-fronted capuchins (*Cebus albifrons*, Appendix II), keel-billed toucans (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*, Appendix II), and parrot chicks (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II except for 3 species), after the national police dismantled a trafficking ring. The ministry has remained tight-lipped about the location, exact date, number, and species of the seized animals, but official photos released allowed Ronald Erazo, a journalist at La Prensa Gráfica, to identify 3 species.⁴¹

MEXICO

November 7, 2025

Mexico City, Mexico

30 kg of marijuana, 124 pre-weighed sachets of marijuana, 17 doses of synthetic drugs, a boa constrictor (*Boa constrictor*, Appendix II), a royal python (*Python regius*, Appendix II), a rattlesnake (genus *Crotalus*), 3 lizards, including a Sierra alligator lizard (*Barisia ciliaris*), 2 common basilisks (*Basiliscus basiliscus*), 2 orange-fronted conures (*Eupsittula canicularis*, synonymous with *Aratinga canicularis*, Appendix II), a white-crowned parrot (*Pionus senilis*, Appendix II), 2 cockatiels (*Nymphicus hollandicus*) and 2 emerald toucanets (*Aulacorhynchus prasinus*), this was the result of a search carried out on a block of flats by the capital's Secretariat for Public Safety (SSC), with the support of the public prosecutor's office, the Mexican Navy, the Ministry of National Defence and the National Guard, following complaints from exasperated neighbours. A woman "in a vulnerable situation" was found at the scene and returned to her family.⁴²

November 12, 2025

Pichilingue, State of Baja California, Mexico

The Semar (Secretaría de Marina) intercepted a vehicle carrying 74 hunting trophies as it was leaving the port. The driver was travelling to San José del Cabo, in Baja California Sur, approximately 200 km away. After being notified, Profepa officers arrived on scene and conducted an inspection, during which they determined that 15 taxidermised animals or animal parts lacked the required legal documentation. The undeclared specimens included a hippopotamus skull (*Hippopotamus amphibius*, Appendix II, origin: Africa) with its teeth; a blackbuck head (*Antilope cervicapra*, Appendix III in Nepal and Pakistan, origin: South Asia) with its horns; a sable antelope head (*Hippotragus niger*, origin: Africa) with its horns; four white-tailed deer heads (*Odocoileus virginianus* and *Odocoileus virginianus mayensis*, Appendix III in Guatemala) with their antlers; two sika deer heads (*Cervus nippon*) with their antlers; a mule deer head (*Odocoileus hemionus*) with its antlers; a red deer head (*Cervus elaphus*) with its antlers; a spotted deer head (*Axis axis*) with its antlers; a fallow deer head (*Dama dama*) with antlers; a South American coati (*Nasua nasua*, Appendix III in Uruguay); and a wallaby (genus *Macropus*). All specimens had been mounted. The port of Pichilingue, located approximately 30 minutes from La Paz, is served by roll-on/roll-off vessels, general cargo ships, bulk carriers, and cruise ships.⁴³

November 12, 2025

Los Cabos, State of Baja California del Sur, Mexico

The National Guard discovered a jaguar (*Panthera onca*, Appendix I), a lion (*Panthera leo*, Appendix I or II), a capuchin (*Cebus* spp., synonymous with *Sapajus* spp., Appendix II), two red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), two crested caracaras (*Caracara plancus*, Appendix II), and two common ravens (*Corvus corax*) on private property. They were all kept in cages and appeared to be well cared for, but their origins are questionable. Except for the jaguar and ravens, none of these species are naturally found in Mexico. The animals were held on the owner's property pending the outcome of the investigation.⁴⁴



December 22, 2025

Guadalajara, State of Jalisco, Mexico

Authorities recovered 2 lilac-crowned amazons (*Amazona finschi*, Appendix I), one military macaw (*Ara militaris*, Appendix I), 3 red-lore amazons (*Amazona autumnalis*, Appendix II), and a baby Geoffroy's spider monkey (*Ateles geoffroyi*, Appendix II). The roughly 3-month-old spider monkey would have ordinarily been raised by his mother for 3 years, thereby rendering his separation from family as mistreatment. One arrest has been made.⁴⁵

January 11, 2026

Santiago de Querétaro, State of Querétaro, Mexico



Recovered as part of a criminal investigation on private property: a jaguar (*Panthera onca*, Appendix I), a spotted jaguar, 2 military macaws (*Ara militaris*, Appendix I), 3 parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II except for 3 species), and a raccoon (genus *Procyon*). They were placed in a secure location under Profepa's authority. Two Bengal tigers (*Panthera tigris tigris*, Appendix I) were left on the property and placed under the custody of a trusted authority pending their transfer to a PIMVS (Predio o Instalación que Maneja Vida Silvestre).⁴⁶



PANAMA

December 31, 2025

Huile, West Panama Province, Panama

Back at the Emperador and Balboa West shooting ranges with the forest rangers and environmental police. Someone fled, scattering bags along the roadside. The authorities recovered 3 peccaries (*Pecari tajacu* or *Tayassu pecari*, Appendix II) (7, 7, and 18 kg), 2 white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*, *Odocoileus virginianus mayensis*, Appendix III in Guatemala) (14 and 20 kg) and a paca (*Cuniculus paca*, Appendix III in Honduras) cut in half and decapitated.⁴⁷

PERU

December 31, 2025

Miraflores and Mariano Melgar Districts, Department of Arequipa, Perú



Operation "Cruelty-Free Rituals." A surprise raid by Serfor at a New Year's Fair led to the rescue of 3 stuffed Andean hairy armadillos (*ChaetophRACTUS nationi*, Appendix II), one egg, and a feather duster made of Darwin's rhea feathers (*Pterocnemia pennata*, Appendix II).⁴⁸

Mid-January 2026

Tumbes, Province of Tumbes, Department of Tumbes, Perú. Border with Ecuador.

A street vendor at the Tumbes market ran off, abandoning 192 wild animals that he had acquired through unknown means: monk parakeets (*Myiopsitta monachus*, Appendix II), yellow-footed tortoises (*Chelonoidis denticulatus*, Appendix II), yellow-headed sidenecks (*Podocnemis unifilis*, Appendix II), and 8 squirrels. The environmental prosecutor's office estimates the total value of the seized goods at nearly 45,650 soles, or 13,560 US\$. The most common squirrel species in Peru is the Junin red squirrel (*Sciurus pyrrhinus*).⁴⁹

URUGUAY

November 8, 2025

Maldonado Department, Uruguay

At 5:30 a.m. at a routine checkpoint on Route 39, officers discovered a capybara (*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*), two southern long-nosed armadillos (*Dasypus hybridus*), and three dead deer (family Cervidae) hidden under leaves and branches inside a truck bed. They seized the animals as well as an unregistered rifle and the pick-up truck and arrested four men.⁵⁰

CENTRAL ASIA

KAZAKHSTAN

Mid-December 2025

Kostanay, Kostanay Region, Kazakhstan

Two Rudny residents were each fined 7.864 million tenge (15,000 US\$), banned from hunting for 5 years, and ordered to pay 592,325 tenge (1,150 US\$) in court costs. They had become experts in the art of snowmobile poaching in the Amangeldi and Karabalyk districts. At their homes, police uncovered evidence of poaching: 2 wild boars (*Sus scrofa*), 7 Siberian roe deer (*Capreolus pygargus*), a stuffed white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*, Appendix I), saiga antelope antlers (*Saiga tatarica*, Appendix II), and trophies from a snowy owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*, Appendix II), a Ural owl (*Strix uralensis*, Appendix II), a Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*, Appendix II), a grey wolf (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II), and a corsac fox (*Vulpes corsac*), all of which will be destroyed. Their SUV, snowmobile, and numerous illegally possessed firearms and ammunition were also confiscated. Prior to the trial, the two friends paid damages amounting to 9,000 US\$ for the bald eagle, 5,700 US\$ for the wild boars, and 19,900 US\$ for the roe deer.⁵¹



EASTERN ASIA

CHINA

June 27, 2025 and December 14, 2025
Enshi Prefecture, Hubei Province, China



Xiang was sentenced on appeal to 6 years and 6 months' imprisonment and a fine of 45,000 yuan (6,255 US\$) for selling Wu around 20 forest musk deer (*Moschus berezovskii*, Appendix II) and some Reeves' muntjacs (*Muntiacus reevesi*). Wu was sentenced to 5 years and 4 months' imprisonment for also purchasing from Cui and Hang masked palm civets (*Paguma larvata*, Appendix III in India) and thousands of Asiatic toads (*Bufo gargarizans*) that Cui and his accomplices used to capture from waterholes at night, despite the ban in force throughout Enshi Prefecture. Shang and Yuan bought wild animals or their parts from Wu for their own use or to resell them at a higher price to restaurants or private individuals. Hang, Cui, Shang and Yuan were given suspended sentences of between 6 and 10 months' imprisonment. The media outlet Ctdsb.net reports that Wu, who had been at the centre of the conspiracy since 2022, spilled the beans before the Enshi court: "I used to sell preserved pork knuckle and chicken. Then I was asked if I sold game, so I thought I could make a bit of extra money..." All names are aliases.⁵²

Beginning of November 2025
Quanzhou Jinjiang International Airport, Fujian Province, China



Inside two packs of cigarettes belonging to two passengers returning from a group tour, customs officials seized 68 grammes of protected wildlife, including 13 pangolin scales, pendants made from slices of rhinoceros horn, and dried bear bile (Ursidae, Appendix I or II).⁵³

November 7, 2025

Zhuji, Shaoxing Prefecture, Zhejiang Province, China

After a boozy banquet, a local resident set off into the mountains with three guests, armed with thermal cameras and firearms. Upon their return, the Zhuji police set a trap for them and seized three raptors (Strigiformes, Appendix I or II), masked palm civets (*Paguma larvata*, Appendix III in India), and Reeves' muntjacs (*Muntiacus reevesi*) from their car. The case, which dates back to October, was officially disclosed on November 7.⁵⁴

December 2025
Kunming Changshui International Airport,
Yunnan Province, China



Seizure of 22 carved ivory items, 7 black rhinoceros horn items, 1 white rhinoceros horn item, 1 packet of horn powder, 4 scales, 1 packet of Sunda pangolin scale powder (*Manis javanica*, Appendix I), and 4 packets of a mixture of Sunda pangolin scale powder and deer antler powder in the luggage of 2 passengers travelling together.⁵⁵

December 4, 2025
Manzhouli Xijiao Airport, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, China. Border with Russia.



Two grey wolf fangs (*Canis lupus*, Appendix I or II) and six bear claws (*Ursidae*, Appendix I or II) were seized from a passenger's backpack.⁵⁶



December 2025
Taiyuan Wusu International Airport,
Shanxi Province, China



Officers seized 91 carved pieces of elephant and sperm whale ivory (*Physeter macrocephalus*, Appendix I), 4 whale vertebrae (*Cetacea*, Appendix I or II), 7 items made of hawksbill turtle shell (*Eretmochelys imbricata*, Appendix I), and 14 items made of sandalwood.⁵⁷



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



Officials recovered 73 carved ivory items including bracelets, amulets, and pendants, as well as 10 dried seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp., Appendix II) from the luggage of four passengers who disembarked an international flight together.⁵⁸

December 2025
Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, China



Officers recovered 11 carved ivory items and 12 items made of hawksbill turtle shell (*Eretmochelys imbricata*, Appendix I) found in 8 postal packages declared to contain "copper jewellery".⁵⁹

Beginning of January 2026
Dapu County, Meizhou Prefecture,
Guangdong Province, China



"Fang" was sentenced to one year and two months' probation and fined 4,000 yuan (570 US\$) "for fleeing pleasure," according to customs officials. He had reaped meager profits from poaching at least one leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*, Appendix II), a Eurasian sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*, Appendix II), two oriental turtle doves (*Streptopelia orientalis*), and a mountain bamboo partridge (*Bambusicola fytchii*) using metal traps and slingshots available for sale online. Initially, in 2021, he wanted to protect his cassava field from devastating wild boar incursions, but has anyone ever attacked a wild boar with a slingshot?⁶⁰

January 5 and 8, 2026
Port of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China



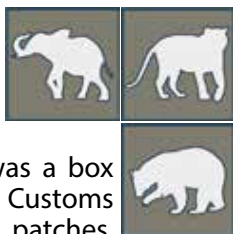
Customs officials seized suspicious goods including medicines, tobacco, and wildlife by-products such as shark fins and "bird's nests" made of agarwood from two river-sea cargo ships departing Hong Kong for Macau. The goods have a total estimated value of 29 million Hong Kong dollars, or 3.7 million US\$.⁶¹

January 2026
Beijing-Daxing International Airport, Beijing
Autonomous Municipality, China



A passenger claimed he had “nothing to declare”, but authorities recovered 8 carved ivory pieces (205 grammes), 4 crocodile-skin pouches (Crocodylia, Appendix I or II) (1,898 grammes), and a python-skin bag (Pythonidae, Appendix I or II) (868 grammes) inside his luggage.⁶²

January 2026
Nansan Border Post, Lincang
Prefecture, Yunnan Province,
China. Border with Myanmar.



Hidden in the right rear bumper of a large passenger vehicle was a box containing, per the Kunming Customs report, 2 Asian elephant skin patches, 2 tiger skin patches (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I), and 20 bones from leopards (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I), clouded leopards (*Neofelis nebulosa*, Appendix I), Asian black bears (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I), and Malayan sun bears (*Helarctos malayanus*, Appendix I).⁶³

January 2026
Sanya Phoenix International Airport, Hainan
Province, China

Officers seized 27 instances of wildlife contraband from the luggage of a passenger arriving from a foreign country: sika deer antlers (*Cervus nippon*), sambar deer velvet (*Rusa unicorn*), and feathers from red-and-green macaws (*Ara chloropterus*, Appendix II) and blue-and-yellow macaws (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II) originating from the Americas.⁶⁴

SOUTHEASTERN ASIA

INDONESIA

REPEATED OFFENCE

December 11, 2025
Kebumen, Kebumen Regency,
Central Java Province, Java
Island, Indonesia

Alsufyan M. Abdaul Kodir G. W. A., a 24-year-old student, was acquitted. He had been charged for the possession and attempted sale of a Malayan sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*, Appendix I), a Javan slow loris (*Nycticebus javanicus*, Appendix I), a Sunda pangolin, and two langurs (Cercopithecidae,



Appendix I or II). Despite his business acumen and internet savvy, he was found not criminally responsible based on psychiatric evaluations, and the court ordered that he be placed in a psychiatric hospital for 8 months to undergo schizophrenia treatment.⁶⁵

December 16, 2025
Medan City, North Sumatra
Province, Sumatra Island,
Indonesia



Wesly Junior Sitompul, an unemployed 20-year-old, was sentenced to 3 years in prison for purchasing four leopard cats from an “unknown individual” in June 2025, whom he attempted to sell for profit (*Prionailurus bengalensis*, Appendix II), as well as an Asian palm civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*, Appendix III in India) (see “On the Trail” n°46, p. 136, ref. 66). The time spent in prison since his arrest will be deducted from the sentence imposed by the trial court.⁶⁶

December 30, 2025
Pulo Tareba, Ternate Island, North
Maluku Province, Indonesia



Alerted by several children who noticed the glow of flashlights near Lake Tolire Besar, authorities recovered 19 blue-eyed cuscuses (*Phalanger matabiru*), one monitor lizard (*Varanus* spp., Appendix I or II), and two rifles. Lamenting the absence of a BKSDA office on the island, Junaidi Abas, community coordinator, and Yudi Safi, administrator of the conservation area, chose to resolve the matter through mediation. The four poachers, who had travelled across the water from Jailolo on the island of Halmahera, were ordered to pay a customary fine of 7 million rupiah (approximately 420 US\$). “It’s always the same story. They come to have fun, eat, and drink during their vacations. This is the third time this has happened,” they explained. The fine will be used to install a sign prohibiting hunting in the village of Takome and the neighbouring Pulo Tareba conservation area. The weapons were confiscated, as were the remains of the cuscuses, with assistance from the *babinsa*, the police officer responsible for security oversight in the village.⁶⁷

Ternate Island, see “On the Trail” n°34, p. 252 (ref. 29); n°38, p. 236 (ref. 33); n°40, p. 166 (ref. 7); n°42, p. 121 (ref. 13), n°44, p. 101 (ref. 8), n°47, p. 106 (ref. 10), and n°48, p. 65 (ref. 24).

January 15, 2026
Mertoyudan, Magelang Regency,
Central Java Province, Java
Island, Indonesia



Following a tip, MU, 22, and AR, 24, were arrested, and authorities seized one live Sunda pangolin, one dead Sunda pangolin, 500g of Sunda pangolin scales, three leopard cats (*Prionailurus bengalensis*, Appendix II), a yellow-crested cockatoo (*Cacatua sulphurea*, Appendix I), and a black-winged kite (*Elanus caeruleus*, Appendix II).⁶⁸

January 20, 2026

Tanjung Karang,
Bandar Lampung City,
Lampung Province, Sumatra
Island, Indonesia

facebook



Suryanto, a 46-year-old farmer, was sentenced to 2 years in prison, a fine of 50 million rupiah (2,980 US\$)—with 50 days of probation in the event of non-payment—and 5,000 rupiah (0.30 US\$) in court costs for the illegal possession of a siamang (*Symphalangus syndactylus*, Appendix I) and for trafficking via Facebook a fishing cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*, Appendix II), two black-capped lorises (*Lorius lory*, Appendix II) (purchased for 70 US\$, listed for sale at 88 US\$) and 3 hill mynas (*Gracula religiosa*, Appendix II) (purchased for 90 US\$, listed for sale at 140 US\$). The animals were seized on August 13, 2025; the fishing cat died in late September.⁶⁹

January 30, 2026

Pante Bayam, East Aceh Regency, Aceh Province,
Sumatra Island, Indonesia

Thanks to a tip from an outside source, officers from Langsa customs, the provincial police and the BKSDA stopped a truck travelling overnight from Lhokseumawe towards Alur Madat



on side roads in the early morning. Inside were, all alive and some in poor condition, one orangutan (*Pongo* spp., Appendix I), 3 Javan langurs (*Trachypithecus auratus*, Appendix II), 5 concave-casqued hornbills (*Buceros bicornis*, Appendix I), 11 salmon-crested cockatoos (*Cacatua moluccensis*, Appendix I), 4 yellow-crested cockatoos (*Cacatua sulphurea*, Appendix I), 13 parakeets (Psittaciformes, Appendix I or II except 4 species), 17 large-fig parrots (*Psittaculirostris desmarestii*, Appendix II), 4 eclectus parrots (*Eclectus roratus*, Appendix II), one Wilson's bird-of-paradise (*Diphyllodes respublica*, Appendix II), 9 birds-of-paradise (Paradisaeidae, Appendix II), 3 Nias hill mynas (*Gracula religiosa robusta*, Appendix II), one common myna (*Acridotheres tristis*), 2 hornbills (family Bucerotidae), 2 Melanesian megapodes (*Megapodius eremita*), 7 unidentified birds, snakes, 30 packages of frozen Indo-Pacific horseshoe crabs (*Tachypleus gigas*), and 5 tiger skulls (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I). According to the official statement, "it is strongly suspected that the animals were to be transferred to a speedboat and smuggled into Thailand." The truck driver is in custody. Most of the birds are exotic to the island of Sumatra and originate from Papua or Papua New Guinea.⁷⁰

MALAYSIA

December 19, 2025

Sungai Suloh, State of Johor, Malaysia



Inside a fishing hut on stilts one nautical mile southwest of Sungai Suloh, officials seized 10 pythons (Pythonidae, Appendix I or II), 234 Oriental magpie-robins (*Copsychus saularis*), and a monkey (Primates, Appendix I or II). All were confined in crates, awaiting transfer to a boat bound for an unknown destination. The operation was carried out overnight by the maritime police in cooperation with Perhilitan, Indonesia's wildlife management agency.⁷¹

PHILIPPINES

December 8, 2025

General Santos, Sarangani Bay, Province of
South Cotabato, Philippines

Boarding of a twin-engine boat from Indonesia. Seizure from a cage, boxes and bags of a Nicobar pigeon (*Caloenas nicobarica*, Appendix I), 4 Madagascar boas (*Acrantophis madagascariensis*, Appendix I), 3 blood pythons (*Python brongersmai*, Appendix II), 4 reticulated pythons (*Malayopython reticulatus*, synonymous with *Python reticulatus*, Appendix II), one of which was dead, 4 green tree pythons (*Morelia viridis*, Appendix II), 3 white-lipped island pitvipers (*Trimeresurus insularis*), 15 leopard tortoises (*Stigmochelys pardalis*, Appendix II), 5 African spurred tortoises (*Centrochelys sulcata*, Appendix II), one black-and-white tegu (*Salvator merianae*, Appendix II), one green iguana (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II) and 37 blue-tongued lizards (*Tiliqua scincoides*), 12 of which were dead. Most are exotic species not native to Southeastern Asia. Arrest of 6 men, believed to be Indonesian. The ship's owner, a man named Cam, lives in Mabila. The total value of the seizure on the domestic market is estimated at one million pesos, or 17,000 US\$.⁷²

SINGAPORE

November 25, 2025

Singapore

According to the ICA (Immigration and Checkpoints Authority), seizure from luggage in transit of approximately 2,500 red-eared sliders (*Trachemys scripta elegans*), 6 common marmosets (*Callithrix jacchus*, Appendix II), an albino raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), and 7 birds, including "several dead" specimens: 2 white-necked mynas (*Streptocitta albigollis*), a Sulawesi myna (*Basilornis celebensis*) and 4 yellow-faced mynas (*Mino dumontii*). Tested positive for salmonellosis, the turtles were finished off. This seizure is very close to those reported by India at Trichy and Chennai airports (see p. 194 ref. 88 and p. 156 ref. 31).⁷³

THAILAND

November 20, 21 and 22, 2025

Ban Pong Daeng and Ban Phu Sai, Kaeng Krachan District, Kaeng Krachan National Park, Phetchaburi Province, Thailand



- A Special Force was deployed to an area of the national park where poaching and illegal logging are flourishing. It comprised the First Reconnaissance Battalion, members of the border police and the Anti-Narcotics Unit. Seizure of a pile of quills of Himalayan porcupine (*Hystrix brachyura*), a pile of deer bones, a yellow-headed tortoise (*Indotestudo elongata*, Appendix II), ammunition of various calibres, a chainsaw and several chains.
- Discovery of a durian plantation within an area reserved for wildlife and seizure of several firearms. One person arrested.
- Seizure of 2 antlers and 3 skulls of muntjac deer (genus *Muntiacus*), serow antler (*Capricornis* spp., Appendix I), 2 wild boar skulls (*Sus scrofa*), 22 red junglefowl legs (*Gallus gallus*), several firearms, 11 traps, a chainsaw and 2 walkie-talkies. One person arrested.
- Seizure of several chainsaws, 3 traps, muntjac deer antlers, a wild boar skull and a walkie-talkie from a hut.
- Arrest of 2 men lying in wait in the undergrowth with 2 Stevens and Winchester hunting rifles and their ammunition, 2 hunting knives with blades 22 and 70 cm long, 4 torches, and pills of methamphetamine and other narcotic substances. They are accused of bringing hunting weapons and traps into the nature park with the intention of damaging natural resources protected by law.⁷⁴

Beginning of January 2026

Suvarnabhumi International Airport, Bangkok, Thailand



Two red-handed tamarins (*Saguinus midas*, Appendix II) and four Indian tent turtles (*Pangshura tentoria*, Appendix II), worth an estimated 128,000 baht or 4,000 US\$, were seized from the luggage of a Chinese national from Hong Kong who was about to board a flight to the Philippines.⁷⁵

January 24, 2026

Bueng Nakhon, Prachuap Khiri Khan Province, Thailand

During a high-speed nighttime pursuit, Phasi and Chatchai—travelling on a red motorcycle and a blue motorcycle registered in Phetchaburi Province—were seen throwing a bag into a roadside ditch. The bag contained an unmarked 12-gauge shotgun. The two men were intercepted on the road leading to Takrao Waterfall. A search of their two backpacks revealed the carcass of a long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*, Appendix II) and 10 dead Blyth's river frogs (*Limnonectes blythii*) that had recently been poached in Kui Buri National Park. Officers also found seven methamphetamine tablets and other narcotics intended for personal use.

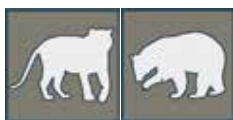


Blyth's frogs can reach up to 26 cm in length, with females larger than males. The species inhabits forest habitats in Indonesia (on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo), Malaysia, Singapore, western Thailand, and Myanmar. Its primary threats are subsistence hunting and collection for both domestic consumption and the international trade in frog legs.⁷⁶ Poaching of Blyth's frogs in Kui Buri National Park; see "On the Trail" n°43, p. 119 (ref. 21).

THAILAND – CAMBODIA

December 21, 2025

Thmor Da, Pursat Province, Cambodia, and Tha Sen, Trat Province, Thailand



Professionals rescued two Asian black bears (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I), an emaciated Malayan sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*, Appendix I), and two emaciated lions (*Panthera leo*, Appendix I or II). After a 500-kilometre, 7-hour drive, the lions arrived four days later at the Ratchaburi Wildlife Sanctuary.⁷⁷

VIET NAM

November 28, 2025

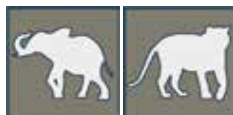
Ho Tram, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam



Following a tip from ENV, 7 yellow-headed tortoises (*Indotestudo elongata*, Appendix II), one African spurred tortoise (*Centrochelys sulcata*, Appendix II), 2 iguanas (family Iguanidae) native to the Americas, and 3 spiny peacocks (*Pavo muticus*, Appendix II) were seized from a pagoda.⁷⁸

Beginning of December 2025

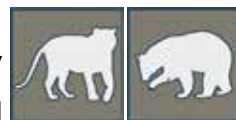
Bai Chay, Quang Ninh Province, Viet Nam



Seizure in the historic district of a tiger claw (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I) and an elephant ivory pendant. The souvenir shop was temporarily closed.⁷⁹

December 15, 2025

Dong Hoa, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam



An old case has resurfaced following yet another report from a concerned citizen. Behind the rebar and barred enclosures, two exhausted tigers (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I), one leopard (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I), two Asiatic black bears (*Ursus thibetanus*, Appendix I), and two buff-cheeked gibbons (*Nomascus gabriellae*, Appendix I) remain in captivity. The owner reportedly lacks both the resources and documentation required to prove their lawful confinement.



At a neighbouring facility, Siamese crocodiles (*Crocodylus siamensis*, Appendix I) are subjected to similar conditions, kept in a pond so murky that their exact number could not be determined—possibly around 10 individuals. Both facilities are operated by a man named Tan, a Ho Chi Minh City businessman specialising in tourism. Several years earlier, Tan's tiger cubs attracted public attention. Some of the cubs died, while others escaped and were later recaptured. Tan had offered to voluntarily surrender them to authorities in order to avoid legal proceedings, but no zoo agreed to accept the animals. As a result of administrative delays, the tiger cubs remained in his care.⁸⁰

January 19 and 23, 2026

Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam



A man who sold wild animals for human consumption online was fined 400 US\$. Following an alert by ENV, environmental police had seized 20 ferret-badgers (genus *Melogale*) and 40 Asian koels (*Eudynamys scolopacea*) from his freezer.⁸¹

SOUTHERN ASIA

BANGLADESH

January 2, 2026

Dhaka, Dhaka District, Dhaka Division, Bangladesh

A black kite (*Milvus migrans*, Appendix II), a turtle, and a mongoose were seized at the Mirpur market and released back into the wild. Bangladesh is home to three different mongoose species: the Indian grey mongoose (*Herpestes edwardsi*, Appendix III in India and Pakistan), crab-eating mongoose (*Herpestes urva*, Appendix III in India), and small Asian mongoose (*Herpestes javanicus*, Appendix III in India and Pakistan).⁸²

January 11, 2026

Madhabdi, Narsingdi District, Dhaka Division, Bangladesh

The Wildlife Crime Control Unit seized 12 Indian grey mongooses (*Herpestes edwardsi*, Appendix III in India and Pakistan), 5 hill mynas (*Gracula religiosa*, Appendix II), a purple swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*), and 5 doves, all of which were released back into the wild.⁸³

INDIA

Night of November 5-6, 2025

Kuthari, Nagaon District, State of Assam, India

Overnight in an open field, the STF (Special Task Force) and Nagaon police arrested two men, Bidya Singnar and Samson Kathar, who already had a reputation as wildlife poachers. They seized 10.63 kg of pangolin scales, 6 dead tokay geckos (*Gekko gecko*, Appendix II), and one live Bengal slow loris (*Nycticebus bengalensis*, Appendix I).⁸⁴



November 9, 2025

Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru Rural District, State of Karnataka, India

A couple from Kerala arriving from Bangkok had hidden in their carry-on luggage a northern white-cheeked gibbon (*Nomascus leucogenys*, Appendix I), a capuchin monkey (Cebidae, Appendix I or II), 4 tarctic hornbills (*Penelopides panini*, Appendix II), and 2 Javan mynas (*Acridotheres javanicus*). The animals were reportedly sent back on a Thai Airways return flight.⁸⁵

FAMILY AFFAIRS

November 18-25, 2025

Deo (or Dev), Aurangabad District, State of Bihar; Kauwakhoh and Medininagar, Palamau District; Chiniya, Garhwa District; Mahuadand, Latehar District; Ranchi District; Palamau Tiger Reserve, Palamau, Garhwa and Latehar Districts, State of Jharkhand, India



Authorities seized 1.2 kg of snake venom and 2.5 kg of pangolin scales. Mohammad Siraj and his son, Mohammad Miraj, were arrested in Deo, Bihar State, followed by the arrest of Raju Kumar Shaundik in Kauwakhoh, Jharkhand State. Shaundik, a fruit and medicinal herb merchant who also dealt in adulterated jaggery (sugar), was allegedly involved in the distribution of snake venom. The venom was stored in jars fitted with metal plates attached to the lid knobs, falsely claiming French origin and production by the Red Dragon Company (see "On the Trail" n°9, p. 17, ref. 8). The media outlet ETV Bharat reported that the substance "was tagged in France, indicating connections to European labs." The alleged snake venom was reportedly intended for sale on the narcotics market.

During the investigation, the WCCB and forest officials also seized an additional 14.5 kg of pangolin scales, a leg from an Indian peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*, Appendix III in Pakistan), and a brown sand boa (*Eryx johnii*, Appendix II). The traffickers allegedly intended to sell these items for 10 million rupees (approximately 112,700 US\$). Seventeen other individuals were also arrested.⁸⁶



October 16, 2022, Phansidewa, Darjeeling District, State of West Bengal, India

November 23, 2025

Govardhan, Mathura District, State of Uttar Pradesh, India

Officials arrested three individuals and recovered 14 owl talons (*Strigidae*, Appendix I or II) as well as what Mathura Forest Division and WCCB officers believe to be 50 monitor lizard hemipenes (*Varanus* spp., Appendix I or II).⁸⁷

November 25, 2025

Tiruchirapalli (Trichy) International Airport, State of Tamil Nadu, India

According to the Press Information Bureau of the government, seizure from the 2 pieces of luggage carried by a passenger travelling from Bangkok of 6 common marmosets (*Callithrix jacchus*, Appendix II), an albino raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) and 11 birds, 4 of which were dead: 6 white-necked mynas (*Streptocitta albicollis*), a Sulawesi myna (*Basilornis celebensis*) and 4 yellow-faced mynas (*Mino dumontii*). The trafficker had transferred in Singapore onto Scoot flight TR-566. This seizure is very close to the one claimed by Singapore on the same day (see p. 191 ref. 73).⁸⁸

End of November 2025

Sivaganga District, State of Tamil Nadu, India

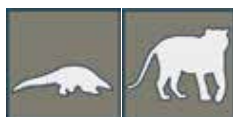
Forest rangers from Chennai, Madurai, and Ramanathapuram seized two elephant tusks and six spotted deer antlers (*Axis axis*) from eight men between the ages of 26 and 63. A district police officer is reportedly implicated in the trafficking.⁸⁹



December 2, 2025

Lachung, Mangam District, State of Sikkim, India

Officials arrested Ms. Yangchen Lachungpa, 43, who has been wanted in India since 2015 and been the subject of an Interpol Red Notice and international wanted notice since October 2025. She is suspected of having played a pivotal role in establishing, organising, and financing smuggling rings between India, Tibet, and China for tiger bones (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I), pangolin scales, Tibetan antelope down (*Pantholops hodgsonii*, Appendix I), and red sandalwood (*Pterocarpus santalinus*, Appendix II) and cordyceps mushrooms. She was arrested in September 2017 in Madhya Pradesh but, after being released on bail, failed to appear in court as ordered. She was finally arrested again, this time a few kilometres from the Chinese border despite the protection she received from a segment of the local population. She was associated with Jaiy Tamang and his gang (see "On the Trail" n°11, pp. 48–49, ref. 30; n°15, p. 45, ref. 31; n°20, p. 69, ref. 51; and n°25, p. 113, ref. 83).⁹⁰



December 10, 2025

Ridhora and Butibori, Nagpur District, State of Maharashtra, India



Alerted by a local forest protection unit, the Butibori police recovered eagle talons and beaks (*Falconiformes*, Appendix I or II), owl skulls (*Strigiformes*, Appendix I or II), turtle shells, a leopard skin (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I), and skin belonging to another unidentified wild animal from Amit Yenurkar and Gyanaji Khillare, who claimed they could remove curses, impotence, diseases, and poverty.⁹¹

December 13, 2025

Nakodar, Jalandhar District, State of Punjab, India



When officers arrived at the scene, Bony Arora was found in possession of two sambar deer antlers (*Rusa unicolor*), six hemipenes from Bengal monitor lizards (*Varanus bengalensis*, Appendix I), and parts belonging either to an ornate cat (*Felis lybica*, Appendix II) or a jungle cat (*Felis chaus*, Appendix II). He was surrounded by seven city and forest police officers. Arora repeatedly stated that he had obtained the items from Shivam Gupta, who operates a curio shop. When questioned by police, Gupta in turn repeatedly identified a man named Deepak who is operating a grocery store and supermarket as the supplier of all the specimens. Three individuals identified as links in the trafficking chain were arrested and taken to the main police station. In India, sambar deer and Bengal monitor lizards receive the same level of legal protection as do tigers and lions. Ritual practices involving their remains, often performed in exchange for payment, are believed by some to bring good fortune in business and to help reunite estranged wives with their husbands.⁹²

December 22, 2025

Kolkata Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport, North 24 Parganas District, State of West Bengal, India

This marks the sixth instance since the start of 2025 wherein exotic animals have arrived at the airport. Two packages unloaded from an IndiGo flight from Bangkok contained two golden lion tamarins (*Leontopithecus rosalia*, Appendix I) native to the Atlantic forests of Brazil; a pied sun conure (*Aratinga solstitialis*, Appendix II) native to Brazil; two coryllis (*Loriculus* spp., 11 species listed in Appendix II) native to Southeast Asia, and four loris (Loriinae, 35 species listed in Appendix II) native to Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. "The repatriation process has been initiated. An official of ministry of fisheries, animal husbandry and dairying, animal quarantine and certification services said, 'since these animals and birds were brought illegally without any health clearance, keeping them might pose threat to the biosecurity here'".⁹³

December 27, 2025

Kabir Ali, Udalguri District, State of Assam, India

According to animal rights activists, the sale of meat from six dead Bengal monitor lizards (*Varanus bengalensis*, Appendix I), a civet (family Viverridae; eight species found in India, all listed in Appendix III), and an Indian fox (*Vulpes bengalensis*, listed in Appendix III in India) at the weekly market is not uncommon. It took a video circulating on social media showing the raw or cooked meat on market stalls for the police to intervene where forest services remained indifferent.⁹⁴

December 29, 2025

Jagadguru Sant Tukaram Maharaj International Airport, Pune District, State of Maharashtra, India

A woman and a man arrived around 4 a.m. on an IndiGo flight from Bangkok. The DRI (Directorate of Revenue Intelligence) seized seven "exotic" animals, including monkeys, from their luggage. One of the monkeys had suffocated to death.⁹⁵

January 1, 2026

Panikanti, Darjeeling District, State of West Bengal, India. Border with Nepal.

The SSB (Sashastra Seema Bal) seized 3 skulls with deer antlers (family Cervidae), 4 hornbills (family Bucerotidae; 7 species listed in Appendix I or II found in India) with their beaks, a Himalayan goral (*Naemorhedus goral*, Appendix I), a wild boar tusk (*Sus scrofa*) and a snake skeleton (*Naemorhedus goral*, Appendix I) from two Nepalese nationals.⁹⁶

FAMILY AFFAIRS

January 2, 2026

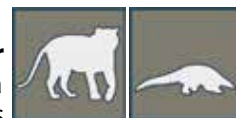
Sardhapur and Dharmabandha, Nuapada District, State of Odisha, India



Officials seized a leopard skin (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I) and antlers belonging to two sambar deer (*Rusa unicolor*) in Sardhapur and arrested 4 individuals. Following the initial suspects' confessions, a second leopard skin was seized in Dharmabandha and 2 more people were arrested.⁹⁷

January 3, 2026

Haluwating, Sivasagar District, State of Assam, India



Seizure of 2 leopard skins (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I), bones, teeth and claws from a tiger (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I), and pangolin scales from Imchil Liba Ao. He claims to have been tasked with transporting them from Tuli in Nagaland to Nepal via Assam. For the agencies responsible for combating wildlife trafficking, the region is considered a critical corridor due to its inaccessibility, porous borders and proximity to traditional smuggling routes into China. Ao was arrested at the Amgoorie Tea Estate. Situated on the south bank of the Brahmaputra, it takes its name from the words "Aam", meaning "mango", and "Guri", meaning "mango tree roots", in reference to the many hundred-year-old mango trees that once dotted the area. Two accomplices fled the scene.⁹⁸

January 9, 2026

Nagashettyhalli, Bengaluru Urban District, State of Karnataka, India



A "self-styled godman", independent of the official churches, is in trouble with the human courts. Seized from his altar were 200 hemipenes of Bengal monitor lizards (*Varanus bengalensis*, Appendix I), 5 human skulls (male or female) recovered from cemeteries, a fake tiger skin (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I), a paw from an unknown animal and 1.5 kg of soft corals (order Alcyonacea). Each hemipenis was sold to raise funds for his private church for around 10,000 rupees, or 111 US\$; it was believed to be effective, provided it was blessed with the appropriate prayers, for love attraction, reconciliation between couples, and controlling partners. The coral was a talisman believed to bring good luck, provided it was honoured with fabricated rituals. On the internet, he has at least 25,000 followers.⁹⁹

January 17, 2026

Bengaluru Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru Rural District, State of Karnataka, India

Three passengers who live in Maharashtra were arrested at Terminal 2 upon arriving from Bangkok. Officers seized 35 wild animals, some of which had already died from suffocation: capuchin monkeys (*Cebidae*, Appendix I or II), Grand Cayman blue iguanas (*Cyclura lewisi*, Appendix I), and green iguanas (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II) native to South America; Abert's squirrels (*Sciurus aberti*) native to the southern United States and Mexico; Patagonian maras (*Dolichotis patagonum*) native to Argentina, and sugar gliders (*Petaurus breviceps*) native to Australia and New Guinea. The three smugglers were released on bail pending further legal proceedings.¹⁰⁰



January 19, 2026

Amritsar Sri Guru Ram Das Ji International Airport, Amritsar District, State of Punjab, India



Upon disembarking an AirAsia flight from Bangkok, officials recovered a stuffed walrus head (*Odobenus rosmarus*, Appendix III in Canada) and a stuffed Indian peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*, Appendix III in Pakistan) from Mohammad Abrar's two wheeled suitcases. He had purchased them for the equivalent of 3,230 US\$ and claimed they were fakes, but WCCB experts confirmed their authenticity.¹⁰¹

January 19, 2026

Jhanjharpur, Madhubani District, State of Bihar, India



Seizure of one leopard skin (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I), one skin and half a skin of a spotted deer or chital (*Axis axis*) and 5 mobile phones by the WCCB and the Bihar Forest Department. Arrest of 4 men, including Pankaj Kumar Jha, son of the late former Bihar Minister Roopnarayan Jha†. Three other smugglers are reported to have fled. According to the preliminary investigation, the poaching is believed to have taken place in the Palamau Tiger Reserve or its buffer zone, and the gang is thought to be linked to traffickers dealing in tigers, deer, pangolins, sand boas and snake venom operating in and around the tiger reserve. See p. 12 ref. 43 and p. 193 ref. 86.¹⁰²

SRI LANKA

Mid-November 2025

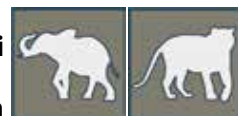
Anuradhapura, North Central Province, Sri Lanka



Seizure from the chief custodian of the Sri Maha Bodhiya Buddhist temple in Anuradhapura of sambar deer meat (*Rusa unicolor*), Indian pangolin scales, 6 Indian black turtles and 14 eggs (*Melanochelys trijuga*, Appendix II), and a suspected ivory necklace.¹⁰³

December 16, 2025

Radella, Eastern Province, Sri Lanka



Seizure of a brown fish owl (*Ketupa zeylonensis*, Appendix II), 10 pairs of sambar deer antlers (*Rusa unicolor*) and 10 elephant tusks from a tourist hotel. Two other raptors (Accipitridae, Appendix I or II) and a rusty-spotted cat (*Prionailurus rubiginosus*, Appendix II in Sri Lanka) are believed to still be present somewhere in the hotel or its outbuildings, but they have not yet been discovered. They may have been removed before the search took place.¹⁰⁴



ARMENIA

**2025
Armenia**

Annual report of the Environmental Inspection and Protection Department: seizure of 4,255 m³ of illegally felled timber, 248 fishing nets, 21 diving suits, 13 hunting rifles, 6 Syrian brown bears (*Ursus arctos syriacus*, Appendix II), a wild goat (*Capra hircus aegagrus*, Appendix III in Pakistan), a grey wolf (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II), and 4 raptors, including a peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*, Appendix I) and a spotted eagle (*Aquila clanga*, Appendix II). 284 fines for the unlawful possession of wild animals.¹⁰⁵



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

November 2, 2025**Emirate of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates**

Seizure of caracals (*Caracal caracal*, Appendix I) and Blanford's foxes (*Vulpes cana*, Appendix II) from the home "of an Arab national" by the Sharjah Criminal Police and the Federal Police of the Ministry of the Interior. The man is believed to have been trading in them. He has been referred to the Public Prosecutor's Office.



The animals were transferred to an accredited zoo. The Blanford's foxes are between 40 and 50 cm long, excluding the tail, which is 30 to 40 cm long. They live in dry, rocky areas and have a sand-coloured fur. They are the second smallest canids after the fennec foxes. They are primarily frugivorous and insectivorous and are nocturnal. The species is found in 2 regions: on one hand in Southern Asia (Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan), on another hand in Western Asia (from Saudi Arabia to Israel). They are rarely hunted, except by certain Bedouins who attribute healing properties to their meat and tails.¹⁰⁶

November 13, 2025**Tel Aviv-David Ben Gourion International Airport, Central District, Israel**

A 24-year-old Israeli man living in Bnei Brak (Tel Aviv district) and returning from Bangkok was prevented by customs officials from bringing into the country 186 exotic animals, some of which become invasive at adulthood, including tegus (*Salvator* spp., Appendix II), Central bearded dragons (*Pogona vitticeps*), mangrove snakes (*Boiga dendrophila*), kingsnakes (genus *Lampropeltis*), African bullfrogs (*Pyxicephalus adspersus*), turtles and marine molluscs.¹⁰⁷

December 15, 2025**Jerusalem, Jerusalem District, Israel**

Seizure at night under a search warrant from a private residence of a live Eurasian eagle-owl (*Bubo bubo*, Appendix II), 2 stuffed snowy owls (*Nyctea scandiaca*, Appendix II), parrots (Psittaciformes, Appendix I or II except 4 species), a stuffed golden pheasant (*Chrysolophus pictus*), a Nubian ibex bust (*Capra nubiana*), a capuchin monkey (*Cebus* spp., synonymous with *Sapajus* spp., Appendix II), 2 fox skins (family Canidae), 4 invasive red-eared sliders (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) and a Balkan pond turtle (*Mauremys rivulata*), a freshwater species adapted to the Mediterranean climate and found from Albania to the Middle East, including Israel and Palestine. An arrest.¹⁰⁸

TURKIYE

End of November 2025

Maltepe District, Istanbul Province, Türkiye

Another "Ali Baba's cave" has been discovered in Greater Istanbul, but only one thief has been arrested; he has been fined and will face prosecution in court. Seizure by the Provincial Directorate for Nature Conservation and National Parks, the Directorate of Anti-Smuggling and the police of several carved elephant tusks, 70 pieces of carved ivory, 125 grammes of ivory chips, 101 ivory rosaries, 13 rosaries made from loggerhead turtle shell (*Caretta caretta*, Appendix I), a rosary made from buffalo horn, a rosary made from deer antler, a rosary made from sperm whale ivory (*Physeter macrocephalus*, Appendix I), 180 wolf canines (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II), a lynx head (*Lynx* spp., Appendix I or II), a crocodile head (*Crocodylia*, Appendix I or II), 10 claws and 10 teeth, a crocodile-skin hat adorned with 5 teeth, 8 lion claws (*Panthera leo*, Appendix I or II), 8 roe deer skulls, 3 beaver jaws, a gazelle skin and a stuffed viper.¹⁰⁹



Mid-December 2025

Burdur, Burdur Province, Türkiye

Seizure by the gendarmerie, from a house in the town centre, of an around 2-year-old boa constrictor (*Boa constrictor*, Appendix I or II), a 6-month-old Burmese python (*Python bivittatus*, Appendix II), a 4-month-old Guichenot's giant gecko (*Correlophus ciliatus*, synonymous with *Rhacodactylus ciliatus*), and a 3 or 4-year-old tarantula (family Theraphosidae), which all of them had been brought into the country without documentation or formalities. They have been handed over to Antalya Zoo until further notice.¹¹⁰

NORTHERN EUROPE

FINLAND

Mid-December 2025

Savonlinna, Region of South Savo, Finland



A family and neighbourhood quarrel, exacerbated by alcohol and the hunting culture, has resulted in a 40-year-old man being given a 50-day suspended prison sentence, 243 € (285 US\$) in taxes and court costs, and 250 € (300 US\$) in emotional distress victim surcharges to be paid to each of the 2 victims of psychological and verbal harassment, for having killed, in the courtyard and shared garden between October 2022 and December 2023, using an air rifle and a bow, a common blackbird (*Turdus merula*, Appendix III in Ukraine), 14 Eurasian jays (*Garrulus glandarius*), 4 Eurasian magpies (*Pica pica*), raccoon dogs (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*), a European hare (*Lepus europaeus*) and squirrels.¹¹¹

UNITED KINGDOM

December 5, 2025

London, Greater London County, England, United Kingdom



Seizure by the Metropolitan Police and officers from the FSA (Food Standards Agency) of 38 kg of frozen meat from pangolins, porcupines (family Hystricidae) and cane rats (genus *Thryonomys*) originating from Africa from the home of a man whose identity and nationality have not been disclosed.¹¹²

WESTERN EUROPE

FRANCE

July 2025. October 2025. December 1, 2025

Paris, France

- Surprise inspection of the 4-star Monte Cristo Hotel on Rue Pascal in the 5th arrondissement by Paris Nord customs officials, accompanied by an expert from the Natural History Museum. A total of 49 stuffed animals or animal parts were inventoried in the lobby, the lounges and the corridors. All are likely to be protected under CITES and have been sequestered at the premises under the manager's responsibility.

- The museum's identification investigation has been completed. 19 animals are indeed protected under CITES or national legislation and require documents of origin which the hotel management is unable to produce.

(.../...)

(.../...)

- Seizure of 3 markhors (*Capra falconeri*, Appendix I), an Iberian ibex (*Capra pyrenaica*, Appendix I in 12 African countries), a red kite (*Milvus milvus*, Appendix II), a common crane (*Grus grus*, Appendix II), a little egret (*Egretta garzetta*), a scarlet ibis (*Eudocimus ruber*, Appendix II), a blue-fronted amazon (*Amazona aestiva*, Appendix II), a bleeding heart dove (*Gallicolumba luzonica*, Appendix II), an eclectus parrot (*Eclectus roratus*, Appendix II), 3 turacos (family Musophagidae), a Brazilian merganser (*Mergus octosetaceus*), a Nile crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*, Appendix I or II), a monitor lizard (*Varanus* spp., Appendix I or II) and the skeleton of a snake.¹¹³



November 18, 2025 Department of Aude, France



"On the Trail" recounted Operation Tournesol (Sunflower), which aimed to dismantle the nets set up in fields to protect crops but which had been misused by some farmers in the Hérault valley to trap passerines (see n°47 p. 100, ref. 70). The case had repercussions in the neighbouring department of Aude, where 18 OFB inspectors and police officers carried out 7 searches and seized 6 European goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine) as well as 18 tortoises (Hermann's tortoise *Testudo hermanni*, Appendix II, or Greek tortoise *Testudo graeca*, Appendix II), in addition to 10 cages and a terrarium.¹¹⁴

End of November 2025 Montredon-Labessonnié, Department of Tarn, France



The administrative closure of the "Zoo des Trois Vallées" (Three Valleys Zoo) did not improve the animals' fate; in the absence of alternative housing, they remained there under the operator's failing responsibility. A nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*, Appendix III in Pakistan), native to the Indian subcontinent, escaped in the summer of 2024. In October, the Tarn prefecture had merely issued an order highlighting the risks posed by the animal's roaming to public order. The OFB had attempted to locate and capture him using a hypodermic syringe but had eventually given up. In November 2025, the exotic antelope was deliberately shot by hunters during a wild boar beat. "This was a service rendered, not a hunt," declared the president of the Departmental Hunting Federation. The carcass was taken to a rendering company, which processed it into animal meal. Several other exotic quadrupeds are believed to have escaped from the closed and neglected zoo, notably Sika deer (*Cervus nippon*) native to Japan, "a real threat to the genetic integrity of red deer". The 9,000 hunters in the Tarn are on alert to shoot the escapees. Vigilance is also required to prevent the raccoons (*Procyon lotor*), who have also made their escape, from becoming an invasive species. The only hope of countering the invaders may lie with the 9 grey wolves (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) who escaped before them in 2021, and it is not certain whether they have all been recaptured or culled. In early December 2025, the authorities were forced, at their own expense, to organise the exfiltration of "the animals suffering the most", including a tigress (*Panthera tigris*, Appendix I), 2 wolves, an otter (*Lutrinae*, Appendix I or II) and a caracal (*Caracal caracal*, Appendix II). However, in January 2026, 2 capuchin monkeys who had slipped through the net were spotted on rooftops and in trees in Montredon-Labessonnié (population 2,000).¹¹⁵ Zoo des Trois Vallées, see "On the Trail" n°34 p.88 (ref. 18) and n°36 p.74 (ref.14).

December 1, 2025 Avignon, Department of Vaucluse, France



The massive car boot sale at the Châteaublanc Exhibition Centre is a good opportunity for 3 OFB officers and 8 customs officers to walk freely through the aisles. Four so-called professional sellers – a Greek, an Italian, a Dutchman and a Belgian – came out a little battered and bruised: an administrative fine of 150 € (175 US\$) and seizure of elephant and walrus ivories (*Odobenus rosmarus*, Appendix III in Canada), crocodile leather (Crocodylidae, Appendix I or II) and a giant clam shell (*Tridacna gigas*, Appendix II).¹¹⁶

January 6, 2026

**Coutances, Department of Manche,
Normandy, France**



Charly Blandin, aged 35, was fined 15,000 € (17,635 US\$), of which 8,000 € (9,405 US\$) was suspended, and was sentenced to a penalty of 500 € (590 US\$). Around 30 live animals had been seized from his home in May 2024. He held no licence to keep them. Charged with the unlawful keeping of non-domestic species, the unauthorised opening of an establishment keeping non-domestic animals in captivity, operating without a certificate of competence, the unauthorised transfer of non-domestic animals, and the unlawful purchase of non-domestic animal species, he defended himself by describing himself as merely an “enthusiast”. His menagerie included a blue-and-yellow macaw (*Ara ararauna*, Appendix II), 2 carpet pythons (*Morelia spilota*, Appendix II), a red-tailed green ratsnake (*Gonyosoma oxycephalum*), a green cat snake (*Boiga cyanea*), 2 beauty ratsnakes (*Elaphe taeniura*), 2 Taiwan stink snakes (*Elaphe carinata*), an Arizona mountain kingsnake (*Lampropeltis pyromelana*), a blue tree monitor (*Varanus macraei*, Appendix II), a yellow-spotted monitor (*Varanus panoptes*, Appendix II), 2 Fiji banded iguanas (*Brachylophus bulabula*, Appendix I), 2 black-and-white tegus (*Salvator merianae*, Appendix II), a New Caledonian giant gecko (*Rhacodactylus leachianus*), a Cuvier's smooth-fronted caiman (*Paleosuchus palpebrosus*, Appendix II), an Aldabra giant tortoise (*Aldabrachelys gigantea*, Appendix II), an African spurred tortoise (*Centrochelys sulcata*, Appendix II), an Australian green tree frog (*Pelodytes caerulea*), a Mexican redknee tarantula (*Brachypelma smithi*, Appendix II), 2 curlyhair tarantulas (*Tliltocatl albopilosum*, Appendix II), an Antilles pinktoe tarantula (*Caribena versicolor*, Appendix III in the European Union), a Brazilian whiteknee tarantula (*Acanthoscurria geniculata*), a tiger tarantula (*Davus pentaloris*), a Brazilian black tarantula (*Grammostola pulchra*), a Cameroon red baboon spider (*Hysterochrates gigas*), a tarantula of the genus *Phormictopus* and a sugar glider (*Petaurus breviceps*). Since he began keeping them in May 2018, 14 other animals had passed through his care and died: a reticulated python (*Malayopython reticulatus*, synonymous with *Python reticulatus*, Appendix II), 2 green tree pythons (*Morelia viridis*, Appendix II), a white-lipped python (*Leiopython albertisii*, Appendix II), a boa constrictor (*Boa constrictor*, Appendix II), a ridgetail monitor (*Varanus acanthurus*, Appendix II), a rhinoceros iguana (*Cyclura cornuta*, Appendix I), a green iguana (*Iguana iguana*, Appendix II), a Baja blue rock lizard (*Petrosaurus thalassinus*), 2 skinks of the genus *Tribolonotus*, 2 Indian star tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix I) and a Gooty ornamental tarantula (*Poecilotheria metallica*, Appendix II).¹¹⁷

January 30, 2026

**Noidans-le-Ferroux,
Department of Haute-Saône,
France**



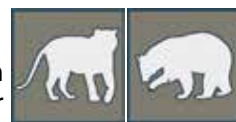
Destruction by fire in the household waste incinerator of hundreds of carved elephant ivories, hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*, Appendix I) and loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*, Appendix I) shells, monitor lizard skins (family Varanidae), a stuffed wild cat (*Felis silvestris*, Appendix II) and a stuffed spiny-tailed lizard (*Uromastyx* spp., Appendix II), all of which had been seized for years by customs officials in Franche-Comté, an effective and irreversible way of preventing misappropriation and, as Bruno Diolot of the OFB puts it, “taking action here to protect there”, in other words, deterring poaching by demonstrating that it is becoming increasingly difficult in the downstream part of the chain to sell the products obtained in the upstream part of the chain. Part of this jumble of wildlife and exotic items was seized from 2 vehicles registered in Poland and Switzerland and driven by 2 Vietnamese nationals.¹¹⁸

SOUTHERN EUROPE

ALBANIA

December 10, 2025

Albania



Transport by lorry between Albania and Germany, under the responsibility of the NGO Four Paws, of a 3-year-old lion (*Panthera leo*, Appendix I or II) who had recently lost his mane, and a 2-year-old female brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II) who is rather thin. They had until then been kept in a sort of private zoo which was closed down by the authorities on grounds of unsanitary conditions. The lion was taken to the Four Paws wildlife sanctuary in Tierart and the bear to the bear sanctuary in Murtitz. Everything went smoothly under the supervision of a vet from the Leibniz Institute in Berlin. There were no issues at the borders of North Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia and Austria, but in March 2026, whilst under general anaesthesia for a thorough health check, the lion died.¹¹⁹

SPAIN

December 5, 2025

Castellar de la Frontera, Province of Cádiz, Autonomous Community of Andalucía, Spain

Broken padlocks, cut fences, and animals roaming freely throughout the zoo-sanctuary—except for those that had been stolen. The thieves targeted 15 Barbary macaques (*Macaca sylvanus*, Appendix I), tamarins including one cotton-headed tamarin (*Saguinus oedipus*, Appendix I), valued on the black market at between 3,000 € and 10,000 € (approximately 3,500 US\$ to 11,500 US\$) each, as well as two fennec foxes (*Vulpes zerda*, Appendix II) and four parrots (Psittacidae, Appendix I or II, except for three species). The selection appeared deliberate. The Guardia Civil is now investigating potential trafficking networks behind the thefts.¹²⁰

ITALY

November 15, 2025

Lampedusa Island, Archipelago of the Pelagian Islands, Free Municipal Consortium of Agrigento, Region of Sicily, Italy

The Pelagie Islands, located 190 km from Sicily and 150 km from Tunisia, are threatened by poaching and illegal dumping. The island of Lampedusa (6,000 residents plus migrants) and the island of Linosa (400 residents) are littered with trash, discarded cartridges, and shreds of fishing nets. Migratory birds such as woodcocks, flycatchers, and pipits are lured by electronic sounds. The carabinieri, assisted by volunteers from Gruppo Adorno (an anti-poaching association) and CABS, seized five rifles and arrested six people, including a resident who was keeping seven Hermann's tortoises (*Testudo hermanni*, Appendix II).¹²¹

End of January 2026

Cappello and San Pietro Mussolino, Province of Vicenza, Region of Veneto, Italy

Seizure from a bag abandoned by a poacher fleeing as 2 police officers approached, having been alerted by the sound of gunshots, of 4 chaffinches (*Fringilla coelebs*), a European goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*, Appendix III in Ukraine) and a European greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*). Seizure at his home of 4 roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) skulls with antlers and 2 jawbones, a deer skull with antlers, 31 kg of meat, 4 firearms and ammunition of all calibres.¹²²

EASTERN EUROPE

RUSSIA

November 2025

Tere-Kholsky and Kaa-Khemskey Districts, Republic of Tyva, Russia



Seizure by gamekeepers who arrived at the scene by Mil Mi-8 helicopter of 15 Siberian musk deer (*Moschus moschiferus*, Appendix II), 2 brown bears (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II), a Siberian wapiti (*Cervus canadensis sibiricus*) and a sable (*Martes zibellina*), all freshly killed in the republic's forests and for some of them skinned, as well as rifled and smooth-bore hunting weapons. All the suspects were transferred to Kyzyl, the republic's capital.¹²³

November 12, 2025

Domodevo, Moscow Oblast, Russia



A five-year suspended prison sentence, accompanied by a seven-year probation order, for Yu.D. Saakov, who claims to be a zoologist. He had attempted to import into the Russian Federation, via Moscow-Domodedovo International Airport and from Osh in the Kyrgyz Republic, 4 Horsfield's tortoises (*Testudo horsfieldi*, Appendix II) from Central Asia, 4 roseate cockatoos (*Eolophus roseicapilla*, Appendix II) from Australia and 4 Senegal parrots (*Poicephalus senegalus*, Appendix II) from Western Africa. All 3 species are listed in CITES Appendix II, and the 48 animals were found in a hidden compartment within a wooden crate containing 500 exotic birds not listed in the CITES Appendices, which had been sent entirely legally. In fact, Saakov is a dealer in birds and other pets. On the black market, a roseate cockatoo sells for between 1,000 and 5,000 US\$ (80,000 and 4,000,000 roubles). The so-called zoologist is implicated in a second case of bird trafficking from Kyrgyzstan which took place in March 2024 (see "On the Trail" n°44 p. 144, ref. 216). Demand for pet birds is increasing in Moscow and prices are soaring ever higher.¹²⁴

End of December 2025

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

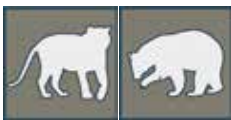


Seizure of 3 brown bear fangs (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II in Russia, Appendix I in China), 11 grey wolf fangs (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II) and tea based on dried deer blood (family Cervidae) from the bag of a Chinese national. The trafficker claimed he intended to give them to a friend.¹²⁵

SLOVAKIA

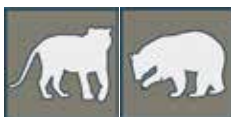
Beginning of November 2025 Galanta, Trnava Region, Slovakia

An 18-month suspended prison sentence for a man claiming to be a taxidermist who was in illegal possession of the skull of a Siberian tiger (*Panthera tigris altaica*, Appendix I) and the skull and fur of a brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II).¹²⁶



Beginning of December 2025 Dunajská Streda, Trnava Region, Slovakia

A fine of 2,000 € (2,300 US\$) for a resident of Balony who was illegally keeping a brown bear (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix II), a wild cat (*Felis silvestris*, Appendix II) and a tawny owl (*Strix aluco*, Appendix II), all stuffed, with a total market value estimated at 47,000 € (54,500 US\$).¹²⁷



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CZECHIA

January 27, 2026

Teplice, Ústí nad Labem Region, Czechia



He was facing 3 years' imprisonment. He got off with a six-month suspended sentence thanks to his remorse and his clean criminal record. Jiří Bartůňek, aged 67, an illegal breeder of pocket monkeys, had been trading golden headed lion tamarins (*Leontopithecus chrysomelas*, Appendix I) and Goeldi's monkeys (*Callimico goeldii*, Appendix I) with a counterpart in Slovakia from as early as 2022, with the aim of enriching the genetic diversity of their respective breeding farms. In 2023, Bartůňek acted as a middleman in the importation of a lemur from Poland, bound for an illegal menagerie in Czechia. During a search of his home, the tamarins, a leopard's head (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I), a live Indian star tortoise (*Geochelone elegans*, Appendix I) and the shell of a green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*, Appendix I) were seized, along with a large sum of money which was returned to him due to a lack of evidence that it was the proceeds of his wildlife trafficking.¹²⁸

AMERICA

COLOMBIA

December 9, 2025

Providencia Island, Department of San Andrés and Providencia, Colombia

The Colombian Navy boarded a Nicaraguan fishing vessel carrying five crew members off the coast of the La Providencia and San Andrés islands. The *Cap Loo* was found fishing without authorization in the Quitasueño Bank, located 127 km from La Providencia Island, within waters under Colombian jurisdiction.

After being escorted to the port of San Andrés, the vessel was searched. Authorities seized 159 kg of lobsters, 13 kg of sea cucumbers, 6 kg of stingrays (order Myliobatiformes), and 4 kg of king crabs, along with diving and fishing equipment. The Quitasueño Bank is a marine protected area under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Sustainable Development. The Colombian islands of Providencia and San Andrés, located in the Caribbean Sea, lie approximately 200 km from Nicaragua and 700 km from mainland Colombia.¹

San Andrés and Providence Islands, see "On the Trail" n°25, p. 39 (ref. 11), n°31, p. 99 (ref. 25) and p. 189 (ref. 4), n°33, p. 277 (ref. 4), n°37, p. 206 (ref. 2), n°38, p. 234 (ref. 18), and n°39, p. 136 (ref. 3).

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

REPEATED OFFENCE

January 16, 2026

San Francisco, San Francisco County, State of California, United States of America



Sentencing of Futseng Chen to 5 years' probation and to pay over 40,000 US\$ in restitution to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for having, between January 2018 and December 2024, under the guise of his company Sealogic International Inc. imported ornamental tropical fish from Central America to California and fraudulently exported them, together with corals, to Hong Kong and continental China, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Japan and other countries. In 2009, Chen had already been convicted for the same facts.²



Nautilus (*Nautilus pompilius*)
Photo Gretchen Beehler (BY-NC 4.0)

ASIA

CHINA

November 2025

Liantang Checkpoint, Shenzhen Prefecture, Guangdong Province, China. Border with Hong Kong.



Under the headline "Theft of Treasures from the Dragon Palace", Liantang Customs has issued a press release about the seizure, from the luggage of a passenger coming from abroad, of 100 bracelets and dominoes made from hawksbill turtle shell (*Eretmochelys imbricata*, Appendix I) and 27 bracelets made from black coral beads (*Antipathes* spp., Appendix II) and from giant clam shells (*Tridacnidae*, Appendix II). The species were identified by the Shenzhen Institute of Forensic Science.³

INDIA

January 28, 2026

Mandapam, Ramanathapuram District, State of Tamil Nadu, India

Seizure of 110 kg of sea cucumbers and 30 kg of dried seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp., Appendix II) awaiting smuggling to Sri Lanka by sea.⁴

INDONESIA

December 10, 2025

Kodingareng Keke, Barrang Lompo and Lumu-Lumu Islands, Makassar City, Kapoposang Island, Pangkajene and Islands Regency, Taka Bonerate Island, Selayar Islands Regency, Bajoe Island, Bone Regency, Sembilan Island, Sinjai Regency, Kambuno Island, Luwu Regency, South Sulawesi Province, Indonesia



Bang at sea and bang on the quays.

Announcement of the seizure by the water police of eleven 25-kg bags of ammonium nitrate-based fertiliser, 369 'lappa-lappa', handmade detonators transported into the province on car ferries operated by the national company Pelni, 64 bottles and 89 jerry cans of mixtures and precursors for non-conventional explosives, 74 fuses and

diving equipment. The pyrotechnic components originated from Tawau in Malaysia and Pasuruan Regency. 18 arrests in fishing ports for breaches of the Law on the Protection of Fishery Resources and Marine Ecosystems and the 1951 Emergency Law on Explosives.⁵

Blast fishing in Indonesia, see Index.

EUROPE

SPAIN

January 20, 2026

Ribadesella, Principality of Asturias, Spain

The residents of the San José de la Montaña retirement home are the second beneficiaries of the Guardia Civil's operation. They will share a kilo and more of gooseneck barnacles (*Pollicipes pollicipes*) that poachers had been tearing off the base of the cliffs at Pedral de Tereñes. The first beneficiary is the sea. The Guardia Civil returned to the sea the 6 kg of purple sea urchins (*Paracentrotus lividus*) and the half-kilo of limpets (genus *Patella*) that they had also plundered. They were still alive.⁶

POLAND

Beginning of December 2025

Herbienne Border Crossing Point, Lublin Voivodeship, Poland. Border with Ukraine.



Seizure of 2 pieces of staghorn coral (*Acroporidae*, Appendix II), 446 grammes, and a nautilus shell (*Nautilidae*, Appendix II), 204 grammes, from the luggage of a man coming from Ukraine.⁷

ASIA

CHINA

December 28, 2025

Xiangzhou District, Zhuhai Prefecture, Guangdong Province, China. Border with Macao.

Seizure by Wanzai customs of 2 stony corals (Scleractinia, Appendix II) with a total weight of 472.9 grammes from the luggage of a passenger boarding the car ferry bound for Macao.¹

December 2025

Luohu Border Post, Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, China. Border with Hong Kong.

Seizure from a passenger's luggage of 22 coral fragments, including 13 hard corals belonging to the order Scleractinia, which is listed in Appendix II of CITES.²

January 2026

Jiaxing Port, Zhejiang Province, China

Seizure by customs from the luggage of crew members of a merchant ship during a crew change of 4 fragments of stony coral (Scleractinia, Appendix II).³

INDIA

November 22, 2025

Jamshedpur, Purbi Singhbhum District, State of Jharkhand, India

Authorities seized three kilograms of coral at a hotel 170 km from the sea and arrested Deepak Mahato, Pramod Kewart, Abhay Kumar, and Haricharan Gope. The species is currently being identified, and the investigation aims to trace the entire smuggling chain, from its origin to its final destination. Jamshedpur is located 250 km from the Bangladesh border.⁴

INDONESIA

REPEATED OFFENCE

January 21, 2026

Makassar City, South Sulawesi Province, Sulawesi Island, Indonesia

Musdar H.M. was sentenced to 8 months in prison and a fine of one million rupiah (60 US\$), plus an additional 20 days in prison in the event of non-payment, as well as 5,000 rupiah (0.30 US\$) in court costs for preparing to export 17 tonnes of golden sea fans (*Isis hippuris*) to China in October 2025. He had already shipped 10 tonnes prior to his arrest. The mastermind behind the operation is reportedly a Chinese citizen nicknamed W.⁵



THAILAND

December 24, 2025

Nong Khaem District, Bangkok, Thailand

A total of 245 protected marine species, including live corals, coral fragments and sea anemones, were seized from the home of a 33-year-old man named Chitiphat. The investigation began when offers to sell corals were spotted on social media.⁶

EUROPE

GERMANY

November 14, 2025

Hamburg International Airport, Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, Germany



Seizure of 8 stony corals (Scleractinia, Appendix II) from the luggage of a 29-year-old female tourist returning from the Republic of the Maldives.⁷

End of January 2026

Cologne Bonn International Airport, North Rhine-Westphalia Land, Germany

Seizure of a stony coral (Scleractinia, Appendix II) and 12 fragments from the luggage of a German national returning from Thailand via Munich in Bavaria.⁸



BULGARIA

December 14, 2025

Kapitan Andreevo Border Crossing Point, Haskovo Province, Bulgaria. Border with Greece and Türkiye.

Seizure of 5 specimens of the class Anthozoa, housed in bags of water, 3 corals and 2 sea anemones, from the luggage hold of a coach travelling from Türkiye to North Macedonia. The second driver eventually admitted ownership. The 5 animals were urgently transferred to the Plovdiv Natural History Museum. One of them did not survive the drop in temperature and died.

This is the first time that Bulgarian customs have intercepted live corals, but wildlife trafficking at the border post is rife, ranging from a stuffed lion to 500 live spiders.⁹

ITALY

December 4, 2025

Catania-Fontanarossa International Airport, Metropolitan City of Catania, Region of Sicily, Italy



Seizure of 16 protected stony corals (Scleractinia, Appendix II) by customs from the luggage of a resident of Palermo arriving from Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt; their appearance and colour indicated that they had only just been torn from a reef. Fine of 5,000 € (5,900 US\$).¹⁰

POLAND

Mid-January 2026

Wrocław International Airport, Lower Silesian Voivodeship, Poland

Another “green channel” carrying species included in the Red List. Seizure of a fragment of organ pipe coral (*Tubipora musica*, Appendix II). On paper, the “nothing to declare” traveller faces a potential sentence of 3 months’ imprisonment. He was returning from the Republic of Madagascar.¹¹

End of January 2026

Warsaw Chopin International Airport, Masovian Voivodeship, Poland



Seizure, in the “nothing to declare” green channel, of 361 fragments of stony coral (Scleractinia, Appendix II) from the luggage of a passenger returning from the Republic of Seychelles.¹²

RUSSIA

November 12, 2025

Krasnoyarsk International Airport, Krasnoyarsk Krai, Russia

Customs seized 25 stony corals (Scleractinia, Appendix II) from the backpack of a 39-year-old woman returning from Sanya, Hainan Province, China.¹³

End of December 2025

Barnaul International Airport, Altai Krai, Russia

Seizure of 16 stony corals (Scleractinia, Appendix II) from a passenger incoming from Viet Nam.¹⁴

MARINE MOLLUSCS AND GOOSENECK BARNACLES

THE CARIBBEAN

FRANCE (GUADELOUPE)

November 1, 2025

Ilet à Fajou, Morne-à-l'Eau, Department of Guadeloupe, France

The marine unit was keeping an eye on the queen conches (*Strombus gigas*, Appendix II) and caught 2 men on jet skis. One was diving to retrieve them from the bottom whilst the other was shucking them and putting them in a net attached to a buoy. The third step would have been to return to shore and sell the 16 kg of fresh conch meat.¹

December 5, 2025

Off Les Anses d'Arlet, Department of Martinique, France

Fort-de-France customs officials intercepted a skiff from the island of Saint Lucia, an independent State in the Caribbean Sea 50 km south of Martinique. They seized and destroyed 185 kg of fresh queen conch meat (*Strombus gigas*, Appendix II), which was intended for New Year's Eve feasts. Arrest of the 2 traffickers. The record of great queen conch catches in Martinique and Guadeloupe reflects the local population's fondness for the flesh of these molluscs, whose shells are often kept or sold as decorative souvenirs: 798 kg in 2019, 471 kg in 2021, 91 kg in 2025.²



ASIA

CHINA

Beginning of November 2025

Wenjindu Checkpoint, Shenzhen Prefecture, Guangdong Province, China. Border with Hong Kong.

Seizure of a freshwater or marine mollusc shell from the boot of a passenger car; it was identified by experts at the Shenzhen Animal and Plant Quarantine Centre as a nautilus shell (Nautilidae, Appendix II).³

November 2025

Yantai Penglai International Airport, Shandong Province, China

Seizure of 4 bracelets, 3 necklaces, and a pendant made from a giant clam shell (Tridacnidae, Appendix II), with a total weight of 574 grammes, from 3 incoming passengers.⁴

November 26, 2025

Hefei Xinqiao International Airport, Anhui Province, China

Seizure of 181 Go game pieces made from giant clam shells (*Tridacna gigas*, Appendix II).⁵

December 2025

Dalian Zhoushuizi International Airport, Liaoning Province, China

Three queen conch shells (*Strombus gigas*, Appendix II) – also known as giant conch or pink conch – wrapped in white cloth were seized by customs following an alert on the monitoring screen.⁶

January 16, 2026

Lanzhou Zhongchuan International Airport, Gansu Province, China

Seizure of 2 bracelets made of giant clam shell (*Tridacna gigas*, Appendix II) and 3 bracelets made of Chinese agarwood (*Aquilaria sinensis*, Appendix II) from a passenger disembarking from the seaside resort of Nha Trang in Viet Nam.⁷

January 2026

Liantang Checkpoint, Shenzhen Prefecture, Guangdong Province, China. Border with Hong Kong.



In the bag belonging to the driver of the black Mercedes coming from Hong Kong, there were 4,443 pearls made from giant clam shells (Tridacnidae, Appendix II).⁸

INDONESIA

January 10, 2026

Ketapang Seaport, Banyuwangi Regency, East Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia

Seizure from a lorry bound for Badung Regency (Bali Province) of 4 horned helmets (*Cassis cornuta*), 42 spider conches (genus *Lambis*) and 4 sea snails (genus *Cymbiola*) in rice sacks amidst a properly declared consignment of 2,500 kg of fresh fish, including red snappers.⁹

PHILIPPINES

December 25, 2025

Cadiz, Province of Negros Occidental, Philippines

Poaching in the marine protected area with the evocative name “Giant Clam Village” of 33 of these famous and venerable molluscs (*Tridacna gigas*, Appendix II). The shells were left on the beach after the flesh, which fetches a high price during the festive season, had been removed. Salvador Escalante, mayor of Cadiz, has condemned the cruelty and illegality of the plundering and is offering a reward of 20,000 rupees (340 US\$) to anyone providing information leading to the arrest and conviction of the culprits.¹⁰

January 14, 2026

San Fernando, Province of Palawan, Philippines

Seizure by the Provincial Council for Sustainable Development, the national police and the Coast Guard of 156 giant clam shells (*Tridacna gigas*, Appendix II). Total weight: 10 tonnes, or 64 kg per shell. Estimated value on the Asian market: 150 million pesos, or 2.5 million US\$ and 250 US\$/kg. Two arrests. The fake ivory from giant clam shells is used as a substitute for elephant ivory in the manufacture of jewellery, game pieces and religious items.¹¹

EUROPE

SPAIN

November 19, 2025

Igeldo, Province of Guipuscoa, Autonomous Community of Basque Country, Spain

Two men climbing up cliffs were stopped by inspectors from the SIP (Servicio de Inspección Pesquera). Their backpacks contained 5.4 and 6.6 kg of gooseneck barnacles (*Pollicipes pollicipes*), harvested between the Igeldo Lighthouse and Punta Anarri in Orio, within the barnacle management plan area where their harvest is prohibited year-round. The catch was confiscated and donated to charitable organisations, and the two poachers were issued citations.¹²

January 19, 2026

A Coruña, Province of A Coruña, Autonomous Community of Galicia, Spain

Seizure by the police and the A Coruña Fishermen's Guild from a black trash bag containing 23 kg of gooseneck barnacles (*Pollicipes pollicipes*) scraped off by 2 men at the foot of the Tower of Hercules.¹³

FAMILY AFFAIRS

January 2026

Vigo, Province of Pontevedra, Autonomous Community of Galicia, Spain



Four men, including a father and his son, have been sentenced at first instance to pay more than 24,500 € (29,000 US\$) in damages to the Baiona Fishermen's Guild, as well as fines ranging from 360 to 540 € (420 to 635 US\$), and prohibited from fishing, shellfish or crustacean harvesting, or hunting for 9 to 12 months, for having torn 1,350 kg of gooseneck barnacles (*Pollicipes pollicipes*) off the cliffs between Monteferro and Punta dos Picos, which were sold at exorbitant prices to restaurants, fishmongers and private individuals, between 2018 and 2021.¹⁴

ITALY

End of December 2025

Torre Annunziata, Metropolitan City of Naples, Region of Campania, Italy



The highly organised conspiracy was dismantled in July 2021. For the past 5 years, it had been targeting date mussels (*Lithophaga lithophaga*, Appendix II) between Vico Equense, Sorrento and Massa Lubrense. It also targeted chequered carpet shells (*Ruditapes decussatus*) contaminated with germs and chemical residues at the mouth of the River Sarno, thereby endangering public health. The ringleader was sentenced at first instance to 7 years' imprisonment, and 4 key players received sentences ranging from 5 years and 8 months to 6 years and 10 months. The annual income exceeded 100,000 € (119,000 US\$) (see “On the Trail” n°33 p.249, ref.13).¹⁵

THE NETHERLANDS

January 27, 2026

Amsterdam, Province of North Holland, The Netherlands



Sentencing on appeal of the man who, on June 8, 2022, had attempted to import into the Netherlands via Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam, from the Caribbean island of Curaçao, 2.58 kg of queen conch meat (*Strombus gigas*, Appendix II), to a fine of 200 €, convertible to 2 days' imprisonment in the event of non-payment. At first instance, the individual had been sentenced to a fine of 300 €, convertible to 6 days' imprisonment in the event of non-payment. The Court of Appeal reduced the sentence, finding that the individual had consistently stated to customs that he was unaware that the queen conch was a protected species and that, consequently, it had not been established that he had intentionally attempted to introduce into the European Union an animal or part of an animal listed in CITES Appendix II.¹⁶



Haliotis tuberculata tuberculata. Photo jjulio2000 (BY-NC 4.0)

AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

The most common species of abalone in South Africa is *Haliotis midae*.

OPERATION LOCKDOWN III

November 7, 2025

Cape Town, Western Cape Province, South Africa

Racks, gas, pots, bags, and the ever-present smell of the tide. Seizure of 6,400 abalones at a drying workshop on Amazon Street. Total value of 3.52 million rand, or 205,000 US\$ and 32 US\$ per specimen. Arrest of a Chinese national and a Malawian.¹

November 19, and December 1st, 2025

Hermanus, Western Cape Province, South Africa

Hermanus at the heart of the crisis

- Pearly Beach. Mid-November, in broad daylight, around 20 individuals in wetsuits, armed with screwdrivers and other abalone poaching tools, went out of the car park and made their way unhurriedly towards their poaching spot, as if on an aqua walk. The Overstrand police (the municipality to which Hermanus belongs) were called several times by witnesses, but no one turned up. "We have been used to spotting smugglers among the kelp for decades" said to the Hermanus Times a local resident who wished to remain anonymous, "but this level of arrogance stunned us".



- Voëlklip. On Wednesday, November 19, the Overstrand police stopped a vehicle and seized 7,217 abalones with a total value of 1.4 million rand, or 84,000 US\$ and 11 US\$ per specimen. Dion George, the Minister of Fisheries, is under constant pressure. "I am deeply aware of the socio-economic realities facing fishers in the abalone sector. However, we must also confront the fragile state of the abalone resource, suffering from years of overfishing and illegal harvesting. Its recovery demands a science-based and responsible approach." George is being besieged by 150 professional abalone fishermen from the Western Cape province, each of whom is seeking an exemption from the general fishing ban. Most of the appeals have been rejected. They came from fishermen who had failed to comply with the strict conditions for previous exemptions and had, in a sense, behaved like poachers.

December 1:

- Paul Adams was sentenced to 20 years in prison, 4 of which were suspended, for organising the murder of Cameron Marc Padayachee, a car mechanic and abalone poacher who refused to pay an annual tax based on the amount of his illicit income.
- Ismail Khan was sentenced to 20 years in prison, 5 of which were suspended, for being an accomplice in Padayachee's murder.
- Renaldo van der Bergh, who carried out the murder by firing 8 shots at Padayachee while he was changing a tire on a car with his children inside, has already been sentenced to 30 years in prison.²

November 19, 2025
Macassar, Western Cape Province, South Africa



209 abalones in a Mercedes-Benz on the N2 highway. A man has been arrested. He was in possession of a replica firearm with blank ammunition. Average value per specimen: 28 US\$.³

December 2025 and beginning of January 2026 **Eastern Cape Province, South Africa**

It is nice and hot, the perfect weather for holidaymakers crowding on the beaches and rocky shores, and the ideal season too for divers searching the depths of the sea for abalones. The weather is fine, and the festive season, with its clandestine tastings of fresh abalones and the shipping of dried ones to China in gift parcels by post, leads to a spike in catches. Along a 20-kilometre stretch of coastline, centred on Nelson Mandela Bay, 100 to 200 divers are hard at work day and night, leaving whole bags on the beach. It is then up to the “runners” to collect them and take them to the workshops.

- December 12. Seizure of 720 abalones by lookouts from Dark Water Ops, the private company supporting the overwhelmed local police.

- December 29. Seizure of 857 fresh abalones from a Toyota near the Noordhoek Ski Boat Club. “Clear skies, good weather and calm seas ironically created a ‘perfect storm’ for poachers to flood the surf.” “We anticipated heavy activity, so none of our operatives were able to take time off for the festive season. Our firm required all hands on deck, and still we can only do so much to curb the illegal perlemoen trade,” said Nicky Erasmus, operations director at Dark Water Ops. The police confirmed: “Dark Water Ops do good work and they are a great asset to the police as we operate with very limited resources. However, they can only cover a small part of the coastline, and we see poaching activity branching out far beyond the 20km they monitor.” “We know that the Kouga region has seen more activity recently, and there have been incidents off the coast, particularly around Bird Island, which is a protected area.” “On top of that, suspects are arrested and back in the waves within a few days. Either they get bail, or they admit guilt and get a slap on the wrist.” The challenge in and around Nelson Mandela Bay is becoming increasingly difficult to win. The stakes are environmental, economic and social. The illegal abalone trade generates 1 to 2 billion rand a year (60 to 120 million US\$) and fuels the various activities of criminal syndicates and money launderers.⁴

OPERATION SHANELA II

December 16, 2025

Delft, Western Cape Province, South Africa

As part of the law enforcement operation over the festive season, there has been an increase in road checks. A delivery truck was stopped. 1,010 abalones were seized. The driver, a Zimbabwean national, was arrested.⁵

OPERATION SHANELA II

January 12-18, 2026

South Africa

Seizure of 110,000 doses of crystal meth, 5,812 Mandrax tablets, 152 firearms, 3.2 million rand (192,400 US\$) worth of various smuggled goods, 20 tonnes of copper cable and 1,475 abalones, 435 of which were found in the Western Cape province on R300 in the car of a 30-year-old suspect. The value of the 435 abalones is estimated at 75,000 rand, or 10 US\$ per specimen.⁶

January 13, 2026

Alberton, Gauteng Province, South Africa

The police noticed a building from which a strong, overwhelming smell of rotten tide was emanating. Alberton is 450 km from the sea. The Hawks were alerted and, during the search, “a large quantity of abalones” in basins, with an estimated value of 10 million rand (630,000 US\$), along with all the equipment used to dry them, were seized. Based on 20 US\$ per abalone, the seizure would amount to 31,500 abalones. 11 suspects were arrested.⁷

January, Saturday 24 and Sunday 25, 2026

Smitswinkel Bay, Western Cape Province, South Africa

Rangers from Table Mountain National Park, in cooperation with the SAPS, seized 72 fresh abalones, 1,150 shucked abalones and diving equipment in Smitswinkel Bay. A suspect has been arrested.⁸

AMERICA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

November 7 and December 5, 2025

Walsh Landing, Sonoma County, State of California, United States of America

During his court appearance, Andrii Chmukh, 34, asked the judge for a Ukrainian interpreter. On the night of Friday, November 7, he took advantage of the low tide and harvested 15 red abalones (*Haliotis rufescens*) in Ocean Cove, south of Salt Point Park. The flashlight he used drew the attention of two Fish and Wildlife agents. It has been illegal to harvest red abalone in California since 2018, when the State Fish and Game Commission voted to suspend the harvest of the imperiled mollusks, coveted for their meat, which is considered a delicacy. Handing down that closure, commissioners cited drastically declining stocks of abalones, and the collapse of the bull kelp forest which sustains them like other herbivores.⁹

EUROPE

FRANCE

January 8, 2026

Vannes, Department of Morbihan, France



A suspended fine of 300 € (350 US\$) has been imposed on a father who, according to his own account, wanted to provide financial support for his daughter in need and had no other means than to harvest abalones (25) that were below the regulatory size during high tides in Larmor-Baden. This individual, who lives in Auray, under the guise of family solidarity, is well aware of the local tricks that allow recreational pillagers on the foreshore to make money. The Breton coast is home to abalones *Haliotis tuberculata tuberculata*. See "On the Trail" n°42 p. 146 (ref. 8).¹⁰

OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA

REPEATED OFFENCE

Beginning of December 2025

Geelong, State of Victoria, Australia



A man was sentenced to 6 months in prison, followed by a 12-month community correction order, as well as banned from owning or operating a fishing boat or diving vessel and fined 2,000 dollars (1,340 US\$) for committing repeat offences between August 2023 and December 2024. Following his convictions for fishing offences in 2017, he was caught with 131 abalones aboard his vessel in Port Phillip Bay, which he intended to sell at an illegal fish market on his property on the Bellarine Peninsula.¹¹

January, from Saturday 24 to Monday 26, and end of January 2026

Altona, Williamstown and Mount Eliza, State of Victoria, Australia

- Abalone plundering during the Australia Day long weekend. 80 recreational fishermen were lectured and 5 have been summoned to appear in court. They had in their buckets several dozen abalones, most of which were below the minimum size limit. The daily catch limit on authorised fishing days is 5 abalones and the minimum size is 10 cm in diameter. The VFA (Victorian Fisheries Authority) is calling on witnesses to uncivil behaviour to ring 13FISH (133474). "Make the call and make the difference".

- Arrest of 2 men for possessing 147 abalones, 144 of which were below the minimum size limit. "Diving for a meal of wild abalone in Port Phillip is something special, enjoyed by lots of people every summer. To keep the bay's abalone stocks healthy, we all need to do our bit, which includes abiding by bag and size limits," says the VFA's press release.¹²

January 27, 2026

Nowra, State of New South Wales, Australia



Another incompatibility between the law and tradition. Whilst it is prohibited to harvest more than 5 blacklip abalones (*Haliotis rubra*) – 10 for Aboriginal people – when and where the season is open, an investigation carried out by the Fisheries Inspectorate, the police and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

between September 2023 and February 2024 proved that Keith Nye, Cain Bollard, Brent Wellington, Richard Schofield, John Henry Carriage, John Nathan Carriage and Denzel Carriage harvested thousands of abalones anytime and anywhere. The 7 suspects, acting in conspiracy, are Aboriginal holders of cultural licences. A few days before their trial, the Nowra court dismissed the case against them and ordered the State to reimburse nearly 2 million Australian dollars – equivalent to 1.3 million US dollars – spent on lawyers specialising in the defence of Indigenous peoples, their culture and their traditional livelihoods. According to Keith Nye, "if we don't hand down culture, it will fade away, just like they [the colonisers] wanted to do in the 1700s, 1800s and the 1900s." One of his lawyers echoes this: "I have seen people [Aboriginal people] almost suicidal because of this. They could go to jail for 10 years for practising what they've been taught."¹³

NEW ZEALAND

November 5, 6 and 19, 2025

Opunake and Rahotu, Taranaki Region, and Sponge Bay, Gisborne Region, North Island, New Zealand

The 0800 4 POACHER hotline was called twice in the Taranaki region on the night of Wednesday 5 November and on the night of Thursday 6 November.

- Three individuals were caught red-handed by the police and fisheries inspectors in possession of 118 abalones, 16 of which were below the minimum size limit, caught in a bay closed to all shellfish fishing.

- Three individuals were caught red-handed in possession of 338 abalones, 199 of which were below the minimum size limit, in Rahotu Bay, which is closed to all shellfish fishing.

When the season is open, the catch limit for pāua (the local name for abalone) is restricted to 5 specimens per day, and the minimum required size must be 8.5 cm or greater.

- Two divers were caught red-handed in possession of 369 pāua. They were all below the minimum size limit, which in the Gisborne region is at least 12.5 cm in diameter. The smallest was half the required size. They were all returned to the sea.

Pāua is the Māori name used to refer to the 4 species of abalones found in New Zealand: *Haliotis iris*, *Haliotis australis*, *Haliotis virginea* and *Haliotis piriemoana*.¹⁴

SEA CUCUMBERS AND SEA URCHINS



Actinopyga mauritiana. Photo Glen Whisson (BY-NC 4.0)

AFRICA

GUINEA

End of November 2025

Ahmed Sékou Touré International Airport, Conakry, Conakry Region, Guinea



Zhang Cunahi, a Chinese national, was sentenced to a six-month suspended prison term and a fine of 3,430 US\$ for attempting to board a flight to his home country with 10 kg of sea cucumbers in his suitcase. These particular sea cucumbers had been sold illegally at the Madina market for the equivalent of 80 US\$ per kg. Harvesting and selling sea cucumbers is prohibited in Guinea. The main species found in the country's coastal waters are *Holothuria lentiginosa*, *Holothuria turrisperfecta*, *Holothuria arenicola*, and *Molpadiodemas villosus*.¹

AMERICA

CANADA

FAMILY AFFAIRS

December 10, 2025

Nanaimo, Province of British Columbia, Canada



Melissa Dawn Larocque Steer, wife of Scott Steer, was fined 30,000 CA\$ (21,780 US\$), payable over five years, and barred from engaging in any fishing-related activity for 10 years. The Steers were at the helm of the largest and most persistent illegal fishing and sea cucumber trafficking operation in British Columbia during the 2010s (see "On the Trail" n°47, p. 158, ref. 2).²

MEXICO

December 30, 2025

Playas de Rosarito, State of Baja California, Mexico. Border with the United States of America.

A large shipment of sea cucumbers, divided into 39 plastic bags, was seized from a pick-up truck bed. A team from Profepa assisted the municipal police in identifying the species and taking inventory. It turned out that the shipment consisted of 9,629 dried sea cucumbers and 12,194 fresh sea cucumbers, all of which were brown sea cucumbers (*Isostichopus fuscus*, Appendix III in Ecuador). The seizure took place a few kilometres from the U.S. border, and the sea cucumbers from Baja California, Mexico, were destined to California, United States.³

PANAMA

CHRISTMAS WITHOUT SMUGGLING

November 12, 2025

David, Chiriquí Province, Panama

As part of operation “Christmas Without Smuggling”, customs officials and the K-9 unit targeted a package at a courier company. A total of 672 sea cucumbers were seized, even though their capture and sale are prohibited in Panama. The seizure took place in David, a city located 45 km from the Costa Rica border. The city is an important transportation hub, crossed by several major highways, home to one of the country’s largest bus terminals, and connected by air routes to both Costa Rica and Panama. Its port is used by fishing and recreational vessels. The main sea cucumber species found along Panama’s Pacific coast include the brown sea cucumber (*Isostichopus fuscus*, Appendix III in Ecuador), chocolate chip sea cucumber (*Isostichopus badionotus*), donkey dung sea cucumber (*Holothuria mexicana*), furry sea cucumber (*Astichopus multifidus*), and Florida sea cucumber (*Holothuria floridana*).⁴

ASIA

CHINA

November 2025

Weihai-Dashuibo International Airport, Shandong Province, China

Seizure of 7.5 kg of fresh sea cucumbers. The passenger was unable to produce an authorisation from the country of export or a veterinary certificate. Customs ordered the fresh sea cucumbers to be returned to their country of origin, although the press release did not specify which country this was.⁵

INDIA

November 2, 2025

Ramanathapuram District, State of Tamil Nadu, India

Coast Guard and customs officials coordinated their efforts and seized 1,400 kg of sea cucumbers aboard a fishing boat, estimated to be worth 65 million rupees (732,662 US\$, or 523 US\$ per kg) on the black market.⁶

OPERATION CASTLE BAY

November 15, 2025

Tillang Chong Island, Nicobar District, Union territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India

After being spotted on November 8 by a Naval Aviation Dornier and a Navy patrol boat, a fishing boat that had run aground and been abandoned was approached by soldiers on the western coast of the island. On board, authorities discovered and seized 130 kg of sea cucumbers, 150 kg of ranelles (sea snails belonging to the superfamily *Tonnoidea*), provisions, and bags of salt. After a seven-day manhunt, six fishermen claiming to be Burmese nationals were arrested in the jungle, while eight men remain on the run. They survived by poaching deer and collecting sea turtle eggs. “This decisive action is a testament to the commitment of our forces in protecting the fragile ecosystem and securing our maritime boundaries,” the Navy stated. In 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025, 66, 98, 70, and 73 fishermen from Myanmar were arrested, respectively. After being held in detention, they were intimidated by the display of weapons and deported to their country of origin.

Tillangchong is an uninhabited island in the Nicobar district of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, notable for its thick vegetation, a 24-metre lighthouse, and its status as a sanctuary. The island is in the Nicobar Islands group, which consists of 500 islands and islets (400,000 inhabitants).⁷

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), n°47, p. 160 (ref. 7), and n°48, p. 171 (ref. 4).

November 21, 2025

Ramanathapuram District, State of Tamil Nadu, India

Authorities seized 400 kg of sea cucumbers with an estimated value of 20 million rupees (225,434 US\$, or 564 US\$/kg) aboard a fishing boat. The operation was conducted by the Mandapam Coast Guard in cooperation with Customs, the Department of Forests, and the WCCB Marine Elite Force.⁸

OPERATION CORAL SHIELD

December 2, 16, 17 and 24, 2025

North Andaman Island, North and Middle Andaman District, Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India



After seizing 800 kg of sea cucumbers and a motorboat, armed forces, with the assistance of the Pan Nallah and Coffee Dera villages, carried out a series of operations to arrest 10 Burmese fishermen who were on the run in the 200 km² of jungle. "The general public have been requested to pass and share any credible information pertaining to any crime or illegal activities to their nearest Police Station or over phone. The identity of the informers will be kept secret and will also be suitably rewarded."⁹

INDONESIA

November 26, 2025

Semau Island, Kupang Regency, East Nusa Tenggara Province, Lesser Sunda Islands, Indonesia

In a gesture of goodwill toward Australia, the Maritime Security Agency's (Bakamla) Catamaran 502 seized 20 kg of sea cucumbers caught in Australian waters from a fishing boat off Semau Island. The five unregistered fishermen aboard the unregistered vessel will face legal proceedings. Bakamla hopes this action will deter other fishermen, registered or unregistered, from engaging in illegal activities.¹⁰

January 19, 2026

Kuala Lumpur International Airport, State of Selangor, Malaysia

Seizure of 4 kg of dried sea cucumbers from a Malaysian national disembarking from South Korea.¹¹

SRI LANKA

January 19 and 20, 2026

Walaipadu and Venpurinagar, Northern Province, Sri Lanka

- Seizure by the Navy of 1,108 sea cucumbers, 4 dinghies, 30 diving cylinders, 3 compressors, flippers and other diving equipment. 13 arrests. They are aged between 29 and 67.

- Seizure by the Navy of 351 sea cucumbers and one dinghy. Four arrests. They are aged between 19 and 46.¹²

EUROPE

CROATIA

January 2, 2026

Off Banjole, Istria County, Croatia

Seizure from a 30-year-old man of 103 kg of sea cucumbers that he had just collected with a view to selling them. They were returned to the sea. The best-known species off the Adriatic coast is the tubular sea cucumber (*Holothuria tubulosa*).¹³

ITALY

November and December 2025, January 2026

Regions of Lazio, Apulia, Tuscany, Italy

Sea urchins are in high demand for seafood platters during the holiday season. The Coast Guard and the Financial Police (Guardia di Finanza) seized more than 12,700 purple sea urchins (*Paracentrotus lividus*):

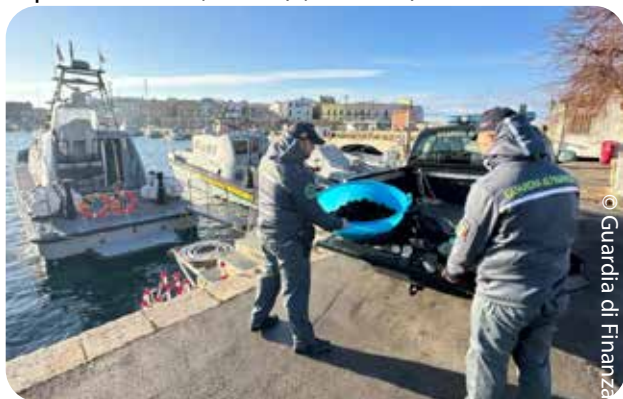
- 4,500 in Pratoranieri (Tuscany) during a nighttime coastal search with the help of local residents. The poacher was arrested at dawn as he emerged from the water. He was fined 6,000 € (7,050 US\$).
- 2,000 between Civitavecchia and Santa Marinella (Lazio). The three poacher-divers were fined a total of more than 16,000 € (18,800 US\$).
- 400 in Nardò (Apulia) found in the trunk of a 60-year-old trafficker's car. Fine of 2,000 € (2,300 US\$).
- 5,000 along the coast of Santa Marinella (Lazio) following a nighttime manhunt with the help of local residents. Fines totalling 30,000 € (35,300 US\$).

(.../...)



(.../...)

- 400 in Gallipoli (Apulia) as a poacher was returning to port. Fine of 3,000 € (3,500 US\$).



- More than 400 in Torre Santa Sabina (Apulia). Fine of 2,000 € (2,300 US\$).



- An number not specified by the authorities, within the Porto Cesareo Marine Protected Area (Apulia). Fine of 2,000 € (2,300 US\$). Administrative fines may be accompanied by criminal charges. The sea urchins were returned to the sea, and the masks, fins, tanks with regulators, wetsuits, lamps, and floating baskets were seized.¹⁴

RUSSIA

November 26, 2025

Moscow Sheremetyevo International Airport, Moscow Oblast, Russia



He wanted to give his wife 8 kg of dried sea cucumbers of the species *Apostichopus japonicus*, a gift valued at 500,000 roubles, or 6,200 US\$ and 775 US\$/kg. He was going back to his home country, China.¹⁵

December 29, 2025

Korsakov, Korsakovsky District, Sakhalin Oblast, Russia



A., wanted to make some quick money by selling Japanese sea cucumbers (*Apostichopus japonicus*) on the black market, and not holding a sailing licence, recruited B., as well as V. and G., experienced divers, to go and harvest the echinoderms from the bottom of the Busse marine lagoon, already mentioned in "On the Trail" in connection with the same offences. On their return from the expedition, their vehicle – in which 2,231 sea cucumbers were hidden, with an estimated value of 3 million roubles (equivalent to 38,000 US\$ and 17 US\$/specimen) – was intercepted by the FSB.

A. was sentenced to 2 years and 4 months' imprisonment (suspended), with a probation period of 1 year and 6 months. B. was sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment (suspended), with a probation period of 1 year. V. was sentenced to 2 years and 2 months' imprisonment (suspended), with a probation period of one year and 6 months. G. was sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment (suspended), with a probation period of one year. The judgements are final.¹⁶

OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA

REPEATED OFFENCE

December 5, 9 and 16, 2025

Off Cobourg Peninsula, Groote Eylandt, and Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia



The Northern Territory, with its 800 islands—some of which lie far from the coast and are closer to Southeast Asia than to the Australian mainland—continues to face the long-standing harassment of foreign fleets.

1. - December 5, 2025. An Indonesian vessel engaged in illegal fishing off the Cobourg Peninsula was boarded. Seizure of 400 kg of sea cucumbers and fishing gear. Destruction of the vessel. On December 16, 2025, the 4 crew members were each sentenced to pay a fine of 2,000 Australian dollars (1,400 US\$) and to comply with the code of conduct for 3 years.

(.../...)

(.../...)

2. – December 9, 2025. Coast Guard officers discovered an Indonesian boat hidden in the mangroves on Groote Eylandt Island. The crew was arrested, and “a large quantity of sea cucumbers” was seized.



On December 16, the captain was sentenced to 4 months in prison. He had previously been sentenced to 6 weeks in prison for the same offence in January 2025. A repeat offender among the crew was sentenced to one month in prison, while 2 others who had failed to comply with their three-year commitment to good conduct as of October 2024 were sentenced to 2 months in prison. The 5th fisherman was sentenced to 3 months in prison, with conditional release after 6 weeks if he agrees to abide by the code of good conduct for 3 years. The remaining 3 crew members were released on bail of 2,000 Australian dollars (1,400 US\$) and a 7-year commitment to good conduct.¹⁷

REPEATED OFFENCE

December 27, 2025 and January 14, 2026

Rowley Shoals Marine Park, State of Western Australia, and Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia



A vessel engaged in illegal fishing was boarded in the maritime zone. Seizure of 40 kg of sea cucumbers, 160 kg of salt for drying them, and a one-kilometre-long longline. Arrest of 4 Indonesian fishermen. The captain was sentenced to 5 months in prison. In May 2025, he had already been sentenced for the same offences to a one-month suspended prison term and a condition of good behaviour. The 3 other crew members were sentenced to 4 months in prison. After serving their sentences, the 4 Indonesian nationals will be deported to their home country in cooperation with the Indonesian Navy. Since July 1, 2025, the Darwin court has tried 127 Indonesians caught red-handed engaging in illegal fishing off the coasts of Western Australia and the Northern Territory.¹⁸

TONGA

November 21, 2025

Vava'u Division, Tonga



On November 21, Ivan Moreno, a national of the Kingdom of Tonga, and Yang Peng Chao and Wang Ning, nationals of the People's Republic of China, all three employed as restaurant cooks, were each fined 10,000 pa'anga (approximately 4,150 US\$) for having, on February 13, 2025, harvested, possessed, and prepared approximately 14,000 sea cucumbers intended for smuggling to China. The judge considered their violation of the sea cucumber fishing moratorium—introduced in 2015 to help preserve sea cucumber populations (see “On the Trail” n°16, p. 6)—to be an aggravating circumstance. The fines must be paid within six months; otherwise, the three traffickers will each serve a six-month prison sentence.

Among the sea cucumber species found in the waters of the Tonga archipelago are the “saianiti” (*Thelenota anax*) and the “pulukalia” (*Thelenota ananas*), both listed in CITES Appendix II following CITES COP19 in November 2022, with an 18-month implementation period. Other species present include the “telehea kula” (*Actinopyga mauritiana*), “telehea maka” (*Actinopyga lecanora*), “telehea loloto” (*Actinopyga echinites*), and “loli fulufulu” (*Actinopyga miliaris*). The illegal trade in sea cucumbers has reached alarming levels across the world's oceans.¹⁹

MARINE OR FRESHWATER FISH, SEAHORSES AND HORSESHOE CRABS



Spotted eagle ray (*Aetobatus narinari*). Photo maxwellrothberg (BY-NC 4.0)

WESTERN AFRICA

GHANA

November 18, 2025

Accra Kotoka International Airport, Greater Accra Region, Ghana

Inside 14 “Ghana Must Go” bags were 3,967 dried fins from blue sharks (*Prionace glauca*, Appendix II), thresher sharks (*Alopias vulpinus*, Appendix II), silky sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*, Appendix II), and great hammerhead sharks (*Sphyrna mokarran*, Appendix II). The seized fins, weighing 488 kg, carry an estimated value between 300,000 US\$ and 400,000 US\$, or 615 US\$ to 820 US\$ per kg. They were destined for Mauritania.¹



CENTRAL AFRICA

CAMEROON

December 2025

Cap Cameroon Island, Littoral Region, Cameroon

A manta ray (*Mobula* spp., Appendix I since March 5, 2026), so silky and magnificent at sea that it was on the front cover of “On the Trail” n°46, and the thorny whiplay (*Fontitrygon ukpam*), which also spreads its wings in coastal waters, look pitiful on the quay and in a



cart being transported from a boat to a market stall. This disastrous catch has been reported via the Siren app run by AMCO (African Marine Conservation Organisation), which has brought together around a hundred volunteer fishermen in Cameroon since 2015. Between 2015 and 2023, thanks to Siren and observations made on beaches, quays and in fish markets, 7,093 rays and sharks – the majority of which were hammerhead sharks – were counted across 23 fishing ports in the Littoral, South and Southwest regions. Cameroon’s coastline stretches for over 400 km, has at least 57 ports and landing sites, and employs between 3,000 and 4,000 fishermen who rely on marine wildlife to provide for themselves and their families.²

NORTHERN AMERICA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

January 1-4, 2026

McNary Dam, Umatilla County, State of Oregon, United States of America

Intensive patrols were carried out on the Columbia River during the first 4 days of 2026. Sturgeon fishing was allowed for a few days near the dam, provided that the fish were released. 351 anglers in 122 boats were contacted by the basin team, and 7 citations were issued including one for possession of an oversized white sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*, Appendix II) (maximum length 1.37 metres). The specimen was donated to a charity.³

LATIN AMERICA

ARGENTINA

Mid-January 2026

Province of Chubut, Argentina

On the very day that a tattooed man “well known in fishing circles” made a spectacle of himself on social media by brandishing a broadnose sevengill shark (*Notorynchus cepedianus*) – a species declared a natural monument by law – the courts, alerted by the foundation Sin Azul No Hay Verde (No blue, no green – no life without water), opened proceedings.⁴

BRAZIL

November 9, 2025

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

A shipment of various ornamental fish from the Amazon basin was intercepted, including catfish (genus *Panaqolus*) known locally as cascudo. Ibama transported them to the Ubatuba Aquarium. According to veterinarian César Branco, they were “in critical condition.” “They were oxygen-deprived, and their skin was chafed from capture and the stresses of transport.” They were transferred to tanks with controlled temperature and oxygen levels. They will be released back into their natural habitats as soon as possible.⁵ Ornamental fish in Brazil, see Index.

November 11 and 12, 2025

Beruri, State of Amazonas, Brazil

Seizure of 2,338 kg of arapaima (*Arapaima gigas*, Appendix II) or pirarucu and 646 kg of tambaqui (*Colossoma macropomum*) on board a pleasure boat 170 km upstream from Manaus. Fishing for pirarucu is prohibited from January 1 to January 1, unless prior authorisation and an exemption have been granted by Ibama. Fishing for tambaqui is prohibited between October 1 and March 31, unless prior authorisation and an exemption have been granted by Ibama or other competent authorities, and the regulatory minimum size is 55 cm in length. The nearly 3 tonnes of fish that are prohibited from being caught were hidden amongst authorised fish such as arowanas (genus *Osteoglossum*). Their intended destination is unknown. They were donated to charities. The owner was fined 61,000 reais or 11,300 US\$. His boat has been seized until further notice.

Another pleasure boat was boarded and searched. 516 kg of fresh pirarucu fillets and 150 kg of dried fish were seized, along with several kilos of bush meat.

The fish were seized within the Piagaçu-Purus Sustainable Development Reserve, between the ports of Anori, Beruri, Tapauá and Coari. The operations are to the credit of Ibama in collaboration with the Amazonas Military Police and the State Secretariat for the Environment.⁶

November 11, 2025

Baixada Fluminense, State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Officers seized 21 ocellate river stingrays (*Potamotrygon motoro*, Appendix III in Colombia) and spotted eagle rays (*Aetobatus narinari*) from a car stopped on the BR-116 expressway; the rays were confined in bags of water. The sale of freshwater rays has been suspended since 2021. On the black market, a single specimen sells for around 1,500 reais, or 280 US\$. The stingrays were handed over to Ibama in Seropédica to be released into suitable habitats.⁷

OPERATION HERMES

November 19, 2025

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

- Inside four suitcases belonging to a Chinese national living in Brazil but on his way to Hong Kong, there were 48 kg of shark fins, each weighing an average of 1 kg.

- Another seizure of shark fins, totalling 14 kg (along with 70 kg of cell phone cases). Operation Hermès aims to prevent the smuggling of Brazil's genetic heritage, the trafficking of native flora and fauna, and the trafficking of waste.⁸



December 11, 2025

Tefé, State of Amazonas, Brazil

Aboard a boat 529 km upstream from Manaus, Ibama uncovered 9,558 kg of arapaima (*Arapaima gigas*, Appendix II) from the refrigerated cargo hold. The owner of the cargo was hit with a 200,000 reais (37,400 US\$) fine. Catching arapaima is prohibited between March and October. The frozen fish will be distributed to charitable organisations in Tefé, while the vessel remains impounded until further notice.⁹



January 15, 2026

Barracão, State of Paraná, Brazil

96 ornamental fish contained in 96 water bags were seized from the boot of a Ford Fiesta coming from Argentina; the Ibama inspector estimated their value at 100,000 reais (18,000 US\$, or 190 US\$ per fish).¹⁰

PERU

November 11, 2025

Callao, Province de Callao, Pérou



A seizure at a warehouse on Avenue Gambetta resulted in the confiscation of 9.3 tonnes of dried shark fins from pelagic threshers (*Alopias pelagicus*, Appendix II), blue sharks (*Prionace glauca*, Appendix II), and thresher sharks (*Alopias vulpinus*, Appendix II). The fins boast an estimated value of 11.2 million US\$ on the Asian market, equivalent to approximately 1,200 US\$ per kilogram. The fins were purchased at sea from fishermen in neighbouring Ecuador by Peruvian fishermen. The investigation continued with the interception at the fishing port of a van transporting 60 kg of fresh fins of unknown origin, destined for an unknown location. A decisive breakthrough came with the discovery of a warehouse used as a collection point for fresh fins, as well as a drying and packaging facility where the fins were stored while awaiting an opportunity to be smuggled to China. The raid triggered protests from local residents, highlighting how deeply rooted the illegal activity had become within the community. According to the U.S. mission in Lima, “illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing threatens the economic and food security of Peru, as well as many countries in the region and beyond,

including the United States.” The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service worked with Peru’s criminal police and environmental police to fund and coordinate the investigation, particularly its maritime component. Doug Ault, Deputy Director for Law Enforcement at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, stated: “This operation demonstrates the direct impact of cooperation between the United States and Peru in the fight against wildlife trafficking and organised environmental crime, which threaten marine ecosystems, local economies, and regional security.” The three individuals arrested—Juan Roberto Quispe Huamán, Oswaldo Nole Viera, and Melquiades Quispe Huamán, ages 50 to 68—are believed to be members of a gang known as Los Panas (“The Buddies”).¹¹

EASTERN ASIA

CHINA

November 19-20, 2025

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China

Seizure from 2 river trade vessels departing from Hong Kong bound for Macau of cigars, electronic gadgets, pharmaceutical drugs, exotic plants, dried food including suspected devil ray gills (*Mobula* spp., Appendix I since March 5, 2026), and a luxury jumble estimated to be worth several million US\$.¹²

November 22, 2025

Wanzai Checkpoint, Zhuhai Prefecture, Guangdong Province, China. Border with Macau.



Seizure of a parcel declared as containing “packaging film”, but which in fact contained 317 blue shark fins (*Prionace glauca*, Appendix II), from the semi-trailer of a lorry bound for Macao.¹³

November 2025
Fuzhou Changle International Airport, Fujian Province, China

Seizure from the luggage of a passenger in his 20s of items which, to the trained eye of customs officers, might be shark fins. Total weight of the consignment: 2 kg. This was confirmed by an expert assessment. The fins had been cut from silky sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*, Appendix II).¹⁴

November 2025
Huanggang Checkpoint, Shenzhen Prefecture, Guangdong Province, China. Border with Hong Kong.



Seizure of a cardboard box containing 25 silky shark fins (*Carcharhinus falciformis*, Appendix II) from the luggage hold of a coach.¹⁵

November 2025
Futian Checkpoint, Shenzhen Prefecture, Guangdong Province, China. Border with Hong Kong.



The Shenzhen Customs Animal and Plant Quarantine has confirmed that “the 6 items looking like dried fish enclosed in a plastic bag” which were seized from a passenger’s accompanied luggage were devil ray gills (*Mobula* spp., Appendix I since March 5, 2026).¹⁶

November 2025
Luohu Border Post, Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, China. Border with Hong Kong.

Under the headline “The Mermaid Skirt”, customs authorities have issued a press release about the seizure of 229 river loaches (family Balitoridae) concealed in water bags under the wide skirt of a female passenger. These small fish, native to Southeastern Asia, live in fast, clear waters and are popular in aquariums.¹⁷

December 26, 2025
Lok Ma Chau Checkpoint, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China. Border with Inner China.



Seizure of 2 Asian arowanas (*Scleropages formosus*, Appendix I) and 2 Xingu River ray (*Potamotrygon leopoldi*, Appendix II) originating from Brazil from the rucksack of a woman entering Hong Kong from mainland China. Immersed in plastic boxes filled with water, the 4 ornamental fish were worth at least 7,000 US\$ on the gift market at the time of the incident and during the festive season.¹⁸



December 2025
Futian Checkpoint, Shenzhen Prefecture, Guangdong Province, China. Border with Hong Kong.

Under the headline “Golden arowanas in a rucksack”, customs officials report a passenger’s failed attempt to smuggle, each one floating in a plastic bag filled with water, 3 multicoloured ornamental fish known in Chinese as golden arowana, in Latin as *Scleropages formosus* (Appendix I), in French as scléropage d’Asie, and in English as Asian arowana.¹⁹

December 2025
Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, China

It is unlikely that the Chinese fishing vessel entering the Pearl River estuary is returning from Brazil; yet, after boarding the vessel, customs officials seized “fish with a specific morphology clearly setting them apart from the common fish found in the surrounding waters”, which turned out to be 121 ornamental fish of the species *Panaque armbrusteri*, originating from Brazil.²⁰

INDONESIA

January 2026

Luohu Border Post, Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, China. Border with Hong Kong.

Seizure by customs officials of 2.5 kg of silky shark fins (*Carcharhinus falciformis*, Appendix II) from the luggage of a passenger arriving from Thailand.²¹

January 12, 2026

Xuzhou District, Yibin Prefecture, Sichuan Province, China

Thanks to Sichuan Online and the Yibin Public Prosecutor's Office, a major poaching case in the upper Yangtze River has come to light. At around 4 a.m. on June 21, 2024, 2 men were caught red-handed by the police with 101 Yangtze sturgeons (*Acipenser dabryanus*, Appendix II) trapped in 3 gillnets; 39 were dead and 64, still alive, were immediately released. One of the men managed to escape. However, analysis of the mobile phone of his arrested accomplice made it possible to identify him and he was arrested on June 28. He had taken refuge with family members in Shuifu, Yunnan. In September 2025, the 2 men were sentenced on appeal to 4 and 5 years' imprisonment respectively, and fined 80,000 and 100,000 yuan, or 11,200 and 14,000 US\$. In May 2024, for catching at least one young Yangtze sturgeon and 8 other fish in the same nature reserve, 3 poachers were given suspended sentences of 1 year and 3 months' imprisonment, with interesting conditions of probation lasting 18 months, which can be rediscovered in "On the Trail" n°47 p.165, ref. 8.²²



TAIWAN

November 26, 2025

Taipei Special Municipality, Taiwan

Between June and October, 4 sawfish rostrums (*Pristidae*, Appendix I) were seized in New Taipei, Taichung, Tainan and Kaohsiung thanks to an investigation by the Coast Guard, with support from the Ocean Conservation Administration. Seven arrests. The sawfish rostrums are reportedly used in prayer rituals across the archipelago.²³



December 10, 2025

Ketapang Seaport, Banyuwangi Regency, East Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia

Veterinarians discovered 120 kg of shark meat hidden inside a shipment of marlin at the port quarantine facility, connecting Ketapang, on the eastern side of Java, to Gilimanuk, on the western side of Bali, via car ferry. Upon examination, it was determined that the sharks were scalloped hammerhead sharks (*Sphyrna lewini*, Appendix II), bigeye thresher sharks (*Alopias superciliosus*, Appendix II), and silky sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*, Appendix II).²⁴

January 15, 2026

Jagoi Babang, Bengkayang Regency, West Kalimantan Province, Borneo Island, Indonesia. Border with Malaysia.

Seizure of 2 bags of dried swim bladders (13.7 kg) from a pick-up truck travelling towards the State of Sarawak (Malaysia).

There are 2 species of fish in the waters off West Kalimantan that are sought after for their swim bladders: snappers (family Lutjanidae) and croakers (family Sciaenidae), such as *Otolithoides pama*. It takes around 200 fish to make 1 kg. "Small but nutritious, easy to prepare," says the RainNest website, which sells one pound of swim bladders for 308 US\$, or 680 US\$/kg.²⁵

January 22, 2026

Guntung, Batu Bara Regency, North Sumatra Province, Sumatra Island, Indonesia

254 live Indo-Pacific horseshoe crabs (*Tachypleus gigas*) were released back into the sea from Pantai Sejarah beach; they had just been seized by the police, the fisheries inspectorate in Batu Bara and the BKSDA. 46 of the horseshoe crabs were already dead. An attempt to smuggle them to Thailand by sea is suspected.

Tachypleus gigas, see "On the Trail" n°27 p.24 (ref.4), n°36 p.194 (ref.50), n°46 p.155 (ref.1) and n°47 p.163 (ref.1).²⁶

SOUTHERN ASIA

BANGLADESH

November 30, 2025

Bauphal, Patuakhali District, Barisal Division, Bangladesh



At noon, in front of the police station, five stingrays (order Myliobatiformes) weighing a total of nearly 500 kg were seized from a bus arriving from Dhaka.²⁷

December 30, 2025

Parerhat, Pirojpur District, Barisal Division, Bangladesh

The Coast Guard seized 491 shark fins from a trawler that arrived at the port at night. Nine fishermen were arrested and fined 20,000 takas (163 US\$) by a circuit court.²⁸



INDIA

November 26, 2025

Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru Rural District, State of Karnataka, India

In the freight sector, officials recovered 2,500 ornamental fish distributed among 33 water bags, including barca snakeheads (*Channa barca*) caught in the upper Brahmaputra basin and packed in Kolkata.²⁹

Channa barca, see Index.

SRI LANKA

November 6 and 15, 2025

Port of Galle, Southern Province, Sri Lanka

- Seizure of 2 kg of dried shark fins seized at the quayside. Four fishermen arrested.

- Seizure of 6.5 kg of dried shark fins and 20.15 kg of dried shark meat seized at the quayside. 13 fishermen arrested.³⁰

January 6 and 23, 2026

Port of Wellamankara, Wennappuwa, North Western Province, Sri Lanka

- Seizure of 850 kg of sharks at the quayside. Six fishermen arrested.

- Seizure in the fishing harbour of 876 kg of juvenile thresher sharks (*Alopias vulpinus*, Appendix II), about 40 individuals with an average weight of 22 kg. An adult thresher shark weighs between 300 and 500 kg. Seven fishermen arrested.³¹

WESTERN ASIA

SAUDI ARABIA

Mid-December 2025

Umluj Governorate, Tabuk Province, Saudi Arabia



Seizure by the NCW (National Centre for Wildlife) of 3 blacktip sharks (*Carcharhinus limbatus*, Appendix II) and 2 white-spotted wedgetfish (*Rhynchobatus australiae*, Appendix II) caught in the Red Sea.³²

NORTHERN EUROPE

DENMARK

Mid-November 2025

Hornbæk, Capital Region, Denmark

Seizure from a recreational fisherman's dinghy of 22 adult European eels (*Anguilla anguilla*, Appendix II) and 43 Atlantic cods (*Gadus morhua*).³³

WESTERN EUROPE

FRANCE

FAMILY AFFAIRS / REPEATED OFFENCE **December 15, 2025** **La Roche-sur-Yon, Department of Vendée, France**



10 poachers and traffickers of European glass eels (*Anguilla anguilla*, Appendix II), aged between 32 and 80, including 4 professional fishermen and the chairman of the organisation "Civelle Durable France" (Sustainable Glass Eel in France), were fined between 1,500 and 5,000 €. The Criminal Court also sentenced the professional fishermen to prison terms ranging from a 12-month suspended sentence to 18 months' imprisonment, of which 12 months were suspended for a probationary period of 2 years (they will serve their sentences under house arrest with electronic tagging) and banned them from practising their profession for 1 to 2 years. Jérôme Thiteca, a well-known repeat offender to Robin des Bois who, in this case, acted as a facilitator and negotiator, was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment, and the suspended sentence that the Rennes Court of Appeal had handed down in his favour in March 2022 in another glass eel scandal was quashed. Four vehicles, including a Porsche Cayman, 2 bank accounts and cash were confiscated.

The investigation, carried out using telephone tapping, financial tracing, field surveillance and video surveillance, documented fishing above quotas, the use of quotas allocated to other professional fishermen, the sale of glass eels caught for restocking, the falsification of catch records, the existence of clandestine fish tanks, and 11 trips to Spain to bargain deals and carry the glass eels there, amounting to an estimated total of at least 466 kg.

Robin des Bois joined the proceedings as a civil party in the trials of glass eel traffickers in order to provide the courts with its knowledge of the inner workings of this plundering of European biodiversity for the benefit of the Asian market and to develop the ecological damage. The court awarded the organisation nearly 16,000 € for ecological damage and 5,000 € for non-pecuniary damage. The court also granted the NGO's request that this judgement be published in the national, regional and specialist press, at the expense of the convicted parties. Old story: almost all of them have lodged an appeal.³⁴

SOUTHERN EUROPE

CROATIA

End of December 2025 **Miletići, Zadar County, Croatia**

The caudal fin of a thresher shark (*Alopias vulpinus*, Appendix II) was found near the Pag Bridge. The rest of the body was missing. An adult thresher shark can measure over 5 metres in length, half of which is accounted for by the caudal fin. It uses this like a whip to stun its prey and then finish them off with its sharp teeth. It poses no danger to humans.³⁵

ITALY

Beginning of November 2025 **Cirò Marina, Province of Crotone, Region of Calabria, Italy**



Roadside check. Seizure outside the fishing season by the Guardia di Finanza (Financial Guard) of 11 fresh Atlantic bluefin tunas (*Thunnus thynnus*) inside an unrefrigerated lorry that was on its way to supply a local distribution channel of receivers (fishmongers or restaurant owners). The fish were distributed to charitable organisations. A fine of 2,600 € (3,000 US\$) was imposed on the driver.³⁶



November 6, 2025 **Vibo Marina, Province of Vibo Valentia, Region of Calabria, Italy**



Seizure by the Guardia Costiera (Coast Guard) from a lorry leaving the port, which was on its way to supply a black market, of 17 swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) below the legal size limit, 50 kg in all, or 2.9 kg per swordfish. An adult, spawning swordfish weighs between 100 and 200 kg. The driver was fined 1,300 € (1,500 US\$).³⁷



Beginning of December 2025

Naples, Metropolitan City of Naples, Region of Campania, Italy

Seizure by the carabinieri, the city police and the Food Safety Agency of 3 tonnes of rotten or illegally caught fish in the fish market district, including 60 kg of European eels (*Anguilla anguilla*, Appendix II). The live eels were released into the bay. The dead fish were donated to Naples Zoo.³⁸

Mid-December 2025

Acerra, Metropolitan City of Naples, Region of Campania, Italy

Seizure by the CITES carabinieri in Naples and the forestry units of Marigliano and Acerra of 110 kg of European eels (*Anguilla anguilla*, Appendix II) from aquariums in a residential complex. Arrest of a 73-year-old man who was running an illegal fishmonger. He was imposed administrative fines of 1,000 € (1,200 US\$). The eels were released back into waters "in a suitable area".³⁹



OPERATION FISH NET

December 24, 2025

Altopascio, Province of Lucca, Region of Tuscany, Italy

On the eve of Christmas and the end-of-year festivities, the Coast Guard increased its vigilance. In Tuscany, 5 tonnes of prawns, tuna (genus *Thunnus*) and swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) were seized from a fish wholesaler. A fine of 3,500 € was imposed for failure to comply with traceability and health regulations. Other offences of this kind were detected in Portoferraio (province of Livorno), Marina di Carrara (province of Massa-Carrara) and Empoli (metropolitan city of Florence), and 2 restaurants were temporarily closed. At the national level, Operation Fish Net identified 600 offences, seized 130 tonnes of fish and imposed fines totalling nearly one million euros (over 1.1 million US\$).⁴⁰



OPERATION FISH NET

End of December 2025

Campi Bisenzio, Metropolitan City of Florence, Region of Tuscany, Italy

Seizure of 250 kg of requiem shark steaks (*Carcharhinus* spp., Appendix I or II) illegally imported from Hong Kong from a fish wholesaler. The Coast Guard increased its vigilance on the eve of Christmas and the end-of-year festivities.⁴¹

End of January 2026

Santa Giusta, Province of Oristano, Autonomous Region of Sardinia, Italy

Seizure of 30 trap nets for European eels (*Anguilla anguilla*, Appendix II) in a lagoon. Known depending on the location as martavello, bertuello, bartavello, bartevello, bertavello, bertovello and tofo, this shows their importance to the province's culture. These funnel-shaped nets, at the end of which there is a hole from which the eels cannot escape, are set in lakes and lagoons without any distinguishing marks and are accessible only by poachers' boats. The operation is to the credit of the Marrubiu forest rangers, supported by means from the Oristano naval base.⁴²



End of January 2026

Rosignano Marittimo, Province of Livorno, Region of Tuscany, Italy

Seizure of the carabinieri of a "ripaiòla", a prohibited fishing gear used to catch all species of fish in inland waters. The possession and use of this bag-shaped net – which is suspended from a pole in calm waters where fish take refuge during floods – earned the 70-year-old poacher, who had taken advantage of the bad weather to go in search of European eels (*Anguilla anguilla*, Appendix II), an administrative fine of 2,000 € (2,300 US\$).⁴³



January 23-27, 2026

Ercolano and Torre del Greco, Metropolitan City of Naples, Region of Campania, Italy

- Interception of a pleasure craft by Coast Guard patrol vessel CP 549. Seizure of several swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*). Passengers issued with tickets.
- When approaching the port, the CP 549 spotted a one-kilometre-long gillnet set for the illegal catch of swordfish and posing a safety risk to small vessels. Seizure of the net. The fisherman is the subject of legal proceedings.



- A diver wearing a camouflage wetsuit and carrying a speargun was apprehended in the harbour's inland waters.⁴⁴

EASTERN EUROPE

MOLDOVA

January 2026

Sculeni Border Post, Ungheni District, Moldova. Border with Romania.

Seizure of 116 tins of salmon and sturgeon (*Acipenseridae*, Appendix I or II) caviar from a minibus arriving from Russia. They belonged to a 47-year-old passenger.⁴⁵

POLAND

December 2025

Dołhobyczów, Zosin, and Hrebenne Border Crossing Points, Lublin Voivodeship, Poland. Border with Ukraine.

Seizure of 1,300 tablets containing seahorse extracts, marketed under the brand name "Golden Seahorse" and labelled "Natural tonic" and "Unlimited passion potential".

Polish customs must keep a close eye on everything. A coach passenger travelling from Ukraine was carrying a rather unusual Christmas present: 300 grammes of dried hallucinogenic mushrooms of the fly agaric species (*Amanita muscaria*).⁴⁶



ROMANIA

November 1 and 10, 2025

Sulina, Tulcea County, Romania. Border with Ukraine.

- The Coast Guard and border police dismantled 865 metres of illegal nets in the Black Sea, from which 3 sturgeons (*Acipenseridae*, Appendix I or II) were disentangled alive and released.

- The Coast Guard and border police dismantled 400 metres of illegal nets in the Black Sea. Two sturgeons and a bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*, Appendix II) were rescued.⁴⁷

November 12, 2025

Galați, Galați County, Romania

Two men were caught red-handed by the police whilst engaged in illegal fishing on the Danube. They were in possession of 8 sterlet sturgeons (*Acipenser ruthenus*, Appendix II), which were immediately released back into the water. At their homes, the police seized 4 frozen sterlet sturgeons, 500 grammes of caviar, 14 nets each 1,000 metres long, 2 motorboats and the equivalent of 1,600 US\$ in cash (a mixture of lei and euros). The 2 men spent 24 hours in police custody and were released on 60 days' supervised release by order of the judge of rights and freedoms.⁴⁸

End of November 2025

Izvoarele, Mehedinți County, Romania. Border with Serbia.

Two men were caught red-handed by the police and the gendarmerie whilst catching sturgeons (*Acipenseridae*, Appendix I or II) in the Danube. They had already caught 4, which, still alive, were released back into the water without delay.⁴⁹

RUSSIA

November 6, 2025

Primorsko-Akhtarsk, Primorsko-Akhtarsky District, Krasnodar Krai, Russia



One year and 6 months of community service, with a 15 % deduction from his wages to the benefit of the State, and 276,000 roubles (3,400 US\$) in damages to aquatic biological resources, for having, in April 2025 in Yasensky Bay in the Sea of Azov and in full view of FSB officers, caught Russian sturgeons (*Acipenser gueldenstaedtii*, Appendix II) in his nets and failing to release them back into the water with the intention of making a profit from them later.⁵⁰

November 10, 2025

Astrakhan, Astrakhan Oblast, Russia



Five years' deprivation of liberty in a general-regime penal colony, in accordance with the prosecutor's speech, for illegally fishing, transporting and selling 76 Russian sturgeons (*Acipenser gueldenstaedtii*, Appendix II), a starry sturgeon (*Acipenser stellatus*, Appendix II) and a beluga (*Huso huso*, Appendix II) with premeditation and with the help of at least 3 accomplices.⁵¹

November 13, 2025

Oktyabrskoye, Oktyabrsky District, Khanty-Mansi Autonomous District, Russia



Sentencing of a resident of the district to 240 hours of community service, to pay compensation for ecological damage estimated at 480,000 roubles (6,000 US\$), and to the confiscation of his boat to the benefit of the State for the capture of a Siberian sturgeon (*Acipenser baerii*, Appendix II) in the Ob River in September 2024.⁵²

November 18, 2025

Bogorodskoye, Ulchsky District, Khabarovsk Krai, Russia



Sentencing of a villager from Bulava to 240 hours of community service and the confiscation of his vehicle to the benefit of the State for having, between May 2024 and May 2025, transported 60 kg of ill-gotten sturgeon caviar (*Acipenseridae*, Appendix I or II) to his home.⁵³

November 24, 2025

Federal City of Saint Petersburg, Russia

A six-year suspended prison sentence with 3 years' probation for Oleg Shevchenko, and a seven-year suspended prison sentence with 3 years' probation for Nikita Grinko, for having, in June 2024, purchased 10 kg of black caviar from Amur sturgeons (*Acipenser schrenckii*, Appendix II) caught in defiance of all applicable laws and regulations, and for attempting to resell it for profit during the festive season.⁵⁴



November 24, 2025

Federal City of Saint Petersburg, Russia

Sentencing of Vadim Talanov to 240 hours of community service for purchasing, in June 2024, 16 kg of caviar from Amur sturgeon (*Acipenser schrenckii*, Appendix II) and Huso sturgeon (*Huso dauricus*, Appendix II), divided into 22 plastic containers of 500 grammes and 20 metal tins of 250 grammes, from an unidentified individual near a food wholesaler, and for attempting to sell 10 kg of it to a certain Sh., who was in fact an undercover investigator.⁵⁵



End of November 2025

Yubileynoye, Kizlyarsky District, Republic of Dagestan, Russia

Two years' deprivation of liberty in a strict-regime penal colony for R. D. Abdoulaïev, who was caught red-handed on June 30, 2025 by the FSB on the road between Astrakhan and Makhachkala whilst transporting 1,700 kg of sturgeons (*Acipenseridae*, Appendix I or II) of unknown origin (see map of sturgeon and caviar seizures, "On the Trail" n°46 p.163).⁵⁶



December 5, 2025

Dudinka, Taymyrsky Dolgano-Nenetsky District, Krasnoyarsk Krai, Russia

A series of sanctions for the man who, during the summer of 2025, caught 4 Siberian sturgeons (*Acipenser baerii*, Appendix II) in the Yenisei: a six-month suspended prison sentence with 6 months' probation, 1.9 million roubles (24,200 US\$) in damages to aquatic biological resources, confiscation to the benefit of the State of the motorboat used to commit the offence, and seizure of a motorbike, a snowmobile and a flat pending the enforcement of the judgement.⁵⁷



December 11, 2025

Alexandrovskoye, Alexandrovsky District, Tomsk Oblast, Russia

Sentencing of a resident of Strezhevoy to forfeit his boat, fitted with an outboard motor, to the State for having caught 22 sterlet sturgeons (*Acipenser ruthenus*, Appendix II) in July 2025 using a gillnet, the use of which is prohibited. The damage to aquatic resources, estimated at 100,000 roubles (1,270 US\$), had been reimbursed by the defendant following the preliminary investigation.⁵⁸



December 11, 2025

Khabarovsk, Khabarovsk Krai, Russia

A 44-year-old man has been sentenced to 2 years and 6 months' imprisonment in a general-regime penal colony and fined 500,000 roubles (6,360 US\$) for purchasing, between August and October 2024, 3 tonnes of sturgeon caviar (*Acipenseridae*, Appendix I or II) in the Ulchsky District for 40 million roubles, or 434,400 US\$ and 145 US\$/kg, transporting it, or having it transported, to a warehouse in Komsomolsk-on-Amur, 200 km to the south, where the caviar was packed into plastic boxes and jars, and then loading it onto a semi-trailer lorry bound for a third hiding place near Khabarovsk. The ultimate aim was to ship the caviar consignment to Moscow in time for the Christmas rush. "The sentence was determined in recognition of the defendant's cooperation with the FSB. Legal proceedings against the other members of the criminal group are ongoing."⁵⁹



December 12, 2025

Komsomolsk-on-Amur, Khabarovsk Krai, Russia

Sentencing of 2 residents of the Krai, caught in the act of illegally catching 7 Amur sturgeons (*Acipenser schrenckii*, Appendix II) near the village of Nizhny Khalby, to 5 years' suspended imprisonment with 4 years' probation. The sturgeons were released back into the water alive by inspectors from the Federal Agency for Fishery and the police.⁶⁰



Mid-December 2025

Vagay, Vagaysky District, Tyumen Oblast, Russia

A live Siberian sturgeon (*Acipenser baerii*, Appendix II) seized by fisheries officers on the deck of a boat proved costly for the district guy: 180 hours of community service and 460,000 roubles (6,200 US\$) in damages.⁶¹



December 17, 2025

Ordynskoye, Ordynsky District, Novosibirsk Oblast, Russia

Sentencing of Maxim Makushenko to 6 months' community service, with 10 % of his earnings to be paid to the State, and a six-month suspended sentence with probation, for catching a Siberian sturgeon (*Acipenser baerii*, Appendix II) near Spirino with a net and his outboard motorboat and failing to release it back into the water in full view of police officers who were lying in wait. He was also ordered to pay 104,000 roubles (1,320 US\$) in damages and 377,000 roubles (4,800 US\$) in compensation for ecological damage.⁶²



FAMILY AFFAIRS

December 18, 2025

Volgograd, Volgograd Oblast, Russia

Sentencing of Iraïda and Valeri Tchasovskikh, Igor Generalov, Nikolai Nikitin and Gennady Khokhlov to 5 years' deprivation of liberty in a general-regime penal colony, and Andrei and Nikolai Smusev, father and son, to 5 years and 6 months, the seizure of 4 land vehicles and a water vehicle, and the seizure of 9 million roubles (114,500 US\$) from all their bank accounts for having, since the summer of 2022 in the Svetloyarsky District, engaged in the illegal trafficking of sturgeon and sturgeon by-products, and for having, in November 2023, possessed 500 kg of beluga (*Huso huso*, Appendix II), Huso sturgeon (*Huso dauricus*, Appendix II), Russian sturgeon (*Acipenser gueldenstaedtii*, Appendix II) and sterlet (*Acipenser ruthenus*, Appendix II) meat, as well as 40 tins and jars of caviar (see "On the Trail" n°42 p. 159, map of sturgeon poaching and seizures). Ms Tchasovskikh and Messrs Tchasovskikh, Generalov, Nikitine, Khokhlov and Smoussev were remanded in custody at the end of the hearing. The judgement is not final. All those convicted may appeal.⁶³



December 29, 2025

Surgut, Khanty-Mansi Autonomous District, Russia

Two residents of Nefteyugansk were sentenced at first instance to 5 years and 6 months' and 6 years' suspended prison terms, and ordered to pay jointly and severally 2 million roubles (25,500 US\$) for illegally catching 4 Siberian sturgeons (*Acipenser baerii*, Appendix II) in the Ob River.⁶⁴



December 30, 2025

Oktyabrskoye, Oktyabrsky District, Khanty-Mansi Autonomous District, Russia

A resident of the district has been sentenced to a one-year suspended prison term with one year's probation, and to the confiscation of his vehicle worth one million roubles (12,700 US\$), to be forfeited to the State, for purchasing 3 Siberian sturgeons (*Acipenser baerii*, Appendix II) on the black market, storing them at home in a freezer and transporting them for resale. "His illegal activities were stopped by the police," concluded the prosecutor's statement.⁶⁵



December 2025 and June 22, 2026

Khabarovsk, Khabarovsk Krai, Russia

Sentencing on appeal by the Khabarovsk Court of 2 men who, in June 2025, were caught red-handed by the FSB in possession of 1,459 tins of sturgeon caviar (*Acipenseridae*, Appendix I or II) with a total weight of 775 kg, to 3 years' deprivation of liberty in a general-regime penal colony. They were remanded in custody at the end of the hearing. At their first-instance trial in December 2025, they had been given five-year suspended prison sentences with 4 years' probation. The prosecutor had lodged an appeal.⁶⁶



January 19, 2026

Gorkovskoye, Gorkovsky District, Omsk Oblast, Russia

Sentencing of 2 residents of the district to a two-year suspended prison term and one year's probation for catching from their boat, on August 31, 2025, 4 sterlet sturgeons (*Acipenser ruthenus*, Appendix II) in the Irtysh using a 35x35 mm mesh gillnet 62 metres long, that might cause harm to all fishery resources. Their illegal fishing activities were observed and halted by a female inspector responsible for monitoring aquatic resources and their habitats.⁶⁷



REPEATED OFFENCE

January 23, 2026

Oktyabrskoye, Oktyabrsky District, Khanty-Mansi Autonomous District, Russia

Sentencing of a 35-year-old man to a one-year suspended prison sentence for purchasing 3 Siberian sturgeons (*Acipenser baerii*, Appendix II) from an unknown individual in June 2025 and storing them in the freezer in his garage until the end of the year, the best time to sell them for maximum benefits. His Volkswagen Polo, which was used to transport the sturgeons, was confiscated to the benefit of the State.⁶⁸



January 26, 2026

Nizhnevartovsk, Khanty-Mansi Autonomous District, Russia

The resident of Nizhnevartovsk was found guilty of the unlawful capture and possession of particularly valuable aquatic biological resources belonging to species listed in the Red Data Book of the Russian Federation, pursuant to Article 258.1 of the Criminal Code. The court found that he had illegally caught 3 Siberian sturgeons (*Acipenser baerii*, Appendix II), causing damage to aquatic biological resources amounting to 1.4 million roubles (17,800 US\$). He pleaded guilty. He was sentenced to one year's suspended correctional labour with 6 months' probation and a 5 % deduction from his earnings, and ordered to pay 1.4 million roubles in damages.⁶⁹



January 30, 2026

Kolpashevo, Kolpashevsky District, Tomsk Oblast, Russia

Sentencing of a 61-year-old resident of the town to 100 hours of community service for purchasing, in May 2025, 4 Siberian sturgeons (*Acipenser baerii*, Appendix II) from an unknown individual near the Togursky landing stage on the Ket River, a tributary of the Ob. The vehicle used to transport the sturgeons was confiscated to the benefit of the State. The defendant pleaded guilty. The judgement is final.⁷⁰



End of January 2026 Moscow Federal City, Russia

An 18-month suspended prison sentence has been handed down to a self-employed who, after purchasing 105 kg of Amur sturgeon (*Acipenser schrenckii*, Appendix II) and Huso sturgeon (*Huso dauricus*, Appendix II) caviar, as well as the carcasses, in the car park of a petrol station on a Moscow ring road from an unidentified individual, transported them to a garage, where they were seized by the FSB. The defendant pleaded guilty. The 191 plastic containers holding 500 grammes of caviar, the 38 metal tins containing 250 grammes and the 36 frozen sturgeon carcasses stored by Glavrybrod are to be destroyed in accordance with the court's judgement. Glavrybrod is the federal agency responsible for the protection and restoration of aquatic biological resources.⁷¹



Seizure of 1,805 Russian sturgeons (*Acipenser gueldenstaedtii*, Appendix II)
December 3, 2025, Astrakhan Oblast, Russia



Seizure of 10 huso sturgeons (*Huso dauricus*, Appendix II)
Early January 2026, Khabarovsk Krai, Russia



Seizure of 77 kg of sturgeon caviar (*Acipenseridae*, Appendix I or II)
November 25, 2025, Khabarovsk Krai, Russia

Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine
Seizures of caviar (175kg). Poaching and seizures of sturgeons (2,134 specimens + 1,341 kg of meat)
between November 1, 2025 and January 31, 2026



Sturgeon, unidentified species (*Acipenseridae*, Appendix I or II)
Amur sturgeon (*Acipenser baerii*, 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 43,750 US\$.

OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA

Beginning of November 2025

Port Hedland, State of Western Australia, Australia

A sawfish (Pristidae, Appendix I) without a rostrum was found stranded on Cemetery Beach. It had been cleanly severed. A sawfish rostrum sells on the black market for around 2,500 US\$. Four species of sawfish live in Australian waters: the common sawfish (*Pristis pristis*), green sawfish (*Pristis zijsron*), dwarf sawfish (*Pristis clavata*), and the narrow sawfish (*Anoxypristis cuspidata*).⁷²

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (HAWAII)

December 3, 2025

Honolulu, Honolulu County, State of Hawaii, United States of America

Shane Takasane has been sentenced to 3 years' probation, including 45 days' house confinement, 50 hours of community service to an organisation working to protect the marine environment, and the payment of 10,100 US\$ to the State of Hawaii for having, on several occasions between June 2023 and June 2024, ordered the capture by scuba divers and illegally sold yellow tangs (*Zebrasoma flavescens*) and goldring sturgeonfish (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*) on the North American mainland. Prosecutor Ken Sorenson stated in his closing speech that the justice system would continue to work hand in hand with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies to aggressively investigate, arrest, and convict those who seek to profit by violating the laws and regulations that safeguard Hawaii's precious ocean wildlife. Takasane also ordered Asian arowanas (*Scleropages formosus*, Appendix I), which are protected under the Endangered Species Act, and snakeheads (family Channidae), ornamental fish that are considered invasive and harmful to the aquatic fauna of the North American continent.⁷³



MARINE TURTLES

Marine turtles (families Cheloniidae and Dermochelyidae) are listed under CITES Appendix I, including Ridley sea turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), Hawksbill sea turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), Kemp's Ridley turtles (*Lepidochelys kempii*), loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*), leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and flatback turtles (*Natator depressus*).

AMERICA

COSTA RICA

Weekend of November 8-9, 2025 Moin, Limón Province, Costa Rica

A routine patrol by the SNG (Servicio Nacional de Guardacostas) on the Caribbean coast spotted a suspicious vessel in the middle of the night at the mouth of the Moin River. Despite warnings and flashing lights, the vessel fled and was abandoned by its two crew members. A dead green sea turtle and a live one were seized; the live turtle was transferred to Talamanca for a health examination before being released, and 772 eggs were transferred to the Baula Project hatchery near the container terminal.¹

CUBA

REPEATED OFFENCE

Week-end of January 24-25, 2026 Frank Pais International Airport, Holguín, Holguín Province, Cuba

Seizure by airport customs officials of 65 kg of hawksbill turtle meat, 42 kg of crab meat and 4 kg of lobster tails that a repeat offender and a woman were attempting to export to the United States. Fines –many agree that they are ridiculously low – of 22,000 pesos (920 US\$) for the man and 10,000 pesos (420 US\$) for the woman.²



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

January 5, 2026

Laredo, Webb County, State of Texas, United States of America. Border with Mexico.

Sentencing of Alejandro Hernandez, a resident of Houston, Texas, to 3 years' probation and 50 hours of community service for selling a pair of sea turtle leather boots for 900 US\$ to a customer in Houston who turned out to be an officer of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Hernandez had made the boots in Guanajuato, in central Mexico. The only species of sea turtle that does not come to lay its eggs in Mexico is the flatback turtle, which is endemic to Australia.³



MEXICO

November 1, 2025

Mexico City, Mexico

Thanks to an alert passenger, the police seized 360 sea turtle eggs from the plastic bags of a passenger-smuggler at Chabacano underground station.⁴

ASIA

INDONESIA

November 12, 2025

Banyuwangi, Banyuwangi Regency, East Java Province, Java Island, Indonesia



Sentencing of Hartoyo, aged 49, to 3 years' imprisonment and a fine of 200 million rupiah or 12,000 US\$, which may be substituted by a further 4 months' imprisonment if unpaid, for having dug up 234 Ridley sea turtle eggs in the early hours of June 18, 2025 on a beach in Alas Purwo National Park. He had been caught in the act by a patrol of forest rangers. In an attempt to justify his actions, Hartoyo, who collects scrap metal and plastic from the beaches, said he had been encouraged to commit the offence by the sight of a monkey snatching a turtle egg on the beach.⁵

November 12, 2025

Tanakeke Island, Takalar Regency, South Sulawesi Province, Indonesia

Seizure of 571 kg of meat and shell fragments originating from the deliberate capture of approximately 150 green turtles in nets, a directed fishery off the coast of Pangkajene, Takalar and Selayar regencies, and a hidden trade, that caused the arrest of the 3 crew members of the fishing vessel. The turtles were hauled onto the deck, turned over, decapitated and skinned, and the meat was salted before being unloaded, stored in a shed on the quay and sold. The inhabitants of the island of Tanakeke (15 km²) make their living from fishing, shrimp farming and seaweed cultivation.⁶

REPEATED OFFENCE

November 19, 2025

Selong, East Lombok Regency, West Nusa Tenggara Province, Lesser Sunda Islands, Indonesia



Sudirman, who was born on the island of Kawassang and works there as a fisherman, was sentenced to 5 years in prison and a fine of 500 million rupiah (30,000 US\$), which may be substituted for one month in prison if unpaid, for having unloaded 302 kg of dried green turtle meat from his boat, the *Amukti Palapa*, in Lombok on Sunday, July 6, 2025—meat purchased from a certain Mr. Tutu, who is actively wanted—with the intention of delivering it to Mr. Zaenab, who operates a stall at the Jelojok market and is also actively wanted. Sudirman had purchased the meat from Tutu for approximately 4 million rupiah—equivalent to 234 US\$ and 0.8 US\$ per kilogram—and had planned to sell it to Zaenab for approximately 8.5 million rupiah. During the trial, Sudirman admitted that he had previously, in June 2025, sold 260 kg of dried green turtle meat to Zaenab. The island of Kawassang is 180 km from the port of Lombok.⁷

January 18, 2026

Rewatayya, Tanakeke Island, Takalar Regency, South Sulawesi Province, Indonesia

Seizure in the mangrove aboard a fishing boat of 210 kg of sea turtle meat in plastic buckets and barrels, a live juvenile hawksbill turtle (weighing approximately 30 kg) and a bag of turtle shells. Arrest of a 24-year-old man. The sea turtles caught around Tanakeke Island are most commonly green turtles and hawksbill turtles.⁸

Poaching of sea turtles on Tanakeke Island, see p. 231 ref. 6.

MALAYSIA

OPERATION BERSEPADU KHAZANAH

November 15, 2025, and April 7, 2026

Semporna and Tawau, State of Sabah, Malaysia



- Seizure from a parcel of “Happy Boom Glow Of Sunset” fireworks of 570 hawksbill turtle scales of various sizes and fragments of shells, with an estimated value of 14,240 ringgit or 3,520 US\$ and 200 US\$/kg.

- Sentencing of Khalid Janullah, aged 65, to 3 years’ imprisonment. As he is an illegal immigrant, he will be handed over to the Immigration Department once he has served his sentence.⁹

SRI LANKA

January 28 and 31, 2026

Kalladichenai, Eastern Province, and Nachchikkuda, Northern Province, Sri Lanka

- Seizure by the Navy of 117 sea turtle eggs from a 57-year-old man.

- Seizure by the Navy of 17 kg of sea turtle meat, 39 sea turtle eggs and a dinghy. Three arrests. They are aged between 26 and 32.¹⁰

EUROPE

FRANCE

Beginning of December 2025

Gien, Department of Loiret, France



“At the Gien gendarmerie, we protect all species... even those that are not running about in our gardens.” A member of the company noticed, whilst off duty, an online classified advert worded as follows: “Turtle shells for sale.” The gendarme, in agreement with his superiors, alerted the public prosecutor’s office in Montargis, the departmental administrative centre, and during a search of the seller’s home, a loggerhead turtle shell and a green turtle shell, both imported without the required formalities from Réunion, were seized. Fine of 600 € (700 US\$) with an entry on his criminal record.¹¹

OCEANIA

FRANCE (NEW CALEDONIA)

November 26, 2025

Nouméa, South Province, Overseas Collectivity of New Caledonia, France

The loggerhead turtle, also known as the “big-head turtle”, was released back into the wild at Anse Vata in front of a “moved” audience. It had been found with one flipper tied to a mangrove tree in the Koutio mangrove forest (see “On the Trail” n°48 p. 186, ref. 17). After 2 months of care at the Aquarium des Lagons, it was released back into the sea. Its poacher has not been identified.¹²



Ganges River dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*). Photo Ikbali H. Babu (BY NC 4.0)

AFRICA

NAMIBIA

November 6, 2025

Henties Bay, Erongo Region, Namibia

Theft from the Henties Bay seal factory of 696 genitals from adult males and 2,225 genitals from male pup Cape fur seals (*Arctocephalus pusillus*, Appendix II). Penis powder is believed to have restorative and aphrodisiac properties. The slaughter of these pinnipeds, whether by hand or by firearm, is a ritual in Namibia – a barbaric practice overlooked by international public opinion and enlightened by “On the Trail” in n°14 p. 17 (ref. 2), n°26 p. 17 (ref. 2), n°33 p. 281 (ref. 2) and n°41 p. 215 (ref. 4).



To expand the market and respond to pressure from the industrial fishing sector, which accuses fur seals of being responsible for the shortage of fish in Namibia's coastal waters, a government-backed investor plans, under the banner of Vigor Biotechnology, to build a 5-hectare plant in 2026 specialising in the production of seal oil for food supplements, coupled with the production of meal from its processing waste, which will find outlets in aquaculture and the aquarium trade. “The factory will process about 400 seals per day once fully-operational,” says Albertus Diedericks, chairman of Vigor Biotechnology, enthusiastically. For good measure, and to enable the current annual quota to be increased from 50,000 to 200,000 seals, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Natural Resources would like to see an advertising and educational campaign launched in Namibia to encourage the population to eat seal meat and make it a cornerstone of food sovereignty.¹

AMERICA

BRAZIL

December 4, 2025

Codajás, State of Amazonas, Brazil



The future is uncertain for two young Amazonian manatees (*Trichechus inunguis*, Appendix I), who were nursing when one was injured by a projectile weapon and the other was tied by his tail. They were taken to the Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia (National Institute for Amazonian Research) in Manaus. The more severely injured calf was placed on antibiotics and received intensive wound care. Both will be bottle-fed with reconstituted milk that closely resembles their natural milk. There is no news of their parents.²

MEXICO

January 5, 2026

Matamoros, State of Tamaulipas, Mexico. Border with the United States of America.

Another report from the Conibio Global NGO (Conservación e Investigación de la Biodiversidad Global). The cut body of a dolphin (Delphinidae, Appendix I or II) lies on Baghdad Beach on the border with Texas. Local fishermen use dolphin as bait to attract and catch sharks.³



ASIA

INDIA

November and December 2025 and January 2026

States of Gujarat and Maharashtra, India

Nine seizures of suspected sperm whale ambergris (*Physeter macrocephalus*, Appendix I), weighing a total of 22.7 kg, with a total value of over 2.5 million US\$ and an average price of 113,464 US\$/kg, were carried out by the police with the assistance of the Forest Department. They took place on public roads, most often following tips-offs regarding shipments en route to potential buyers. Samples from the seizures were sent for analysis to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL). In one case, the analysis reportedly confirmed that the substance was indeed sperm whale ambergris. 17 men aged between 21 and 72 were arrested. Details:

- November 6, 2025, Rajkot, Rajkot District, Gujarat. Seizure of 2.963 kg of suspected sperm whale ambergris with an estimated value of 29.7 million rupees (334,770 US\$, or 112,983 US\$/kg). Arrest of 3 men aged between 48 and 66.
- November 7, 2025, Beed, Beed District, Maharashtra. 1.25 kg with an estimated value of 12.15 million rupees (136,951 US\$, or 109,561 US\$/kg). Arrest of 2 men aged 30 and 38.
- November 28, 2025, Sarkhej, Ahmedabad District, Gujarat. 8.704 kg with an estimated value of 87 million rupees (980,640 US\$, or 112,717 US\$/kg). Arrest of 4 men aged between 21 and 29.
- December 20, 2025, Kurla, Mumbai Suburban District, Maharashtra. 627 grammes with an estimated value of 8 million rupees (89,483 US\$ or 142.716 US\$/kg). Arrest of a 28-year-old man.
- December 27, 2025, Alandi, Pune District, Maharashtra. 1.38 kg with an estimated value of 13 million rupees (145,410 US\$, or 105,370 US\$/kg). Arrest of 2 men aged 23.
- January 7, 2026, Ahmedabad, Ahmedabad District, Gujarat. 3.18 kg with an estimated value of 30.1 million rupees (335,183 US\$, or 105,403 US\$/kg). Arrest of a 42-year-old man. According to the police, forest rangers and the forensic laboratory confirmed that the substance was ambergris from a sperm whale.
- January 17, 2026, Nalasopara, Palghar District; Kasarvadavali, Thane District, Maharashtra. 1.858 kg with an estimated value of 18.5 million rupees (206,009 US\$, or 110.877 US\$/kg). Arrest of 2 men, aged 39 and 52.
- January 24, 2026, Vijapur, Junagadh District, Gujarat. 1.02 kg with an estimated value of 1.02 million rupees (113,583 US\$, or 111,356 US\$/kg). Arrest of a 72-year-old man.
- January 30, 2026, Vatva, Ahmedabad District, Gujarat. 1.718 kg with an estimated value of 17 million rupees (189,306 US\$, or 110,190 US\$/kg). Arrest of a 27-year-old man. An accomplice, who is believed to have received a commission of 20,000 rupees (223 US\$) for a part of the journey, is wanted.⁴

January 22 and 29, 2026
Near Jhaudanga and Agradwip, Bardhaman
District, State of West Bengal, India



Another Ganges River dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*, Appendix I) has been found dead, harpooned on the banks of the Bhagirathi – a female measuring 2.43 metres in length. “The cruelty is all the more pronounced because she was pregnant.” “We suspect that the docile creature was killed by the miscreants for the purpose of extracting oil”, says Shibaprasad Singha, a forest officer.

On January 22, a baby Ganges River dolphin was found hanging from a tree and skinned, with a bucket on the ground to collect the oil dripping from his neck. The oil from freshwater dolphins is used in alternative medicine to treat rheumatism, asthma and skin conditions; it is also considered an aphrodisiac, and freshwater fishermen use it to attract schools of fish. According to Ganesh Chowdhury, a volunteer “dolphin conservator”, this is at least the 9th poaching incident since March 2025 in the same section of the river.⁵
 Ganges River dolphins, see Index.

EUROPE

GREECE

Anavyssos, Region of Attica, Greece

A male monk seal (*Monachus monachus*, Appendix I) was found on the beach with two large-calibre bullet wounds.⁶



OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA

December 1, 2025

Mitchells Island, State of New South Wales, Australia

Following the rostrumless sawfish (see p. 230 ref. 72), here we have a headless pygmy sperm whale (*Kogia breviceps*, Appendix II). Someone had clearly severed his head and took the ivory teeth from his lower jaw, his skull, and his spermaceti. Punishable by a 1,320 AU\$ (880 US\$) fine, anyone with relevant information can contact Crimestoppers at 1-800-333-000.

Pygmy sperm whales dive to depths of up to 300 metres and, like dwarf sperm whales, use the “squid trick.” If they feel threatened, they expel one to two litres of a reddish-brown liquid that confuses predators.⁷

Theft of sperm whale parts in Australia and New Zealand, see “On the Trail” n°25, p. 20 (ref. 10), n°30, p. 200 (ref. 17), n°32, p. 305 (ref. 22), n°40, p. 256 (ref. 5), and n°45, p. 158 (ref. 11).

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). **N°49** p.234 (ref.4).

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). **N°49** p.23 (ref.61), p.24 (ref.64), p.38 (ref.54) and p.75 (ref.33).

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). **N°49** p.91 (ref.67).

Animal handlers and street and beach photographers in Europe

N°4 p.49. **N°6** p.22 (ref.12). **N°24** p.26 (ref.13). **N°30** p.58 (ref.33). **N°32** p.75 (ref.36) and p.196 (ref.248). **N°33** p.183 (ref.144, 146 and 148), p.210 (ref.23) and p.240 (ref.128 and 129). **N°34** p.177 (ref.202), p.178 (ref.212) and p.179 (ref.215). **N°35** p.144 (ref.146), p.145 (ref.158), p.146 (ref.165) and p.188 (ref.86). **N°36** p.65 (ref.64), p.157 (ref.148 and 150) and p.158 (ref.154 and 157). **N°37** p.140 (ref.109), p.145 (ref.136), p.146 (ref.139 and 140) and p.193 (ref.84). **N°38** p.167 (ref.199) and p.168 (ref.201, 202, 203, 205 and 206). **N°39** p.45 (ref.69), p.120 (ref.136 and 137), p.121 (ref.139, 140 and 143) and p.122 (ref.145). **N°40** p.160 (ref.165), p.161 (ref.170), p.162 (ref.173, 176 and 177) and p.163 (ref.178). **N°41** p.132 (ref.153), p.138 (ref.181, 182, 184 and 187), p.139 (ref.189 and 191), p.155 (ref.26, 27 and 28), p.180 (ref.67), p.181 (ref.68 and 71) and p.182 (ref.76). **N°42** p.33 (ref.23), p.103 (ref.147) and p.104 (ref.154 and 156). **N°43** p.45 (ref.20) and p.97 (ref.120). **N°44** p.132 (ref.151), p.143 (ref.208 and 209) and p.192 (ref.100). **N°45** p.87 (ref.104) and p.90 (ref.128). **N°46** p.99 (ref.71) and p.100 (ref.92). **N°47** p.39 (ref.70) and p.102 (ref.80). **N°49** p.142 (ref.187).

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). **N°49** p.220 (ref.18 and 19) and p.230 (ref.73).

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). **N°49** p.187 (ref.52).

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). **N°49** p.148 (ref.18), p.173 (ref.2 and 3) and p.183 (ref.24).

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). **N°49** p.23 (ref.59), p.24 (ref.64) and p.75 (ref.31).

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). **N°49** p.222 (ref.29).

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). **N°49** p.52 (ref.1), p.54 (ref.16), p.56 (ref.26), p.57 (ref.33), p.182 (ref.19) and p.187 (ref.53).

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). **N°49** p.195 (ref.94).

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).

Blast fishing in Indonesia

N°8 p.9 (ref.5). **N°34** p.250 (ref.19, 20 and 22). **N°35** p.202 (ref.19). **N°36** p.218 (ref.29 and 30). **N°37** p.215 (ref.38, 39 and 40). **N°38** p.235 (ref.24, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29) and p.236 (ref.30 and 31). **N°40** p.238 (ref.29). **N°49** p.204 (ref.5).

Boudh District, State of Odisha, India

N°23 p.66 (ref.32). **N°27** p.60 (ref.25). **Covid-19 Special Edition** p.15 (ref.54). **N°29** p.38 (ref.110). **N°32** p.86 (ref.106). **N°33** p.88 (ref.75). **N°34** p.72 (ref.63), p.73 (ref.71) and p.74 (ref.75 and 78). **N°36** p.15 (ref.57), p.16 (ref.67) and p.36 (ref.101). **N°37** p.31 (ref.89) and p.66 (ref.28). **N°39** p.46 (ref.73). **N°40** p.15 (ref.45) and p.56 (ref.54). **N°41** p.16 (ref.67). **N°42** p.33 (ref.29). **N°44** p.42 (ref.38 and 40) and p.43 (ref.43). **N°46** p.20 (ref.55). **N°48** p.39 (ref.41). **N°49** p.38 (ref.55).

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). **N°49** p.128 (ref.112), p.195 (ref.18) and p.222 (ref.29).

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). **N°49** p.202 (ref.126 and 127).

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). **N°49** p.233 (ref.1).

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). **N°49** p.42 (ref.82).

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).

Cheetahs (*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). **N°49** p.30 (ref.4 and 8).

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). **N°49** p.208 (ref.15).

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).

Ejiao (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). **N°49** p.21 (ref.49), p.22 (ref.52, 54 and 55), p.23 (ref.57) and p.24 (ref.63).

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). **N°49** p.37 (ref.46), p.38 (ref.56) and p.40 (ref.71).

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). **N°49** p.20 (ref.38).

Elephants in Mayurbhanj District (State of Odisha, India) (poaching and seizure of tusks)

N°1 p.31. **N°11** p.84 (ref.83). **N°12** p.94 (ref.109). **N°17** p.100 (ref.82). **N°19** p.106 (ref.100). **N°20** p.103 (ref.98). **N°28** p.111 (ref.85). **N°32** p.47 (ref.191) and p.49 (ref.202). **N°38** p.30 (ref.102) and p.33-34 (ref.115). **N°39** p.22 (ref.63) and p.23 (ref.69). **N°40** p.33 (ref.98). **N°41** p.28 (ref.79). **N°43** p.17 (ref.43) and p.18 (ref.50). **N°44** p.24 (ref.78) and p.25 (ref.88). **N°48** p.21 (ref.51). **N°49** p.23 (ref.59) and p.24 (ref.66).

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). **N°49** p.223 (ref.34).

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). **N°49** p.99 (ref.20).

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 *Notopterus 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). **N°49** p.56 (ref.23).

Frankfurt, Hesse Land, 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). **N°49** p.42 (ref.80) and p.48 (ref.10).

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).

Ganges river dolphins (*Platanista gangetica*, Appendix I)

N°1 p.19. **N°2** p.5-6. **N°8** p.7 (ref.4). **N°28** p.23 (ref.1). **N°29** p.180 (ref.5 and 8). **N°30** p.198 (ref.9 and 10). **N°31** p.219 (ref.2, 3 and 4) and p.220 (ref.5 and 6). **N°33** p.283 (ref.11) and p.286 (ref.13). **N°35** p.217 (ref.4). **N°38** p.253 (ref.12). **N°39** p.188 (ref.10). **N°41** p.218 (ref.10 and 13). **N°49** p.235 (ref.5).

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°18** p.74 (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°29** p.45 (ref.5). **N°30** p.45 (ref.18). **N°33** p.65 (ref.20). **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). **N°49** p.84 (ref.33, 34 and 35) and p.186 (ref.45).

Gharials (*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). **N°49** p.179 (ref.3).

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). **N°49** p.51 (ref.25).

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). **N°49** p.51 (ref.24).

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). **N°49** p.81 (ref.11 and 12).

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). **N°49** p.83 (ref.21), p.93 (ref.74) and p.202 (ref.128).

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). **N°49** p.195 (ref.98).

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). N°49 p.25 (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). N°49 p.231 (ref.1).

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). N°49 p.98 (ref.16).

Medicinal leeches (*Hirudo* spp., Appendix II)

N°9 p.102 (ref.73). N°25 p.37 (ref.1 and 2). N°26 p.35. N°32 p.224 (ref.2). N°33 p.217 (ref.33). N°34 p.209 (ref.15 and 16). N°35 p.171 (ref.2). N°38 p.198 (ref.24). N°39 p.143 (ref.11). N°41 p.167 (ref.2). N°42 p.140 (ref.58). N°43 p.113 (ref.4). N°44 p.173 (ref.9) and p.192 (ref.97). N°45 p.116 (ref.18). N°49 p.176 (ref.7).

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). N°49 p.112 (ref.38).

Mexican bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*, Appendix II in Mexico)

N°1 p.38. N°5 p.108. N°27 p.46 (ref.19). N°29 p.79 (ref.14). N°31 p.81 (ref.8 and 9). N°32 p.122 (ref.13). N°33 p.112 (ref.3). N°34 p.99 (ref.3), p.100 (ref.4 and 5), p.113 (ref.3) and p.214 (ref.20). N°36 p.85 (ref.2) and p.86 (ref.3). N°37 p.75 (ref.4). N°38 p.83 (ref.2). N°42 p.49 (ref.2 and 4) and p.131 (ref.6). N°43 p.46 (ref.1). N°44 p.59 (ref.2), p.64 (ref.1 and 2) and p.176 (ref.11). N°46 p.46 (ref.2) and p.47 (ref.3 and 5). N°49 p.59 (ref.1).

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). N°49 p.194 (ref.87 and 92) and p.195 (ref.99).

Mud turtles (*Kinosternon* spp., Appendix I or II)

N°3 p.73. **N°4** p.97. **N°6** p.24 (ref.4). **N°9** p.95 (ref.16). **N°10** p.73 (ref.19). **N°17** p.116 (ref.31). **N°19** p.21 (ref.13), p.30 (ref.10), p.123 (ref.18) and p.124 (ref.20). **N°20** p.118 (ref.24) and p.119 (ref.30). **N°21** p.20 (ref.6) and p.25 (ref.4). **N°22** p.22. **N°23** p.151 (ref.54 and 55). **N°24** p.30 (ref.3). **N°25** p.35 (ref.2). **N°26** p.106 (ref.38). **N°27** p.27 (ref.7). **N°29** p.135 (ref.8) and p.152 (ref.23). **N°30** p.161 (ref.29). **N°31** p.149 (ref.10) and p.150 (ref.15). **N°33** p.185 (ref.4). **N°34** p.186 (ref.9). **N°36** p.163 (ref.10) and p.164 (ref.11). **N°37** p.152 (ref.3). **N°40** p.198 (ref.35). **N°41** p.145 (ref.27) and p.173 (ref.28). **N°42** p.105 (ref.3), p.106 (ref.5), p.110 (ref.14), p.111 (ref.20) and p.133 (ref.18). **N°43** p.102 (ref.7). **N°44** p.154 (ref.25). **N°45** p.94 (ref.2), p.95 (ref.5) and p.121-122 (ref.25). **N°46** p.104 (ref.10) and p.132 (ref.41). **N°47** p.134 (ref.21). **N°48** p.122 (ref.7), p.129 (ref.23) and p.130 (ref.26). **N°49** p.145 (ref.5), p.153 (ref.12 and 17) and p.158 (ref.43).

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).

Ornamental fish in Brazil

N°5 p.111. **N°8** p.4 (ref.1). **N°17** p.9 (ref.7). **N°19** p.10-11 (ref.7). **N°22** p.10 and p.11. **N°23** p.11 (ref.4). **N°24** p.32 (ref.1). **N°25** p.14 (ref.13). **N°31** p.188 (ref.3) and p.207 (ref.16). **N°32** p.280 (ref.13). **N°38** p.201 (ref.12). **N°41** p.202 (ref.15). **N°45** p.121-122 (ref.25), p.146 (ref.13) and p.147 (ref.14 and 16). **N°46** p.129 (ref.25). **N°49** p.218 (ref.5 and 7) and p.219 (ref.10).

Pangolins in Kenya

N°13 p. 36 (ref. 3) and p. 81 (ref. 4). **N°15** p. 41 (ref. 8). **N°17** p. 40 (ref. 4). **N°19** p. 50 (ref. 7). **N°27** p. 58 (ref. 6). **N°30** p. 8 (ref. 5). **N°31** p. 9 (ref. 3 and 4). **N°32** p. 11 (ref. 6, 7 and 8). **N°35** p. 7 (ref. 5 and 6) and p. 13 (ref. 1). **N°36** p. 10 (ref. 13, 14 and 15). **N°37** p. 9 (ref. 11). **N°40** p. 17 (ref. 1). **N°41** p. 9 (ref. 11). **N°43** p. 6 (ref. 2). **N°44** p. 6 (ref.2 and 3). **N°45** p. 8 (ref. 4). **N°46** p. 11 (ref. 1). **N°49** p.7 (ref.7).

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).
(.../...)

(Poisoning .../...) **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). **N°49** p.49 (ref.14), p.50 (ref.22), p.105 (ref.22), p.115 (ref.52), p.128 (ref.112), p.131 (ref.130 and 131), p.135 (ref.157), p.138 (ref.167), p.141 (ref.182), p.179 (ref.6), p.180 (ref.10) and p.183 (ref.29).

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). **N°49** p.99 (ref.21), p.142 (ref.189), p.160 (ref.58), p.162 (ref.16), p.163 (ref.17 and 18), p.171 (ref.19), p.172 (ref.20), p.204 (ref.7) and p.225 (ref.46).

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). **N°49** p.208 (ref.10 and 11).

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). **N°49** p.150-151 (ref.2).

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). **N°49** p.154 (ref.21).

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). **N°49** p.28 (ref.13).

Red-billed leiothrixes (*Leiothrix lutea*, Appendix II)

N°4 p.38. **N°7** p.28 (ref.41). **N°15** p.33 (ref.42). **N°16** p.36 (ref.57). **N°17** p.32 (ref.33). **N°23** p.59 (ref.114). **N°27** p.56 (ref.82). **N°31** p.187 (ref.99). **N°32** p.163 (ref.66) and p.188 (ref.205). **N°33** p.177 (ref.118). **N°38** p.146 (ref.92), p.157 (ref.139) and p.162-163. **N°40** p.154 (ref.138). **N°41** p.134-135. **N°42** p.98 (ref.118). **N°44** p.135 (ref.163). **N°47** p.96 (ref.55). **N°48** p.97 (ref.35). **N°49** p.124 (ref.83) and p.134 (ref.151).

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). **N°49** p.218 (ref.7) and p.220 (ref.18).

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). **N°49** p.170 (ref.13 and 14) and p.171 (ref.15, 16 and 17).

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). **N°49** p.32 (ref.14), p.42 (ref.83), p.43 (ref.86, 87 and 88), p.160 (ref.58) and p.181 (ref.16).

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). **N°49** p.67 (ref.40) and p.194 (ref.90).

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). **N°49** p.195 (ref.99).

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). **N°49** p.161 (ref.8), p.193 (ref.86) and p.196 (ref.102).

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). (.../...)

(Sperm whale .../...) 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). **N°49** p.188 (ref.57) and p.198 (ref.109).

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).

Swamp deer (*Rucervus duvaucelii*, Appendix I)

N°6 p.100 (ref.14). **N°7** p.100. **N°10** p.69 (ref.16). **N°13** p.108 (ref.45). **N°14** p.69 (ref.59). **N°18** p.49. **N°20** p.112 (ref.8). **N°23** p.140 (ref.28). **N°32** p.123 (ref.22) and p.125 (ref.31). **N°33** p.127 (ref.11). **N°36** p.99 (ref.8 and 9). **N°37** p.192 (ref.77). **N°40** p.94 (ref.21). **N°49** p.75 (ref.32).

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). **N°49** p.174 (ref.4).

Totoaba (*Totoaba macdonaldi*) swim bladders

N°1 p.3. **N°4** p.6. **N°5** p.13. **N°6** p.6 (ref.1, 2 and 4). **N°7** p.5 (ref.5). **N°8** p.5 (ref.4 and 5) and p.8 (ref.1). **N°10** p.7 (ref.2 and 3) and p.8 (ref.12). **N°11** p.6 (ref.2) and p.7 (ref.7). **N°15** p.8 (ref.11). **N°16** p.8 (ref.12, 13 and 14). **N°17** p.4 (ref.1) and p.11 (ref.19). **N°18** p.10 (ref.5). **N°19** p.13 (ref.20). **N°20** p.15 (ref.11), p.16 (ref.13, 14 and 15) and p.22 (ref.3). **N°21** p.10 (ref.10, 11, 12 and 13) and p.18 (ref.1). **N°22** p.11 and p.12. **N°23** p.13 (ref.15, 16 and 17) and p.14 (ref.20). **N°24** p.14 (ref.8). **N°25** p.15 (ref.16, 18, 19 and 20) and p.16 (ref.22, 24 and 25). **N°26** p.15 (ref.10). **N°27** p.20 (ref.28). **N°29** p.172 (ref.18) and p.173 (ref.23). **N°30** p.178 (ref.5), p.188 (ref.7), p.189 (ref.14) and p.191 (ref.21). **N°31** p.208 (ref.21 and 22) and p.210 (ref.34). **N°32** p.301 (ref.7). **N°33** p.259 (ref.2), p.263 (ref.16), p.265 (ref.26) and p.282 (ref.7). **N°34** p.38 (ref.128), p.232 (ref.2 and 3), p.249 (ref.14), p.250 (ref.17) and p.252 (ref.30). **N°35** p.200 (ref.5), p.202 (ref.17 and 18) and p.203 (ref.24). **N°40** p.210 (ref.2), p.211 (ref.3), p.234 (ref.7) and p.237 (ref.24). **N°42** p.153 (ref.6). **N°43** p.118 (ref.14) and p.137 (ref.17). **N°48** p.164 (ref.2).

Ucayali (Department of), Peru

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). **N°48** p.155 (ref.41).

Vaquitas (*Phocoena sinus*, Appendix I)

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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). **N°49** p.135 (ref.159), p.138 (ref.167), p.138-139 (map of poaching and seizures of birds in Italy) and p.141 (ref.182 and 184).

Waza National Park, Extreme North Region, Cameroon

N°2 p.36. **N°3** p.64. **N°5** p.86. **N°17** p.112 (ref.4). **N°29** p.22 (ref.6) and p.83 (ref.1). **N°36** p.90 (ref.2). **N°41** p.5 (ref.1). **N°45** p.5 (ref.3).

Woolly rhinoceroses (*Coelodonta antiquitatis*) (seizures of horns and bones)

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OCEANIA

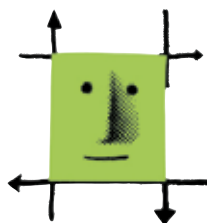
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ROBIN DES BOIS

Robin des Bois (Robin Hood)

Non Governmental Organization for the protection of the environment and populations

Founded in 1985

14 rue de l'Atlas 75019 Paris, France

tel : 33 (1) 48.04.09.36

www.robindesbois.org

contact@robindesbois.org