



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. Readers are asked to refer to the seizures section of the *TRAFFIC* website (www.traffic.org) for regular updates on cases reported from around the world.

ABALONE

AUSTRALIA: On 23 November 2012, Simon Hillman and Andrew Carpmael of Victoria pleaded guilty to a charge of trafficking in a commercial quantity of abalone following their arrest in November 2010 in possession of 30 kg of abalone. The pair was found to have taken abalone from waters in East Gippsland on six occasions, and once at Cape Otway over four months in 2010, amounting to some 30 and 60 kg on each occasion. The abalone was sold to a co-defendant who owned a restaurant.

Carpmael was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment, with a minimum of nine months; Hillman received a 12-month gaol sentence suspended for two years. Carpmael was banned for 10 years and Hillman for three years from any dealings with abalone. The co-defendant, who gave evidence against the pair, was given a wholly suspended sentence for his role.

On 1 March 2013, at Joondalup Magistrates' Court, Duy Cam Dao of Girrawheen was fined more than AUD25 000 (USD25 600) for illegally harvesting 326 abalones. Dao had been under surveillance as part of a Fisheries WA operation at Ocean Reef beach to identify people actively involved in the illegal take/illegal distribution of abalone. He was apprehended with the abalone in his backpack, including 13 undersized specimens. Dao was already banned from abalone fishing at the time of the offence and had harvested them during a prohibited period.

His fine consisted of AUD8000 for breaching the original 2007 court-imposed ban, AUD8600 for fishing during a prohibited period, AUD7200 for exceeding the bag limit and AUD1100 for the undersized abalone. He was also issued a court order that banned him from being in possession of abalone.

www.watoday.com.au/national/abalone-poachers-given-jail-sentences-20121123-29z9t.html
23 November 2012; <http://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/al-lbreaking/116320519/fisher-fined-25-000-for-abalone-haul/>, 7 March 2013

MOZAMBIQUE: It was reported in October 2012 that the Tax Authority had recently seized about a tonne of abalone in Maputo thought to have come from South Africa and believed to be destined for Hong Kong.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201210121341.html>,
12 October 2012

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.

SOUTH AFRICA: On 21 November 2012, officials arrested 19 people—reportedly the highest number of people in one single incident to date in relation to abalone offences. The men had been diving for abalones at Soetfontein near Gans Bay and were found in possession of 3838 shucked abalones (527.6 kg). Three of the men had been arrested in August 2012 for a similar offence. On the same day, police also found 1351 shucked and 182 whole abalones (291 kg) at a house in Hangklip. On 19 November, three men were also arrested when the SAPS's Flying Squad discovered 36 929 dried abalones—the largest consignment of abalones this year—in a minibus in which the suspects were travelling.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201211220533.html>,
21 November 2012

BIG CATS

INDONESIA: In December 2012, police in Pekanbaru seized skins of 11 Tigers *Panthera tigris* (CITES I) (in addition to skins of four Sun Bears *Helarctos malayanus* (CITES II) and 13 Sambar Deer *Rusa unicolor* antlers) from the house of a tanner. Police said they were going to have the skins DNA-tested to establish where they had been poached.

www.antaranews.com/berita/349343/polresta-pekanbaru-sita-11-kulit-harimau, 19 December 2012

MALAYSIA: In February 2013, a man was sentenced to a total of 60 months in gaol after being found guilty on two charges of illegal possession of Tiger *Panthera tigris* (CITES I) parts (and one for possession of African Elephant *Loxodonta africana* (CITES I) ivory). However the judge ordered that the sentences run concurrently and the defendant was to serve only 24 months in gaol. A conviction under the section of the law involving Tiger parts carries a mandatory fine of "not less than RM100 000 [USD32 000] and not more than RM500 000 and a jail term not exceeding five years." The court did not issue the mandatory fine.

The man was arrested in northern Malaysia in February 2012 with eight Tiger skins and a bag of Tiger bones including 22 skulls, plus an undisclosed number of elephant tusks.

[PERHILITAN, Department of Wildlife and National Parks, Malaysia](http://www.perhilitan.gov.my)

NEPAL: In two operations in January 2013, police arrested seven members of a Tiger smuggling ring and recovered seven Tiger skins, hundreds of Tiger body parts, and bones. In the first incident, on 11 January, officers of Manaslu Conservation Area seized four Tiger skins, 53 kg of Tiger bones and arrested four people who were allegedly trying to smuggle the Tiger parts into Tibet, China. The following day, police conducting road checks near the border with China seized five Tiger skins and 114 kg of Tiger bones that were concealed in bags of rice in a van also heading to China. The operation came shortly after members of the Nepalese police undertook a training course in Kathmandu organized by INTERPOL, which aimed to improve environmental law enforcement capacity in the region, with a specific focus on illegal poaching and the illicit trade in Tigers and other Asian big cats.

<http://dailypioneer.com/nation/131309-wildlife-contraband-seizure-case-in-nepal-takes-new-turn.html>, 5 March 2013; www.interpol.int/News-and-media/News-media-releases/2013/N20130123, 23 January 2013

RUSSIA: On 13 November 2012, at Khasan District Court, Primorsky Krai, a hunter was sentenced to 18 months' community service and fined USD18 500 for killing an Amur Tiger *Panthera tigris altaica* (CITES I), reportedly a rare case in the country of punishment for Tiger poaching. The perpetrator's hunting rights were also revoked and his firearm confiscated. The court found the suspect guilty of killing one of the 500 Tigers remaining in the Maritime Territory and the Khabarovsk Territory.

<http://articles.latimes.com/2012/nov/13/world/la-fg-wn-russia-punishment-poaching-tigers-20121113>

13 November 2012; http://www.panda.org/wwf_news/?206730/Tiger-killer-given-strong-punishment, 15 November 2012

THAILAND: In October 2012, authorities arrested a lorry driver after 16 Tiger cubs were discovered in the back of his vehicle. The man was stopped near the border with Lao PDR after avoiding a police checkpoint.

www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/1071285/thai-police-stop-pickup-truck-find-16-tiger-cubs, 27 October 2012

FLORA

CANADA: On 9 October 2012, in British Columbia Provincial Court, Nam Bak Enterprises Limited was fined CAD50 000 (USD49 000) under the *Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act (WAPPRIITA)* for importing without a permit American Ginseng *Panax quinquefolius* (wild and cultivated) (CITES II). Of that amount, the company was ordered to pay a CAD45 000 fine and CAD5000 to the Environmental Damages Fund (EDF); CAD40 000 of the fine was directed by the court to be donated to TRAFFIC.

www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=714D9AAE-1&news=188C32A1-1744-4244-AD2F-EBA8A77C4423; E. Cooper, TRAFFIC, in litt., 2 April 2013

INDIA: Red Sandalwood *Pterocarpus santalinus* (CITES II and export from India prohibited under the *Customs Act 1962*)

On 23 October 2012, officials of the Mangalore unit of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) arrested four persons at New Mangalore Port and seized six tonnes of Red Sandalwood concealed under plywood and awaiting shipment to Jebel Ali, Dubai. A raid was also carried out in Kannur, Kerala, where 18 t of Red Sandalwood was seized.

On 13 December 2012, Delhi police acting on information, and working with the DRI, seized 10 t of Red Sandalwood from a warehouse in Janakpuri, destined to be smuggled to China.

On 6 January 2013, police seized 36 Red Sandalwood logs (900 kg) from a car during a routine vehicle check in Gummidipoondi, Tamil Nadu. Two people fled the scene.

On 25 January 2013, Chakan police officers acting on information raided two warehouses at Waki Budruk village, Pune district, Maharashtra, and seized circa 16 t of Red Sandalwood.

On 10 February 2013, during a special anti-smuggling drive undertaken jointly by police and Forest Department officials in Andhra Pradesh, 22 people from neighbouring Tamil Nadu were arrested for their part in smuggling Red Sandalwood from the forests of Kadapa.

On 28 February 2013, police attached to Virinchipuram station arrested four persons who were attempting to smuggle 250 kg of Red Sandalwood from Andhra Pradesh to Bangalore via Vellore district. The gang revealed that they smuggled Red Sandalwood from forest areas on the Tamil Nadu-Andhra Pradesh border to Bangalore via Palamaneri and Vellore. Forest

department officials registered a case against the four under the provisions of the *Tamil Nadu Forest Act*. They were to be remanded to the Vellore Central Prison for Men after being produced in the district court.

All the above cases are being investigated.

www.daijiworld.com/news/news_disp.asp?n_id=153464, 24 October 2012; www.indianexpress.com/news/red-sanders-worth-rs-2-cr-seized-from-west-delhi/1045057/, 14 December 2012; articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-01-08/chennai/36215679_1_sanders-logs-red-sanders-police-officer, 8 January 2012; <http://expressindia.indianexpress.com/latest-news/red-sandalwood-teak-wood-worth-rs-3-cr-seized-from-chakan/1065188/>, 26 January 2013; <http://english.samaylive.com/regional-news/others-news/676523738/red-sandalwood-red-sanders-smugglers-police-forest-official-arre.html>, 12 February 2013; http://newindianexpress.com/states/tamil_nadu/article1484402.ece, 2 March 2013

USA: On 16/17 October 2012, rangers at Cumberland Gap National Historical Park caught five people in the process of illegally collecting American Ginseng *Panax quinquefolius* (CITES II); 415 roots were seized in two separate cases. The rangers noticed suspicious behaviour and hid in the woods to make the arrests. Both cases were made in the Virginia portion of the park, where park rangers have been using surveillance to target illegal digging.

Uprooting ginseng is illegal in national parks. In recent years this park and others have cracked down on ginseng poaching using remote sensing cameras and special dyes and metal chips to mark the plants as being property of the parks. Digging is legal on private property with the landowner's permission. It is reported that the ginseng roots confiscated during the second seizure were very small and most likely came from plants that were too young to have developed seeds.

After sorting the ginseng roots by age—the oldest was 31 years old—rangers marked them with a special dye and replanted them in the park.

All the defendants were to appear in court at a later date. It is reported that a conviction typically amounts to a fine plus restitution at a cost of USD15 per root. It was reported that the restitution collected from the poachers would help fund the marking and replanting as a way of recovering the cost of that work.

www.knoxnews.com/news/2012/oct/26/ginseng-poachers-nabbed-at-cumberland-gap-park/, 26 October 2012

IVORY

CAMEROON: On 4 October 2012, police officers in Yokadouma arrested one of Central Africa's most wanted elephant poachers and ivory smugglers. In addition to killing elephants for their tusks, the suspect has also been accused of serving as a guide to Sudanese poachers, who in 2010 crossed the Central African Republic and poached 25 elephants before being stopped by local authorities. He was reportedly mostly active in the Sangha Trinational Protected Area complex, a network of protected areas straddling the countries of Cameroon, the Central African Republic and

the Republic of Congo which, in July 2012, was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

http://www.panda.org/wwf_news/?206372/Cameroon-arrests-one-of-Central-Africas-most-notorious-poachers, 5 October 2012

CHINA: Between 6 January and 5 February 2013, Operation Cobra—a multi-national law enforcement initiative undertaken in some 22 Asian and African countries (see page 3)—saw 80 cases uncovered in China and over 90 people arrested; among many wildlife items seized were ivory and ivory products (200 kg) (plus 10 rhinoceros horns and four rhinoceros horn products, and 50 kg of pangolin scales).

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/762127.shtml>

GABON: On 22 January 2013, authorities acting on information intercepted a ship flying a Cameroonian flag at Mole Port, Libreville, and seized 18 elephant tusks (178 kg). The vessel was heading to Benin via São Tomé and Príncipe and Nigeria. Two suspects were detained and were assisting police in the investigation.

www.shanghaidaily.com/article/article_xinhua.asp?id=122140, 28 January 2013

HONG KONG SPECIAL

ADMINISTRATIVE REGION: On 3 January 2013, Customs officials uncovered a consignment of 779 elephant tusks (1300 kg) during x-ray examination of wooden boxes labelled as containing construction stones, which had arrived from Kenya, via Malaysia. The tusks were wrapped in canvas bags that were covered by stones. Officers were reportedly on the alert because imports of construction material from Kenya were unusual and the receiving company was new.

In October 2012, 3800 kg of ivory was found in two shipments, from Kenya and Tanzania, and in November the department seized 1330 kg of tusks in a container of sunflower seeds shipped from Tanzania.

www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/1119782/hong-kong-customs-seize-over-hk10m-illegal-ivory, 4 January 2013

MALAYSIA: In December 2012, Selangor Customs at Westports seized 1500 (24 t) elephant tusks that had arrived by ship in two containers declared as "wooden floor tiles". The contraband originated from Togo, and had been transported via Spain, to Malaysia, for transshipment to China. The tusks were hidden under wooden planks. No arrests have been made, but the local company handling the containers is being investigated.

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2012/12/11/nation/20121211191659&sec=nation>, 11 December 2012

SINGAPORE: On 30 January 2013, Customs officials uncovered a shipment of 1.8 t of ivory, in what was described as the biggest ivory haul in the country in more than a decade. The consignment, marked as being waste paper, had come from an undisclosed African country and was reportedly passing through Singapore. A total of 1099 pieces of raw tusks were found in 65 sacks.

www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-21257745, 30 January 2013

THAILAND: On 15 December 2012, at Suvarnabhumi Airport, authorities confiscated 11 African Elephant *Loxodonta africana* (CITES I) tusks arriving on a flight from Ethiopia. One Vietnamese national was arrested while waiting to board a flight to Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/326630/ivory-tusks-seized-at-suvarnabhumi, 17 December 2012

TURKEY: On 22 October 2012, it was reported that the Istanbul Police Department's Financial Crime Division had confiscated 635 cylindrically cut ivory pieces that had been sent from D.R. Congo via Europe. This is reportedly the first time that ivory has been seized in Istanbul. The items were confiscated from a shop in Fatih district that manufactures ornaments and beads. The ivory had reportedly been painted red in D.R. Congo and exported as "rosewood". One person was detained.

www.hurriyetdailynews.com/illegal-ivory-pieces-seized-in-istanbul.aspx?pageID=238&nID=32977&NewsCatID=341, 22 October 2012

UK: In November 2012, officers from the Border Force at Heathrow Airport intercepted two courier packages addressed to an individual in Hong Kong from Nigeria, described as "sculptures and engine parts". Both packages were found to contain a total of 130 ivory (Annex A/CITES I) beads, and seven ivory bangles (two kilogrammes) concealed within boxes of engine parts and handicrafts.

In January 2013, officers from the Border Force at Coventry postal depot intercepted three packages on arrival from D.R. Congo. Within the packages, a number of wooden statues were found to be concealing ivory (Annex A/CITES I) artefacts. One person was arrested and investigations are continuing.

UK Border Force

USA: On 13 March 2013, it was reported that Stonex Corp., a Manhattan-based jewellery wholesaler, pleaded guilty to one count of illegal trade in wildlife. Shashikumar Krishnaswamy, the company's owner, will forfeit more than 32 kg of ivory pieces. He was ordered to donate USD10 000 to the Wildlife Conservation Society for use in elephant conservation.

www.jckonline.com/2013/03/13/jewelry-wholesaler-pleads-guilty-to-illegal-ivory-trading, 13 March 2013

PANGOLIN

All pangolin species are listed in CITES Appendix II

CHINA: On 14 November 2012, at Jinshan District People's Court, Zhang Qianjin, a farmer, was sentenced to two years in gaol for illegally transporting five Chinese Pangolins *Manis pentadactyla* from Fujian province to Shanghai. He was also fined 10 000 yuan (USD1606). He had reportedly purchased the pangolins from a street vendor in Fujian Province on 6 June and was stopped at a checkpoint on the Jinshan section of Shenhai Highway, which links Shanghai to Zhejiang province, after he had taken a wrong turning. Prosecutors said Zhang had purchased the pangolins at a high price, which meant he

knew the animals were protected and could be sold for profit. Zhang argued that he had purchased the pangolins to eat.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90882/8020758.html>, 15 November 2012

FRANCE: On 22 October 2012, Customs officials at Roissy Airport seized several hundred kilogrammes of pangolin *Manis* meat (as well as meat from antelope, monkey or crocodile) that had been concealed in luggage arriving from undisclosed African locations. The wild meat was reportedly bound for sale at the African quarter of the Château-Rouge market, in Paris's 18th arrondissement.

www.metrofrance.com/paris/de-la-viande-de-pangolin-et-de-crocodile-saisie-a-roissy/mjw/taipLnSLtLpGA/, 23 October 2012

INDIA: In February 2013, Rajaji National Park officials arrested three persons from the Kansrao forest area and recovered about 30 kg of pangolin *Manis* scales. Officials described it as one of the biggest seizures of pangolin scales in the country. The operation was reportedly launched after several SIM cards and mobile phones were recovered from Kansrao forest.

www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/30-kg-of-pangolin-scales-seized-three-arrested/article4443776.ece, 23 February 2013

INDONESIA: On 3 January 2013, at Soekarno-Hatta International Airport, Customs officials arrested four Chinese nationals for attempting to smuggle in their luggage 189 pangolin *Manis* scales (and 248 hornbill beaks) to Hong Kong. The case was being investigated by the Jakarta Natural Resources Conservation Center (BKSDA).

www.thejakartapost.com/news/2013/01/04/four-chinese-arrested-smuggling-protected-species-body-parts.html, 4 January 2013

MALAYSIA: On 16 October 2012, a man was arrested trying to smuggle 23 pangolins *Manis* to a neighbouring country at Bukit Kayu Kitam on the border with Thailand. The pangolins were being transported in several sacks weighing a total of 70 kg which had been placed in the spare tyre compartment to avoid detection. A friend who tried to bribe the officers in order to release the offender was also arrested. The pangolins were to be sent to the Wildlife Department for further action.

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2012/10/16/nation/20121016173325&sec=nation>, 16 October 2012

NEPAL: On 13 October 2012, personnel carrying out a security check at Lamosangu checkpoint, Sindhupalchowk district, seized 37.8 kg of pangolin *Manis* scales (as well as 28 kg of Walrus *Odobenus rosmarus* and two kilogrammes of orchids) which were being transported to China. One person was arrested.

www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Police+seize+contraband+being+smuggled+to+China&NewsID=350805&a=3, 13 October 2012

NETHERLANDS: On 27 November 2012, Customs officials at Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam, seized a cargo shipment containing 540 000 (630 kg) capsules used in the treatment of prostate-related diseases; according to the

packaging, the product contained pangolin scales. The shipment was sent from Shanghai, China, via Amsterdam to Accra, Ghana, without CITES documents.

Customs Administration of the Netherlands

THAILAND: On 25 March 2013, the navy intercepted an attempt to smuggle 104 live pangolins *Manis* to China, via Lao PDR, on the Mekong River. The animals were believed to have originated in Malaysia or southern Thailand. Two suspects were arrested before they were able to load the live pangolins onto a boat.

www.france24.com/en/20130326-thailand-seizes-104-smuggled-endangered-pangolins

REPTILES

CHINA: On 22 February 2013, almost four tonnes of live snakes were confiscated by police near Ruili, on the border with Myanmar, in one of the largest wildlife seizures along the border in recent history. Police found 176 wooden crates with 4815 live cobras, vipers and Indian rat snakes in a vehicle. One person, nationality undisclosed, was arrested.

Police were acting on a tip-off and had set up roadblocks earlier in February; after 20 days of futile inspections, some roadblocks were relaxed to mislead the smugglers. Roadblocks are reportedly a daily sight along the border, with travellers complaining about going through up to three checks on the five-hour journey to neighbouring Tengchong County.

www.irrawaddy.org/archives/27620, 25 February 2013

THAILAND: On 7 February 2013, at Suvarnabhumi Airport, officials took possession of a cargo containing more than 2000 live snakes that had been returned by authorities in Hong Kong after the shipment had been illegally exported to Hong Kong. The snakes, comprising a range of species, had been placed in 203 boxes falsely declared as containing fruit. The reptiles were believed to be destined for China. An investigation is under way.

On 15 March 2013, authorities at Suvarnabhumi International Airport seized 54 Ploughshare Tortoises *Astrochelys yniphora* and 21 Radiated Tortoises *Astrochelys radiata* (CITES I and both assessed as being Critically Endangered). Two people were arrested (see page 23).



P. TANSOM / TRAFFIC

"TRAFFIC congratulates the Thai authorities for these very significant seizures" said Chris R. Shepherd, Deputy Director of TRAFFIC, Southeast Asia. "The criminals behind this shipment of Ploughshare Tortoises have effectively stolen over 10% of the estimated population in the wild ... They should face the full force of the law. We urge authorities to go after the criminal masterminds behind these shipments and break the trade chains that threaten these incredibly rare animals", he said.

www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/334839/customs-seize-2000-live-snakes, 7 February 2013; <http://www.traffic.org/home/2013/11/9/largest-seizure-of-critically-endangered-ploughshare-tortoises.html>

RHINOCEROS

All species of rhinoceros *Rhinocerotidae* are listed in CITES Appendix I.

CHINA: On 20 March 2013, two passengers were arrested at Pudong International airport, Shanghai, after attempting to import illegally 11 rhinoceros horns (and over 30 ivory items). The men stated that they bought the items at "auction houses, antique shops and fairs in Paris". Officials said that while the men "knew it was illegal to bring the products into China" they "anticipated hefty profits."

http://shanghaiist.com/2013/03/21/two_men_caught_attempting_to_smuggle_800000_dollars_worth_of_ivory_into_china.php, 21 March 2013

INDIA: On 16 October 2012, a group of 18 people allegedly responsible for the poaching of at least six rhinoceroses in Kaziranga National Park over the past three years were arrested by Assam police. The apprehensions took place in Bokolia after the gang's leader was arrested and interrogated the previous day. Two forest employees were also held on suspicion of involvement in the poaching.

www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/a-gang-of-18-rhino-poachers-nabbed-in-assam/article4002582.ece, 16 October 2012

IRELAND: On 15 March 2013, at Ennis District Court, brothers Jeremiah and Michael O'Brien of Limerick were each fined €500 (USD655) with three months to pay after they were caught illegally attempting to import rhinoceros horns through Shannon Airport in January 2010. Customs officers seized eight rhinoceros horns following the brothers' return from Portugal. They each pleaded guilty to importing four rhinoceros horns.

The judge accepted jurisdiction on the basis that the offence was germane to the breach of the regulations and not the value of the horns which, according to evidence provided by an auctioneer, would have been some three times lower at the time of the seizure.

The court was told that the horns were antique, dating from the 1960s, and not from a freshly killed rhinoceros. They had reportedly been acquired from a Portuguese antiques dealer who had entrusted the brothers with the horns so that they could be mounted on a board before being returned to Portugal. The pair had no previous convictions and had made no effort to conceal the horns.

<http://www.clarepeople.com/2013/03/19/e500-fine-for-e500000-rhino-horn-dealers/>, 19 March 2013

MOZAMBIQUE: It was reported on 16 October 2012, that police had arrested two suspected poachers in Gaza province with 11 kg of rhinoceros horns that they were transporting in a vehicle. The horns had reportedly been taken from rhinoceroses that were killed in Limpopo National Park, South Africa.

On 24 February 2013, police officers at Maputo International Airport arrested a Vietnamese citizen in possession of six rhinoceros horns (17 kg). The suspect was about to board an international flight. The horns had been wrapped in tinfoil and placed in a suitcase with clothing and surrounded by garlic in an attempt to disguise the smell.

In February 2013, police arrested a Mozambican citizen in Mandimba district, in the northern province of Niassa, who was in possession of eight rhinoceros horns (20 kg) and in the process of attempting to sell rhinoceros horn to a Chinese buyer. The Chinese citizen evaded capture.

www.newstrackindia.com/newsdetails/2012/10/16/280-11-kg-of-rhino-horns-seized-in-Mozambique-.html, 16 October 2012; <http://allafrica.com/stories/201302260215.html>, 25 February 2013; <http://allafrica.com/stories/201302210175.html>, 20 February 2013

SOUTH AFRICA: On 9 November 2012, at Kempton Park Magistrates' Court, Chumlong Lemtongthai of Thailand was sentenced to 40 years in gaol for his role in organizing illegal rhinoceros poaching expeditions. The sentence is the longest-ever imposed for poaching in South Africa and follows a year-long investigation.

Chumlong Lemtongthai pleaded guilty to paying people to pose as big game hunters with permits. They were each given USD800 to go to game farms, take a few shots with small calibre rifles and pose next to rhinoceroses killed by someone else.

South African authorities currently issue permits to what it terms "bona fide" hunters for trophy hunting. The Department for Environmental Affairs says "a hunting client may only hunt one White Rhinoceros within a specific calendar year".

On 23 November 2012, at Pretoria Magistrates' Court, Rogers Mukwena of Mpande, southern Zimbabwe, was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment for rhino poaching. He was arrested in January 2012 in northern Pretoria in possession of three rhinoceros horns. DNA tests later linked them to a poaching incident in which a White Rhinoceros *Ceratotherium simum* cow and calf had been killed.

In 2012, Mukwena was arrested in Masvingo province, Zimbabwe, with six others after being found with a fresh rhinoceros horn but he skipped bail and fled to South Africa.

www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-20267967, 9 November 2012; www.newsday.co.zw/2012/11/27/teacher-jailed-for-poaching/, 27 November 2012

THAILAND: In early January 2013, it was reported that a Vietnamese citizen was arrested at Suvarnabhumi Airport with six rhinoceros horns (10.6 kg). He had come from Mozambique, and was awaiting a flight to Hanoi, Viet Nam.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201302210175.html>, 20 February, 2012

VIET NAM: In early January 2013, police in Ho Chi Minh City arrested a man who had arrived from Maputo, Mozambique, via Doha, carrying six rhinoceros horns (16.5 kg).

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201302210175.html>, 20 February, 2012

OTHER SEIZURES

CANADA: On 17 October 2012, at Manitoba Provincial Court, Jayson Daeninck and his company, Saltwater Connection, were fined a total of CAD135 822 (USD134 000) for illegally importing from Indonesia live rock which included species of giant clams, seahorses and stony corals, all protected under CITES and Canada's *Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act*.

Environment Canada: www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=714D9AAE-1&news=B8BEA2A8-2363-4874-8EEA-51BB34A331F5

NEPAL: On 6 January 2013, the Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) of Nepal Police confiscated over 1000 kg of shahtoosh—wool derived from the Tibetan Antelope *Pantholops hodgsonii* (protected under the *National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1973* and in CITES Appendix I). The seizure is probably the biggest ever in Nepal, both in terms of size and monetary value (see page 3).

www.wfnepal.org/?207229/Biggest-ever-seizure-of-Shahtoosh-in-Nepal, 11 January 2013

USA: On 31 January 2013, Ashu Bhandari, former president and CEO of GEM Manufacturing LLC, a US Virgin Islands-based company, was sentenced in St Thomas, US Virgin Islands, for his role in a scheme to illegally import black coral (CITES II) into the USA; two trading partners have already been gaoled.

On 2 February 2013, Bhandari was fined USD918 950 and sentenced to one month in gaol, to be followed by one month of home confinement and one year of supervised release, during which he would be required to complete 300 hours of community service and be banned from any business venture involving coral or coral products. He was also ordered to pay USD229 687 to the University of the Virgin Islands to be used for community service projects designed for research into and protection of black corals.

http://7thspace.com/headlines/431987/usdoj_former_jewelry_company_executive_sentenced_in_usvi_to_pay_11_million_in_fines_and_community_service_for_illegal_trade_of_protected_black_coral.html, 2 February 2013