



THE TRAFFIC BULLETIN SEIZURES AND PROSECUTIONS SECTION IS SPONSORED BY THE FORESTRY BUREAU, COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE, TAIWAN: COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING CITES ENFORCEMENT

The *TRAFFIC Bulletin* carries a selection of seizures and prosecutions reports. Readers are referred to the seizures section of the TRAFFIC website (www.traffic.org) for regular updates on cases reported from around the world.

BIG CATS

INDIA: On 8 September 2013, Delhi police infiltrated a poaching gang who are believed to have evaded capture for over 20 years, and seized 18 kg of Tiger *Panthera tigris* (CITES I) body parts, including skulls, bones, nails and teeth. Three people were arrested, one of whom has been described as the “best supplier of Tiger skins in the country”, with contacts in 50–60 families responsible for killing the animals on his behalf.

www.deccanherald.com/content/356173/poaching-gang-busted-20-years.html, 10 September 2013

MACAU SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION: On 25 July 2013, a man travelling from Indonesia, via Hong Kong, was arrested at Macau airport after being found in possession of 78 Tiger *Panthera tigris* (CITES I) teeth (1.7 kg), 69 Tiger claws (190 g) (plus dried bear gall bladders (300 g), frozen birds’ nests (1 kg) and frozen turtle meat (7.5 kg)). The body parts had been wrapped in foil and placed inside egg roll containers.

www.macaudailytimes.com/mol/macau/45690-tiger-teeth-claws-and-bear-bile-smuggled-as-egg-rolls.html, 26 July 2013

USA: On 11 July 2013, the US Fish and Wildlife Service announced the arrests of more than 150 people accused of operating an illegal online wildlife trade operation following an undercover investigation involving officers from 16 States, three federal agencies and three Asian countries. Items seized included the pelts of Sumatran Tiger *Panthera tigris sumatrae*, Leopard *Panthera pardus* and Jaguar *Panthera onca* (CITES I species) and other wildlife.

<http://news.sky.com/story/1114679/wildlife-trafficking-feds-bust-internet-ring>, 11 July 2013

ELEPHANTS

BURUNDI: On 27 July 2013, police announced the seizure of 28 kg of ivory (CITES I) at Bujumbura International Airport from a man from Guinea Conakry, living in Burundi.

www.cbfp.org/news_en/Traffic-News, 7 August 2013

CAMEROON: On 2 July 2013, police announced that four ivory traders had been arrested in Douala in possession of 32 elephant tusks.

On 24 September 2013, Symphorien Sangha was sentenced to three years’ imprisonment and fined USD43 000 for his role in the killing of more than 100 elephants in Central Africa.

CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)

establishes international controls over trade in wild plants and animals, or related products, of species that have been, or may be, threatened due to excessive commercial exploitation. Parties have their own legislative instrument by which to meet their obligations under CITES. The species covered by CITES are listed in three Appendices, according to the degree of protection they need:

APPENDIX I includes species threatened with extinction which are or may be threatened by trade. Trade in specimens of these species is permitted only in exceptional circumstances. An export permit from the country of origin (or a re-export certificate from other exporting countries) and an import permit from the country of importation are required.

APPENDIX II includes species not necessarily yet threatened, but which could become so if trade is not strictly controlled. Species are also included in Appendix II if they are difficult to distinguish from other species in Appendix II, in order to make it more difficult for illegal trade to take place through misidentification or mislabelling. An export permit from the country of origin (or a re-export certificate from other exporting countries) is required, but not an import permit.

APPENDIX III includes species that any Party identifies as being subject to regulation within its jurisdiction for the purpose of preventing or restricting exploitation and as needing the co-operation of other Parties in the control of trade. Imports require a certificate of origin and, if the importation is from the State that has included the species in Appendix III, an export permit is required.

All imports into the European Union of CITES Appendix II-listed species require both an export permit/re-export certificate and an import permit.

www.journalducameroun.com, 2 July 2013; <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/convicted-elephant-poacher-jailed-cameroon-20358994>, 24 September 2013

CHAD: On 14 June 2013, authorities arrested a man said to be behind the slaughter by 50 horsemen of 89 elephants (CITES I) (including 33 pregnant females and 15 juveniles) in one night (14–15 March) near Ganba; he is also thought to have headed a gang of poachers that have killed 192 elephants since August 2012. At the time of his capture he had 124 tusks in his possession.

<http://wildlifeneews.co.uk/2013/poacher-behind-march-slaughter-of-89-elephants-captured-in-chad>

CHINA: On 5 April 2013, at Heping District People’s Court, Tianjin, a person was sentenced to 68 months in gaol and fined CNY12 000 (USD1905) for selling ivory products in Shenyangdao Antiques Market in Tianjin; 21 kg of ivory products were seized. A further five ivory sellers arrested on the same day also received gaol sentences.

A man was recently sentenced to 15 years’ in gaol for smuggling 7.7 t of ivory from Africa to Fujian province, China, since 2011. Customs seized 2154 whole elephant tusks/segments.

http://news.enorth.com.cn/system/2013/04/26/0108_96260.shtml, 26 April 2013; www.jisi.gov.cn/News/ztbd/201305/20130522144336_9282.html, 22 May 2013

CONGO, PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF: On 15 July 2013, at Ewo Supreme Court, Ghislain Ngonjo, alias “Pépito”, was sentenced to five years in gaol for elephant poaching. He is reported to have operated in Odzala-Kokoua National Park and environs for over a decade, recruiting poachers and assisting with the killing of scores of elephants and of selling the ivory. Two others were also convicted: one received a five-year sentence and the other was gaol for two years.

www.examiner.com/article/several-elephant-poaching-arrests-congo?cid=rss; <http://ens-newswire.com/2013/07/25/congolese-ivory-kingpin-imprisoned-for-five-years/>, 25 July 2013

HONG KONG SPECIAL

ADMINISTRATIVE REGION: On 20 April 2013, Customs officials at Hong Kong International Airport seized 113 ivory tusks (300 kg) in cargo declared as “spare parts”, arriving from Burundi, bound for Singapore.

On 18 July, 1148 ivory tusks (2 t) declared as timber and concealed in a container on a vessel from Togo was seized (see Togo).

On 6 August 2013, Customs officers seized 1120 polished ivory tusks from a container arriving from Nigeria, via mainland China (and skins of five Leopards *Panthera pardus* and 13 rhinoceros horns (all CITES I)).

http://7thspace.com/headlines/436870/hong_kong_customs_seizes_ivory_tusks_at_hong_kong_international_airport.html, 30 April 2013; www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/1294945/customs-seize-hk41m-ivory-rhino-horns-leopard-skins; www.traffic.org/home/2013/8/7/seizure-of-1148-ivory-tusks-underscores-hong-kongs-transit-r.html

KENYA: On 16 April 2013, at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, a Vietnamese national in transit from Cotonou, Benin, bound for Bangkok, Thailand, was arrested after 488 painted ivory bangles (33 kg) were found in his possession, in boxes labelled as flower vases.

On 3 July 2013, officials at Mombasa port seized 775 pieces of elephant ivory (1.3 t) in a container of dried fish from Uganda, destined for Malaysia.

On 8 July 2013, three tonnes of ivory declared as bags of peanuts, for export to Malaysia, were seized at the port in what has been described as the largest illegal consignment of ivory at the port this year. Three clearing agents at Mombasa have since been arrested over their alleged involvement in the illegal ivory trade.

On 21 August 2013, a shipment of 1.8 t of ivory illegally exported in January 2012 was returned by authorities in Singapore, where it had been seized in December 2012, in transit to Viet Nam. The shipping line transporting the shipment responded to an urgent appeal by the Kenyan authorities to co-operate when it was realised that the container could be carrying illegal ivory, and a stopover was made at the vessel’s next port of call, Singapore.

On 22 August 2013, Chen Biemei was gaoled for 31 months after she pleaded guilty to attempting to smuggle to Hong Kong 6.9 kg of worked ivory, disguised as bags of macadamia nuts, on 14 August.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201304170954.html>, 16 April 2013; www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/03/us-kenya-ivory-poaching-idUSBRE9620XU20130703; www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/07/09/illegal-ivory-kenya-poaching_n_3566779.html, 9 July 2013; www.standardmedia.co.ke/articleID=2000091567&story_title=seized-ivory-shipped-back-to-kenya, 23 August 2013; www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2013/08/kenya-jails-chinese-ivory-smuggler/, 22 August 2013

MACAU SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION: On 17 July 2013, two South Africans arriving from Hong Kong were arrested after failing to smuggle 34 kg of ivory into Macau that had been disguised as 583 chocolate bars.

<http://english.cri.cn/11354/2013/07/18/191s776661.htm>, 18 July 2013

NEW ZEALAND: On 10 July 2013, at Manukau District Court, Jiezhen Jiang was convicted of trading in ivory and fined NZD 12 000 (USD 10 000) after two parcels containing ivory and posted from Portugal and the UK were intercepted at the international mail centre; a further six ivory items were found at his property.

Between May 2010 and September 2011 Jiang bought ivory items online; he sold two pieces to people in China through a website and bid on and bought ivory items which he sent back to China. He told the authorities that he knew elephants were being killed for their ivory, but thought the pieces would be good investments. In sentencing, the judge said that he had taken into account an Impact Statement from TRAFFIC's Elephant and Rhino Programme Leader and Director of the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS), Tom Milliken, who pointed out that the African Elephant population had been halved in the decade to 1999, and has been in steady decline since then because of illegal killing. Milliken said that, to a conservationist, the idea that the defendant was aware that elephants were being killed for their ivory and therefore thought that ivory would be a good investment, is an attitude that no endangered species can survive.

www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10896358, 10 July 2013

TANZANIA: On 12 July 2013, a person was charged with illegal trade in 1000+ elephant tusks. He is believed to have exported 781 tusks through Malawi in May, and was arrested in Dar es Salaam in early July in possession of 347 tusks.

www.france24.com/en/20130712-tanzanian-charged-smuggling-over-1000-ivory-tusks, 12 July 2013;

THAILAND: On 30 August 2013, Customs officials at Bangkok's International Airport seized 105 kg of ivory tusks/ivory beads from two Vietnamese nationals arriving on a flight from Angola via Ethiopia, bound for Cambodia.

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/thai-officials-seize-illegal-ivory-airport-20130830>, 30 August 2013

TOGO: On 6 August 2013, a man was arrested at his shop in Lome and 700 kg of ivory seized from his premises. Some claim the suspect to be the kingpin in Togo's ivory trade, while others believe he is a retail dealer who serves as a

convenient scapegoat to show law enforcement action in the face of international condemnation.

It is reported that Togo has only 60 elephants and that the country has recently become a transit point for ivory dealers using Lome's harbour after finding access to other West African ports difficult. In July, Customs officials in Hong Kong seized more than two tonnes of elephant tusks hidden in cargo from Togo (see Hong Kong).

www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-23599721, 7 August 2013; TRAFFIC

UK: In July 2013, at the Old Bailey, Gary Bolton was sentenced to seven years in gaol after devices he sold to detect bombs, ivory and tobacco, were found to be just empty boxes with handles and antennae. The instruments were marketed successfully to military, police and private clients around the world, including wildlife enforcement authorities in Africa, who were led to believe that efforts to control the illegal ivory trade could be strengthened by the use of these gadgets. Bolton's company was said to have an annual turnover of GBP 3 million (USD 4.7 million) selling the devices.

In a separate but similar case, James McCormick was gaoled for 10 years in May for selling more than 7000 fake detectors, which he claimed were able to detect explosives, drugs, ivory and money.

www.traffic.org/home/2013/8/27/ivory-detector-fraudster-sentenced-to-7-years-in-jail.html

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, DUBAI: In May 2013 it was reported that almost 260 pieces of raw ivory, disguised as furniture, had been seized from a shipment arriving at Jebel Ali Port from Mombasa, Kenya.

On 4 September 2013, police announced that half a tonne of ivory had been intercepted at Dubai International Airport, which they described as one of the largest ivory seizures in the emirate. No further details as to its provenance are currently available.

www.thenational.ae/news/uae-news/hundreds-of-ivory-tusks-seized-in-dubai, 21 May 2013; www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/03/us-kenya-ivory-poaching-idUSBRE9620XU20130703; www.thenational.ae/news/uae-news/dubai-police-intercept-half-a-ton-of-smuggled-ivory, 6 September 2013

VIET NAM: On 30 June 2013, Ho Chi Minh City Customs authorities at Tan Son Hhat International Airport seized ivory handicrafts (21 kg) that had been smuggled in from France. A Vietnamese national was arrested.

On 6 August 2013, it was reported that Customs officers at Hanoi's Noi Bai International Airport had arrested two Vietnamese nationals carrying 50 kg of ivory into the country from Russia, and that another two individuals had recently been arrested after attempting to import from Singapore 122 kg of ivory.

www.thanhniennews.com/index/pages/20130701-vietnamese-man-caught-smuggling-21kg-of-ivory.aspx, 1 July 2013; <http://english.vietnamnet.vn/fms/society/81031/over-50kg-of-ivory-seized.html>, 6 August 2013

FLORA

CHINA: In May 2013, at Tianjin Second Intermediate Court, suspect Wang was sentenced to one year and six months in

prison for smuggling 45 t of Red Sanders (Red Sandalwood) *Pterocarpus santalinus* (CITES II); another defendant, Fan, was sentenced to two years' imprisonment, suspended for three years, in one of the country's largest illegal cases involving the smuggling of flora.

On 27 May 2013, an Indian national was intercepted by the Luohu Customs, Guangdong province, for illegally carrying 48 kg of Red Sanders wood. This was the largest case involving Red Sanders by Luohu Customs this year.

www.customs.gov.cn/publish/porta10/tab392671/info429667.htm, 17 May 2013; www.jisi.gov.cn/News/zzsm/gd/201306/20130609095238_9398.html, 9 June 2013

INDIA: On 16 June 2013, forest department staff seized some 209 Red Sanders logs and arrested seven smugglers after conducting raids in the forest areas in Kadapa, Chittoor and Nellore districts.

On 27 June 2013, Customs officials at Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport intercepted 11 Chinese passengers as they tried to smuggle 308 kg of Red Sanders out of the country in their luggage.

In early September 2013, at Chennai airport, three Chinese nationals bound for Bangkok were arrested, each in possession of some 50 kg of Red Sanders.

On 3 July 2013, Tirupati police seized one tonne of Red Sanders logs and arrested 45 people in Seshachalam forests, Andhra Pradesh.

On 15 July 2013, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seized 133 t of Red Sanders allegedly being smuggled out to Dubai at the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust in Navi Mumbai. Four of the eight containers were marked as marbles and tiles, the rest as carrying onions.

On 18 August 2013, Customs officers at Pune seized 442 Red Sanders logs from vehicles in Kanhe Phata on the Pune-Mumbai highway, following the arrest of eight drivers on 16/17 August. The wood was bound for export. The drivers had fake documents stating that they were transporting mangoes and papaya.

On 19 August 2013, six people were arrested and some 30 t of Red Sanders from Andhra Pradesh, bound for Kerala, was seized near Pollachi, in Tamil Nadu's Coimbatore district.

http://newindianexpress.com/states/andhra_pradesh/Seven-smugglers-arrested-209-red-sanders-logs-seized/2013/06/17/article638558.ece, 17 June 2013; www.indianexpress.com/news/11-chinese-travellers-held-for-smuggling-bid/1137898, 5 July 2013; www.ptinews.com/news/3957997_3-Chinese-arrested-for-trying-to-smuggle-red-sanders, 6 September 2013; www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/red-sanders-smuggling-foiled/article4878322.ece, 4 July 2013; www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/dri-seizes-133-mt-tonnes-of-red-sanders-at-jnpt-113071501041_1.html, 15 July 2013; timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/Red-sanders-worth-3-crore-seized-8-held/articleshow/21927910.cms, 20 August 2013; http://zee news.india.com/news/tamil-nadu/six-arrested-30-tons-of-red-sanders-seized-in-tn_870054.html, 19 August 2013

UK: In August 2013, Border Force Officers at Heathrow Airport intercepted four consignments (three destined for the UK and one to Greece) on arrival from India, described as "Wooden Handicrafts". Examination revealed three consignments of sawn Red Sandalwood (Annex B / CITES II) and one of Red Sandalwood prayer beads. In total, some 100 kg of wood was seized.

UK Border Force

MARINE

AUSTRALIA: In April 2013, Van Thanh Le from Darch, Perth, was convicted of taking abalones out of season and exceeding the possession limit with 60 undersized abalones *Haliotis*. He was the second target of Operation Ratchet, a Department of Fisheries sting on people illegally taking or distributing the shellfish in the metropolitan area. He was fined AUD15 341 (USD14 400).

In May 2013, at Holden Hill Magistrates' Court, Adelaide, Dang Duong of Pooraka was found guilty of possessing 70 abalones and ordered to pay AUD9452 (USD8800), bringing to a conclusion the largest case involving the illegal trade in abalones in the State's history. The investigation, which began in 2010, has resulted in the conviction of six others involved in the trade of some 480 kg of abalones. Three were given suspended gaol sentences, and fines imposed amounted to a total of AUD28 952 and 360 hours' community service.

www.watoday.com.au/wa-news/15000-fine-for-illegal-wa-abalone-catch-20130409-2hiuk.html, 9 April 2013; www.thefishsite.com/fishnews/20552/abalone-trafficking-ring-dismantled, 20 June 2013

CAYMAN ISLANDS: During July 2013, four poachers were arrested in connection with two separate incidents involving the illegal collection of 156 and 119 Queen Conch *Tridacna gigas* (CITES II), respectively. Harvesting conch between May and the end of October is illegal; during open season, which runs from 1 November to 30 April, the daily limit is five. These restrictions are in place because the Cayman Islands' conch population, while sufficient for limited personal consumption within the law, cannot support a commercial fishery.

www.caymannewsservice.com/science-and-nature/2013/07/29/275-poached-conch-recovered-doe, 29 July 2013

CHINA: On 24 May 2013, Shekou Customs of Shenzhen seized 12 kg of dried seahorses *Hippocampus* concealed in luggage being carried by an African passenger. In the same month, suspect Zhang was sentenced to 10 months in gaol for illegally carrying 19 kg of dried seahorses from the Philippines to Jinjiang City, Fujian province, in October 2012. In July 2013, the post office branch of Jinling Customs of Nanjing, Jiangsu province, detected over 6000 dried seahorses (10 kg) in a parcel from South Asia.

www.customs.gov.cn/publish/portal0/tab39267/info431465.htm, 31 May 2013; http://qz.fjnews.com/2013-05/10/content_11356901.htm, 10 May 2013; <http://news.xinmin.cn/domestic/2013/07/18/21111645.html>, 18 July 2013

SOUTH AFRICA: On 25 July 2013, three men were arrested on a farm near Alexandria, Eastern Cape, after being found in possession of 1630 kg of abalone *Haliotis midae*. Two of the men were Chinese nationals while the third was the farm's owner.

www.enca.com/south-africa/eastern-cape-men-stash-worth-millions; <http://ewn.co.za/2013/08/27/Abalone-possession-case-postponed>

SPAIN: On 4 June 2013, authorities in Madrid investigated 13 facilities and seized some 500 000 pieces of coral, including *Acropora*, *Leptoria*, *Pocillopora*, *Fungia*, *Antipathes*, *Heliopora* (all CITES II). Two people were arrested and a further six charged.

www.interior.gob.es/press/intervenidas-mas-de-512-000-piezas-de-coral-que-eran-vendidas-vulnerando-el-convenio-internacional-sobre-especies-amenazadas-15270?set_locale=ca

UK: On 22 May 2013, at Crown Square Crown Court, Manchester, Alex Montgomery of Manchester was sentenced to six months in gaol after pleading guilty to charges of attempting to smuggle 750 kg of live hard corals through Manchester airport from Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, in May 2012, in boxes labelled "Marine fish and Soft Corals". More specimens were seized from Montgomery's business premises, along with his computer, which had information regarding his business dealings with foreign suppliers.

www.gov.uk/government/news/man-jailed-for-smuggling-coral-and-clams, 22 May 2013; www.traffic.org/home/2013/5/23/uk-hands-down-custodial-sentence-for-coral-smuggling.html

VIET NAM: On 9 June 2013, Con Dao Forest Rangers arrested two local men collecting a total of 498 Green Turtle *Chelonia mydas* (CITES I) eggs from nests on a protected beach. Each person has been fined VND23 million (USD1090).

Environmental News Vietnam Newsletter, August 2013

PANGOLINS

CHINA: In April 2013, Luohu District People's Court, Guangdong province, sentenced defendant Zhu to 10.5 years in gaol (and a fine of CNY10 000 (USD1587)); defendant Wu to four years in gaol (fined CNY10 000); and defendant Zhuo to four years in gaol (fined CNY10 000). The three had been arrested in September 2012 for illegally trading a total of 122 pangolins *Manis* (CITES II) and other wildlife items.

http://sztqb.sznews.com/html/2013-04/13/content_2441852.htm

FRANCE: On 30 April 2013, Customs authorities at Charles de Gaulle Airport, Paris, announced the seizure of 50 kg of pangolin *Manis* (CITES II) scales from Cameroon bound for Viet Nam, the third pangolin seizure in April, amounting to a total of nearly 100 kg and representing between 300–400 pangolins.

www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/130430/french-customs-seize-pangolin-scales-headed-vietnam, 30 April 2013

INDIA: On 19 July 2013, Customs officers in Guwahati seized 85 kg of pangolin *Manis* (CITES II) scales in a consignment of drugs (pseudoephedrine tablets) at a house in the Beltola area.

On 31 July 2013, 70 kg of pangolin scales, reportedly from some 300 pangolins, were seized and seven people arrested in Siliguri, West Bengal. The scales had been brought from Kalka in Haryana and were to be handed over to smugglers based in Nepal, Nagaland and Manipur.

Business Standard 19 July 2013; www.business-standard.com/article/news-anil/customs-department-seizes-drugs-worth-millions-in-guwahati-113071900684_1.html; www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/70-kg-pangolin-scales-seized-113073101243_1.html, 31 July 2013

MALAYSIA: On 26 June 2013, at the Sessions Court, six people were each gaoled for one year and fined RM330 000 (USD103 000) for attempting to smuggle 150 pangolins *Manis* (CITES II) into Thailand in 2012. The defendants were granted bail pending an appeal.

www.nst.com.my/nation/general/six-jailed-over-pangolins-in-car-1.308395, 27 June 2013; www.traffic.org/home/2013/7/15/world-experts-all-pangolin-species-at-risk-from-illegal-trad.html

THAILAND: On 16 September 2013, 200 live pangolins *Manis* (CITES II) were retrieved by police from two vehicles in Udonthani; the drivers fled. The pangolins were believed to have been destined for China or Viet Nam, via Lao PDR.

www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/370180/pangolins-seized-in-udon-thani, 17 September 2013

VIET NAM: In August 2013, Customs officials at Hai Phong port found more than six tonnes of live pangolins *Manis* (CITES II) inside a container purportedly containing frozen fish. The cargo, from Indonesia, was due for onward shipment to an undisclosed destination. This year to date, more than 10 t of pangolins—both live and frozen—and 1.2 t of pangolin scales, have reportedly been confiscated at Hai Phong port.

www.nst.com.my/latest/over-six-tonnes-of-rare-live-pangolins-found-in-vietnam-1.337605, 14 August 2013

RHINOCEROSES

CHINA: On 18 June 2013, at Shanghai No. 1 Intermediate People's Court, Dong Fengrong was sentenced to seven years in gaol and fined CNY150 000 (USD24 000) after attempting to smuggle into the country from France seven rhinoceros (CITES I) horns and products (8 kg) (and 14 ivory items) at Pudong International Airport on 23 January.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90882/8289766.html>, 19 June 2013

CZECH REPUBLIC: On 23 July 2013, authorities seized 24 White Rhinoceros *Ceratotherium simum* (CITES I) horns and arrested members of an international gang that had hired Czech nationals to hunt rhinoceroses in South Africa to obtain their horns. Sixteen people have been charged in connection with the case, initiated after the Czech Environmental Inspectorate became suspicious that people applying for import permits for rhinoceros horns were not importing them from South Africa as personal hunting trophies, which may be allowed with a CITES permit.

www.radio.cz/en/section/curraffris/czech-authorities-seize-record-amount-of-rhino-horns, 23 July 2013

KENYA: On 17 September 2013, at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, a Vietnamese national in transit from Maputo, Mozambique, en route to Hong Kong via Doha, Qatar, was arrested with five rhinoceros (CITES I) horns.

www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2013/09/vietnamese-arrested-rhino-horns-jkial, 17 September 2013

NEPAL: On 19 June 2013, 12 rhinoceros poachers from Nawalparasi district were given gaol sentences ranging from 10–15 years and fines of between USD550–1100 each. The poaching of rhinoceroses (CITES I) in Nepal is reported to have significantly reduced over the last decade owing in large part to increased security and the involvement of government personnel in wildlife management.

On 16 September 2013, Sita Bahadur Dhenga Magar, of Nawalparasi district, was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment, five years after being convicted. He had absconded following his conviction in June 2008 for killing a rhinoceros in 2005 and selling the horn; he was arrested in Chitwan National Park on 2 September.

www.shanghaidaily.com/article/article_xinhua.asp?id=148371, 19 June 2013; www.myrepublica.com/portall/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=61549, 16 September 2013

SOUTH AFRICA: In April 2013, at Phalaborwa Magistrates' Court, Inaso Makhubela of Mozambique and Jorudo Ngobeni of South Africa, were sentenced to 15 years in gaol for shooting dead and dehorning a rhinoceros (CITES I) in Limpopo in 2011.

On 10 July 2013, at Makhado Regional Court, Limpopo, three Mozambican nationals were each gaoled for five years for rhinoceros poaching in Nwandeni Resort. Augustus Nkuna, Foster Nyoni and Manyanga Shiringa were also given a 12-month suspended sentence. The trio was arrested in May 2012.

On 29 July 2013, at Makhado Magistrates' Court, Limpopo, Enock Mutungi, and Mozambican national Daniel Dumusani, were each sentenced to six years' imprisonment after being found guilty of rhinoceros poaching in Masisi, Kruger National Park (KNP).

On 15 August 2013, in Nelspruit Regional Court, Leonard Mhlongo from Mozambique was sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment for killing and dehorning a Black Rhinoceros *Diceros bicornis* (CITES I) and her calf in KNP. His sentence consisted of four years in gaol for entering the KNP illegally, 10 years for killing the rhinoceros cow, and eight years for killing the calf. The eight years would run concurrently with the 10 years.

On 30 August 2013, at Nelspruit Regional Court, Mozambican nationals Julius Ngwenya, Daniel Jadere and Antonio Malunga, were each gaoled for 16 years for killing and dehorning a White Rhinoceros *Ceratotherium simum* and her calf in KNP in May. During their arrest, a fourth suspect was shot dead.

www.thenewage.co.za/90163-1007-53-15_years_behind_bars_for_rhino_poachers, 3 April 2013; www.timeslive.co.za/scitech/2013/07/11/three-rhino-poachers-sentenced-five-years-in-limpopo, 11 July 2013; www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/jail-terms-for-limpopo-rhino-poachers-1.1554429#UfeAb23DJul, 29 July 2013; www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/mpuma-rhino-poacher-jailed-1.1563117, 15 August 2013; www.timeslive.co.za/scitech/2013/08/30/three-poachers-get-16-years-each-for-killing-rhino-and-calf, 30 August 2013

VIET NAM: On 20 May 2013, Customs officers at Ho Chi Minh City's Tan Son Nhat airport arrested a man arriving from Europe with six pieces of rhinoceros (CITES I) horn (5 kg).

www.thanhniennews.com/index/pages/20130521-vietnam-passenger-caught-with-5kg-of-rhino-horns.aspx, 21 May 2013

OTHER CASES

CANADA: On 5 April 2013, at a court in Winnipeg, four Mexican hunters were fined CAD10 000–30 000 (USD9700–29 137) for attempting to return from Nunavut to Mexico in a private jet with the skins of three Polar Bears *Ursus maritimus* (CITES I) and three Narwhal *Monodon monoceros* (II) tusks following a hunting trip; while their sport hunting trophies were in order, they had not applied for the requisite CITES permits to take the items back to Canada, nor does Mexico permit the importation of marine mammals. The fine will go to a federal programme, the Environmental Defence Fund, which distributes money to environmental groups.

www.nunatsiaqonline.ca/stories/article/65674illegal_trophy_export_attempt_of_arctic_trophies_costs_mexican_hunters/, 8 April 2013

CHINA: On 22 May 2013, Customs officers at Manzhouli border crossing with Russia in the Inner Mongolia region seized 213 bear paws from a van being driven into China. Two Russian nationals were arrested. The paws had been concealed inside five tyres and derived from at least 54 bears [species not reported]: the largest paw weighed two kilogrammes and the smallest 200 g. On 20 August 2013, 169 bear paws (138 from Brown Bears *Ursus arctos* (CITES II) and the remainder from Asiatic Black Bears *Ursus thibetanus* (CITES I)), smuggled from Russia, were seized by Harbin Customs officials, Heilongjiang province. Five suspects from a wildlife smuggling ring, which was busted on 12 July, have been arrested.

On 29 April 2013, border police in Duoma, Nagqu Prefecture, seized 102 Tibetan Antelope *Pantholops hodgsonii* (CITES I) skins and three skulls.

On 12 May 2013, Customs officials at Alashankou (on the border with Kazakhstan), detected 719 horns of Saiga Antelope *Saiga tatarica* (CITES II) on a train arriving from Kazakhstan. Four suspects were detained.

Defendant Yu was recently sentenced to five years in gaol (and fined CNY20 000 (USD3174) after being arrested in January by Gongbei Customs, Zhuhai, for smuggling 76 hornbill skulls (7.7 kg).

www.china.org.cn/video/2013-06/20/content_29175449.htm, 20 June 2013; www.globaltimes.cn/content/805314.shtml#Uhs6tj-yQ0L, 21 August 2013; http://news.2500sz.com/news/gn/2013-5/10_1987960.shtml, 10 May 2013; <http://illegal.people.com.cn/nl/2013/05/21/c203936-21559782.html>, 21 May 2013; www.chinadaily.com.cn/hqgj/jryw/2013-07-11/content_9550529.html, 11 July 2013

COLOMBIA: On 22 August 2013, it was reported that Janer de Jesús Sarmiento, of Santa Ana (Magdalena), had been sentenced at the Juez Treinta Criminal Circuit Court, Bogotá, to 56 months in gaol and fined for transporting 2.9 kg of meat and body parts of some 150 Colombian Sliders *Trachemys callirostris*. Sarmiento had been detained by the authorities in April 2012 at Salitre Transport Terminal in Bogotá.

www.elespectador.com/noticias/bogota/hombre-debera-pagar-cuatro-anos-de-carcel-traficar-carn-articulo-441712, 22 August 2013

REPUBLIC OF GUINEA: In August 2013, a man was sentenced to a fine and one year in gaol for the illegal trade of Chimpanzees *Pan troglodytes* (CITES I), Lions *Panthera leo* (I), Leopards *P. pardus* (I), hyaenas and tropical birds over the past decade. Two accomplices also received gaol sentences. During the 10-month operation to apprehend the group, some 150 seized birds were released in the wild.

http://www.panda.org/wwf_news/?210073/Kingpin-behind-bars-for-poaching-chimps, 26 August 2013

INDIA: On 1 September 2013, at Tentulberia area, West Bengal, border troops seized 952 Indian Star Tortoises *Geochelone elegans* (CITES II) from two people crossing the border into Bangladesh; the duo fled.

www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/big-seizure-of-952-star-tortoises-on-into-bangla-border-113090200864_1.html

ITALY: On 14 June 2013, three Maltese nationals returning to Malta were detained in transit at Linate airport, Milan, on a flight from Argentina, after their luggage was found to contain 180 dead birds, including Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana*, Silver Teal *Anas versicolor*, Nacunda Nighthawk *Chordeiles nacunda* and Whistling Heron *Syrigma sibilatrix*.

www.maltatoday.com.mt/en/newsdetails/news/courtandpolice/Maltese-nationals-stopped-at-Milan-airport-carrying-180-dead-birds-20130626, 26 June 2013

NEPAL: On 1 June 2013, police in Darchula seized skins and bones of Tiger *Panthera tigris* (CITES I) and Leopard *P. pardus* (I), ivory (I), pangolin (II) scales, and musk (III) that had been concealed in a cave. One man and two porters were arrested; seven others fled. During an exchange of fire, one of the suspected smugglers sustained bullet injuries. The porters were being paid to transport the contraband to Taklakot in Tibet Autonomous Region, China, about three days walk from Darchula.

www.nzweek.com/world/smuggler-arrested-in-nepal-with-large-cache-of-banned-animal-parts-647101, 3 June 2013

SRI LANKA: On 5 September 2013, 450 kg of sea cucumbers were seized from a van at a coastal area near Mandapam refugee camp.

www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/450-kg-of-sea-cucumber-seized-113090500859_1.html, 5 September 2013

TAIWAN: On 24 August 2013, in what has been described as the biggest smuggling case of its kind in Taiwan, coastguards seized 1180 Yellow Pond Turtles *Mauremys mutica* and 1446 Yellow-margined Box Turtles *Cuora flavomarginata* (both CITES II) from a vessel in the port of Kaohsiung.

www.abc.net.au/news/2013-08-25/taiwan-seizes-2500-rare-turtles-bound-for-dinner-plate/4911168, 25 August 2013

USA: On 23 August 2013, Olivia Terrance of Hogsburg, New York, was sentenced to 18 months in gaol after pleading guilty to smuggling turtles and other reptiles into Canada from the USA in 2009/2010, for sale. Her sentence includes three years' supervision after her release.

www.therepublic.com/view/story/2bba110379fb4665a5cd8019cfc9315/NY-Wildlife-Smuggling, 24 August 2013